

Topic: Home management

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Furniture for the House

Furniture are pieces intended for comfort, rest and relaxation, storage or articles of beauty. Furniture in all houses, are indispensable and they provide for a harmonious living. While selecting

furniture the following points are to be borne in mind.

1. Furniture used should be in proportion to the size of the room.
2. The design should be simple, plain, well-constructed and provide comfort to the user.
3. The furniture we select should be easy to maintain.
4. The furniture should not occupy too much space.
5. It should be light weighted.
6. Children's furniture should be of adjustable height (legs).
7. The furniture should be movable.
8. The furniture should be functional and not too decorative.
9. The furniture should stand firmly.

General Rules

1. Select, a Centre of interest and subordinate all other interests to it.
2. Observe balance in arrangement. Formal balance gives dignified, restful effect, but too much of formal balance in a room will give a monotonous appearance.
3. Retain good proportion while arranging. Place all large pieces on large wall area and small pieces on small wall area.
4. Avoid using too many furniture in a room.
5. Scatter upholstered pieces among wooden pieces.
6. Avoid letting furniture hide the walls. But at the same time avoid filling too much of the centre floor area. Keep the traffic lines in the room very clear while arranging. Arrange all furniture with purpose and function in mind, grouping those, which are needed for a particular activity in one place. In the distribution of furniture, the housewife should exercise three

policies: **elimination, re-arrangement, and concealment.** If one can afford, broken and unwanted furniture may be discarded and fresh ones replaced. Furniture in a room may be reorganized so as to achieve satisfaction. Unsightly and jarring object must be concealed by the use of slipcovers. Defective and unattractive furniture can be concealed by the use of good attractive covers.

Furniture Needed in Different Rooms Drawing Room: One comfortable sofa and few chairs.

Teapoy which is a bit lower than the seat of the sofa, television, video cassette recorder, radio and record player cabinets to keep record albums.

Dining Room: Dining table and chairs, folding chair, if needed a trolley.

Bed Room: A double bed, bedside table and a lamp, dressing table, bed time table with lamp, place for suitcases, chairs.

Children's Room: A study table, a bed, book shelf.

Guest Room: Sofas which can be converted to bed. Dressing table, bed side table with lamp, place for suitcases, chairs.

Kitchen: Built in storage space (appliances), stools, shelves, plate rack.

5.3.8 Window treatment Treating the windows with fabrics and other materials is the easiest and most common way of furnishing the house. Window treatment can be classified into **soft and hard**. Soft window treatment is furnishing the windows with curtains and draperies. **Curtains** are thin fabrics which are used to cover the windows. They provide lighter and less privacy to a house. **Draperies** are the thick fabrics which are used to cover the windows and they provide less light and more privacy.

Selection of Curtains

1. Curtains should control light, heat and noise.
2. It should provide privacy.
3. The material purchased should be easy to wash and maintain and should not collect dirt easily.
4. It should neither be too light nor too heavy.
5. Curtains should add to the width of the windows.
6. It should suit the colour scheme of the house. Curtains with large designs suit only large rooms, while those small designs are fit for use in small rooms.

Hard window treatment is treating the windows with blinds, shades, shutters, thoranams, beads, leaves etc.

5.3.9 Cushions Cushions are available in many sizes and shapes. We can select the cushions according to the size of the furniture on which they are placed. Cushions are used for comfort and relaxation. They are luxury and charm to the room.

5.3.10 Floor Coverings Floor coverings are used to **enhance the beauty of an ugly floor surface**. Floor covering may be hard floor covering, which include wood, stone, marble, slate, brick, tile and concrete; Resilient floor coverings which are smooth surface materials like asphalt tile, rubber tile, vinyl's, cork and varieties of linoleum and soft floor coverings are carpets and rugs which represent the major house furnishing. The floor covering should be selected on the basis of function, wear, cost design; and the effect of covering on the overall decoration.

5.3.11 Carpets and Rugs

A carpet covers the entire floor area of the house. They create an **illusion of space**. Wall to wall carpets produce a feeling of warmth, quiet and luxury. A rug is single piece of floor covering made with a floor pattern or a border with fringe. Plain rugs add unity and warmth.

Points to be considered while buying Carpets and Rugs

1. Their design and colour should be in harmony with the general colour scheme.
2. They should be of durable material.
3. The edges of rugs should be well finished and clear.
4. They should prevent the floor surface noise.
5. Carpets should provide safe fitting and prevent slipping.
6. Maintenance of carpets and rugs should be easy.
7. Cost, character of the room, purpose, quality, design, utility, resiliency and abrasiveness are also the factors to be borne in mind.

5.3.12 Wall finishes

Wall finishes play an important role in changing the appearance of the room. A room can be made to look larger or smaller, noisy or quiet, formal or informal, light or dark, cluttered or empty, festive or serious, depending on the finish that is given to the walls. It is also important to give an easily cleaned and hygienic surface. It is easy to bring various colours, patterns, textures and light inside the interior using various types of wall finishes. Wall finishes can be classified into **structural and applied** wall finishes. Structural wall finishes are the finishes that are given to the walls while the construction of the building is on. Examples for structural wall finishes are brick finish, cement plastered finish, tiled finish, stone finish with granite, marble, black stone, etc., rubble finish etc. Applied wall finishes are those, which are applied to the structural unfinished walls. Examples for applied wall finishes are lime and colour wash, paints, wall paper, fabric wall covering, wood paneling, glass wall covering, metal wall covering, leather wall covering etc. It is possible to introduce more than one type of wall covering into a room and colours, designs or materials can be used for focal points to add interest.

