

**SO YOU WANT**

**TO MOVE THE**

**FURNITURE**

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HOME ECONOMIC CIRCULAR 329

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII



# So You Want To Move The Furniture?

By

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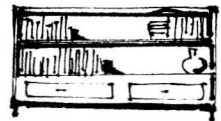
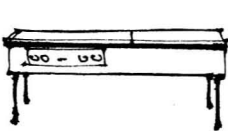


## Plan It On Paper . . . Then Move!

Living graciously in your home is not so much an art as it is the application of intelligent planning. Old home decorating methods of trial and error, hit and miss, won't work as well as planning for comfortable arrangement. It is possible to make a room inviting and attractive with many kinds of furniture. Expensive sofas and chairs are not the essentials for a lovely living room. Tasteful arrangement is necessary if furniture groups are to be inviting and attractive.

The first rule of furniture arrangement is to plan for comfort. The way to achieve that comfort lies in the practical arrangement of your furnishings. Furniture grouping is based upon the purpose of the room or the activity in which you want to engage, the furniture you have to use, and the shape and size of the room. Decide just what the room is to be used for. Answer these questions:

- Do you have a living-dining room combination?
- Do you have a living-guest room combination?
- Do you entertain a great deal?
- Do you have a television set in the living room?
- Do you need a music center?
- Do you need a study desk?



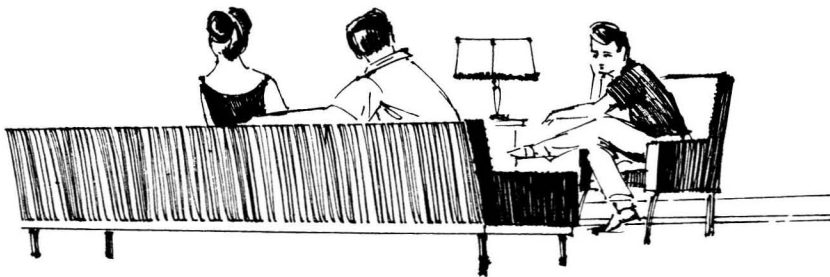
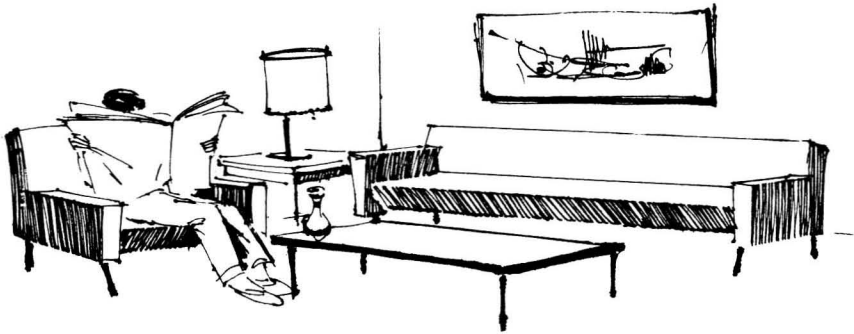
Consider also these leisure-hour living room activities:

*For the Family*

After dinner sitting  
Reading  
Sewing  
Radio, phonograph listening  
Television viewing  
Letter writing  
Studying  
Working on hobbies

*With Others*

Games  
Committee meetings  
Refreshments  
Parties  
Overnight guests  
Dining

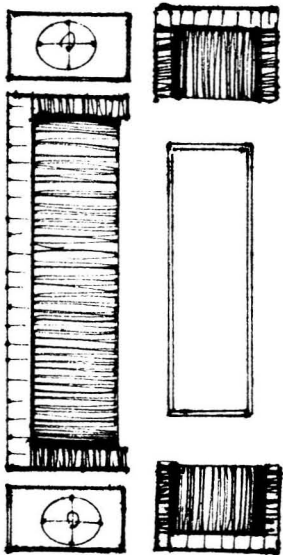
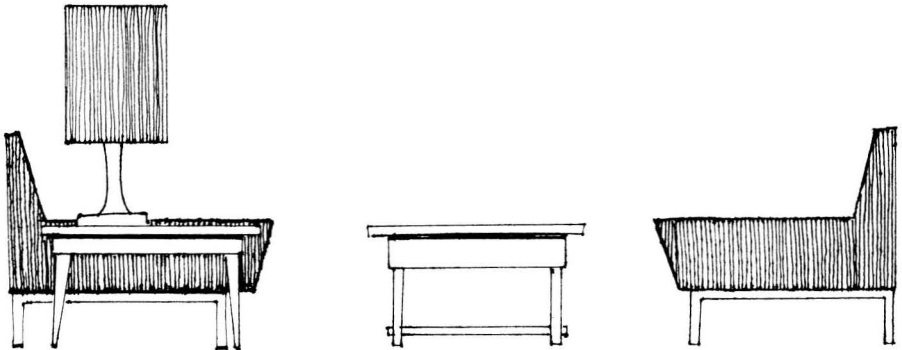


