



Design and Build Your Own Dream House with Recycled Materials Lesson 4: Tiny Furniture

One of my favorite places to visit is the Thorne Miniature Rooms in the Art Institute of Chicago. In this museum exhibit there are 68 tiny rooms, beautifully decorated for different periods in history and geographic locations. The ideas for these rooms were thought up by Mrs. Thorne and she had expert craftsmen furnish the rooms.

Today YOU get to be the expert craftsman! First, decide what is the purpose of each room in your house. If you have a kitchen, what will you need to furnish it with? Bedrooms will need beds, a living room might have a couch and a television, and a dining room will need table and chairs.

There is no "right" way to make your furnishings. Use what you have in your house. Empty cereal boxes, corks, jar lids, bottle caps and magazines can all be transformed into dollhouse furniture and accessories.

If you have access to the internet, here are some websites for inspiration:

Thorne Miniature Rooms at the Art Institute of Chicago

<https://www.artic.edu/departments/PC-15/thorne-miniature-rooms>

Handmade Charlotte dollhouse furniture ideas:

<https://www.handmadecharlotte.com/make-off-grid-dollhouse-part-8/>

Suggested supplies:

Glue, tape, hot glue gun, scissors, scrapbook paper or other decorative paper like wrapping paper, paint, ruler, pencil, fabric scraps, paperboard (empty cereal boxes, cracker boxes), egg cartons, magazines, and fun odds and ends like bottle caps, corks, and jar lids

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



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