

A Well Decorated Home

Denise Chatman

BEFORE YOU READ:

1. Share some ways you have transformed a space to make it feel personal and cozy.
2. What ways do you decorate without spending too much?
3. The author mentions *midnight blue* and *aqua blue* in this article. Describe those colors. What other blues can you name?

Stars on My Son's Ceiling

One of my favorite homes was the apartment we had when my son started grade school. It was small, but it was close to my son's school. My mother helped me buy new furniture for it. I decorated it to make it feel like home for me and my son.

We bought a new bed and dresser for my son's room. I painted the ceiling *midnight blue* with glowing stars all over the ceiling. I tried to mimic some of the constellations. We always had story time under those stars. He liked it when I read "Beauty and the Beast." It was one of his favorite stories. I made the sounds of a grumpy beast, and he laughed each time.

Pink Towels and Bathtime

For the bathroom, we bought a new vanity with a matching mirror. I got a beautiful shower curtain and pink towels. Bath time was my favorite time of the day to spend with my son. I would sit kneeling on the floor next to him in the tub and he would tell me all about his day at school and what he did with his friends. He knew he could tell me anything and everything.

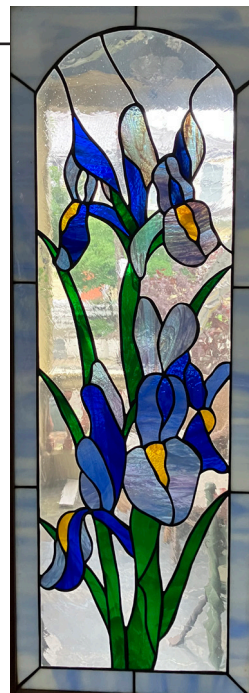
A Bed in the Dining Room for Me

For me, I put a full-size bed in the dining area. It fit perfectly. I draped curtains from the ceiling to make it feel like a separate room.

Special Touches

I love the sea, so I painted the kitchen a light *aqua blue*. I found some blue glass ornaments to put around the window. They were from Turkey.

That apartment may not have been big, but I made sure it was cute. I installed a stained-glass window I purchased for \$100. (It was worth a lot more!) The stained-glass window was full of irises, my favorite flower.



*Irises on stained glass
by Rachel Schurman*

Happy Memories

My younger brother, David, came to visit. He spent the night. He complimented me on my decorating. I have many happy memories from my days in this apartment, which I made into a very personal and cozy space.

AFTER YOU READ:

1. What strategies does the writer use to make her apartment personal and cozy? Be specific.
2. How does she avoid spending a lot of money?
3. Bring to class a picture of your favorite piece of art or home decoration.

Denise Chatman is a student in the Oakton College Adult Education Program in Des Plaines, Illinois. She has been a licensed cosmetologist for many years. She has always wanted to work on her writing, so she participated in a program at the library. She is grateful to the seasoned volunteers for their support of the creative process.

