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you move in," Anger said. She emphasized that this is especially important with electronic equipment to avoid expense and duplication. Mahlo said the project was to show a typical room with suggestions for things a student would need to live and study comfortably. She said they tried to keep items at a reasonable price and were aware that in a real life situation students would be bringing many used items from home. Comforters and rugs were used to bring the room together in a bright but

coordinated color scheme. Anger chose a strong berber rug to add warmth to the linoleum covered floors. (See a list of other ideas on this page.) Not all Eastern students are in tiny two-person rooms. Junior Angela Brenz, a graduate of North Farmington High School, shares a two-bedroom and living room suite with three other coeds. When Brenz was a freshman she said she was crammed into a small room with one bathroom for four students. "My roommate stayed up all night, and I couldn't get any sleep," she said.

This semester her roommate and suite mates are more compatible. They are very into electronics. Brenz said they have TVs, VCRs and stereos in the bedrooms and the living room. The walls are decorated with posters of rock stars and Steve Yzerman (Angela is the hockey fan). Brenz said she and roommate Stacy Kissel of Westland have arranged things compatibly.

"We basically let each other decorate how each wants to decorate. You have to let everybody express themselves," Brenz said. "We have to bring our own furniture, carpets, tables. My roommate Stacy called everybody and found out who could bring what. Since the others are freshmen, they didn't bring anything."

Brenz has a word of advice to students - stay away from credit cards. She said she draws off of a savings account and budgets accordingly to avoid dangerous debt.

Laura Sonye and Stephanie Olsen are freshman roommates at the University of Michigan. They live in Van Hoosen house of Bursley Hall on the Ann Arbor Campus.

They made a bead wall (including the homemade beads) and created a hanging wall (circa 1930 movies) to divide their room into a study area that contains the women's sleeping lofts (very popular in many students), their desks and computers, and a recreation area that contains a futon, television and stereo.

Sonye and Olsen both graduated from Rochester Adams High School in 1996.

At Oakland University, roommates Lynette Buffa of Canton and Emily Maderal of Bloomfield have found that getting to know each other is a good start in compatible room sharing.

"We met last year and became good friends, I was spending a lot of time in

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Angela Brenz

her room and she in mine," said Buffa, a sophomore graduate of Plymouth Canton High School. "We got to know each other real well. We don't have conflicts. We do our own thing and do things together."

The roommates have separate large closet areas with Rubbermaid carriers, two refrigerators and the requisite microwave, TV and stereo.

"We don't have a great deal of space but we don't feel cramped," Buffa said.

"I have a bulletin board. We will be putting up posters. We have some surrealist posters up and a movie poster, but we'll be adding more after we put our couch in."

The couch is a loveseat from Buffa's parents that proved a hit last year and is coming back for more service. Last year it sat atop a loft, but Buffa has grown leery of lofts as last year's proved unsteady.

Buffa said she loves college life and the secret to making a dorm room "homey" is to fill it with people and color.

"The first day that you move in, get to know people," Buffa advised. "Make the room the way you want to make it. I'm creative, I like a lot of posters, a big fish tank. I'm a colorful person. Some people think it looks gaudy, but I like color. It has to look like life, like it's lived in. But the best part of college is to take part in campus activities."



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Eclectic: Emily Maderal, left, and Lynette Buffa have created a home away from home at their Oakland University dorm with posters, stuffed animals and pictures of friends.