Design and Build Your Own Dream House with Recycled Materials
Lesson 3: Decorating

Now it’s time to decorate! We get to play the role of interior designer: someone that makes a space functional and beautiful by deciding what types of colors and materials will be inside a building.

Suggested supplies:
Glue, tape, scissors, scrapbook paper or other decorative paper like wrapping paper, paint, ruler

If you decide to paint any part of your house, do that first. Corrugated cardboard can handle a coat of paint without warping, but paperboard (cereal boxes) will warp if you only paint one side of the box. To prevent this from happening, it is best to paint both sides of the cardboard.

Next, if you would like to add “wallpaper” to the interior, use your ruler to measure the walls. Before applying glue, make sure it fits! Spread a thin coat of glue on the wall and the back of the paper to make sure you have it all covered. Then, carefully smooth the paper on the wall.

Do you want to add any textural elements? What can be used for roof shingles? What can be used to look like brick or stone?

Vocabulary

Mod podge – a well-known craft supply that is an all-in-one glue, sealer, and finish used to attach paper and fabric to various surfaces.

Texture – what things are made of and how they feel. Textures can be described as “rough”, “smooth”, “hard”, “soft”, “liquid”, “solid”, “lumpy”, “gritty” etc.

Acrylic paint – water-based permanent paint that dries into a water-resistant and durable surface.

Tempera paint – water-based washable paint

When you finish decorating your house, please share a picture on Discover Center’s Facebook page!

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