5.3.13 Lights Sunlight has a cheerful and happy effect on everybody in the home. House should be built in such a way as to admit maximum sunlight. Sunlight is also germicidal in action. Other than electricity, gas light, candle and oil lamps can be used. The amount of light from these sources prove to be sufficient. Electric lamps are powerful and lessen the strain to the eye. Electric tubes are better than filament bulb. Careful choice and colour of light in a room adds to the decorative appearance of the home. Good lighting means providing an even diffused light throughout the rooms, as well as providing spot lighting for concentrated work. Besides a central light in a room, local lighting as table lamps, dining table spot lamps, bedside lamp or work spot light near stove etc. are needed. There are many decorative lampshades available in the market. The lampshades should not collect dust. Adequate lighting helps in reducing eyestrain and provides more comfortable working conditions. Lighting in all parts of the house is considered to be essential, for the sake of convenience and safety.

5.3.14 Accessories:

Accessories are **small art objects**, which are used in completing the interior decoration. It contributes much to the loveable and comfortable atmosphere of a room. They enhance the beauty of the room. They serve as means of self-expression, originality and personality of the homemaker. Accessories may be classified as **functional or decorative**. Paper weight, timepiece, pin tray, penholder etc. are functional. Carvings, pictures, ornamental objects, flower arrangement etc. are decorative. Some other accessories are books, gifts, candle stick, book ends, strip covers, shells, wall hanging, feathers, stones, twigs, beads, metal objects etc. Likewise, you can have a list of other accessories you have come across.

Pictures

Pictures are integral part of wall decoration. It reveals **the aesthetic sense** of the viewers. They have the power to stir one's imagination. They can establish the mood or theme of a room. The various types of pictures are landscape, seascape, still life, architectural portraits, photographs, religious, abstract modern pictures etc.

Selection of Pictures

1. The picture must coincide with the idea of the room.
2. Pictures should have the natural colours.
3. It should satisfy the principles of design.
4. It should fit in with the general decor of the house.

5. The frame should suit the picture. It should be plain and not too decorative.
6. Pictures should find a central place on the wall, directly above the furniture and should not be hung too high or too low.
7. Sufficient light should be focused on the picture.
8. Cost of the picture, availability and the personal taste of the user must be considered.

Hanging of pictures

Hanging picture is itself an art. Pictures should be hung in such a way that the center of interest comes at above eye level. They should be hung flat against the wall and not tipped forward. Avoid using visible wires. Light pictures are best hung on fairly light walls and dark pictures on dark walls or in dark corners. Tall pictures should be hung on vertical wall spaces and broad pictures on horizontal space. Small pictures will be out of place on large wall spaces. **Proportion** is an important consideration while hanging pictures. Principle of **emphasis** plays an important part. There must be plain space which will add to the brightness. Pictures should carry the eye towards it and not away from it.

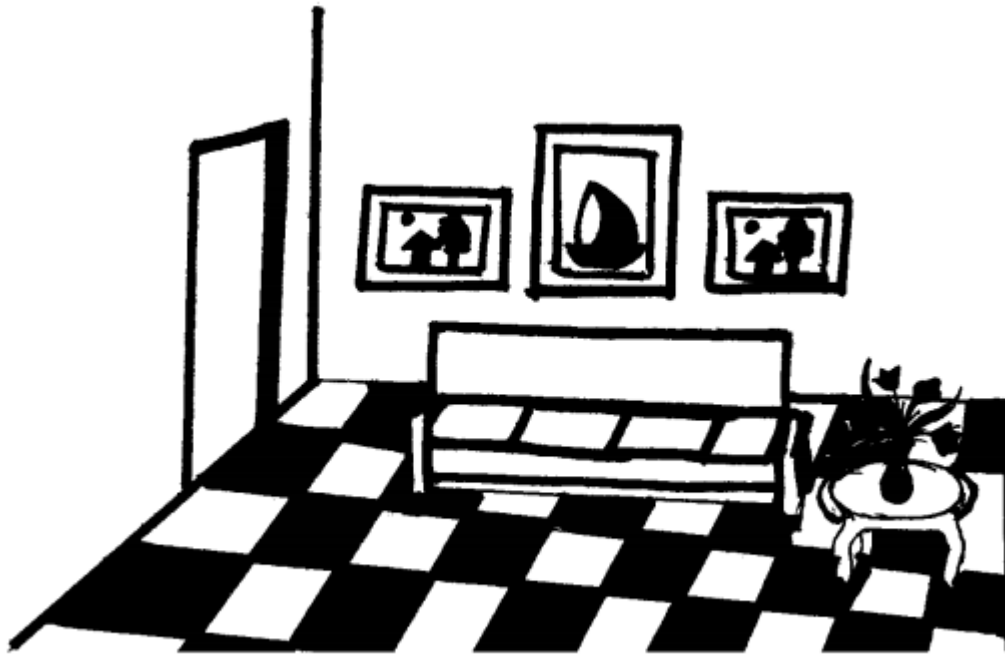


Fig. 23- Hanging of pictures

The following rooms can have the pictures as suggested below:

Living room - portraits, photographs of personalities, abstract paintings, landscapes, marine life, flower and figure compositions.

Bed room - photos of close relatives and babies.

Dining room - still life paintings of fruits, vegetables, land space etc.

Children's room - picture of animals, flowers, cartoons, Photos of leaders, scientists, great men of the nation etc.

Kitchen -pictures of fruits and vegetables.