

LIVING Sims

The Sims Magazine for more style

FEATURING ERONOEL:

**A New Generation:
Reinventing a Living Space**

FINDS...

**Hot & New
Something Amazing
Must have CC - Sims 3**

AND OF COURSE...

**Ask Handy Andy
Divine Design
3 Colors
Designer Tips**

FEATURING:

Kementari

**ANKE AND BALLA
ON ASSIGNMENT:
Rockin' the House!**

**BEST OF:
Challenge Me To...**

**Apartments
*with a Difference***

**Tips for Yard and Garden
World Review**

Editorial

Enjoy The Light

Here I am sitting in my tea cup and thinking back on all the amazing times I have had with this magazine, the staff involved and of course the community around it. The staff is always there for me to talk to, to laugh with and to discuss the newest article with. The community never stops to amaze me. You are all so creative, helpful and sweet, not like other internet communities I could mention. My hat off to all of you!

We fell in love with Kementari's beautiful pictures over the last month, to a point that we have chosen to feature a great amount of her pictures. Thank you Kem for letting us use them, and for sharing all of these inspiring pictures with us. Look for her byline throughout the issue.

I sit here in my tea cup, with a cup of tea enjoying the sunlight coming in though the windows, and I want to remind you all to enjoy it with me, no matter if it is the first warm rays of the coming spring or the hot rays of the late summer sun. Remember to enjoy the light.

Now find your very own tea cup and sit down and enjoy this issue of LivingSims. It is a bit of a sprawling issue – filled with all kinds of articles. We hope you find it inspiring, enjoyable and perhaps even funny at times.

Macthekat



Ask Anke & Balla Anything!

Ask Anke & Balla Anything!



Over the past year or so I have sent Balla and Anke out on assignments. By now, we all know they have big personalities and they have dropped a few clues about themselves along the way. I don't know about you, but I want to know more! I sat the two ladies down on my sofa and I am not letting them leave until they have answered all of our questions! What are your questions for Anke and Balla? Leave a comment on the website, and I will make sure that they answer you! I, for one, want to know what is the deal with that goat!

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NB All finds have a direct link to the website where you can download the object

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Yellow, red and orange are all warm colors, use them together and you'll have one cozy room or space.

DESIGNER TIPS

Article by: Velvet

Photographs by: Starla, Sims4vr, Sebausten, Justme-chelle, Dija, Chicago Storm, Camille, Butterfly, Bschn & Cary

You don't have to live inside of Big Ben to appreciate a grandiose clock. Step up your game and grab some larger than life decorative pieces to fill your space with character.



Muted tones can make the perfect backdrop for colorful pictures, plants or furnishings.



When aiming to make a space reflective of a certain time period be sure to stick to the scripts. Lamps, rugs, chairs, even the TV stand (if there was such a thing in that era) should all look the part. Do a little research to be sure you get the desired effect.



Baby cribs and changing stations do not a nursery make. Make the space utilitarian but fun; add in toys, deco and use fun colors to make your nursery baby friendly.



Who says your wall hangings have to match? If your colors are different try for a connected subject matter and vice versa.



Mixing styles can yield a delightful space. A touch of industrial with a little bit of Sweden can set your space a step above the rest.

Don't forget the ceiling! There's more to a room than walls and floors and your sims are sick of sky. Look up and tile that ceiling; make it something beautiful.





Books aren't just for reading! Whether they're tied together with string, stacked in a column or lined up against a wall, a set of books can be the 'it' deco item or focal point that makes your room come together.



You don't have to dance on your stage to make it useful. Surround it with four walls (or three) and you have a nice little room alcove.
Make the most of your building tools!

The perfect choice
for your garden.

A young boy with orange hair, wearing a blue and white striped shirt and khaki shorts, is climbing a large tree trunk. He is reaching up towards the branches. The background shows a house and some bushes.

Ask your local garden center for
Autumn Blaze trees
or call: 1 877-BLAZETREE

Three Colors: *Welcome to Colors-on-White*

Three Colors • 14



Article and pictures by Lkadas

A plain white city apartment gets a splash of bold colors, some vintage pieces, and a touch of shabby chic. An all white apartment can be a designer's nightmare, or a dream come true. For this edition of "Three Colors" white pops up in the mix, along with chartreuse and medium blue for a new take on decorating a blank space.

#5A8097

#BFAD49

#7EA4B9

15 • Three Colors



Clean white walls can be daunting, but this apartment in Bridgeport has brick walls that have been painted, breaking up the solid color so that it is not so overwhelming and bright. The pre-installed kitchen cabinets are also solid white. You would think that white-on-white in a kitchen would be overwhelming, but the textures of wood and brick are very different, which sets them apart. White-on-white in a kitchen is quite dramatic, especially with white stone counter-tops. This combination is not uncommon in pre-existing apartments; it gives the renter a blank canvas to work with.

In a small apartment like this one, you can use white to your advantage. The color white can make your space feel bigger and brighter; a great asset to a small and dingy down-town apartment. Large windows to let the natural light in are also helpful, as seen in this space. The key to using white as a dominant color in a space is to break it up with different textures. Using painted wood, brick, and white fabric are all great ways to add some white into your space without being boring, or blank.

I broke up the plain large walls with bright artwork, vintage signs, and flowing curtains, thus adding texture to the space. All of these elements, especially those in the colors of chartreuse and blue, help to add interest to the expansive white walls. I used art prints in bold and bright colors to add some fun and youthful energy to the design. Vintage signs and posters, used over the desk, are a great way to re-purpose some old antiques.

In this design, the shocking yellow-green and a more muted blue add a fun-factor to the space, and give the room some real flavor. The blue helps balance out the brighter chartreuse, but neither of the two colors are too bold for the space. Some of my favorite pieces in the room are the blue dining chairs. They have both excitement and color, and really add to the space. You could pick these up from an antique store for a cheap fix, or take some sandpaper to your new and shiny chairs to add a little vintage wear-and-tear look to them. Mixing chairs, stools, patterns, and benches takes this room to the next level.



In the kitchen, to further break up the white-on-white, I threw bright accessories into the mix. Loud colors on the mugs, bowls, and even hanging cutlery add visual interest, and a pop of color. Bright accessories are also used in the living space on large white surfaces, such as the colored candlesticks and patterned vases on the coffee tables, and bright patterned pillows on the sofa. The similar motif on the rug and accent pillows ties the room together. Little touches, such as the blue drawer-pulls are perfect for a space like this.

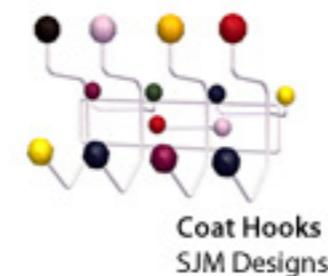
If you are starting out with a plain white apartment, details are key. An arrangement of bright accessories or some indoor plants can go a long way. Be careful not to over-do it with the accessories and clutter though. Some of the charm in using white, is its brightness and simplicity—if you bog the space down with too much stuff, you might lose this.

Using some of these tips and tricks can help you brighten up a boring space, or help you decorate your new apartment. Don't be afraid to use white and brights, now that you know how!





Wall Art
Simply Styling (Bedroom pg. 12)



Coat Hooks
SJM Designs



Grunge Floor
Donnah's Sims Stuff



Lamp
Ireland4Sims - Black Pearl Sims



Kitchen Sideboard & Chair
Tinhouse - Black Pearl Sims



SIP Living Room Sofa
Simply Edward - Colorsims



Modern Chairs
SJM Designs



Biological Food
Cassandre - Black Pearl Sims



Wall Coverings
Donnah's Sims Stuff



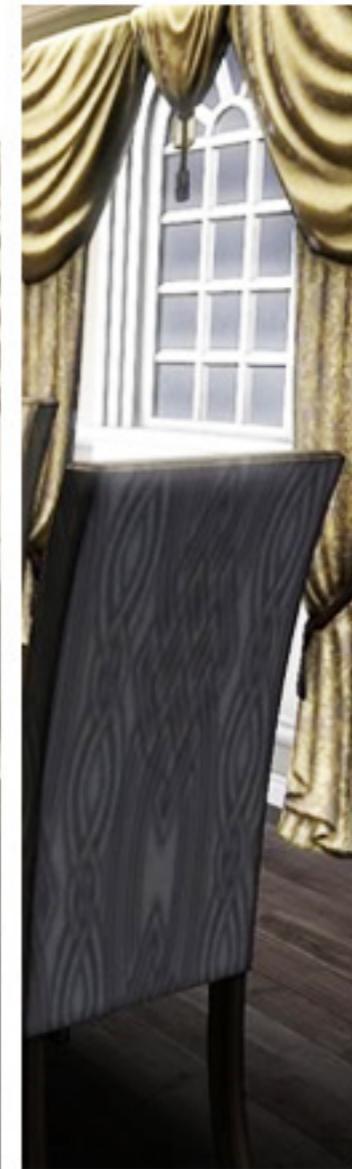
Dawn Living Sofa
Anye - Black Pearl Sims

Hot & New

By Ankuuh



ACCÈS
N
SI



WE HAVE THE PERFECT ACCESSORIES TO MAKE YOUR ROOM NOT JUST ANY ROOM



Our Top 10 List

Where to Get the Best Custom Content

Searching for good quality Custom Content sites for the Sims 3 can be very confusing. So why not let us do the work for you? Here is a selection of the best CC sites listed by us, with handy ratings and descriptions, all to make your life easier.

The sites are listed in alphabetical order

Around the Sims

This site is a treasure trove of amazing CC, and is made by a very experienced group of simmers. They have been making CC since the early Sims 1 days, so they are a site to rely on.

Quality

All of their items are made to a high standard, and they work very well with the CAST tool.

Variety

They have everything you can possibly imagine and more! And what's even better is that they are constantly thinking of new and innovative ideas to enrich our Sims games.

User Friendliness

Every item is listed, and then re-listed in sets and individual categories. Also, what this site does, which many sites don't, is that you can download the items separately. This saves a lot of time if you only want certain items from sets.



Awesims

One of the best sites on the net for the Sims community, you see her furniture used in many places all over the community, and with good reason!



Quality

The quality of Awesims' items is fantastic; she definitely goes above and beyond to make sure her items are the best quality. Her items, when re-colored using the CAST tool, look perfect.

Variety

She has a treasure trove of furniture, and a large variety. Ranging from living furniture to bathrooms, she makes them all to her high standards. She also makes some of the best cushions around.

User Friendliness

The site is very easy to navigate, but in most of the preview images it doesn't show all the items included in the set. This is easily resolved by clicking on the image to bring up a slide-show which, in most cases, displays all the items included.

Desdren

Sleek and trendy are just a couple of words that come to mind when describing Dresden's custom content.

Quality

A good quality site, with most of her items being made to a high standard. And to add to that, the quality is getting better and better with each set!

Variety

This site hosts it all, from patterns to parlours and everything in-between.

User Friendliness

You do have to scroll down a bit to get to the tags section to search for certain things, but every item included in each set is listed. This makes things a lot easier.



LunaSimsLulamai

This site will make your downloads folder bulge at the seams full of beautiful and individual pieces of CC.

Quality

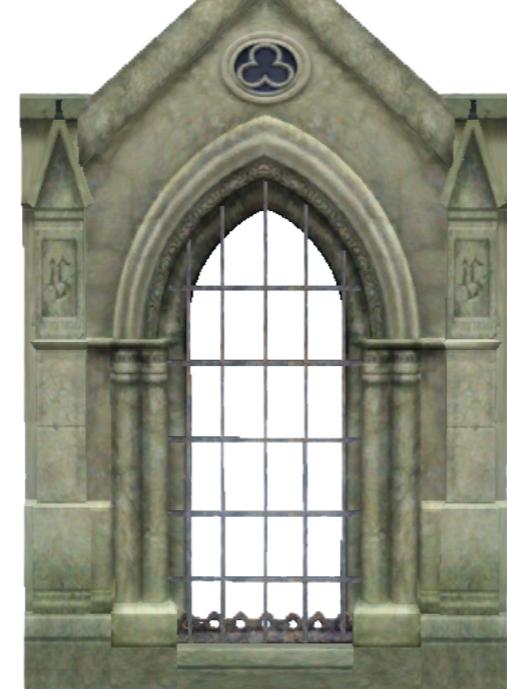
Some of the older stuff on the site is a little off, and the sizes are slightly off proportion, but the new items are much better.

Variety

This site has everything you can imagine, and even things you can't! They are always coming up with new and individual ideas and they update regularly.

User Friendliness

Although the site is in Spanish, the site can easily be translated into English or any other language using Google. But everything does not translate over so you are wondering what some



Mango-Sims

A site with a stylish and chic look on Sims furniture.

Quality

They have improved greatly on their quality and seem to be getting better with every set they release.

Variety

The furniture mainly focus on bedroom, living room, and dining room so there isn't a large selection of choice.

User Friendliness

The Sims3 category is hard to notice at first as it's placed on the opposite side from the other menus. Also, all their sets are grouped into one section rather than divided out.



Simcredible Designs

This is a fresh and modern site, full of modern and innovative furniture ideas.

Quality

They have many well-made items, which recolor with the CAST tool very well.

Variety

There is a set of each room for your Sims' homes.



Simcontrol

A Spanish site, with a large variety of innovative CC ideas.

Quality

This rating is for Pilar's items, which is most of the downloads section. Pilar's latest set does not seem to recolor well with the CAST tool.

Variety

They have everything from houses, to furniture and art. A plentiful bounty of CC to fill your Sims' homes.

User Friendliness

One of the major problems with this site, for some, is that it is in Spanish and there is no translator. It can be difficult to know where the download sections are but once you are there each section has its own icon so it's easy to see what's what. There are a lot more downloads in

User Friendliness

The downloads section can be a little hard to find on your first visit. Also the scrolling inside the page, and the ads between previews can be distracting when you are trying to download CC.



their forums but they get missed because of the language barrier. It is well worth the look if you have the time and Google Translator at hand to scour their forums, but it can get very tedious translating everything to even find out where the download is. They don't say what's included with each set so you are left guessing what you are getting. Also you have to register to see the download sections and forums.

Sim Design Avenue

A beautiful site with high quality items. The only downfall is that they are starting to add more pay items to the site than non-pay items.

Quality

Their stuff is beautifully made and items recolor wonderfully.



Variety

They don't have a lot of objects on the site, but what they do have is well worth the visit and the download.

User Friendliness

Very easy to navigate through their site, and download the objects.

Simply Styling

A site perfect for the shabby chic and vintage lovers in the Sims community!

Quality

The items are made well, and there is a large quantity. They don't seem to recolor well with grainy textures, but most textures work fine.

Variety

She has everything you need and more to furnish a shabby chic, with a touch of vintage, home!

User Friendliness

The site is very easy to navigate and use and the pre-view images show all the items included.



Simpossible

A great place to visit if you are looking for more of a modern/contemporary vibe in your interiors.

Quality

Most of their objects are made to a high standard, and have a nice finish, but some items appear to be made a little less well.

Variety

They have a wide selection of CC, a variety of sets for each room in the house.

User Friendliness

They list, in detail, what you get when you download the set, so it is very easy to get what you want. It would be nice to see them organizing their downloads better rather than classing them in all one section called "object sets"



Sims 3 Muskeeteers

You can't keep a good site down

Homes, Lots, Patterns, Clothing, and more
for your Sims 3 Game!







www.mysims3blog.blogspot.com

SOMETHING AMAZING

DEAL OF A LIFE TIME

WRITING BY VELVET
PHOTOGRAPHS BY KITKAT



Bronze Wall Art
Simpossible

Sectional Sofa
Sims 3 Marktplatz



Book Clutter
Camille's Blog

Hanging Orchid
Magic Dawn @
SimWorld



Wall Organizer
Sims 3 Modeli



Chair
The Ninth Wave Sims



Hanging Chair
Sims 3 Modeli



Sci-Fi Wall Art
Kitty Klan



Fern
Magic Dawn @
SimWorld

Nursery Rug
Lemon Jelly



Buddha & Sideboard
Mussa Sims



STEP RIGHT UP FOLKS,

for we have just the deal for you. Yes sir, and lady, we have sofas, we have plants, we have rugs...we even have a little guy on a table! If you want it, we've got it. Don't be shy! Pull up a chair and take a look around. If you see something you like, it's just two clicks away!