Then consider that the living room serves as the family show place—a room that must be ready for the unexpected guest. The comfort and well being of your family can best be served by making the home a pleasant place to be with the furnishings on hand. Actually, all uses of the home can be put into three classes: social activities, individual activities, and storage.

## GROUPING YOUR FURNITURE

### *For Conversation*

Living rooms are arranged for talking. You should have one furniture grouping for conversation, where several people may relax comfortably. This group might include a sofa, one or two comfortable lounge chairs or two occasional chairs, several zabutons, end tables, a coffee table, and lamps.

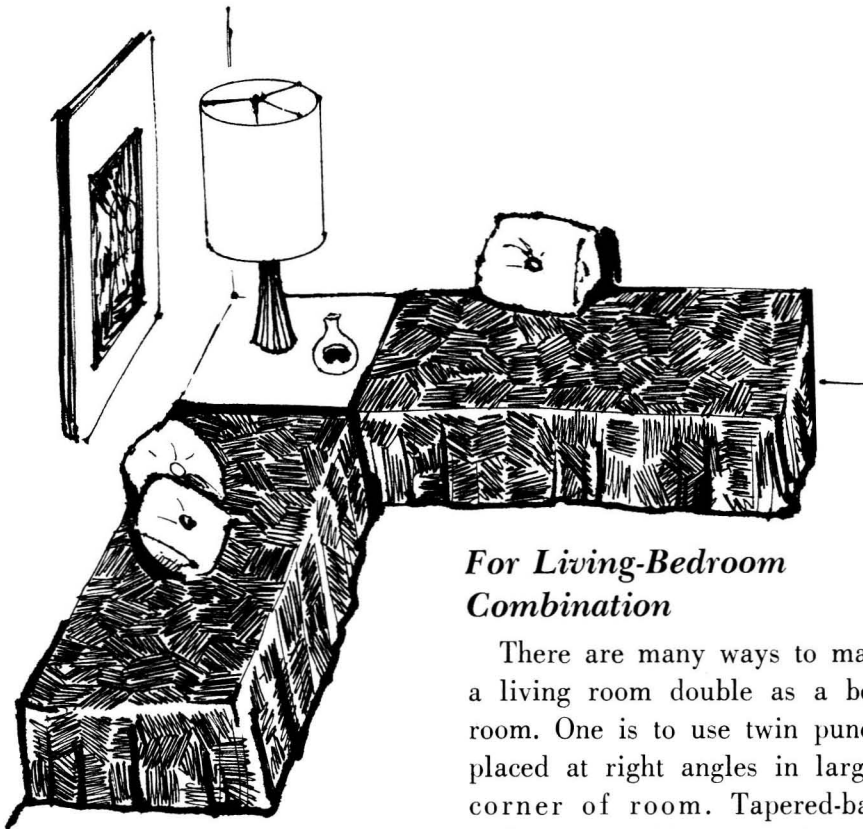


A neat, uncluttered look may be obtained by placing your sofa against the longest wall space in your living room, flanking the sofa with a pair of end tables matching the arm height of the sofa. A pair of simple but well-styled lamps on the tables will enhance the arrangement. Adding two open-arm chairs, placed at right angles to the sofa, with a long coffee table or a pair of small, square, low tables might be placed in front of the sofa to complete the grouping.



