

At Home

INTERIOR DESIGN ■ DIY ■ GARDENING

Check it out
He has a knack for
reading about people
in what they write. C5



The ultimate small space

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

There's no way around it. Dorm life is small-space living in at its ugliest.

Though tempting to spruce up first, organization in a space that's limited, if not deficient, in storage is the most pressing problem. Not to mention, that a well-planned system for staying organized helps students get on the right foot for the academic year.

Organize before outfitting your dorm room

"It's about having an organized physical space so that you can be mentally organized," said Stephanie Denton, a nationally known organization expert who recently visited Organized Living stores in Troy and West Bloomfield. Poor organization not only causes unnecessary stress but also makes finding items and prioritizing tasks more difficult, said Denton, a consultant for Organized Living.

LOOK UP

In such cramped quarters, look for "hidden" unused space. Vertical space above waist level frequently goes untapped, and, in dorm rooms "sometimes the best space you can find is up," said Denton.

One of the best ways to capture vertical space is with a shelving unit that fits around and above the head of your bed, she said.

Setting appliances, like television sets and microwaves, on top of tall storage units is another way to seize vertical space.

There's even a few extra inches of space to be had under the bed, a common location for storage.

With Organized Living's plastic bed risers, you can increase the length between bed and floor by 5 to 6 inches. Often, that's enough room for a steamer trunk, which does double-duty as storage and pull-out seating, said Denton.

Items with more than one function are ideal for dorm rooms and college life because they meet students' changing needs, she said.

Likewise, avoid having two of something when one will suffice. And, that goes for two locations in the room that serve the same purpose.

For example, two refrigerators and two designated food areas in a dorm room for two is a waste of space. Better to have some common areas used by both room-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARSHALL FIELD'S

Above, vintage-inspired objects, like the brushed stainless Minicooler refrigerator, bottom right, turn an ordinary dorm room into a distinctive one. Equipped with an AV adapter for car travel, the refrigerator is currently on sale for \$69.99 at Marshall Field's. Other vintage style pieces available at Marshall Field's include, clockwise from bottom left, red magazine rack reminiscent of Modernism, '60s-inspired side table with a neon blue metal lamp and stainless steel alarm clock, and a striped down throw. At left, typically, dormitory beds are longer than the standard twin size and require longer sheets. Mervyn's On My Own line of bedding offers a choice of patterns in extra-long twin and other sizes, including "Paradise Island," priced \$19.99 to \$59.99.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MERVYN'S

mates, than two of the same.

Also, don't forget to factor in your long-term needs while you're shopping. Opt for pieces with flexibility or items that configure in several ways since you can't predict every future need.

"You don't want to have wasted your investment on something that won't meet your changing needs," said Denton.

With at least some work done in the battle to get organized, it's time to improve the aesthetics of your new headquarters.

IN YOUR OWN STYLE

A dash of color, a little light and a few things from home and even the most drab dorm room quickly takes on personality and style.

With dorm decor forecasts and local retailers like Marshall Field's talking up bright colors, vintage-style accessories and playful funky prints, co-eds won't have trouble finding a few splashy items to add to their current belongings.

"It's all about adding life to a square room that's made with cement blocks,"

PLEASE SEE DORM, C2

Garden Club has grounds for celebration at anniversary

BY MARTY FIELEY
CORRESPONDENT

The gardens at Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester are in bloom in their entire splendor where club members and guests will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club.

They will meet 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, on the sun porch terrace of the hall to enjoy refreshments and view scrapbooks of the history of the gardens and old, original garden plans.

Maura Overland, former curator, will present Garden Clubs Through the Years. All past presidents - Judy Ilie, Barbara Smith, Joan Maki,

Leah Potere - and the current resident, Roberta "Bert" Bresette, will be invited.

The dedication of the very large renovated rock garden will also take place.

A photograph, circa 1928, was used as a guide for this immense project.

The large existing sandstone was repositioned to form the basis for the garden and many overgrown conifers and other plants were removed and replaced with appropriate plants that have interesting foliage and color.

Tony Reznicek, curator of the Herbarium at the University of Michigan, and a member of the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS), was the advisor and continues to be interested and involved.

Funds for the restoration include a grant from NARGS, an anonymous gift, and a donation from the Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club.

Chris Orndorff, captain of the garden, has been involved since the beginning of the project. Celebrants will have the opportunity to stroll the grounds and enjoy the other 12 beautiful and interesting gardens.

HERB GARDEN

One is the herb garden, which was completely re-planted four years ago and is now at

its peak. All the herbs were removed, soil was improved and then the task of re-planting began.

This lovely and colorful garden is divided into five sections - dye, potpourri, culinary, tea and Shakespearean - and plants that are used for specific purposes are grown in their correct section.

Some of them are fern leaf tansy, Lady's mantle with puffy charivari blooms, Florentine iris (which gives the orrisroot fixative), basil, oregano, comfrey, feverfew, lemon grass, lemon-scented geranium, several mints, and bronze fennel (a pretty addition to

PLEASE SEE CLUB, C2



MARTY FIELEY

Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club president Roberta "Bert" Bresette admires the large planters at the entrance to the hall.

If you have one, they will come.

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