All we need for a down payment is your first born (no sim bots please), a pint of blood, 1600 sim points, a plumbob, a garden gnome, a pink flamingo...

The Christmas Store

For those who love to plan ahead



Hand-crafted wooden toys, made from top quality hardwood and stained with natural dyes. These traditional toys are sure to become family treasures.

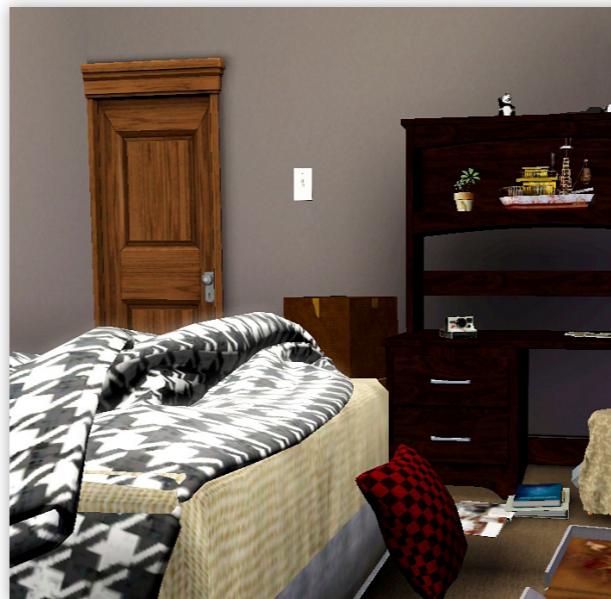
Visit The Christmas Store at 56 Mullberry Lane, Bridgeport (435.766.8812)

ChristmasStore@mullberry.com



Ask Bella

Article & Photographs by: LkeVelvet



Dearest Bella,
My boyfriend and I have been renting a room from a lovely older lady for the past two years. In those two years, I finally grew up enough to realize that he was not the man for me. He's filthy, disrespectful and immature; and I gave him the boot.

Just look at these pictures! There's not one thing in this room that represents me. My landlady offered to repaint the room without charge. Here's the thing though - the room is small, dark (because of old lighting and one window that doesn't let much light in), and won't accommodate a lot of furniture. How can I make this one room represent the newer, better me without shelling out money I don't have? Please help!

Sincerely,
Closed In

Before





Dear Closed In,

First let me say, congratulations! There's nothing quite like maturing enough to have closed eyes opened. Let me also offer my reassurance that there is hope. Your room appears to be smaller than it is because of the junk; with a few key choices you can make this space work rather well.

Let's tackle the lighting problem to start with. You're correct in your estimation that a one-window light source is not enough. The easy remedy is to add a new light source altogether. Now don't panic, there's no need for installing new fixtures (I understand the endemic problems of renting). My advice is to get a new lamp (or two), preferably a tall one - you'll discover why shortly. Any soft-white light bulb will work wonders in brightening your space. Lamps can be found in any dime store, chain store or popular retail store at a low cost. That's one worry you can cross off your list.



Next, why don't we look at space management? It's clear that you don't have a lot of storage space. I must suggest that raising your bed be a priority. There's no better and cheaper storage solution than the one found beneath your bed. Bed rails are a dime a dozen at the flea market, second hand stores, etc. You don't need a head board, but if you'd like the appearance of one, get a few pieces of thick wood slabs (check with your local hardware store for throwaways), stand them on end, and paint or decorate according to taste. Presto! You have a headboard at little to no cost. A small dresser and/or bed chest will help finish off your bedroom suite, and give you added storage space. A girl can't have too many places to hide her goodies!

Last, but not least, we're going to sort that "cell-like" problem that has you feeling hemmed in. By clearing up your floor space with vertical or out-of-the-way storage items, you take a bite out of space-eating furnishings. You're a single person, so you don't need a large desk to work

on. Get a desk that "climbs" up. The key word is up. Stripes, vertical paintings, and thin or narrow deco items all work to create the illusion of height. Color can work wonders in brightening and widening spaces as well. Smaller spaces look larger by employing the "focus wall" trick. Choose one wall and use paint, easy to change wallpaper, or wall-pops to design your wall any way you like. As a renter you would do better to choose one of the latter two methods. Inexpensive art selections can range from graphic cards taped to a wall to paint-on-canvas art pieces from a hungry artist sale. You can even make artful arrangements out of everyday items, like a colorful shoe rack, hat stand, or chair.

In short, inexpensive, renter-friendly decorating is not only achievable, but you can have fun in the planning and implementation of it. Have fun with reinventing your space and do show us the results.

Best wishes, *Bella*

ASK ANDY

Writing by Velvet
Photos by MacTheKat and Velvet



Dear Andy,

I hate orange. I hate orange, crumbling brick even more! My fireplace is falling apart, and I'm at a loss as what to do. We've renovated our entire home - all that's left to do is fix the fireplace. It's been a part of our home since we first moved in, and I don't want to get rid of it. Is there an economical way to salvage it?

*Sincerely,
Falling to pieces*

Dear Falling To Pieces,

Looks like you had a real fixer upper on your hands. The additional photographs and attachments you included with your letter are impressive. The inexpensive fix of the walls by using wood paneling and wallpaper as cover was ingenious.

By first sanding and then painting the wood paneling a color of your choice, you've made your updated walls look new and fresh without the expense most remodeling jobs entail. That was nicely done.

You say you re-plastered the top portion of your wall. My suggestion is to do the same to the fireplace. Re-plastering is not a hard job; I rather enjoy it myself, the flying flecks remind me of the snow back home...but I digress. If you re-plaster the fireplace, I'd advise leaving the mosaic tiles as is. Give them a thorough cleaning. A small power cleaner will get the grimy layers from years past right up. By keeping the tile, you give yourself a little more color to work with if you ever decide to change color schemes, and it adds a nice burst of color to an otherwise monotone room.

Good Luck FTP,
Andy

Dear Andy,

I have two apple trees in my backyard I simply adore. I also have two gardens (one flower and one vegetable). How can I incorporate them all into one beautiful garden? I haven't got a clue on where to begin. Any suggestions?

Sincerely,
The Garden Lady



Dear Garden Lady,

When I first spied your garden, a picture of regimented soldiers popped into my head. Your garden, though varied, is... well, rather uniformed in appearance. Never fear, I have just the thing for you. You have Andy McMahon's word on it.

I'm sending you a draw-up of a good layout that will work to not only bring the separate gardens together, but will also give your garden that visual appeal you're looking for. First things first, that walkway has to go, and the picket fence shouldn't be too far behind.

Your flower garden forms somewhat of a ring around your yard - add to it. Bring in more flowers to encompass the outer area of your backyard; it will work as a border and help to incorporate all areas into one larger garden. I suggest that you plant your veggies near the eating area and add a larger table there for guests. You can make it into a really nice alcove for entertaining by planting more flowers and bushes around the area.

Now just imagine this - apple trees, a lounger, and a bench. You have relaxation with a convenient source of nutrition. What more do you need?

I hope to see how it turns out.

Best of Luck,
Andy M.



ANDY'S TRIALS WITH TESSA

So my beloved wife found yet another way to add gray hairs to my steadily thinning hair. She was "cleaning" my work room with an industrial power vacuum her brother gifted her two years ago (Did I tell you I really love her family?). She decided to give it a go and went straight through the door. Well, not straight through. She did, however, knock it right off its hinges.

Instead of remounting the blasted thing (I really wanted a new one anyway), I decided to convert it into a table top for the great den. A little

sanding, varnish, and a lot of drilling turned up a nice reclaimed door-top table; I added a double pane glass top layer to make it look a little more elegant. I must say that it looks rather good, and Tessa is strutting about like the queen bee ever since Wilma, our next door neighbor, begged to buy it from her for a hefty price.

I suppose I should thank my brother-in-law for, in a round about way, giving us both a gift. Now if I could only keep Tessa from "cleaning" my game room!





*patterns are unmergeable

TRIBECCA

walls • floors • fabrics

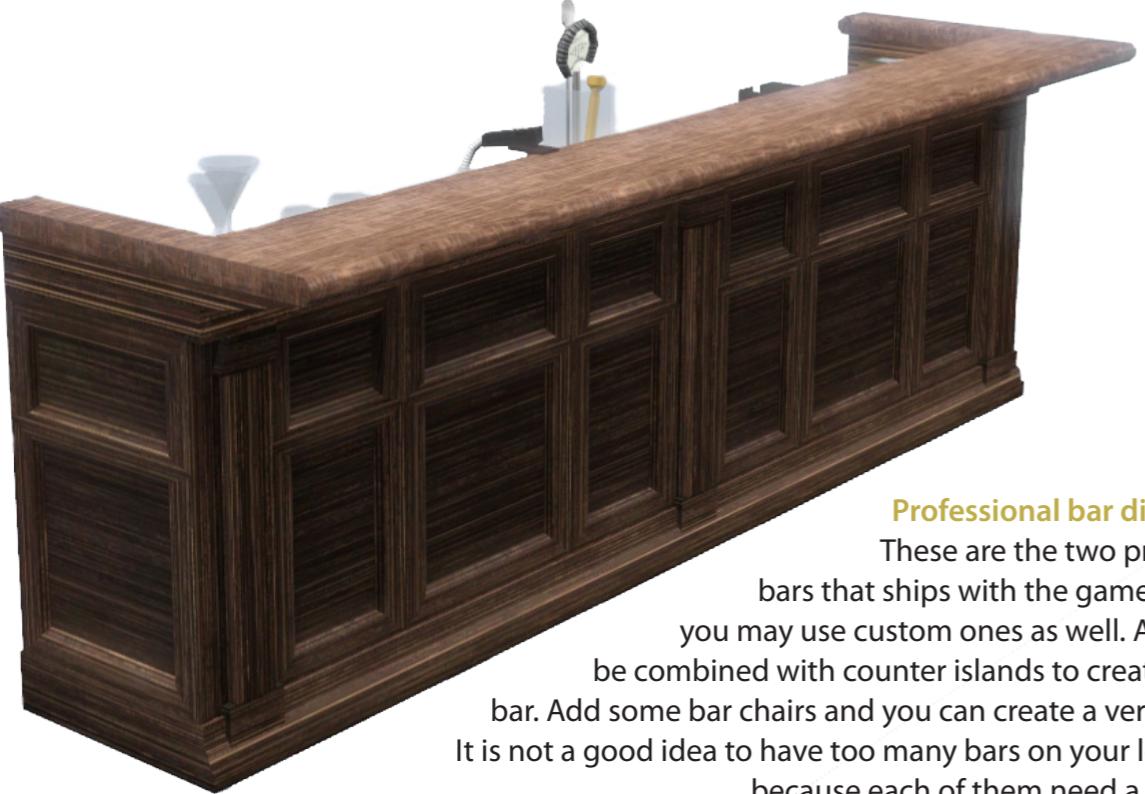
www.tribecasims3.com

How to: Build Your Own Bar

One of the great and interesting features of Late Night is the bars and night clubs. As we know, EA does not have the best builders or decorators, so you might want to make over or build your own bars. In this article, we have gathered the information that will help you to do so.

Article & photographs by: macthekekat

Credit: I got a lot of the information from sims.wikia.com, so thank you for putting the information up there.



Professional bar dive edition

These are the two professional bars that ships with the game, however, you may use custom ones as well. All bars can be combined with counter islands to create a longer bar. Add some bar chairs and you can create a very long bar. It is not a good idea to have too many bars on your lot though, because each of them need a bartender.

Remember: a bar

There are not a lot of different items needed to build a bar or a night club, but they all need to have a 'professional bar' if you want the bar to have a bartender in it. Bartenders serve food and drinks for the visiting sims. Most other items shown in this article are not needed, but does add to the atmosphere of your bar.

Sims are not good at getting around very crowded places. They can not figure out how to walk in-between stuff that is very close together; it is always a good idea to make sure that there is room to move around on your venues. It would be really annoying to build a really great bar only to find out that people spend all their time whining.

Toilets are a good idea but are not, strictly speaking, needed. It is also a good idea to have something for the sims to do on the lot, so they are entertained and have a good time. You can add games, dancing areas, TVs, swimming pools, hot tubs etc. to your lot. What kind of

entertainment is totally up to you. If you want many sims to do the same thing on your lot, you should make sure you have only a few types of entertainment. The bigger the lot you build, the less crowded it will seem. Each lot will attract only a certain number of sims. If you have a really big lot, they will spread out and the lot will seem abandoned.

You will need to turn on buydebug to use many of the special objects on your lot; you can do this by turning on "TestingCheatsEnabled true" and then typing "buydebug" into the cheat window. This will give you an extra menu with hidden objects.

Different lot types

Late Night came with a number of new community lot types. They can also cause moodlets to appear, boosting moods or skill building. Every lot in the game has an assignment. The lot type can be set in 'Edit Town' by clicking on the lot. It is important to set the correct lot type, if you want your bar/night club to function how you have imagined it. Below, you will find a list of all the lot types and a check list of the different features. Generally there are three types: Lounges, bars and clubs. There are three subtypes within each category.

Each type of bar attracts different kinds of people; they will show up if they have the traits listed under each venue type. Some are attracted to the venue type and will show up autonomously, while other types of Sims find them unattractive and will never show up there on their own. Shy Sims do not show up autonomously at most juice selling venues, while party animals like most venues.

Lounge

Lounges are represented by Martini glass map tags. They are exclusive and expensive venues, so your sims are likely not to be let in if they are not famous or just plain cool. These venues attract celebrities and serve drinks provided by the Mixology skill.

Juice type: Highest class of juice-selling venue

Pianos/keyboards: NPC pianist

Bouncer: Yes

Band gigs: Yes

Food: Nice servings of food

Open hours: 2 PM - 2 AM

Busiest days: Friday and Saturday

Lounge sub-types: Fusion Lounge, Vampire Lounge & Exclusive Lounge

Fusion Lounge:

Fusion lounges encourage Sims to work on their Charisma and Martial Arts skills. The pre-made venues of this type often have an Asian theme, but yours do not have to.

Maximum celebrities: 3

Attractive to: Party Animals and Excitable & Dramatic

Unattractive to: Bookworms, Cowards, Loners, Shy & Neurotic

Vampire Lounge

Vampire lounges attract Vampires and they really like to hang out here. This venue type encourage Sims to work on their Charisma skill

Maximum celebrities: ?

Attractive to: Virtuoso, Dramatic, Evil, Flirty, Snob, Loner, Artistic, & Hopeless Romantic

Unattractive to: Slobs, Cowards, Couch Potatoes & Neurotic

Exclusive Lounge

Exclusive Lounges encourage Sims to work on their Charisma skills. This venue attracts Sims involved in the Film career, so if you want to meet the rich and famous, this is the place to go.

Maximum celebrities: ?

Attractive to: Star Quality, Snobs, Schmoozers, Dramatic, Charismatic, and Ambitious

Unattractive to: Evil, Frugal, Loners, Neurotic, Over-Emotional & Slobs

Bars

Bars are represented by blue beer-bottle map tags. This is your basic hangout place and bars makes a good base for many juice-selling venue.

Juice type: Lowest class of juice-selling venue

Pianos/keyboards: No NPC pianist

Bouncer: No

Band gigs: Yes

Food: Onion rings and the like

Open hours: 11 AM - 3 AM

Busiest days: Every weekday

Lounge sub-types: Dive Bar, Local Watering

Hole & Sports Bar

Dive Bar

Dive Bars are the poorest of all the bars. They often have a swimming pool and a hot tub.

These bars also attract Vampires and Sims in the Criminal career.

Maximum celebrities: 1

Attractive to: Athletic Sims, Daredevils, Party Animals & Love the Outdoors

Unattractive to: Bookworms, Cowards, Snobs, Loners, Shy & Hate the Outdoors

Local Watering Hole

These bars attract Vampires. This a good type of venue if you do not want any special effects from the lot type.