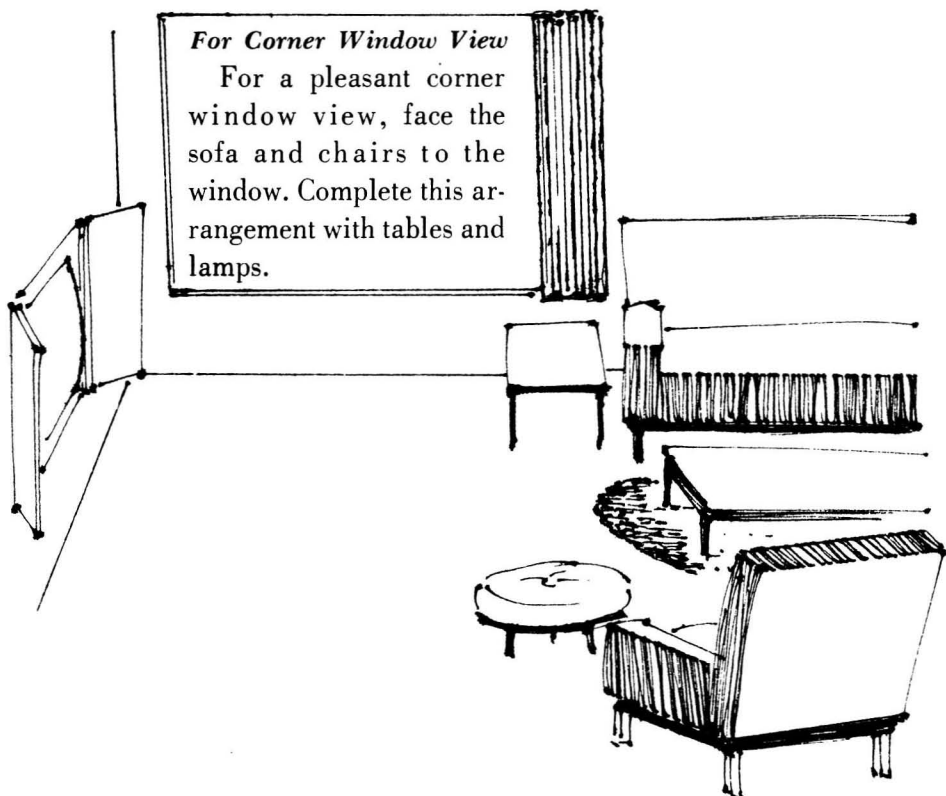
### *For Reading*

A reading area or study center is needed in most homes. This furniture grouping may be included in the conversation group by adding a desk or table and good lighting. The most convenient place for a desk or study table would be between two windows, or at least by one window for good light.



### *For Living-Bedroom Combination*

There are many ways to make a living room double as a bedroom. One is to use twin punes placed at right angles in largest corner of room. Tapered-back cushions or pillows complete the couch. You may use a corner table with a lamp or coffee table, if room permits, to complete this arrangement.

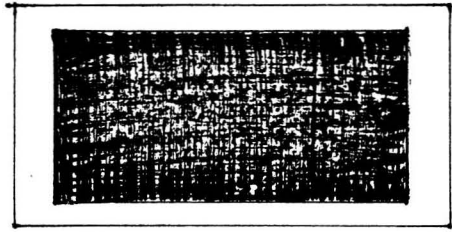
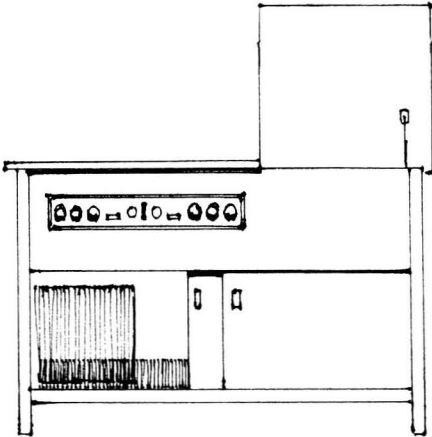


### *For Television Viewing*

Television has become one of the principal forms of family entertainment; most agree that it is here to stay. Some families have found it convenient to place the TV set in a family-type room, kitchen or large bedroom-sitting room. If the TV is placed in the living room, one way to keep it inconspicuous is to install the set within a room divider. The set can also be placed on a table or portable cart which allows it to turn. Television sets are often placed against a wall and at right angles to a sofa providing viewing from any part of the room. Two large ottomans, zabutons, stools or a bench opposite the set can provide extra seating.

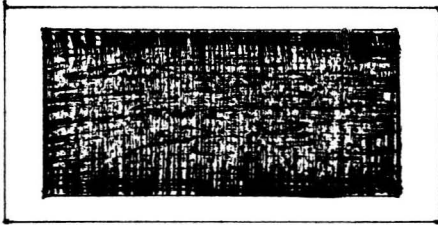
The room should be arranged for television viewing so that shifting furniture or turning off all lights is not necessary. An ottoman or stool placed near the set for tuning purposes might be desirable. The set should be placed so that it does not face a window. If the set is placed in the wall, avoid permanent installation to allow for servicing.





