

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TABLESCAPES

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OBJECTIVES:

- Learn how to incorporate elements of design in home decorating
- Learn how to incorporate the principles of design in home decorating
- Discuss ways to lower our carbon footprint while decorating the home
- Discover resources for design ideas while decorating the home

ELEMENTS OF DESIGN

- Space
- Line
- Texture
- Light
- Color

SPACE



FORM



LINE



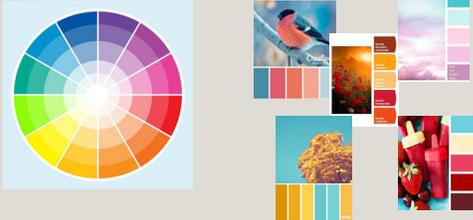
TEXTURE



LIGHT



COLOR



COLOR



PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN

- Proportion
- Balance
- Rhythm
- Emphasis
- Harmony

PROPORTION



PROPORTION



BALANCE



RHYTHM



EMPHASIS



HARMONY



ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CHOICES FOR DECORATING

- Think Vintage
- Sustainably Sourced Materials
- VOC Free
- Choose Timeless of Trendy
- Move with the Groove
- Phone a Friend

RESOURCES FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY DECORATING

- Pinterest
- Hometalk
- Southern Living



REFERENCES

- 10 Simple eco-friendly home decor tips. (2019, February 28). Retrieved from <https://inhabitat.com/10-easy-eco-friendly-home-decor-tips/>
- Adler, L. (n.d.). Centerpieces and Table Decorations. Retrieved from <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/hes/fcs/factsheets/hf-ira.093.pdf>
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- (n.d.). Retrieved from [https://www.google.com/search?q=google images&oq=googleimages&aqs=chrome..69l57j0l5.44l0j0j9&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=google+images&oq=googleimages&aqs=chrome..69l57j0l5.44l0j0j9&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)
- The Design Trends that are in and out in 2019. (2019, January 8). Retrieved from <https://www.elleddecor.com/design-decorate/trends/g23550602/design-trends-2019/?slide=33>

Environmentally Friendly Tablescapes

Angie York, Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences Education

Changing paint color, purchasing new home furnishings, or buying new art work are ways to keep your home looking fresh and trendy. However, they are costly and take a significant amount of time to complete. An alternative to a home makeover is an ever changing array of environmentally friendly Tablescapes.

Tablescapes, a term often interchanged with centerpieces, are the adornment found at the center of your table. This could be your coffee table, breakfast nook table, dinner table or all three. Creating a tablescape is a fun way to bring color into your space as well as decorate for any upcoming holiday.

Making your tablescape pleasing to the eye can be done by implementing these simple elements of design.

Space is something we cannot touch, but it touches us. All objects are within space and are surrounded by space. We cannot make space but we can mold and change it fairly easily.

Form is the basic tangible element. It has substance and shape. Forms may be geometric or free-form. If functional, the form or shape should be appropriate to the intended use.

Line gives us the outline of form and separates it from the surrounding space. Lines are highly expressive and make either subtle or strong design statements. Lines also lead our eye movements from one point to another and help unify various parts of a design by visually bringing various objects together.

Texture and **ornament** are the surface characteristics of form. Texture is always present because everything has a surface.

Textures can be coarse and rough, silky and smooth or variations in-between. Ornament is an extension of texture and is an enrichment that gives visual interest.

Light, like space, is untouchable but touches all. Without it, we cannot see. Varying intensities of light affect the overall design and produces color. Direct or spot lighting produces bright, intense light while candlelight and dimmers create softer light with a yellowish cast.

Color is always present to some degree and is probably the most powerful of the design elements. Use colors to:

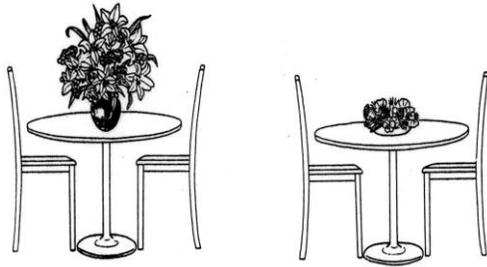
- dramatize an effect,
- tie a variety of objects together,
- create a subtle understated look or
- create a mood.

Don't be shy when working with color! A striking value contrast or addition of a contrasting color may be just the touch to add new life to an arrangement.



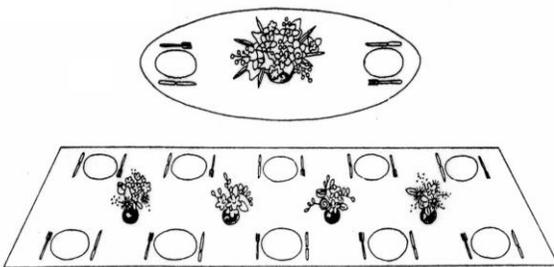
The principles of design are also important to remember when creating your tablescapes. Principles of design include:

Scale is a standard of measurement for relating objects to each other and to the space that they occupy. For instance, a large centerpiece is needed for a large table and a small one for a small table.