Maximum celebrities: 1-3

Attractive to: Slobs & Party Animals,

Unattractive to: Hot-Headed, Brave. Snobs, Cowards, Perfectionists, Loners & Shy

Sports Bar

These bars also attract Vampires and Sims in the Professional Sports Career. Sports bars encourage Sims to work on their Athletic skill.

Maximum celebrities:

Attractive to: Athletic Sims, Daredevils, Party Animals & Love the Outdoors

Unattractive to: Bookworms, Cowards, Snobs, Loners, Shy & Hate the Outdoors

Clubs

Clubs are represented by dancing-figure map tags. If you want your sims to dance their tiny pixel behinds off, then you want to set your venue type to club. All clubs encourage the sims to build their hidden dance skill.

Juice type: middle class juice-selling venues

Pianos/keyboards: no NPC pianist

Bouncer: some types

Band gigs: no

Food: onion rings and the like

Open hours: 5 PM - 4 AM

Busiest days: Every weekday.

Lounge sub-types: Dance Club, Poolside Club & Sports Bar

Dance Club

Sims in the Music career are more likely to visit this lot. Dance Clubs encourage Sims to practice their hidden Dancing skill.

Maximum celebrities: 4

Attractive to: Athletic, Daredevil & Party Animal

Unattractive to: Bookworms, Loners, Cowards, Snobs & Shy

Poolside Club

Poolside Clubs encourage Sims to practice their hidden Dancing skill.

Maximum celebrities: 4

Attractive to: Athletic, Love the Outdoors & Party Animals

Unattractive to: Shy, Hydrophobic, Snobbish, Cowardly, Hate the Outdoors & Bookworms.

Disco Club

Disco Clubs encourage Sims to practice their hidden Dancing skill.

Maximum celebrities: ?

Attractive to: Athletic Sims, Daredevils, and Party Animals

Unattractive to: Bookworms, Cowards, Loners & Shy

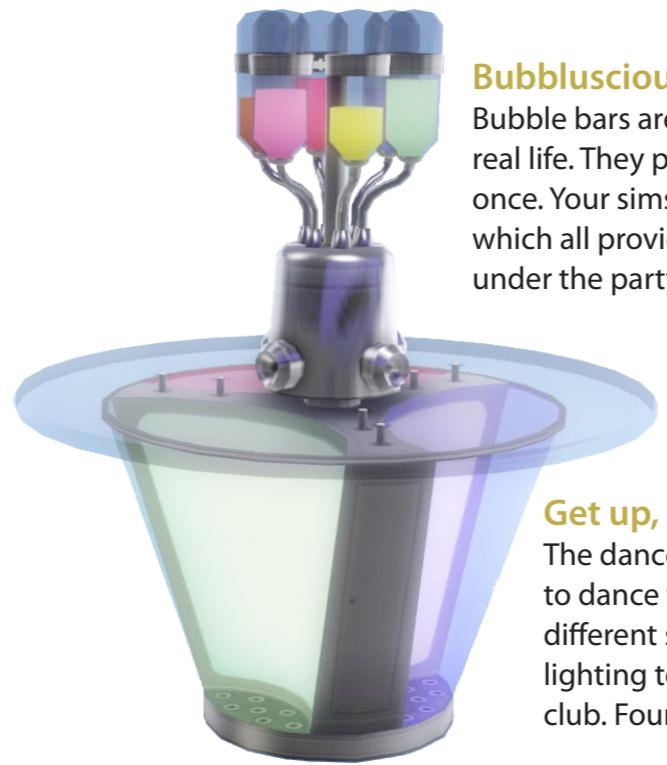
Ropes

Ropes can be found in the community objects section in build mode. The ropes can be used to control who can enter your bar. Lounges and clubs will spawn a bouncer when a rope is placed on the lot. You should place the rope in front of the doors to the venue. You can set who can enter and how big a bribe is needed to get in by holding down shift + control and left click on the ropes.



Bubbluscious bubble bar

Bubble bars are similar to oxygen bars or waterpipes in real life. They provide a lot of fun for up to four Sims at once. Your sims can blow six different kinds of bubbles which all provide a different buff for your sim. Found under the party menu.



Get up, get down dance floor

The dance floors make it more likely for your sims to dance where you want them to. They come in different sizes and can be combined with fancy lighting to create the perfect dance floor in your club. Found under the party menu.





Public sounds stereo

The public sounds stereo is found under buydebug. They provide background sound in your bar, but you can not click on it and ask people to dance, so it is a good idea to have a normal stereo on the lot.



Shibata string bass

The bass and other Late Night instruments can be used on stages to create somewhere for bands to perform.



Party FX machine 5950

The special effect machine generates fancy special effects in your bars (or on other lots where you might want them). The effects range from bubbles over sparkles, laser, snow and fog. You can create some really interesting effects using this little machine. Found under the party menu.



Schnadahupfl viruoso grand piano

Both the grand piano and the keyboard spawns a pianist at lounges. It can be used as a normal instrument in bars and clubs.



Apartments with difference



a gift by Speechless



Are Your bars this empty?



Since the release of Late Night, many of us in the community have complained that bars remain empty and dreary all night long. This article is based on my own experience, not on any kind of data mining. The tips provided here proved useful to me in my game and helped my bars to finally get populated. I'm sharing them so that it can help you too.

*Article by: Macthekat & Sebausten
Photographs by: Macthekat*

First of all, there are a few things you need to know. All bars/club types have prime times when more sims will show up. As well, the hotspot of the night is more likely to be full of people. If no hotspot shows up on your neighbourhood overview map then make your sim read the newspaper and three hotspots will be generated.

All bar types attract certain types of sims, so if your neighbourhood is lacking in these types of sims, then fewer people will show up. However, sims with the "party animal" trait will show up at any bar; on the contrary, shy sims don't like to go to bars at all. Some bars are unfortunately never popular and never will be. This is just how it is!

However, if all bars and clubs are deserted, do a simple test: send your sim to a number of bars or clubs and have them stay there for a while. If nobody shows up, no matter which bar or club, then check below:

- **Possible Problem:** You have the Awesome Mod installed. The Sims 3 will, if it is unmodified, make other sims come to you when you leave your house. The Awesome Mod disables this as a standard setting. Part of Awesome Mod's purpose is to limit the amount of sims in your neighbourhood so that it won't strain your computer too much after playing many generations.

- **Possible Solution:** You can turn this feature off in the Awesome Mod panel setting.

- **Possible Problem:** Your neighbourhood is rather empty so there are no sims coming to hang out with you, or they are all employed in 24-hour jobs such as bartending.

- **Possible Solution:** Move in more sims and bulldoze/edit some of the lots that have a lot of sims employed. You can also move more people into the neighbourhood: just make some random families and move them in.

- **Possible Problem:** Only a few people show up in normal community lots and you can't invite more than a few people to your sims' parties.

- **Possible Solution:** Unfortunately, your computer probably cannot handle a lot of sims in the same place at the time. Your problem, therefore, comes from your computer's hardware. You can force the game to allow more people on the lots, but this might over-stress your computer.

Once you have solved the basic problems, you can try one of these tips to get more sims to come to your bars and clubs:

Make sure there are sims living in your neighbourhood; move in more people if only a few houses are full.

Let your sim go and visit other sims and make them hang out on community lots. The more your sims hang out on a community lot, the more other sims seems to hang out there as well. This will generate more sims and might also – and this is guessing- make the lot more popular.

The longer you play the same saved game, the more sims will generate and live in the neighbourhood and therefore more people are likely to show up in your bars.

Don't give up right away; hang out in a bar for a few hours.

If you have many bars in your neighbourhood, you might want to delete some of them as all bars employ at least one sim. This sim isn't very fun to interact with and can't go visit other bars. Moreover, they make bad friends/partners as they are always working.





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Light.

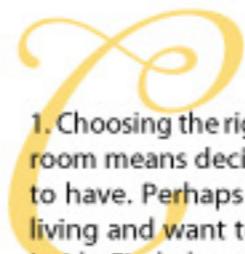
IT OFFERS ILLUMINATION.

IT CAN ALSO OFFER...

Beauty.

ARTICLE VELVET
PHOTOS BY THE COMMUNITY

Lighting elements can play many roles in a space. Some lights are suited for areas dedicated to certain tasks like reading or working. Then, there are ambient lights, mostly ceiling lights, which affect the mood of the room. Accent lighting helps to bring attention to certain features of a room such as a piece of art. Natural light is...well, natural. Daylight beaming through an open window or skylight works wonders in bringing a room to life. All of these lights are essential in their own way, but it is décor light that offers interior designers and artist alike the chance to personalize a space. Décor lights are works of art all by themselves, and their simple function is to enhance the space they're in. Let us take a closer look.



1. Choosing the right kind of décor light for your room means deciding on what effect you wish to have. Perhaps you have a love for country living and want to bring some rough textures inside. Find a lamp that is, or appears to be, made of those materials most closely associated with nature – wood and weave textures would work nicely. Then too, wrought iron lamps can bring a sense of history and old world sophistication to a space. The idea is to choose a theme, if you will, and follow it through right down to your lamp!

Décor lamps should be chosen with the individual in mind as well as the room's design. It is a very personal choice, so take your time and choose well.

2. You don't have to limit your use of décor lights to the indoor spaces – bring them outside! Tall, commanding lights can make quite the statement. This outdoor seating/garden area encompasses a large space. The use of two industrial styled designer lights adds both a touch of distinction and common sense protection against the harsher elements of nature.

The following displays of lighting will showcase varied styles and themes of lighting fixtures and the spaces they enhance. They range from whimsical to classic, industrial to elegant, utilitarian to exotic. Most important is the designer's application of lighting elements as pieces of art.



3. Lkadas

3. Candles make a great source for natural light. The kinetic, or moving, light a candle produces makes for a cozy and natural atmosphere. This romantic space employs gold-trimmed candle-holders to good effect.

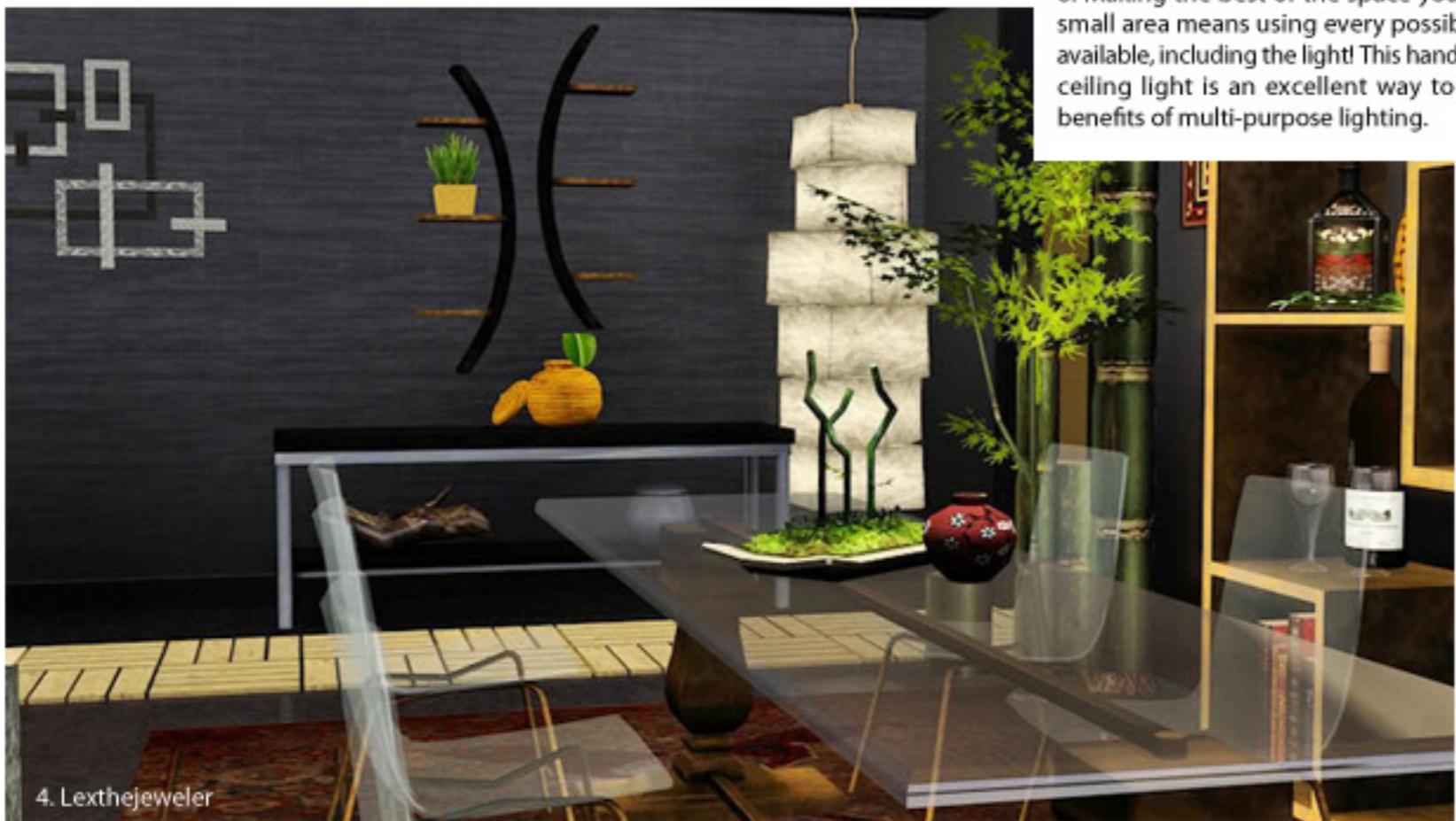
4. This hanging lamp made of organic material enhances the exotic space. The soft fiber of the lamp shade allows for more lighting which means it's not only a beautiful décor element, but it's also very much a true lighting source.

5. Steel, steel, and more steel. The industrial theme of this space is heightened by a spotlight floor lamp. The bright burst of light from this lamp makes for nice shadow effects in the edgy corners of the room.

6. Making the best of the space you have in a small area means using every possible surface available, including the light! This handy shelving ceiling light is an excellent way to show the benefits of multi-purpose lighting.



5. ChicagoStorm



4. Lexthejeweler



6. ChicagoStorm



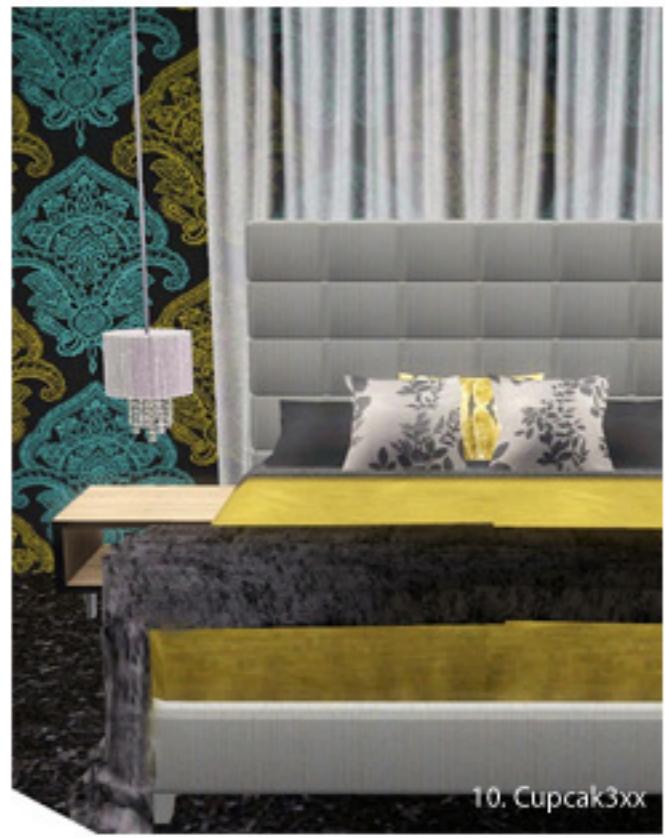
7. This fanciful light brings a whole new dimension to the words "wall lamp." In place of a traditional painting or print, this designer chose a more dynamic way of making a statement.



8. The glass lamps are classic in their curved bodies and make a very elegant room ooze with charm and finesse.

9. A big lamp in a small space? Absolutely. If you have a space that's too small for much of anything, turn it into a cozy reading area. In this space a tall floor lamp works as both the reading light and the designer's focal point.