### *For Music Centers*

Music centers provide an area for special activities. You may combine the piano and hi-fi with other groupings such as sewing paraphernalia, games, or hobbies. A multi-purpose dining table can provide for these activities in either the dining or living room.

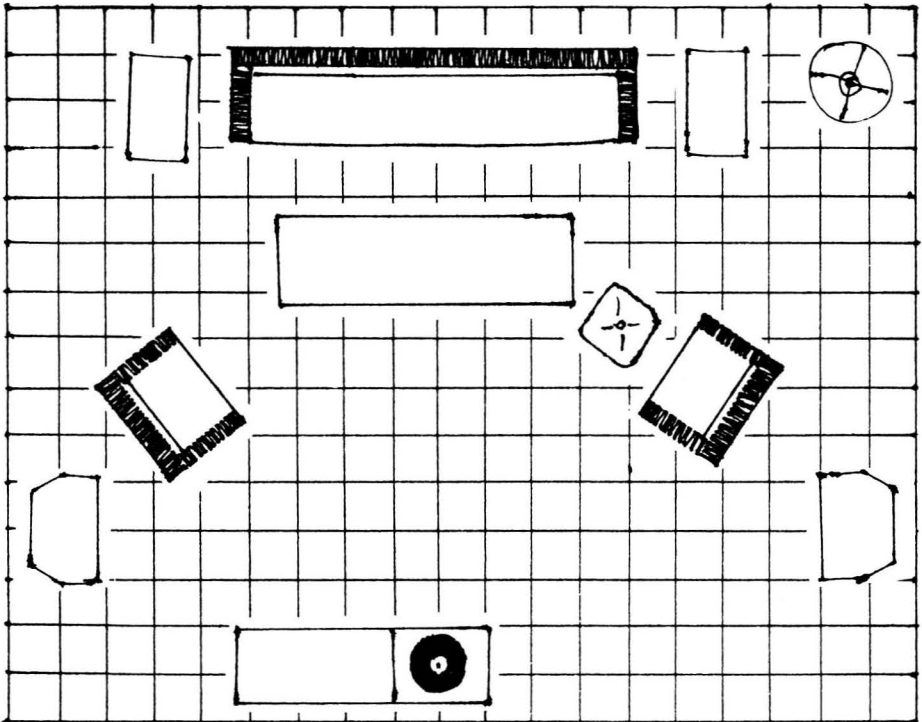


Pianos are not usually thought of as room dividers, although they may be so used. Place the piano at right angles to a wall so that the player faces the audience instead of the wall.

### *For Hand Sewing*

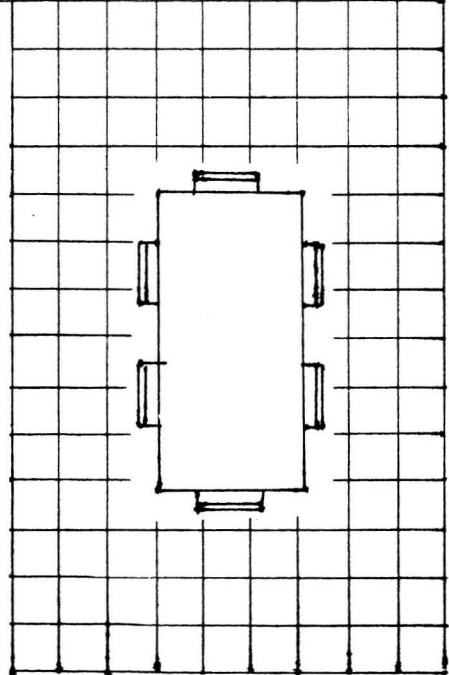
A corner for sewing or any kind of hand work is nice to have in the home. Combine a floor lamp, a low table, a comfortable chair, and low chest with a green plant and you will have an attractive and useful sewing corner. A wall lamp and another chair added to the group will make the corner a popular area in any living room.





**Step I.**  
**START**  
**WITH A FLOOR PLAN**

Planning the placement of furniture in a room can be back-breaking if you do it the hard way—by moving the actual furniture. An easy way to plan your move is to measure the room and draw the floor plan, using  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch graph paper, letting each square represent one foot. Show the walls with all doors, windows, alcoves, and any other architectural feature. Label the entrances of the room, whether from hall, kitchen, dining room, or outside.