**Small tables call for small arrangements. Avoid large arrangements that block view of people seated on each side.*

Proportion is a more specific measurement than scale. It refers to the comparative relationship between one part and the whole. Generally, proportion has to do with height, width and length. For instance, a centerpiece is usually not over one-third the length of the table on which it is placed.



Keep arrangements in proportion to table and number of place settings.

Balance relates to a law of physics that deals with actual and visual weight. One part of a

design should appear visually balanced (of equal importance or 'weight') with another. The three categories of balance are:

- **Symmetrical** (formal)--mirror image.
- **Asymmetrical** (informal)--each design half different yet visually of equal importance or 'weight'.
- **Radial**--all points moving from center out, such as a sunburst design.

Rhythm in design leads the eye from one area to another in a flowing movement. Rhythm can be produced through repetition and transition. **Repetition** is the use of the same element more than once. **Transition** is the relative change in size from large to small; the gradation in color from light to dark, from dull to bright and from color to color; and in texture from rough to smooth or coarse to fine.

Emphasis produces a focal point or center of interest within the design. It attracts the eye to a central outstanding feature or idea to which all else is subordinate. One kind of line, shape, direction, texture or color needs to dominate or the design falls apart. Contrast is needed for interest. Sameness becomes monotonous. Contrasts emphasize the dominant idea.

Harmony is achieved when different forms and colors have a feeling of unity.

When creating a great tablescape here are some thoughts to keep in mind:

- ▶ Your composition should be attractive from every angle
- ▶ Odd numbers of accessories make a more interesting grouping than even numbers;
- ▶ Vary the heights of two or more pieces for a more pleasing effect

- ▶ Place surface accessories so that they do not interfere with either wall arrangements or table settings around a dining table.

Applying these elements and principles of design will certainly make your tablescapes appealing, but adding a little thought to your design choices may also make your whole home more environmentally friendly. Consider the following choices to ensure your home is helping the environment.



- Think vintage- buying pre-used items is a great way to help the environment by repurposing what might already be right under your nose. Make a fun day of yard sales, vintage shops, or thrifting to find just the right piece for your home.
- Sustainably sourcing materials-before you buy that great wood table or flooring, check to see if the product has an FSC certified label. This lets consumers be sure the product they are about to purchase was made using sustainable products and not contributing to deforestation.
- VOC's are not for me-if you are painting vintage pieces make sure your paints are VOC free. VOC stands

for volatile organic compounds and they can be harmful to both the environment and humans.

- Skip the trendy and go timeless-keeping up with the latest trends may cause more turnover in your home décor. To make sure your home isn't adding to environmental issues, choose pieces for your décor that are sturdy and timeless.
- Move with the groove-if you feel like your look is getting stale, try moving your furniture and rearranging your current décor. This no cost makeover will give a fresh look to your room without harming the environment or your wallet.
- Phone a friend or family member-when you are thinking about redecorating talk with friends and family about interesting pieces they may no longer want. You may find the perfect inspiration for your new décor has been hanging out in a family member's closet. Don't be afraid to ask others what might be waiting in their attics, basements, or garages that could be perfect for your space.



Recycling is another great way to make sure your home is adding to a sustainable environment. Being intentional when buying products to make sure they can be recycled makes your home more environmentally friendly but using those leftovers to create beautiful home décor is much more fun. Challenge your family to think of ways to reuse tin cans, egg cartons, pasta jars and more. Finding ways to repurpose your “trash” helps your family realize the amount of items being put into landfills. This understanding will promote sustainability over a lifetime while offering opportunities to get the family involved in redecorating.

Pinterest, Hometalk, and other DIY internet sites may be helpful in finding ideas for ways to turn your trash into treasure. Also, using your local library as a resource will offer access to magazines and books that may have new ideas for environmentally friendly decorating. The bottom line for tablescapes and home décor alike is being intentional about how your design choices today will affect the environment tomorrow.



References:

10 Simple eco-friendly home decor tips. (2019, February 28). Retrieved from <https://inhabitat.com/10-easy-eco-friendly-home-decor-tips/>

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Program Title: Environmentally Friendly Tablescapes

Program Presenter: Angie York

Please respond to the following statements: check (✓) each block that applies.	I knew this before today's lesson	I learned this from attending today's lesson	I still do not understand this
The concept of being environmentally friendly			
Ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle			
The elements of design			
The principles of design			
Resources for ways to implement an environmentally friendly lifestyle			
<p>List two important things you learned during today's tablescape lesson.</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>			
<p>Will you work to to become more environmentally friendly after this program?</p> <p>Yes _____ No _____</p>			
<p>List two things you will do after this program in order to make your space more environmentally friendly?</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>			

A. Introduction:

Generated waste must be managed through reuse, recycling, storage, treatment, and/or disposal. In an effort to minimize the amount of waste put into landfills from home remodeling and redecoration, a lesson was taught to Homemakers in the nine Pennyriple Area counties of western Kentucky addressing the issues of using sustainable materials, implementing a more environmentally friendly lifestyle as it relates to home décor, and sharing ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle while decorating the home.