10. Low hanging luminaries are used here to give the illusion of a lower ceiling. They're also effective in adding a flare of upscale class to a bohemian flavored room.



10. Cupcak3xx



9. Justme-chelle

11. This filigree bedside lamp is simple in its function. It is both a task light and décor lamp which makes a statement despite its small stature.

12. Mixing candle light with fire light from a fireplace brings the "cozy" into this cozy chic living area. This designer makes the use of natural lighting very attractive.

13. This floor lamp is more for design than effectiveness in lighting. However its warm glow makes for a nice intimate touch and is worth every penny.

14. Converted from an old telescope, this tripod lamp proves that old is sometimes better and can be used in a modern space as well as any other.

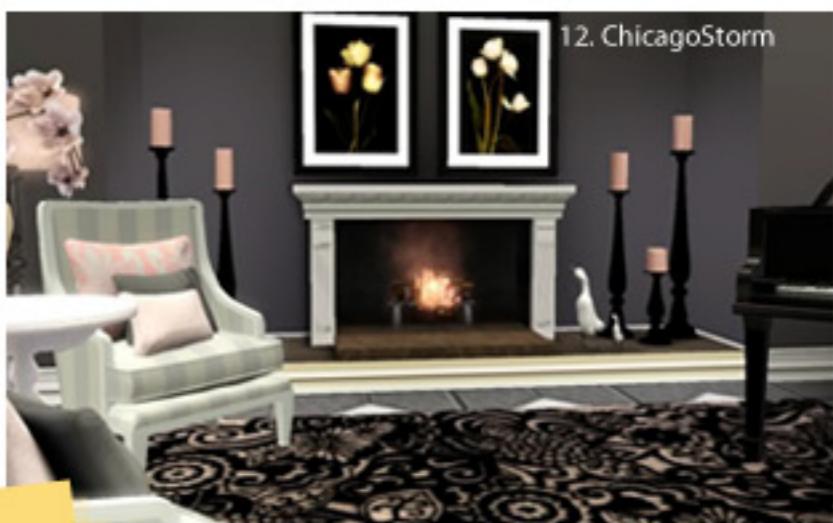
15. A quirky but fun ceiling lamp is both amusing and unexpected and works surprisingly well in this traditional setting.



15. Justme-chele



11. Ankuuh

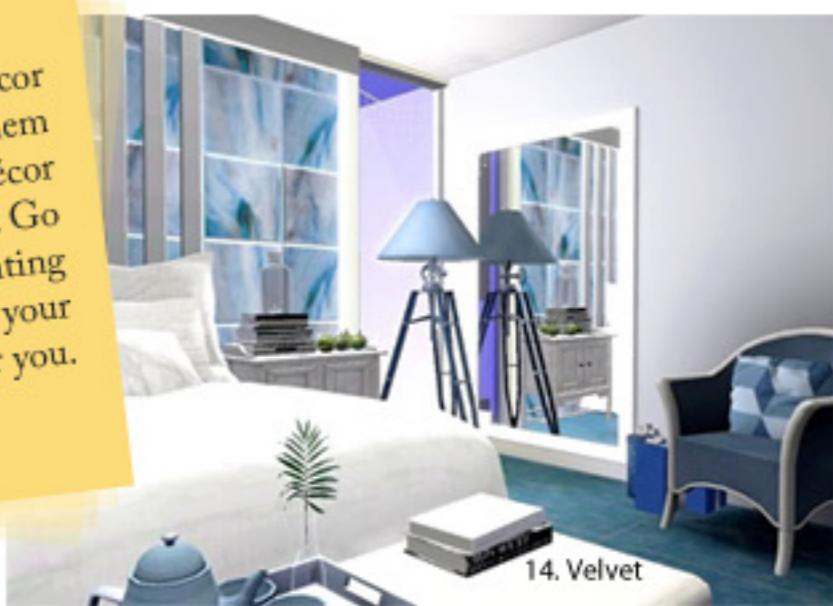


12. ChicagoStorm



13. Rubika

The design possibilities of décor lighting are limitless. Don't hem yourself in with traditional décor pieces like statues and plants. Go for broke, find that lighting element that personifies your tastes, and make it work for you.



14. Velvet



Tips for the yard and garden

Creating the perfect landscape is as easy as 1, 2, 3! Whatever your gardening conundrum, a little planning and the right decor can create an outdoor space that will be sure to please.

Article by:Kitkat

Photographs by: Kementari, Twi, LilyMayRose, Lex the Jeweler & PhoenixFire

Tip 1: A formal house with a large yard space is the perfect place to create a garden maze. Tall and short hedges can be used to create the walls. Be sure to provide an exciting surprise for visitors when they reach the center of your maze. A gorgeous fountain lined with flowers and seating in which to enjoy the view makes the journey worthwhile. Don't forget to tuck interesting statuary or other small garden features in the "dead end" areas of your maze. These will make exploration of the maze much more exciting. Finally, build in some additional seating areas in unexpected corners. You'll enjoy retreating to these areas to enjoy the solitude and to appreciate the beauty of what you have created.



Tip 2: Want to create an inviting courtyard space? One way to add punch to your design is to start with a water feature. The soothing splash of a fountain will make your outdoor living space relaxing and inviting. Surround the fountain with plants for a natural look. Next, help define the space by creating a pergola. A pergola consists of columns supporting cross-beams or lattice. Vines can eventually be trained up the columns if you wish, and they will spread across the lattice to create a cool, shady retreat from the summer heat. Potted plants and flower beds lining the sides of the courtyard will provide color and attract the eye. Add a small table and chairs so that you can enjoy dining in your newly created outdoor retreat.



Tip 3: Have a small patio space that needs attention? Use plants and furnishings to fashion a cozy hangout spot. Start with a wooden bench to provide permanent seating. Anchor the bench with a few flowering plants and shrubs. A small table can be used to display potted plants or to function as a server for the inevitable picnic you'll want to have in your new space. Visit your local home and garden store to find some durable, weather-proof cushions. They don't have to go on a chaise lounge – scatter them around to provide comfort as you lounge on your picnic blanket. Find a good book, and maybe a bottle of wine, and while away the afternoon in comfort.



Tip 4: Your large backyard need not be intimidating to decorate, nor should it be considered wasted space. You can create outdoor living areas that will function as additional “rooms” in good weather to take advantage of the space. A sunken patio surrounded by built-in planters can be the perfect spot for a bar and lounge area. Fill the planters with greenery and pops of color from showy flowers. Situate your seating area in the center of the patio. A coffee table anchors the seating area with love-seats all around. Add a bar so that you can serve up refreshing cold drinks in the summertime. Potted plants scattered about will further soften the stone walls of the planters. Still more space to fill? Why not create an outdoor dining room? You’ll enjoy dining in the fresh, outdoor air as you admire the views of your beautiful garden areas.



Tip 5: Some areas of the world are not blessed with abundant rainfall. But that shouldn’t stop you from designing a fantastic garden. Just use drought-tolerant plants, and your garden will have happy vegetation with a local flair. Succulents, which store their own water, and native flowering plants create a lovely combination. Lining your garden with small rocks from the area will help to define the space. Larger rocks can also be used to help fill the garden and create visual interest. Palm trees don’t require as much water as most other trees, so you can use these to create height in the garden. Finish off with some lighting, and your drought-tolerant garden will be complete.





Tip 6: A covered patio area can be used to create an outdoor lounge space that will quickly become your favorite part of the yard. Surrounding the patio with large shrubs will provide privacy. Flowering shrubs accomplish this nicely while also adding color to area. You might not usually think about using a rug outside, but the roof will protect it from the elements; and the rug will provide visual interest as well as comfort. A couple of chairs and a chaise will provide just the right amount of seating – you don't want your outdoor retreat to be overcrowded. Find some durable accent pillows that complement your rug, and scatter them about for more décor. Tschotskes on a small table or even on the floor are the perfect way to liven up the space and provide that finishing touch. Lastly, add lighting so that you can enjoy your lounge area at any time of the day or night.



Remember the sweet fragrance
from your grandmother's armoire?





Seekingsanctuary

Raise That Roof!

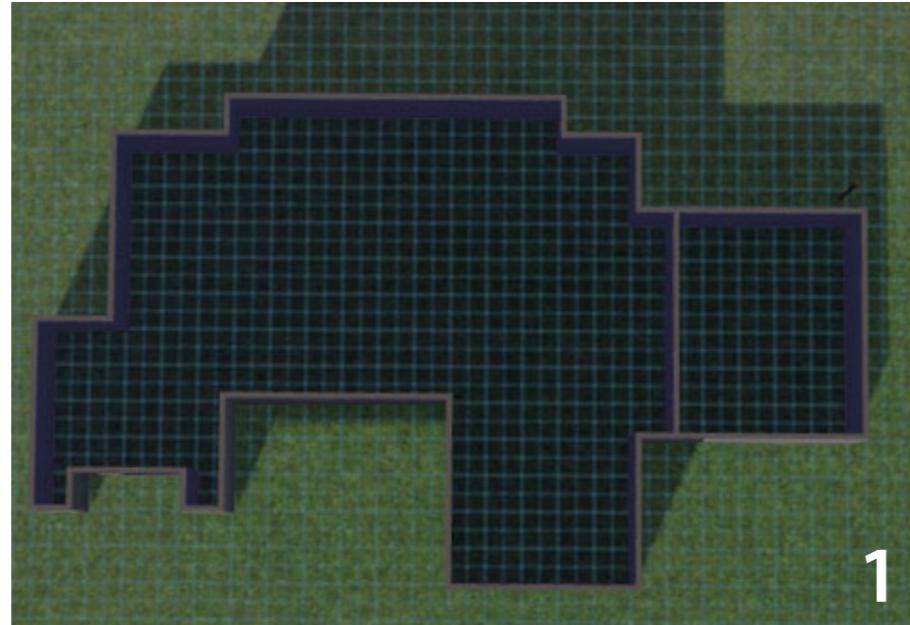
Do you want more than a square box and a tall roof for your sims' homes? Would you like to dress-up the tin roof the pre-fab in Sun Valley has been cursed with or transform a barn in Riverview into a roof top night club? LivingSims put together a tutorial for you in hopes that it will help you transform a run-of-the-mill home into a work of art; at the very least we want you to have a roof that does more than block out the sky. Community builders have provided very thorough, step by step instructions that will help you in your building endeavors. Good luck and don't forget, have fun! Let the building begin:

Article by: simoleontree & Velvet
Photographs by: simoleontree

House 1

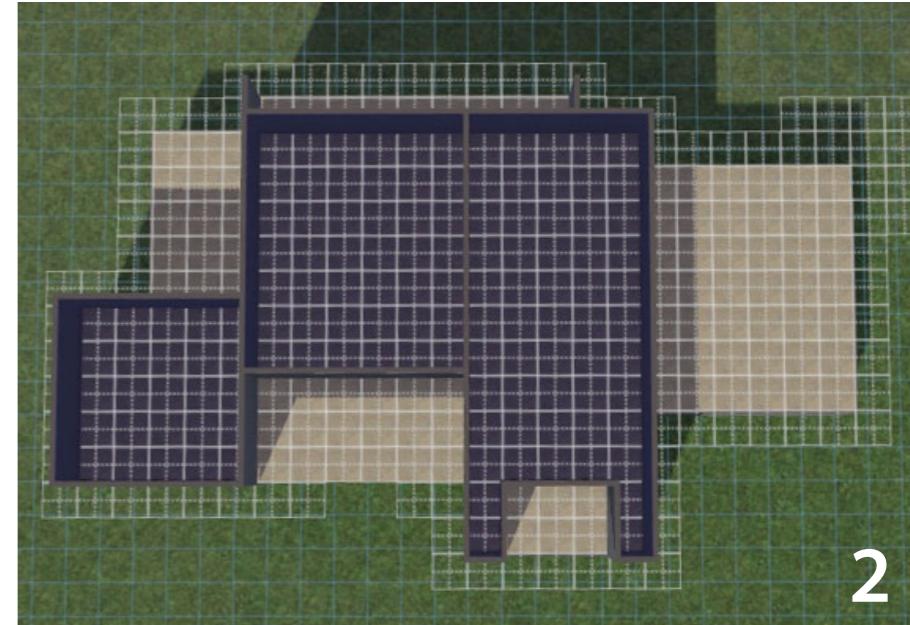
placefriezes on

The cheat "placefriezes on" allows you to build a 6 clicks high foundation on the top of walls. This is very useful to create half stories or raised flat roofs or two-level decks. When you enter the cheat you need to re-enter the foundation menu for it to work. You can then just drag the foundation out where you need it. When you are done it is important that you turn the cheat off again or you will not be able to build regular foundations on the ground.



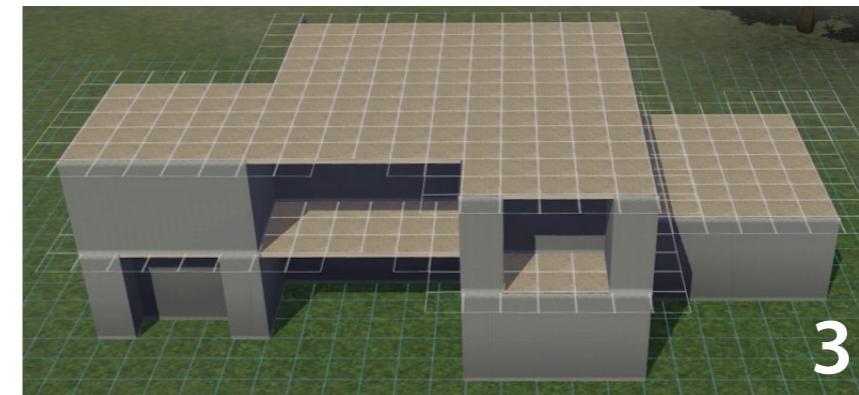
1

An open floor plan is the of basic contemporary house which has many different elevations. Once you decide how many rooms you need, it's easy to stay away from the square shape and adjust the walls and the width of each room accordingly.



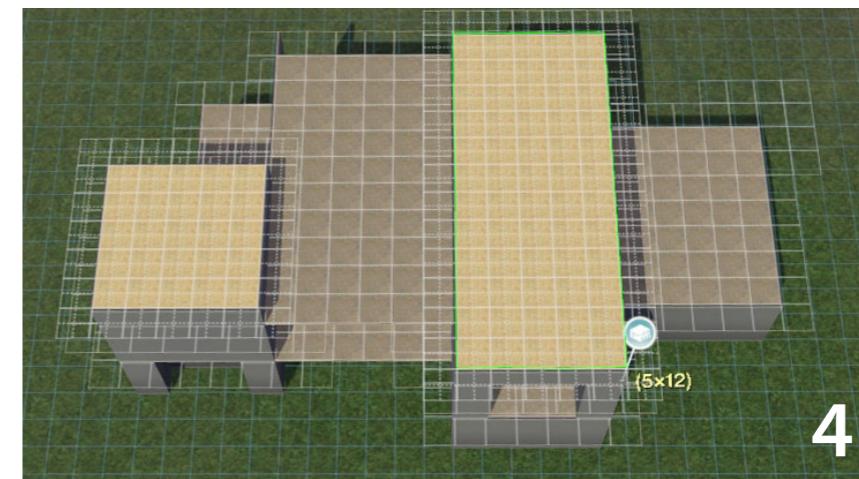
2

The second floor plan should not match the ground floor, it depends on how many balconies you want to make, but keep excess flat roof.