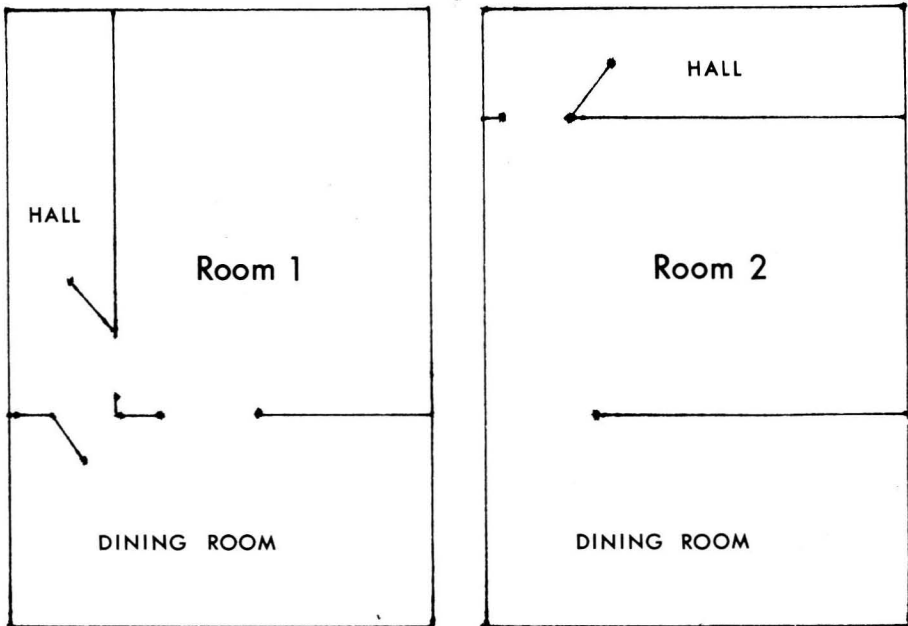


## Step II.

### ESTABLISH TRAFFIC LANES

The second step is to establish the traffic pattern of the room. The obvious traffic lanes show just where the groupings of furniture should be placed. Plan the conversation grouping so that a traffic lane passes around it.

The furniture arrangement should not interfere with windows, doors, and storage areas. Convenience and safety should be considered when making room plans. One furniture group should not hamper the use of a second grouping.



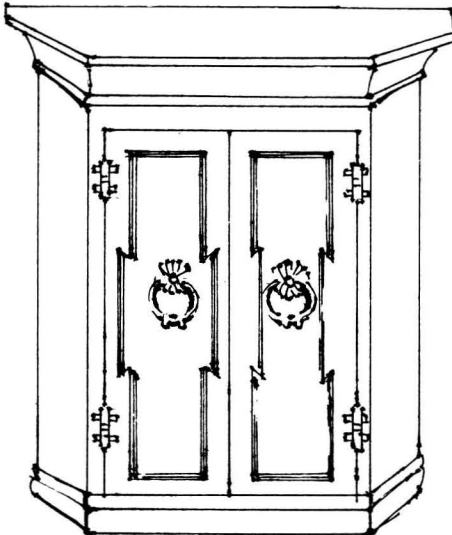
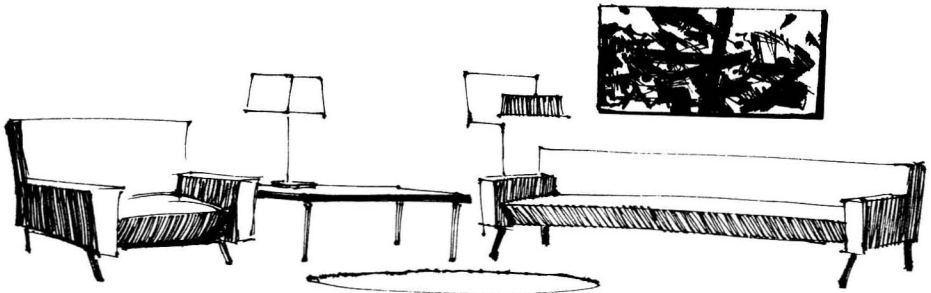
*Room 1* has very few decorating problems. The traffic lane comes from the hallway and passes across one end of the room to the dining room. This leaves the major portion of the room free for almost any furniture arrangement the homemaker wants.