- **Program objectives**

- Create awareness about environmental issues that are impacted by consumer choices when they are remodeling and decorating their homes.
- Encourage consumers to purchase environmentally friendly products for their home building and decorating needs.
- Assess ways for consumers to lower their carbon footprint while building or decorating their home.
- Discuss elements and principles of design used when decorating the home.
- Learn ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle before purchasing new decorative items for the home.

- **Target audience**

The audience for the Environmentally Friendly Tablescales lesson was the Pennyriple Area Homemakers which included participants from nine counties in western Kentucky.

- **Environmental Issues addressed**
 - Products that contain VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and alternative options to avoid them.
 - FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certification for sustainably sourced building materials.
 - Buying pre-used items instead of purchasing new items for home decorating.
 - Repurposing items already in the home by turning them into something besides their original intended purpose.

- **Program developed/conducted**

The lesson was developed in the spring of 2019 and offered nine times during the week of April 29 through May 3, 2019.

B. Program Description and Accomplishments

• Content

Redecorating the home can be costly on both the wallet and the environment. Thinking about being environmentally friendly when redecorating can also be overwhelming. In order to encourage participants to start small but think globally about environmental issues, the “Environmentally Friendly Tablescales” lesson was implemented. By thinking first about just changing tabletop decorations for holidays, the content opened up opportunities to discuss many ways that not only a tabletop can use design elements to be both beautiful and have low carbon footprint, but also remodeling rooms or building houses can be done in a way that is safe for the environment and for those living in the home.

- **Delivery method**

In order to address all learning styles, the program was offered with a mixture of lecture for those who are auditory learners and with hands-on activity for those who are visual and tactile learners.

- **Creativity**

To make sure participants could visualize and process easy ways of creating beautiful and environmentally friendly decorations of their tabletops, each person fashioned their own centerpiece to take and use in their home. Materials provided for participants included tin vegetable cans, glass canning jars that were chipped or no longer usable for canning, cereals that could be fed to birds after being used in the tabletop design, as well as silk flowers that could be reused in other arrangements. Each attendee was tasked with using their imagination to make a bouquet for their table top (see attached picture for samples).

- **Materials developed**

The agent developed a power point, publication entitled “Environmentally Friendly Tablescales” that was mailed to each Homemaker in the Pennyrile Area, and a leader lesson guide for the program.

- **Innovative methods**

To be environmentally friendly as it pertains to remodeling and building, consumers must find ways to be efficient with resources and make sure they leave a low carbon footprint. As discussed in the presentation and in the publication, in the realm of environmental sustainability, to be innovative participants need to consider these options:

- Think vintage- buying pre-used items is a great way to help the environment by repurposing what might already own.
- Sustainably sourcing materials-before you buy that great wood table or flooring, check to see if the product has as FSC certified label.
- VOC's are not for me-if you are painting vintage pieces make sure your paints are VOC free.
- Skip the trendy and go timeless-keeping up with the latest trends may cause more turnover in your home décor.
- Move with the groove-if you feel like your look is getting stale, try moving your furniture and rearranging your current décor.
- Phone a friend or family member-when you are thinking about redecorating talk with friends and family about interesting pieces they may no longer want.

C. Program Impact

- **Evaluation methods/tool**

A paper evaluation was administered to each person who attended the class. The evaluation gathered information relevant to what participants already know about reducing, reusing, and recycling before the program, as well as if they could identify ways to lower the carbon footprint in their homes. Additional questioning was asked to reveal if participants would consider a more environmentally friendly approach to their next remodel or building project.

- **Results/impacts**

Of the 62 people evaluated, 100% of participants said they would work to become more environmentally friendly after hearing the lesson. Participants indicated they would reuse and repurpose older decorating items, use sustainable wooden products, and purchase second hand when redecorating their houses.

Marketing tools/Publicity used (Cooperative Extension identified)

The “Environmentally Friendly Tablescapes” lesson was advertised in nine different newsletters in each of the counties of the Pennyryle Area in western Kentucky. Cooperative Extension was identified in both the newsletter and in the publication that was mailed to each member in the same geographical region.

D. Supporting Materials

- Powerpoint slides (4 pages)
- Publication (4 pages)
- Evaluation (1 page)

Photo of Individual or Team

- Attached