3

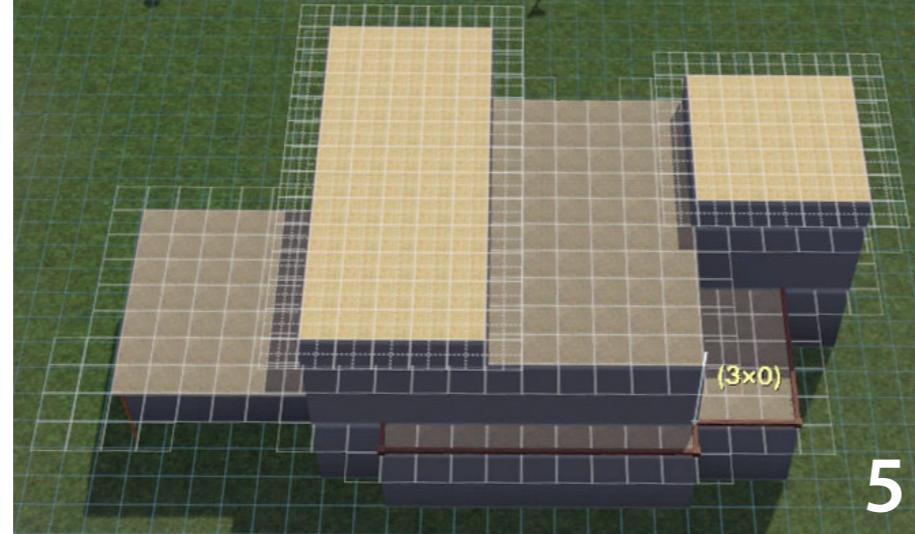
Open up the cheat box by **ctrl + shift + C** and type in "placefriezes on". Select the foundation tool and build on top of the Second floor . Keep excess flat roof.



4

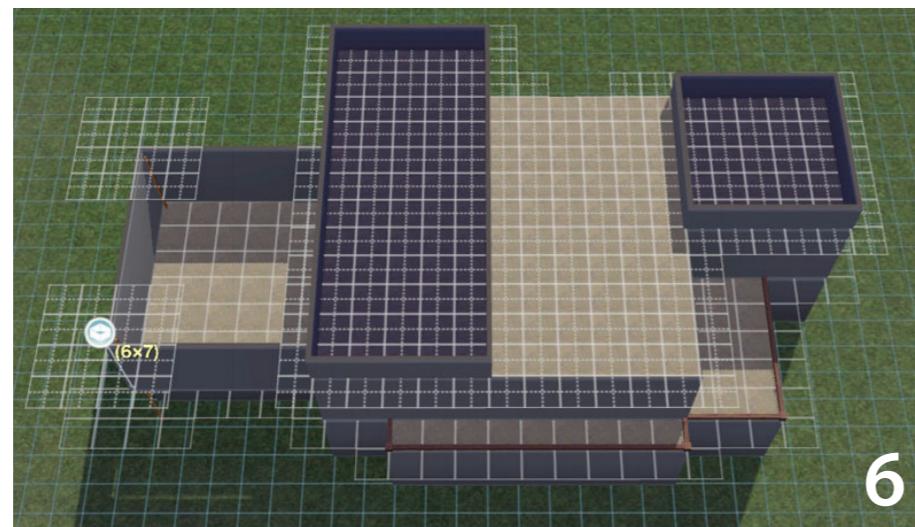
Add any type of fence at the edge of every flat roof.

Here I've used Monorail.



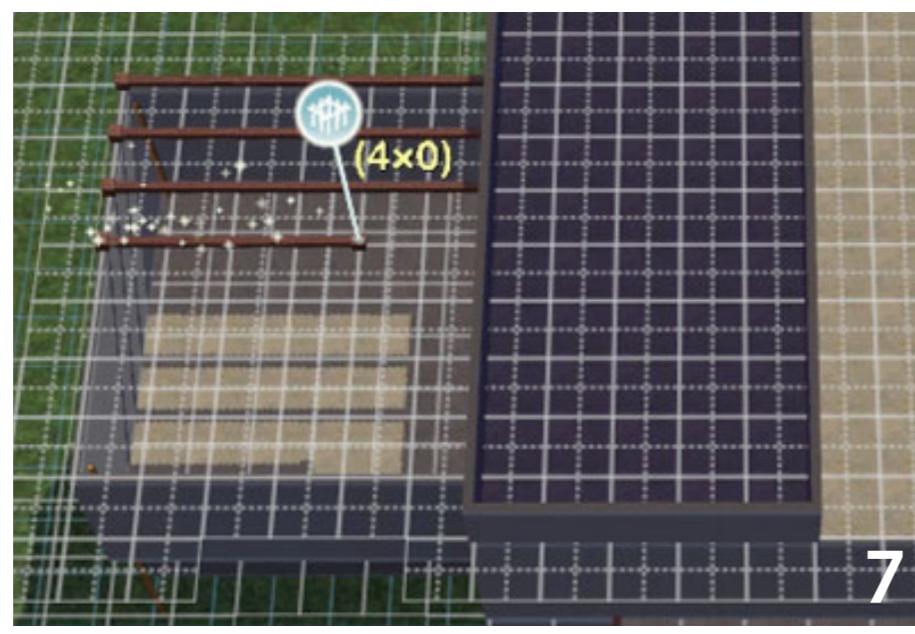
5

To use a fence as roof or have a floating roof, build walls to support it first



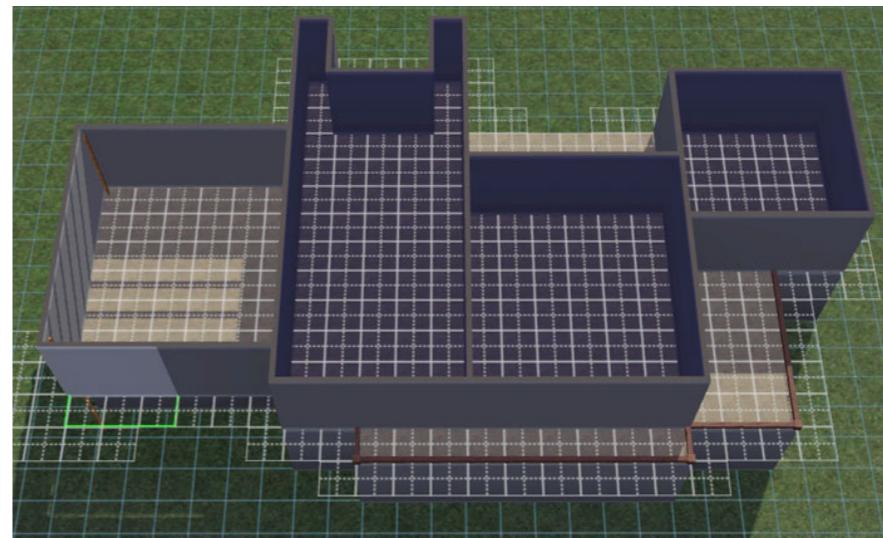
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Then decorate the balcony roof with either a fence or slate roof of your choice.

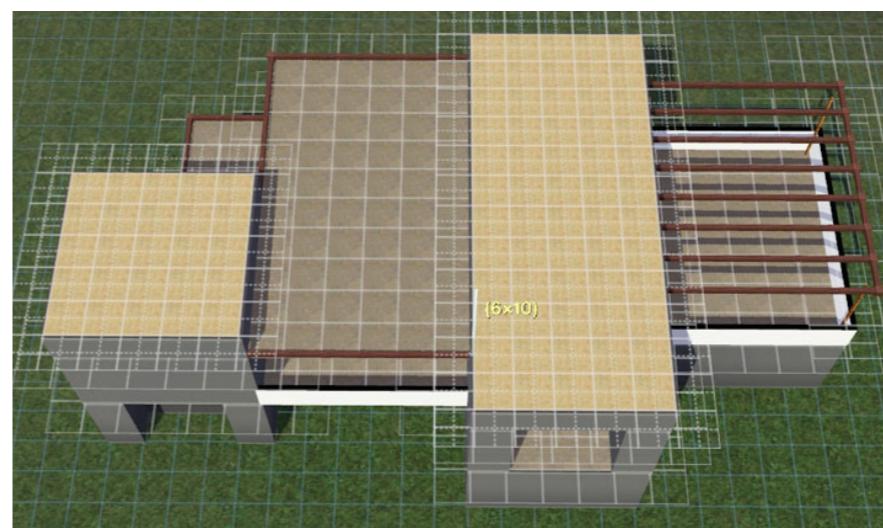


7

Once the roof is ready, delete the supporting walls.



Add fence to create balconies.



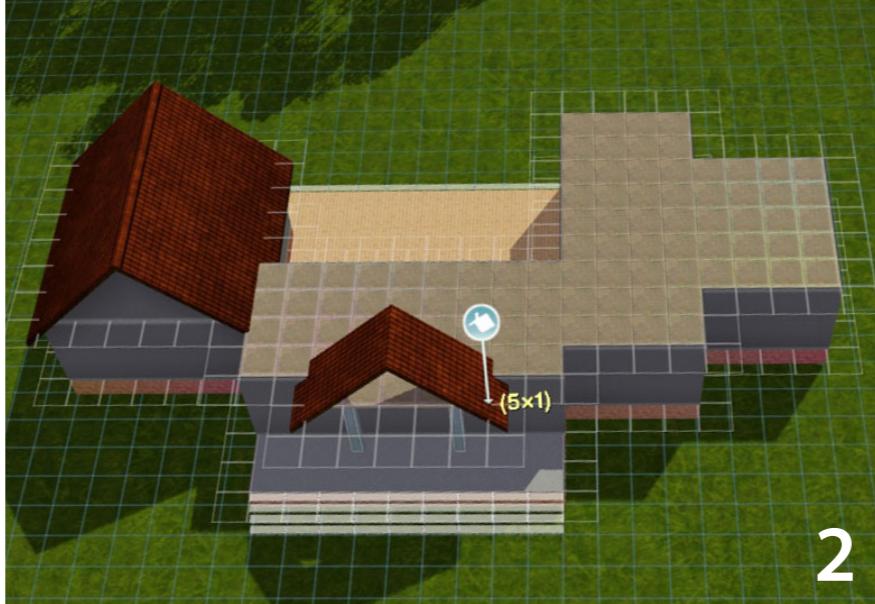
Colors are important to define the different roof elevation of a house. Cover each height level in a different material, or use the same color for the balcony fence and wall to make it look like part of the building structure.

House 2



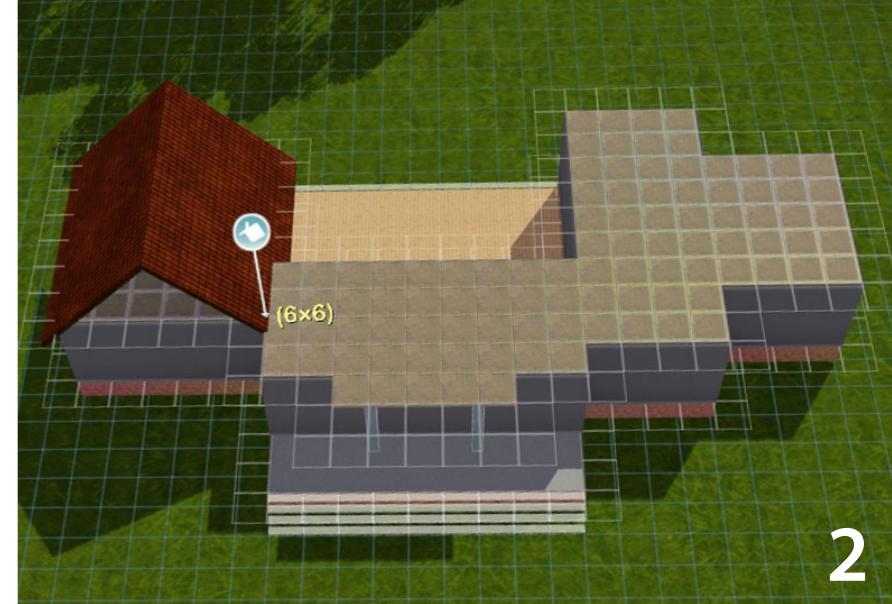
The floorplan for a small suburban house. It's a two story house, with the second floor as an attic.

1



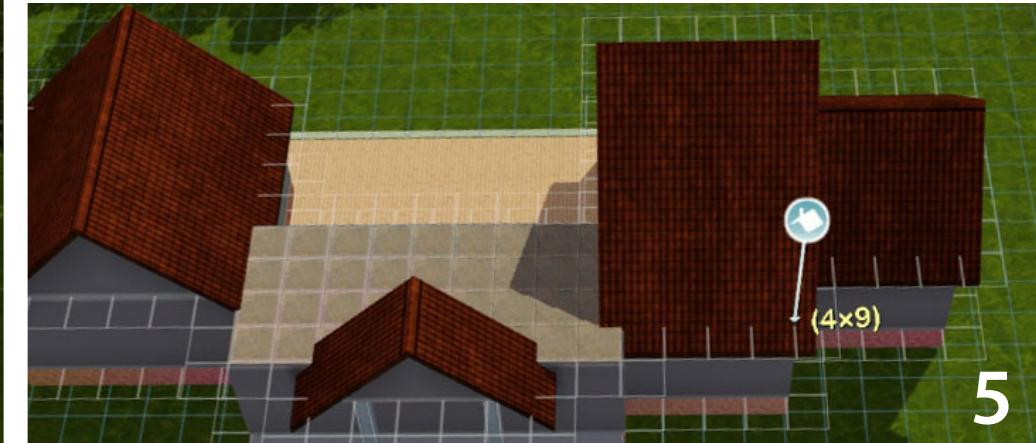
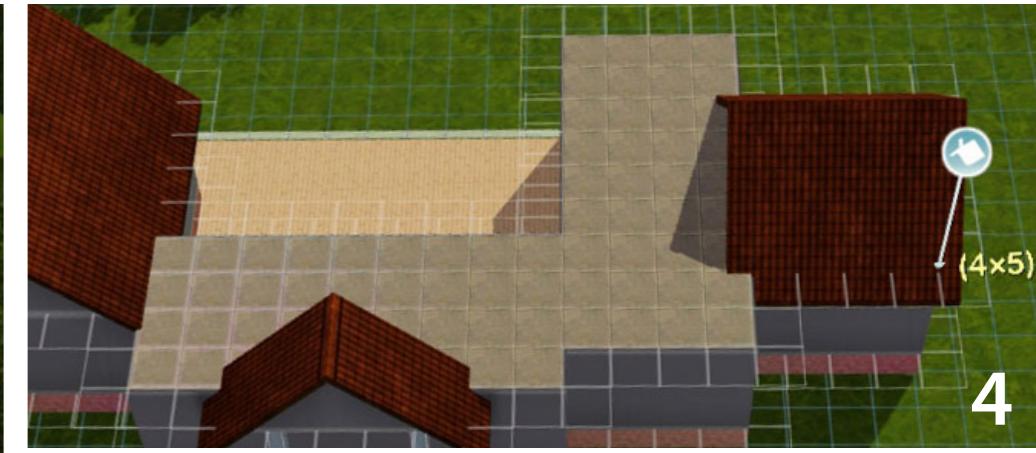
Use the individual roof tool to place the different parts of the roof. Start by dragging out this roof.