*Room 2* has more problems. Note that the traffic lanes have changed. The rooms are exactly the same size but because of the traffic lane room 2 is divided almost in half. With careful planning the furniture arrangement in both rooms can be comfortable and attractive.

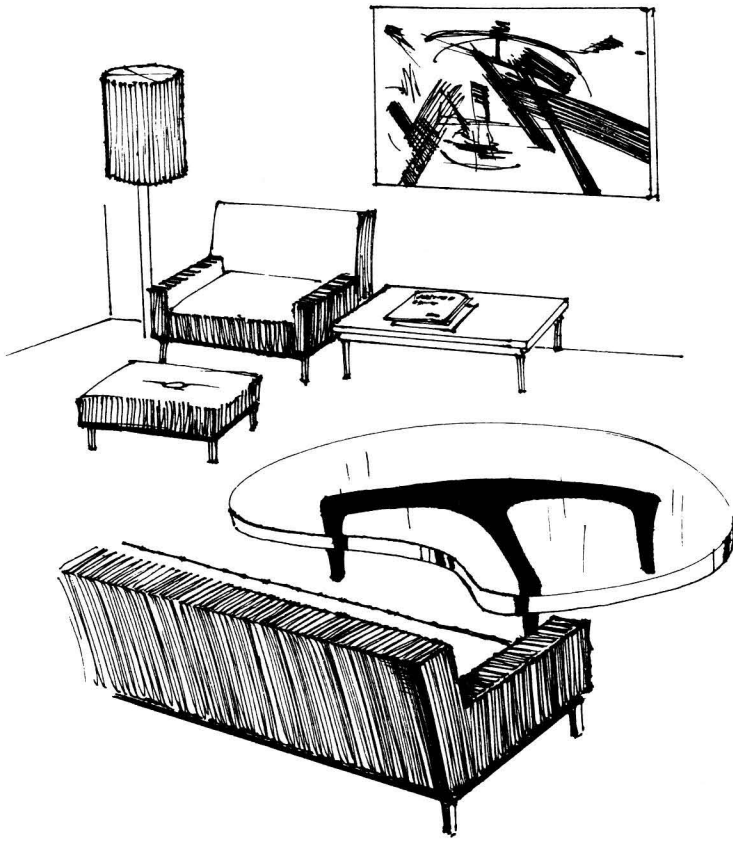
### Step III.

## ESTABLISH YOUR CENTER OF INTEREST

Step 3 is the selection of your interest center. The center of interest is the area or side of the room that you wish to emphasize by creating a blend of design and decoration that will flow outward to coordinate the whole room into a pleasant setting. What is the center of interest in your living room? A fireplace, (we do have a few in Hawaii), is a natural center and usually becomes the main point for placing the largest group of furniture. A window wall, a picture window, a corner window that frames a lovely landscape picture, are all centers of interest.



If there is no architecturally important feature, which is often the case, you can create one. A picture wall, a very large chest, a beautiful cabinet, a sofa placed between built-in book shelves, or a special wall decoration may be your room's center of interest.



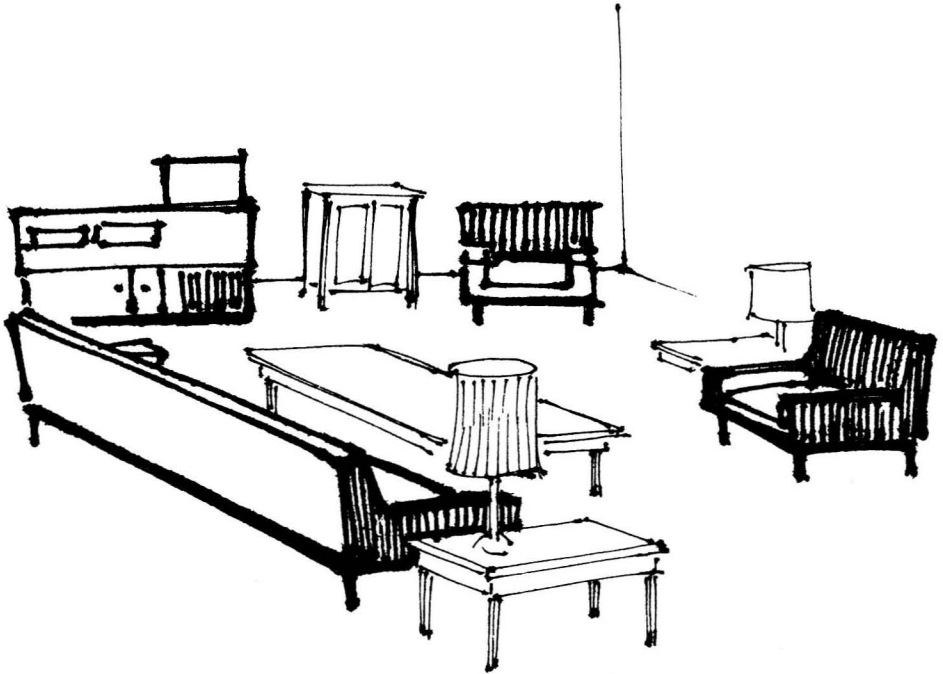
Monotony should be avoided. If all your furniture is straight-lined, the appearance of the room may be stiff and uncomfortable. Curved lines are apt to be feminine and ornate. A combination of both straight and curved lines makes a more pleasing arrangement. Furniture placed across a corner gives the whole room a feeling of movement, therefore furniture pieces should parallel a wall or be at

