

Although the trailers and barracks, which serve as homes for so many Iowa State students, appear regimented on the outside, resourcefulness prevails in the interior. Each family decorates to suit its tastes.



Ingenuity Keynotes Their Home

by Barbara Parsons

ANTIQUE furniture touched with modern accents, plus imagination and hard work—that's the combination Barbara and Ed Dreschler used to make their half of a duplex—a 20 by 20 foot room—into a comfortable college home at 3210 West street, Ames. They squeeze in work while Ed, a chemistry major, attends classes at Iowa State and Barbara, a '45 textiles and clothing graduate at Iowa State, designs draperies for a Cedar Rapids firm, in her home.

A partition, extending to about one-third of the width of the room, divides the kitchen from the rest of their home. Tinted green walls and slightly darker green cement floors blend with light brown furniture to give an over-all feeling of softness and peacefulness. In pleasing contrast are bits of color in the bedspread, slip coverings and hand-made rugs. These are grayed as are the walls and floor to give a feeling of unity and the appearance of a larger room.

So exacting are they that it took three coats of paint on the walls to get just the tint that Barbara wanted. A green bamboo curtain helps in partitioning off the kitchen.

Maple Table

Starting with a round maple table which Ed's mother and father used when first married, Ed converted it into a modern drop-leaf table. Included in the set are six matching, cane-bottomed chairs.

"We spent a good many hours wandering through hay-lofts, farm-houses and antique shops." It was in Vermont, during their honeymoon, that they found a pine and maple settee for 5 dollars. It took about 10 dollars to cover the 4 foot piece in rose.

A mirror, framed with a white plaster frame in the Roccoco style, costing 25 cents, hangs over the chests. White, narrow wale corduroy makes inexpensive yet dramatic floor-length drapes for the three single and one double windows. Purchased for 98 cents a yard, the fabric was originally the color of monks-cloth before Barbara bleached it to a pure white. Because they are heavy they required no lining.

The Hollywood bed and upholstered living-room chair are the only pieces of new furniture. Both are covered with hand-printed textiles. The bedspread and pillows are of deep rose and white in an all-over

block pattern created by Folly-Cove designers in New England. Muted yellow, green, brown and rose compose the floral pattern in the slipcovering of the chair.

Framing the bed are white shelves, built by Ed. They extend half-way down the wall from the ceiling on each side. Among the books on the shelves are several demitasse cups. Directly over the bed is a large framed map, one of a set by Miguel Cavarrubias depicting life in the South Sea Islands. On the same wall are two Model-T carriage lamps in which candles or plants can be placed.

Sea-Captain Chair

In addition to the other furnishings, there is a small old desk which they found necessary to revarnish. Accompanying it is a round-back arm chair, resembling those used by sea-captains. Barbara located it in Vermont. It too was covered with paint that had to be removed.

Accenting one corner of the living room is a bronze kerosene lamp, converted for use with electricity. An electro-plating company removed the nickel plating when they bought it for \$2.50. It is placed on a small corner cupboard which Ed also constructed, while above it are two floral prints framed in walnut.

"We really went wild in our tiny bathroom," Barbara and Ed tell their friends. The red-checked, washable wallpaper may be unusual but it adds a cheery note.

Shutter Doors

It's in the kitchen that the most work is yet to be done. The cupboards on each side of the sink were built without doors. This isn't stopping them though for Ed is constructing doors from shutters as he did for the closet in the bedroom. Here the walls are papered in an ivy pattern and along with the bathroom paper cost 10 dollars.

Barbara and Ed estimate the cost of decorating and furnishing at about 300 dollars, which includes the range. Cooperating as they have in all the work, they've enjoyed every minute but still say, "we can hardly wait to move into a big house where we can really let our imaginations run."