2



Add the front porch roof separately to look like a pediment

2

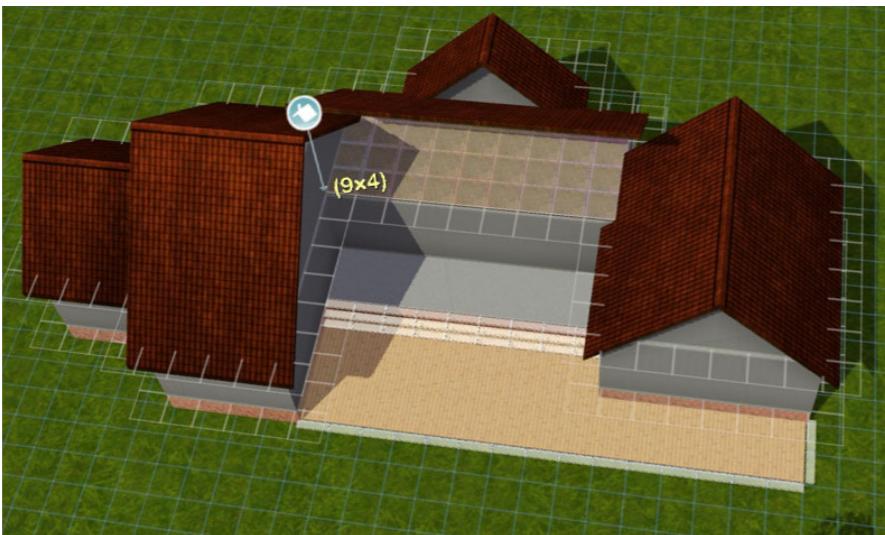


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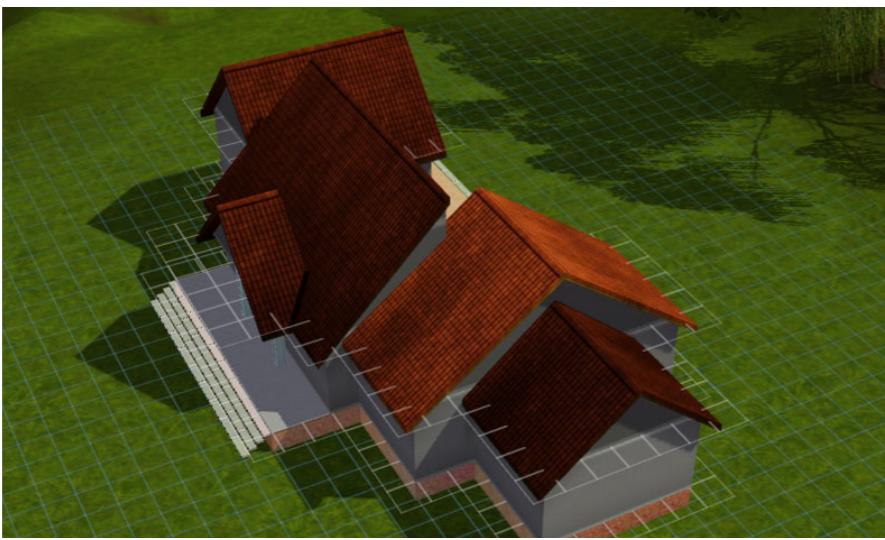
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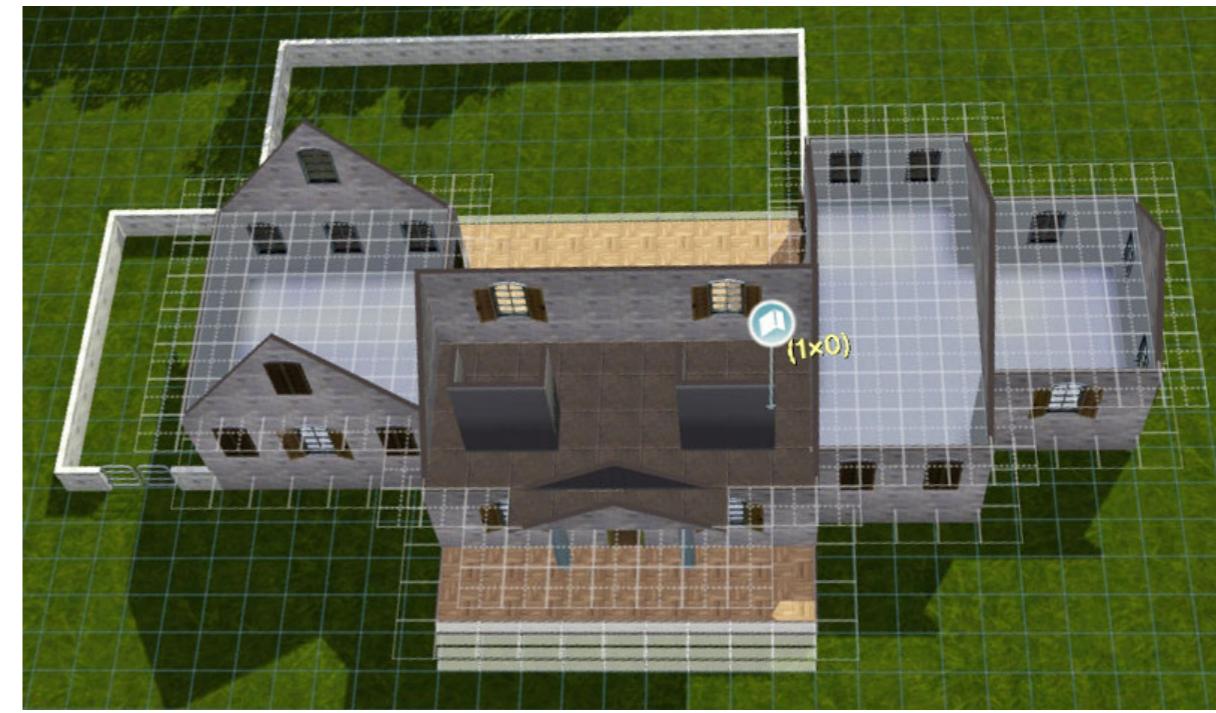
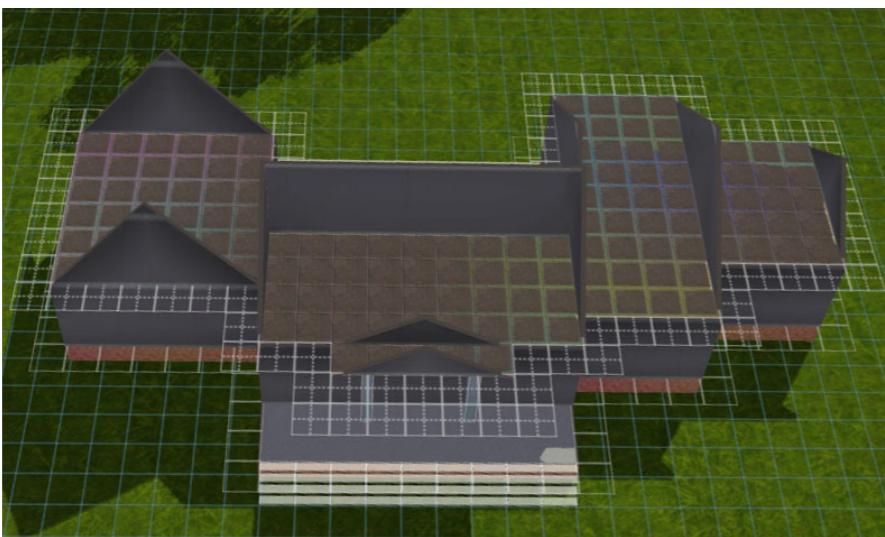
Add half gable roof in the middle section to keep the backyard sunny.



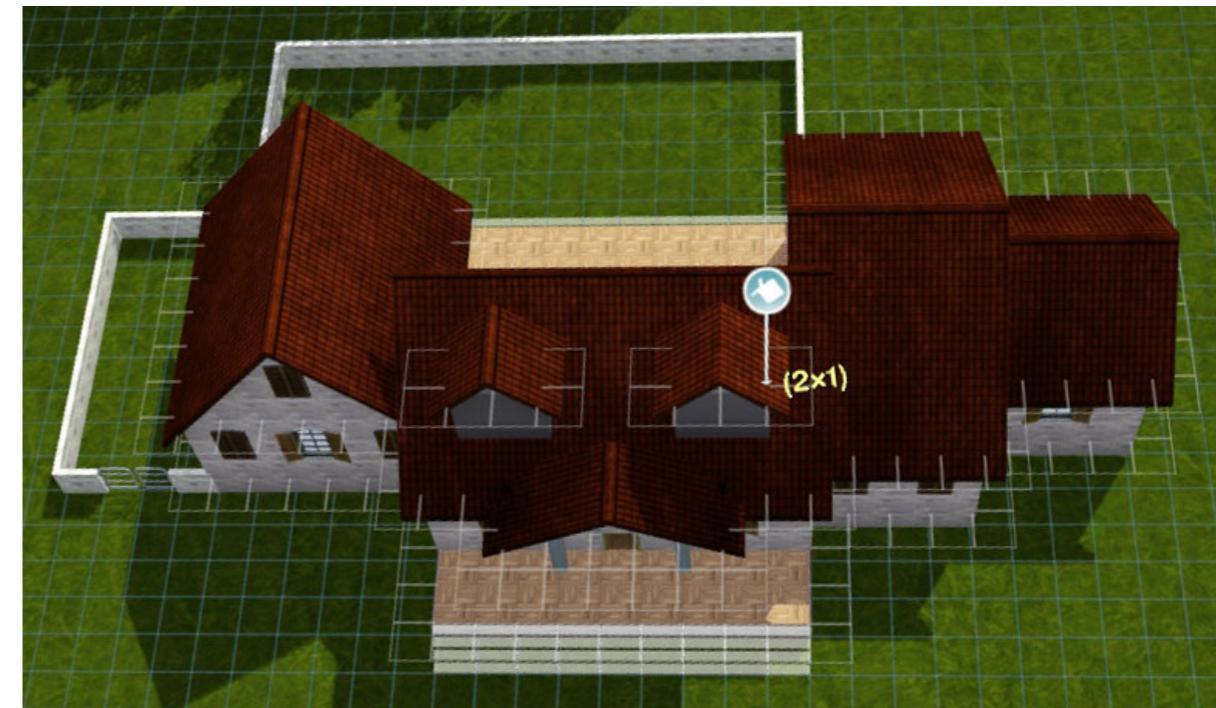
Using the roof adjustment tool, keep the height taller where you will create the attic. Here, the half gable roof is being used.



With the roof down, you can delete the walls hidden under the roof, add the staircase and create an attic. This will also make the roof above look smoother.



Add the dormer walls, they are here for decorative purposes only. Build walls with the roof down. Now is a good time to paint the walls.



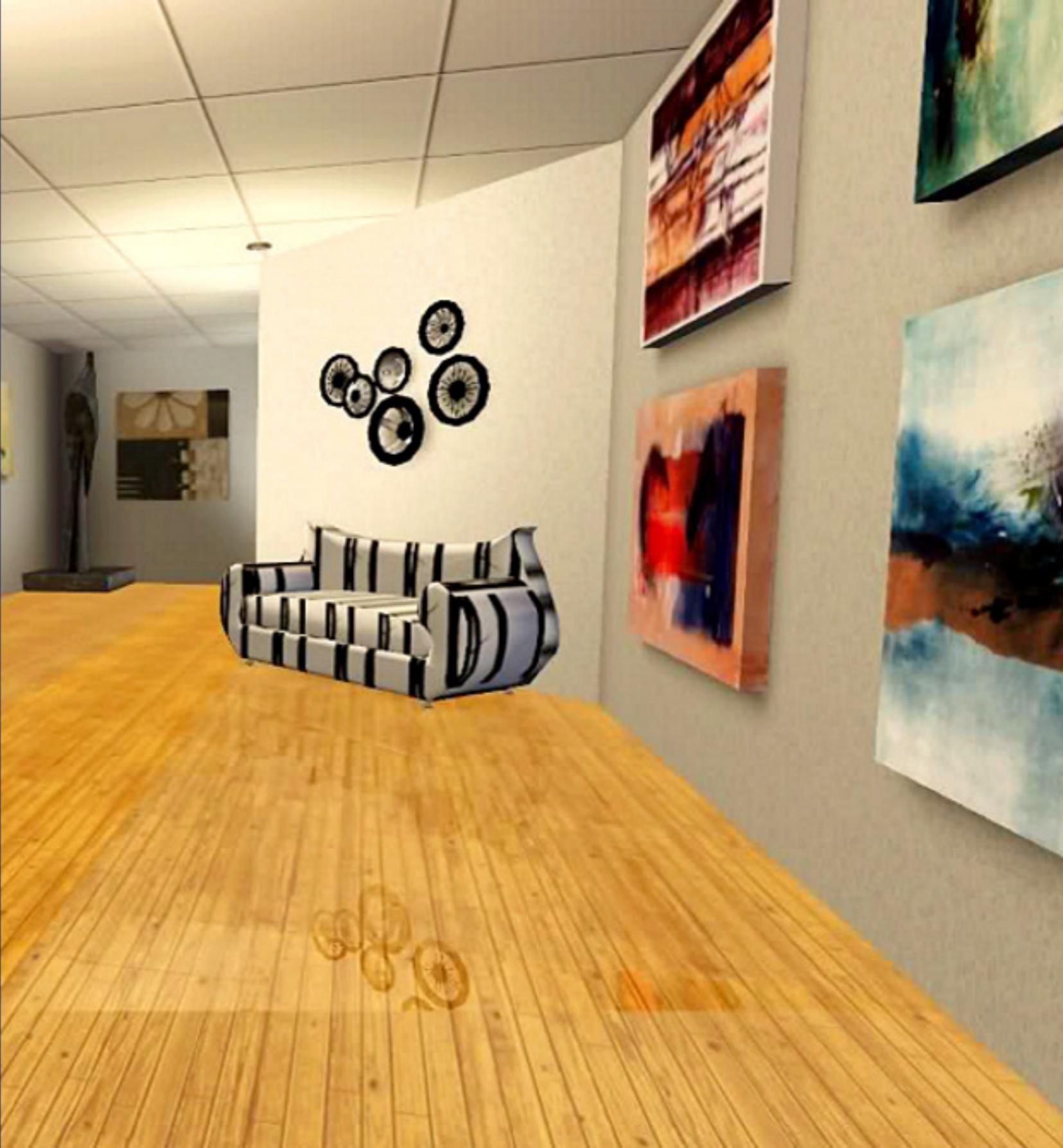
Go up a floor up and place the roofs and windows to the dormers.

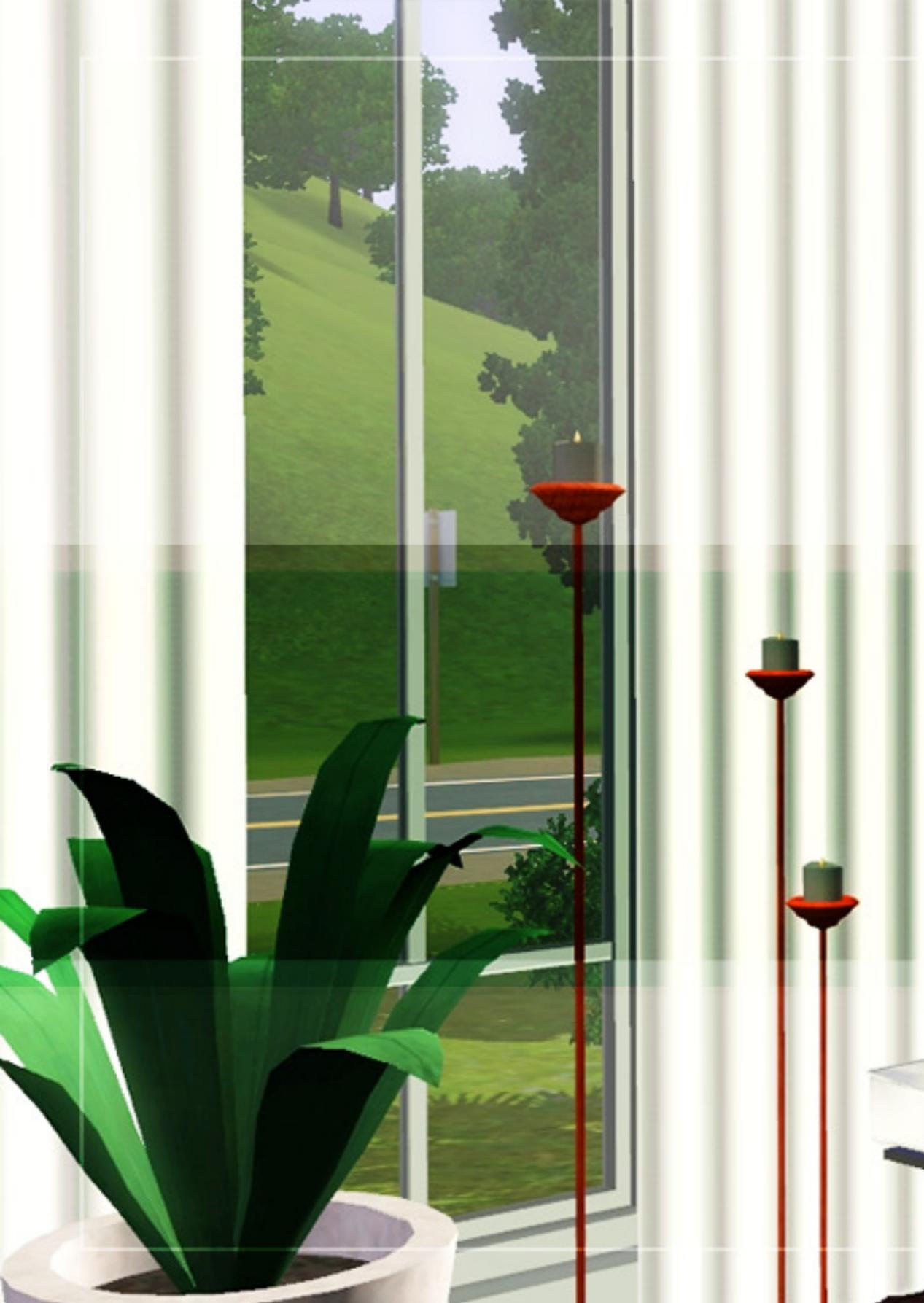
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LIVING SIMS RAN A CONTEST

The task was simple - write two paragraphs, focused on design, based on a set of pictures and include a sim. The winner would be given the opportunity to write a feature article for the magazine. Staff unanimously voted for Eronoel's entry. She truly captured the essence of LivingSims Magazine. So without further ado...