right angles to the wall. Never have all furniture placed against walls; carry some into the room. Squareness implies strength, but if used too excessively, it may be dull and uninteresting. Don't have square tables, all square pictures, and square windows. Rectangular shape is in good taste and a combination of lines and shapes makes a more pleasing room arrangement.

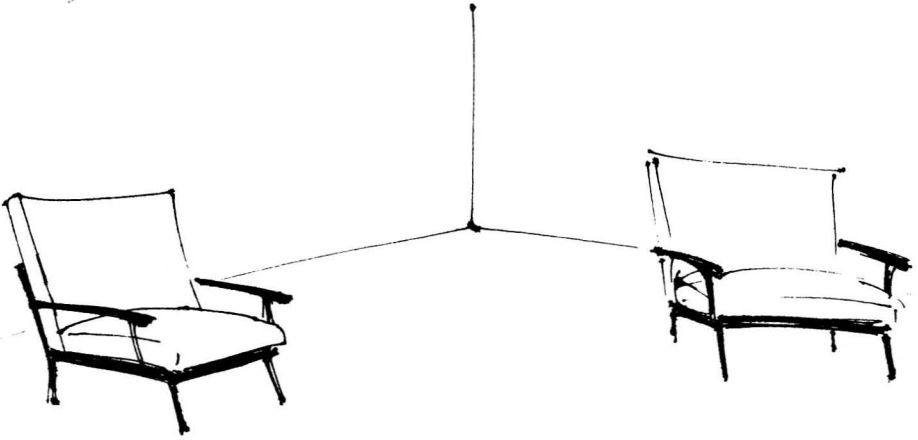
## Step IV.

### PLACE THE FURNITURE ON PAPER

The fourth step is to place the furniture on paper. This is where **WORK FROM THE EARS UP SAVES WORK FROM THE EARS DOWN!** The best way to do this is to make small-scale models of furniture and then arrange them on your floor plan. **BE SURE** to arrange the furniture so that there is a balance of heavy and light pieces.

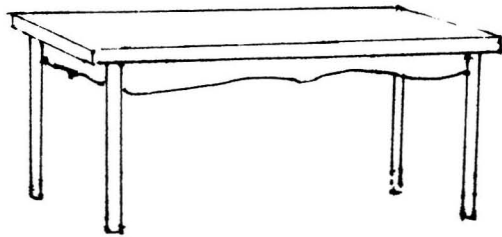
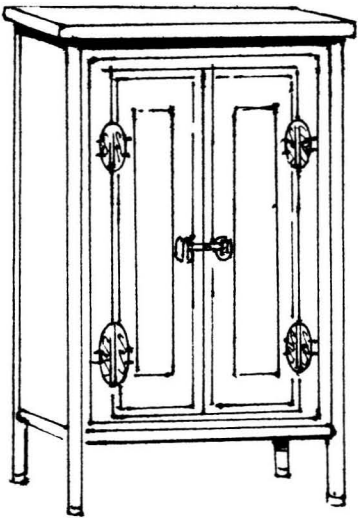


Weight and height are elements which should enter into furniture arrangement. Some people make the mistake of placing all the heavy furniture together and then all the small pieces elsewhere in the room. Mix them up—large and small furniture in each group, large and small groups balancing each other in the room.