Being a city girl, moving to Sunset Valley had never even crossed my mind but when my aunt, Maria Cook, needed to move out of her beloved home into assisted care she begged me to move into her tiny house. The house, located on Wright Way looked out over the ocean. I had been longing to quit my monotonous job at a publishing house in Bridgeport so two weeks after my aunt had tearfully called me, I found myself on the road with five suitcases, four boxes of books and some amazing rugs I found at a flea market.

The house, which my aunt had custom built in the fifties, was thoughtfully laid out with a large living area separated from the kitchen and dining area by some large interior windows. Additionally, the whole backside of the house was lined with windows to absorb the beautiful coastline, and on quiet days you could hear the crashing of waves on the rocks just one street away. Still, despite the lovely layout, my aunt had her own style of decorating, which after sixty years, had become aged and worn. I decided that my first task after finding a new job would be to redecorate the interior of the home.

The main goal of my re-vitalization, as I like to call it, was to intertwine my own style with that of my aunt's; I wanted the house to be a re-imagined homage to her. I left the original gray walls in the living room and the bluish wainscoting in the



kitchen but decided to add something different to the window divider and stairway. I was planning on painting it a burnt orange but after peeling away some of the paint I discovered some underlying brick. I took off the drywall on the windowed divider and the stairs to show off the rugged but almost untouched brick that was hidden below. This simple change added a bit of color to contrast the subdued colors of the walls.

I was quite charmed by the blue wainscoting in the kitchen and decided to really embrace it. My aunt loves to tell a story about how the paneling was supposed to be orange but her son, only seven years old at the time, wrote "blue" on the plan. I never really knew if this was true or not because it seemed like one of those tall tales that she really loved to tell but it really made me want to keep the blue hue for the kitchen. In fact, I went a little further than just blue paneling and decided to stain the cabinets to match! There would be no question now, my kitchen was blue. I also added some light beech wood for the table and some of the cabinets to bring a little yellow into the room.



Now whenever I cook, which has been on the rise since there aren't as many take-out restaurants in Sunset Valley, the kitchen fills me with a feeling of calm. Still, no matter how lovely I make my kitchen there are those days that I cave and order a pizza to snarf down on the porch.

The living room is the most important room for me because I spend so many of my evenings at home curled up with a book. I needed a comfortable stylish place to read. Because I had just started my new job I had a limited budget and needed to focus on the necessities first. I invested in some new chairs and a sofa but decided to use the old coffee table from my aunt. I found some unique batik pillows and little bottles at the



consignment store. I used the bottles, all different shapes and sizes, as decorations and candle holders. Lining these up behind the couch created both a modern display and a source of light. The living area really became a fusion of my design and my aunt's.

All of the paintings are leftovers from my aunt, who has great taste in art, which she gathered from all kinds of peculiar places over her years of living in Sunset Valley. In fact, she randomly bought one once from a restaurant when she was visiting me in Bridgeport. We were at a small local diner, and she left to go to the rest room. When she came back I noticed that she was holding something under her arm. "I just bought this!" she cheered, "It was in the bathroom and so lovely; I like the emphasis on the bird's eye. I asked the manager, how much he wanted for it and now its mine!"

A number of pictures in the house are from her days as an advertising agent and when I used to visit as a small child, she would tell me about the





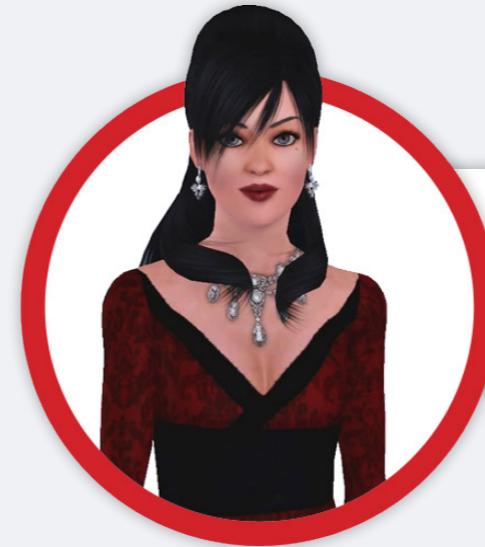
people who had made the tea or umbrella advertisements. All the pictures in the house, even those from the fifties and before, have stories attached to them - people she knew and places she had been; I just couldn't sell them or throw them away.

After I finished decorating the 'new' house I decided to invite my aunt over for dinner. In the car, she told me a little more about the house, "When I saw that strange little sloped plot of land I knew right away that it was going to be my home. It's hard to explain when you know that you belong in a certain place, but when I first set foot on the soil I knew this was the place."

When I opened the front door and Maria saw her old house, reinvented, she had tears in her eyes. I was afraid that maybe she would be upset with all the changes but instead she hugged me.

"This is lovely; you really brought in the life that had been missing here for so many years."

Her blessing was really the last thing the house needed in order to finish its transformation. Now, after over half a year of living in Sunset Valley, Maria comes 'home' every Saturday where we sit in our blue kitchen gossiping about the past and munching on some delivered pizza.



Ask Bella

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Once Upon a Time: A Fairy Tale in Storybook Decorating

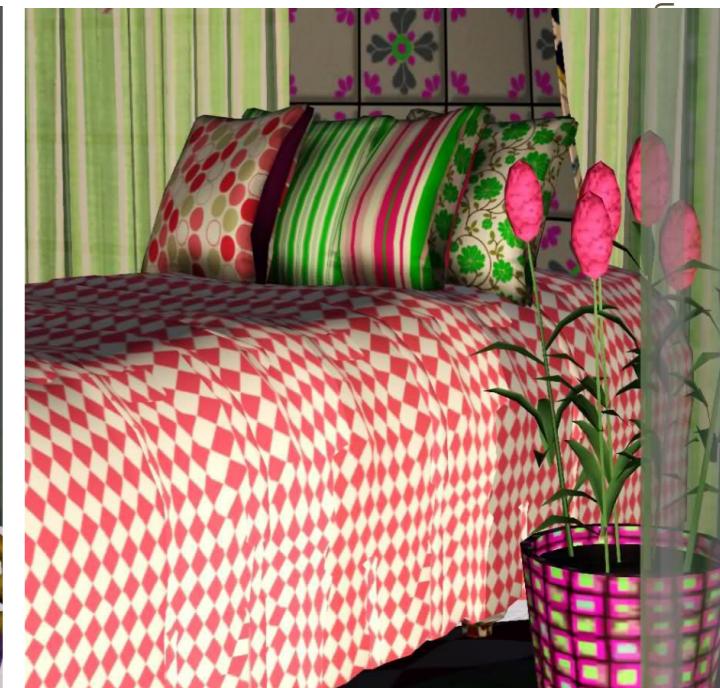
Article by Ballarose



Once upon a time, in a mystical and distant land there lived a King with three lovely daughters, the Princesses Miah, Claudia and Caillie. Now the King adored his daughters and did everything in his power to keep them happy, but this proved very difficult because each of his daughters was so very different. Miah was his little dark princess. Her favorite time was All Hallow's Eve when she could shed her frilly princess frocks and pretend she was a creature of the night. Claudia, was his light princess. She was always filled with joy and loved all things sweet and pretty. His eldest daughter, Caillie, was his earth princess. Caillie loved to be surrounded by animals and nature. One day the girls approached their father and asked for a very special favor. They wanted their royal quarters re-decorated to truly reflect their personalities – a place where they could feel free to be themselves when away from the prying and critical eyes of the royal court. The King immediately summoned the Royal Interior Decorator, Baba, and assigned her the task of re-doing each of the girls' rooms. Miah wanted her room to have an All Hallow's Eve theme while Claudia wanted a room the colors of cotton candy and mint, where she could throw fabulous tea parties. Caillie wanted a room decorated like a woodland fairy's where she could feel as though she was living in a wonderful forest. The girls would then let the King know if their rooms met their needs.

Should Royal Decorator Baba fail, she would be banished to the dungeons where she would spend the rest of her days in the dank, dark and cold chambers deep beneath the castle. Now if you need to know anything about Baba it's that she hates to be cold; dank and dark she can live with but being cold makes her very cranky. As she sat in her chambers fretting and contemplating on how she would accomplish this insurmountable task, she burst into tears. Ready to hurl herself out the castle window rather than spend eternity cold and shivering in the dungeons, Baba hoisted up her skirt and positioned herself on the ledge of the window when a noise behind her startled her and she fell backwards onto the floor. As she looked up a shadow passed in front of her and suddenly there appeared a fairy. "Up, up, up!" said the fairy, tapping his wand impatiently. Baba looked up into the fairy's face and sighed. Figures, she thought to herself, only I would end up with a fairy that looks like it hasn't shaved in a week. "I'm Fred and I'm your Fairy Godperson. Now let's get moving, I'm on a tight schedule." And with a swish and a swoosh, Fred whisked Baba away on a magical journey where they visited three very different Kingdoms and Baba was able to meet with each Kingdom's Royal Interior Decorator. After being dropped back off in her room, Baba took out her sketch pad and began to design the rooms for the Royal Highnesses.

For Princess Miah, Baba chose the colors of black, purple and midnight blue, giving the room a dark and mysterious edge and a sense that it was perpetually midnight. Wall stencils of strange and looming characters were added to the overall creepy factor. Candles, strategically placed throughout, created spooky shadows. By distressing the furniture and adding some haunting pictures and faux cobwebs the room screamed creepy perfection.



For Princess Claudia, Baba decided to create a storybook room. Keeping in mind Princess Claudia's love of tea parties, Baba searched the Kingdom far and wide and found the perfect accessories for the room, including a wonderful teapot floor lamp made by an eccentric old woman. She commissioned the Royal Tin Smith to create two perfect tea cup chairs. Rather than use the more sedate pinks and greens, she opted for deepening and brightening the colors to give the room a more picture book feel. Colorful artwork and playful accessories finished off the room.

Decorating Princess Caillie's fairyland room was an adventure for Baba. Scouring the forests, she found wonderful pieces of wood and had the royal carpenter construct the furniture for this room. The Royal Artist was commissioned to paint a lovely garden mural which framed the bed area. Colors and materials were kept one with nature and it was so realistic that whenever a window was left open creatures would find their way inside.

The princesses were overjoyed with their rooms and the King was so pleased that he gave Baba new quarters with a lovely huge fireplace to warm her tootsies by. The King was happy, Baba was happy, the princesses were happy so you could say this was a perfectly happy ending.





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Divine Design

Article by Ankuuh



Before



Before



Most people have a dream they would like to achieve once in their life. For Elena that was owning a five star restaurant. When the owners of the restaurant she was working at decided to sell it, she took her chance. There was one problem though, she would love to keep the building, but the interior really has to go.

When I first walked into the restaurant I immediately understood what Elena was talking about. The walls were bright red and really not from this era and on the ground lay a carpet that should have been replaced ages ago. We ended up in the yellow painted kitchen where Elena told me that all of it had to go.

Well thank god, because trying to pimp a mess like this without changing the walls would have become a problem.

After the biggest renovations were over, such as the placing of the new windows, doors and fireplaces, it was my turn to go all design crazy.



I first collaborated with Elena on her wants and mostly on the things that a restaurant needs. We agreed that keeping the base of the restaurant light was the best way to go. For the floor we decided it would be smartest to use a wood that would have low maintenance and would be easy to clean.

After some searching I found the perfect white patterned wallpaper for Elena's walls. Because in restaurants things get spilled, and this mostly happens under the table, I decided to place wood wainscoting on the bottom of the walls, this way the white wallpaper would keep its brightness and also make the room look chic. Elena and I decided that white wallpaper behind the bar would most likely look lovely for a day, but after that not so much so we decided to go for a full wooden wall there. This way, it would be easy to clean yet also make for a nice accent in the middle of the room. I ended up using dark oak wooden flooring. I chose to make it dark to give the room more body. Keeping everything light looks great, but you do have the danger of going ice cave, which you do not want.

Because of the light base and neutral materials I decided to play around with colors in the basic furniture. First I started with the basic things like chairs and dining tables. The dining tables I chose are also a dark wood to keep that rustic feel that the restaurant has. For the dining chairs I picked two different colors, light green ones with a subtle pattern and a bolder one with a big red flower print. Rather than mixing them together I decided to go with one pattern per table, which kept it from being too busy. Because the bar is painted white I chose to do the same with the bar stools. To make it look cohesive I chose a green Hawaiian print.

To give the dining area a finished look I placed some big plants in the empty corners and hung some paintings that would finish the room off, but not overcrowd it. For the curtains, which Elena insisted on having, I opted for a light grey color.

Elena told me that it was also important to think about the guests that only come in for a drink but don't like to hang around the bar. For these guests I created a nice sitting nook located in the front of the shiny new fireplace.



The big red sofa just oozes comfort and the two brown chairs that go with it balance out the brightness. I finished the nook off with some candles, reading materials and of course some much needed paintings.

Last but not least we come to the lovely yellow kitchen. You will be pleased to know that we stripped down the whole thing, even the stairs. Instead of the drab gray tiles it had before, it now has luxurious black ones. For the kitchen itself I picked a light blue color, which goes with the tiles behind it perfectly. The cabinets on top give the cook a place to store his pots and pans after a hard day of work. For the walls that aren't attached to the kitchen I chose to bring back the wood but for this room I painted the wood white. Because the kitchen has to stay open and the room cannot be crowded with too many things, I chose to only style it with some blinds and plants in the corner.

Looking around her now finished restaurant Elena was overflowing with joy. She could now start her own history here, with a great restaurant that looked nothing like its former self.



Dizzy's Dilemma

Decorating with Primary Colors

Poor Dizzy was in a complete tizzy! She had recently moved into a brand new, partially furnished apartment in Bridgeport. The furniture was nice enough but typical of rental units in that everything was beige and colorless, and the whole apartment just lacked pizzazz. This was just not acceptable to Dizzy, who was a girl that was all about the pizzazz! Replacing the furniture and re-painting was not an option - the rental contract said so.



Article by:Ballarose
Photographs by:Ballarose





Now Dizzy did have one quirk (well several, actually, but we won't go there) – she was madly in love with the primary colors of blue, red and yellow. They just made her happy. Her mother, an interior decorator, often wondered where Dizzy got her decorating taste from and chalked it up to watching way too many Smurf cartoons as a child.

Dizzy called her mother, begging her for advice on how to decorate her place. You see, if Dizzy had her way, the whole place would explode in primary colors - great for Dizzy but not so much for friends and clients who would be guests in her home. Happy to help, Dizzy's mom grabbed some of her design books and headed over to Dizzy's apartment.

"First and foremost," she began, looking around Dizzy's apartment, "you don't need to go crazy with these colors to get the WOW factor." She pulled out her book of fabric samples and Dizzy's eyes widened. She finally began to understand what her mother was getting at.



"Actually," she said to Dizzy, "the fact that everything is neutral makes this apartment a great canvas for your colors. Even though blue, red, and yellow are popular color choices in decorating kids' rooms there is no reason they can't be used in a classy and sophisticated way." While preparing tea, Dizzy's mother continued to give her a quick lesson on using her favorite colors. She told Dizzy that adding natural materials, such as wicker and wood, would help to tone down these dominating colors. Dizzy's mom offered to help Dizzy re-do her apartment, but this was something Dizzy wanted to do completely on her own.