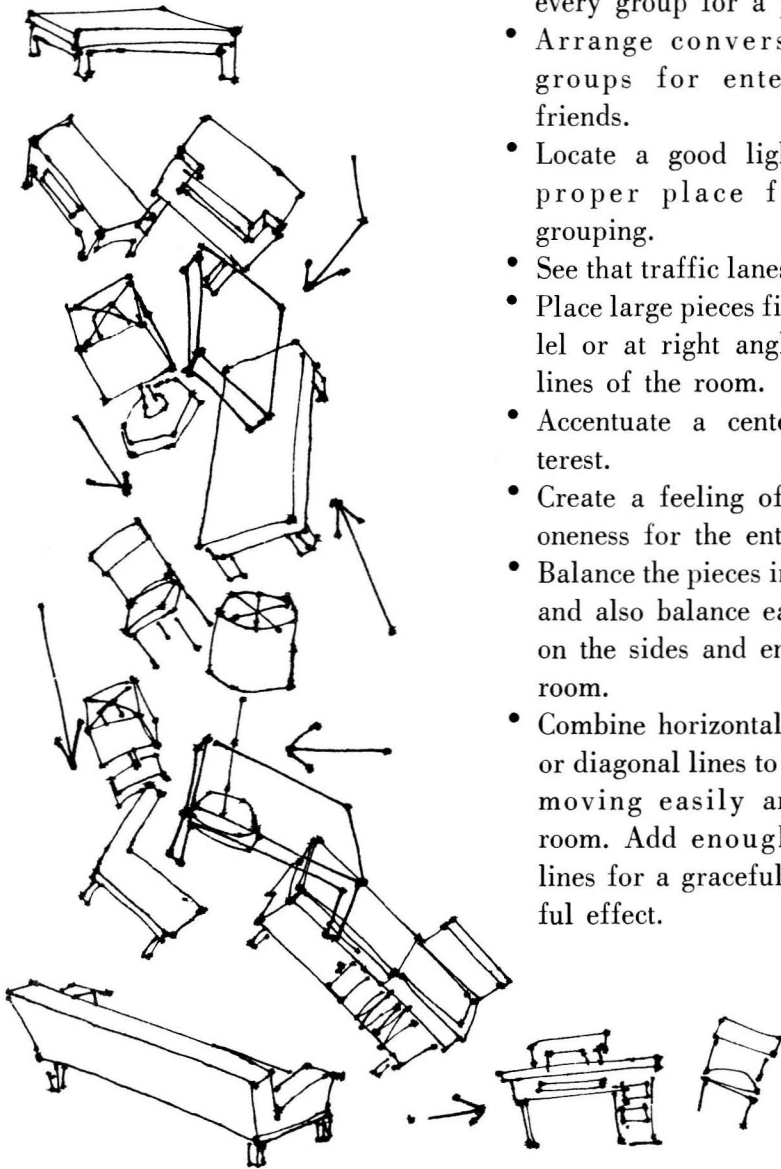


Place the largest furniture first, against the wall or at right angles to it. Don't hug the walls with all the furniture. It is smart to move furniture groupings away from the wall and out into the room. Once the big pieces are in position, the smaller pieces can be assembled around them.

Another practice to avoid is placing all the tall furniture against one wall with low pieces opposite them. Balance a tall piece of furniture by a table or sofa whose lines are raised vertically with a picture grouping on the wall above it.



REMEMBER these simple guides in arranging furniture to suit your way of living, and to make your rooms have a pleasant and comfortable look.



- Group furniture for comfort and convenience. Arrange every group for a purpose.
- Arrange conversational groups for entertaining friends.
- Locate a good light in the proper place for each grouping.
- See that traffic lanes are free.
- Place large pieces first, parallel or at right angles to the lines of the room.
- Accentuate a center of interest.
- Create a feeling of unity or oneness for the entire room.
- Balance the pieces in a group, and also balance each group on the sides and ends of the room.
- Combine horizontal, vertical, or diagonal lines to keep eyes moving easily around the room. Add enough curved lines for a graceful and restful effect.



After you have finished arranging your furniture, how does the room look to you? Look at your living room and ask yourself the following questions. If you cannot answer YES to all the questions, more changes are needed.

1. Is the arrangement comfortable and convenient?
2. Is the arrangement easy to live with?
3. Is your lighting adequate?
4. Are you spending less time in housekeeping?
5. Is your living room more attractive?
6. Is your living room inviting and friendly to your family and guests?

Furniture arranging is more fun than most activities undertaken. There is something satisfying in creating beauty and making your home pleasant for your family.



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