After taking in everything her mother said, Dizzy spent a few days shopping for her new apartment. Within a week, and with minimal effort and expense, she managed to transform her apartment into a space with just the right amount of WOW.

She purchased two over-sized, colorful sofa cushions which immediately brightened the room. A mantle, which she guessed was supposed to resemble a fireplace, was turned into an artistic focal point by adding some silk tulips and other deco. She finished off the living room by adding some decorative pieces and artwork which pulled the space together.

For the bedroom, she covered a piece of wood in fabric, creating a faux headboard. She placed sheer drape panels on either side of the bed to frame it and covered the bed with a brightly colored duvet and playful pillows. She found some tire caps in the salvage yard and painted them, creating some funky artwork to go over the bed.

Dizzy found a fun mirror at the consignment shop in town which appealed to her sense of whimsy. By placing it strategically on the wall, it picked up reflections around the room and became a piece of art in unto itself. In the corner of the bedroom, a simple red table and chair faced the harbor; the perfect place to daydream and contemplate life.

For the bathroom, which was already tiled in the perfect blue, Dizzy used red and yellow accents. She painted the bathtub a brilliant red (with the landlord's permission of course!) and the bathroom became an oasis for relaxation and rejuvenation.

The landlord agreed with Dizzy that new kitchen counters were needed; so, with his blessing, Dizzy replaced the gray granite counters with cheerful red ones. They worked perfectly with the white tiled walls in the kitchen.

Finally Dizzy was ready to show her mom the apartment. She felt nervous taking her mom around, but she needn't have worried - her mom loved every bit of it!



A few weeks later Dizzy was invited to dinner at her parents' home, and when she walked through the front doors her jaw dropped. Once the epitome of conservative decor, Dizzy's childhood home was now singing with color! Seeing the expression on her daughter's face, Dizzy's mom burst out laughing and gave her daughter a huge bear hug. "You inspired me sweets," she said. "Seeing your place and your love of color made me realize I was in a rut and that it was time to take things up a notch. You are never too old to learn, and who better to teach you than your own baby girl?" she added.

Anke and Balla:

Article by Ballarose
Pictures by Ankuuh

Rockin' the House



Hi Girls, I just got off the phone with the Manager of The Howling Sisters, Zack Dreamie, he is giving LivingSims an exclusive story on them. I am a huge fan and have every recording they ever made! We will get an inside view of life behind the scenes of a major rock band. Zack is offering up his home as well, which I hear is quite yummy, so pack your ear plugs and get ready to leave as soon as possible. I am completely jealous.

MactheKat LivingSims Editor-in-Chief

Anke and Balla were taking a well deserved break from unpacking moving boxes when they received the e-mail from Mac. The excitement was palpable as they read the e-mail. Nothing like the thought of life in the big city to get the girls' juices flowing!

"You know, we could really take advantage of this and do some awesome shopping for our new place." Anke pulled up Goggle on her beloved lappy and started searching the web for stores in Bridgeport. Balla, meanwhile, Goggled the Howling Sisters and found a video on OurTube. Cranking the sound, the small house was suddenly filled with the hardcore beat of wailing electric guitars and pounding drums. Angry lyrics about destroying a cheating lover by squashing him like a bug reverberated throughout the small space.

"I can see why Mac suggested the ear plugs but man these girls are smokin' hot," Balla said, jumping around the room, air guitar in hand. They didn't hear the door bell ringing incessantly, so when Mac suddenly appeared in the middle of their living room, they both let out a startled scream. Laughing, Mac handed them a beautifully wrapped box. "I just popped by to give you this house-warming present. I see you are listening to the Howling Sisters. Aren't they incredible; they are even better live! You are going to love their show!"



With a subtle nod of her head, Anke gave Balla the signal that she had a 'scathingly brilliant idea' and with a quick wink, Balla showed her agreement.

"Mac, you need to go home and pack your bags right now. You're coming with us. We don't know anything about the Howling Sisters and you know everything about them so this makes perfect sense." Anke was about to continue when Mac blurted a quick "Okay" and flew out the door yelling something about being back in an hour and wondering what to pack. Soon the girls were on the road to Bridgeport, the Best of the Howling Sisters blaring from the CD player and Mac happily sharing her wealth of knowledge on all things Howling.

Zack Dreamie certainly lived up to his name and by the look in Balla's eyes he was about to become flavor of the day. He seemed a little too relieved to see them but the girls just assumed it was the excitement of getting some great publicity for the tour.

His sprawling home could best be described as mid century with a dash of modern. Palettes of cool blues and greys, with forest green accents in the furnishings and décor, blended harmoniously with wood furniture pieces creating a rich, warm and earthy home. The kitchen, a soft grey and white, sparkled. There was a place for everything and everything was in its place. There wasn't a crumb in sight. This impressed Anke who had a weak spot for tidy men.

Zack showed the girls the music room where a stunning white grand piano took center stage. "Do any of you play musical instruments?" The tone of his voice suggested this question was more than just idle curiosity. They all admitted they had dabbled in music during their high school years.

"Wonderful....this is perfect!" His enthusiasm was a little over the top and it soon became apparent why.





"The Howling Sisters are down with the flu. They have a private gig tonight at a small but very exclusive grunge club, The Pit. It's a fund-raiser for a retirement home/rehab center for ex rock stars. I need you to fill in." After several minutes of laughing so hard it hurt, the girls collected themselves and realized he wasn't kidding.

"You do realize we are talking about high school band stuff here don't you? There is no way we can go all punk in less than 4 hours; never mind the fact that we have never played together." Anke's tone was extremely reasonable considering Zack's absurd request. Zack was unphased and shared his plan with the girls. "I'm going to introduce you as an up-and-coming new age band with a totally unique sound sure to take the world by storm. These people will swallow it...trust me. Especially after I've plied them with lots of booze."

The next few hours were a whirlwind of activity. Out of nowhere a stylist appeared and decked the girls out in head-to-toe leather outfits. When the hairdresser appeared and suggested several styles which involved shaving and strange colors the girls drew the line.

After several shots of tequila the girls hit the Pit's stage and began to play. While Balla rocked Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star on the bass,





Anke pounded the drums to some song playing in her head. Mac channeled her inner jazz musician, though which one remained a mystery.

The night was a success and the girls raised a good chunk of cash for the center. Back at Zack's house he showed the girls to their rooms. Mac's room was a slice of black and white heaven with a twist of lime and before her door was even shut she had snuggled down under the duvet with her e-reader.

Zack opened the door to a small room with two roll-away cots. "My apologies ladies but the other guest rooms are being renovated."

"You know we never did come up with a name for our band," Anke said as she settled in for the night. "I'm thinking Tequila Hangover sounds just about perfect right now."

Downstairs, Zack could be heard puttering around in the kitchen. Balla slipped silently out of bed. "Where are you going," Anke asked. "I think I'll just head down to the kitchen for a little midnight nibble, Balla purred suggestively. "That sounds like a really good idea," Anke said jumping out of bed. "I think I'll join you," at which point Balla grabbed her pillow and clobbered Anke. Anke retaliated and before you knew it they were in a full fledged pillow fight. Giggling like a couple of teenagers, hunky Zack was soon forgotten in favor of some good old-fashioned girlfriend fun.



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Welcome to Anke and Balla's Open House

Article by Ballarose
Pictures by Ankuuh



The house is warm and welcoming with its lovely wrap-around veranda where Anke and Balla can sit and enjoy the ocean view. A lovely cobblestone path and a front garden bursting with colourful flowers add to the warmth and character of the house. The wood siding that was chosen works perfectly for a cottage beach house. Now come on in!

When Anke and Balla needed to find a new home they turned to the LivingSims talented members and asked them to design a home for them based on information that Anke and Balla provided about themselves. The girls had some pretty specific requirements on what would make them happy but the one thing they were in agreement on is that they wanted a cottage-like home on the beach. There were some outstanding entries and choosing was difficult but in the end Justme-Chelle won out. The house was perfect for a beach setting, and with its adorable nooks and crannies and little touches here and there that expressed the girls' personalities, it was chosen as the winner. So grab a cup-of-whatever-you-choose and let us take you on a tour.

The living room is decorated in shades of blue, and this is carried on throughout the house, perfectly coordinating with the hues of the ocean which is at their doorstep. A unique back-to-back seating area can have one stretched out on the couch watching TV while the other can lounge and read a good book. There is a little art corner, complete with supplies, should either of the girls get a creative urge.



For those chilly nights, when the wind blows fiercely off the ocean, the girls can settle by the fire all safe and cozy. This spot is also very handy for intimate moments when the girls may want to entertain the occasional lucky date. With the fire burning, the candles lit and the chairs moved aside, couples can cuddle on the fur rug for truly romantic moments.



Continuing with the cottage feel, we enter the kitchen. The counters and overhead cabinets are built from bleached wood and a backsplash of blue tiles has been added, tying the style in with the rest of the house. It's the perfect spot for cooking up fresh catch from the ocean and entertaining friends and colleagues. Lobster Thermador is the house specialty!

Entering the dining area we are struck by the casual and cheerful vibe. Wooden panels with windows separate the kitchen and dining area giving the space an open and airy feel. Vibrant red chair cushions make the room pop with vitality. Guests are sure to feel welcome and relaxed in this easy-going dining area.



Heading upstairs, the hallway is large enough for a corner desk, a communal workspace that Anke and Balla share where they take care of the more mundane tasks like paying the bills. Sometimes, though, the view can be a little distracting and sends the girls off into daydream land.



In contrast to the sedate blues throughout the rest of the house, Balla's bedroom is an explosion of color. Pinks and purples make her feel as though she is in a lovely tropical garden on a gorgeous sunny day.

No matter how cranky she feels at the end of the day, as soon as she steps into her room and kicks off her heels she is overtaken by a sense of pure joy. Large windows bring the outside in for Balla, and a workspace nestled in the corner gives her the perfect spot for writing her articles.



While Balla's room is a burst of tropical energy, Anke's is an oasis of peace and tranquility. Turquoise is the predominant color with accents of gold and olive green. White furnishings and crisp white linens add contrast making the room fresh and breezy. Large windows open to a stunning ocean view which Balla is quite jealous of. A workstation, located by the windows gives Anke the perfect spot for working on her photographs and designs while listening to the crashing waves of the sea.

And that's it...at least for now. Thank you for taking the tour with us. You may occasionally get glimpses of Anke and Balla living their lives when not at work. So keep an eye out on the forum for Anke, Balla and Friends at Home.



Little Attic *Big Style*

Patricia Gamble knows a good thing when she sees it. As a first year design student, finding a small place to rent in the busy world of Bridgeport is a hard task, and even more so when your budget is limited. When she viewed a small attic space on the Bridgeport coast, she ignored the fact that it was dusty and dirty, she focused on the vision that she had for it; her very own attic living space.

Article by: fashionista125
Photographs by: Lkadas

With what money Patricia had saved in previous years, she searched through magazines, and the internet, until she found enough inspiration to create an idea of what she wanted her attic design to look like. Wanting to create a feeling of comfort, being so far away from her country roots, she chose to look for deep and rich colours, thick fabrics, and warm textures. However, not wanting to keep her style, run-of-the-mill, she added some sass: she threw a pinch of the orient into the mix. Delicate fans, flowered fabrics and rich patterns came to her mind, but it was fine saying that she wanted her space to look like this, but would her idea translate into the real world?

Arriving at the modestly sized house on one of the higher cliffs on the coast, I was itching to find out whether she had succeeded in creating this wonderful attic space. I was positively buzzing as I stepped up to the old front door and knocked twice. Before I even had time to look

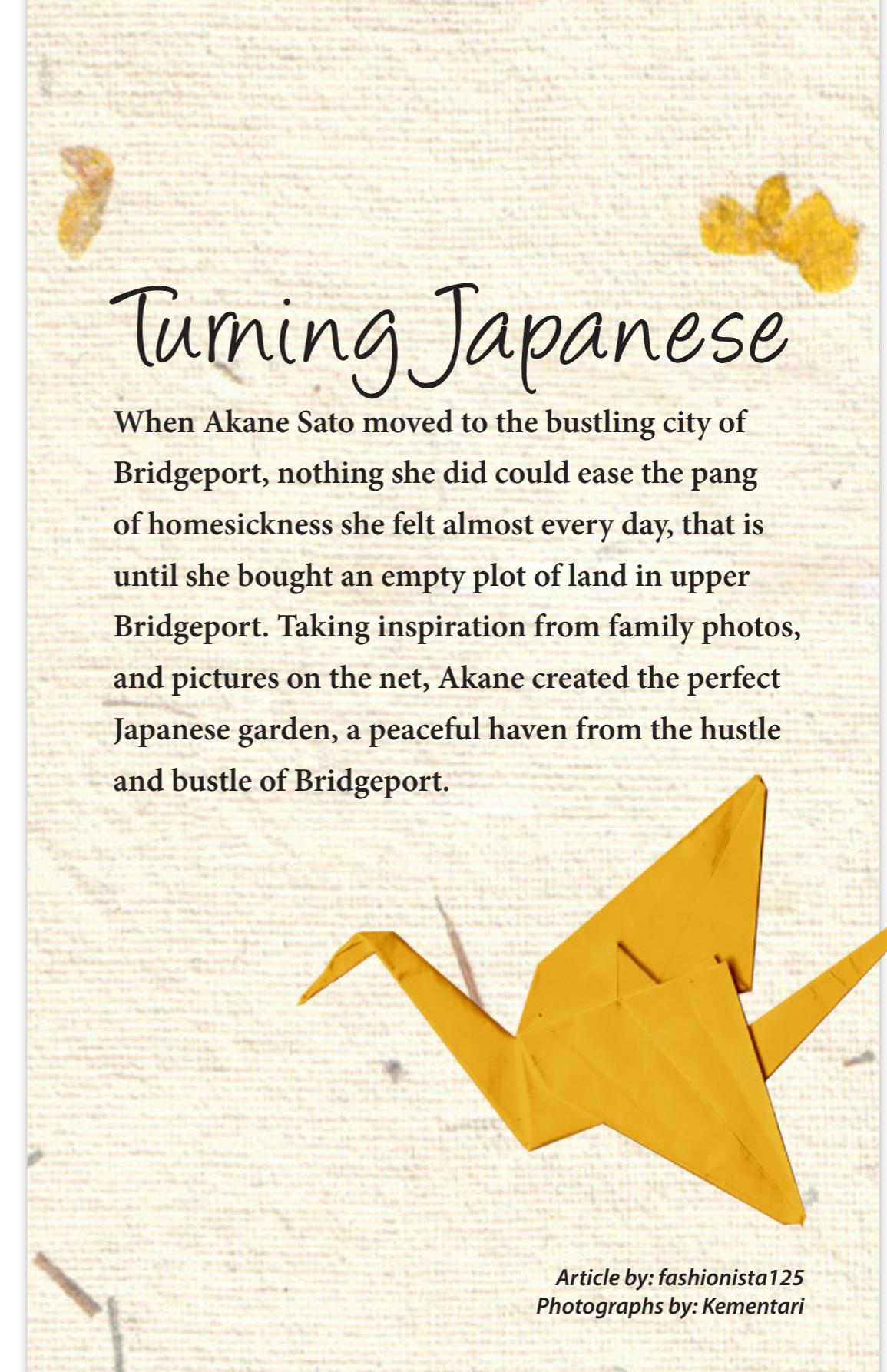


around, the front door swung open and there stood Patricia. Welcoming me in with a smile, she led me through a few rooms before reaching the bottom of a twisting staircase, and by the look of joy on Patricia's face, I could guess that her project had indeed been successful. Slowly padding up the staircase, a soft smell of incense assaulted my senses; it was a warming and comforting feeling, a feeling that would embrace the whole of her space.

The staircase led directly into the attic, and I was completely breath taken! One wall was made up entirely of loft windows, which streamed in bright beams of summer sunlight, making the whole room seemingly come alive. I could barely see the dark wood floor, for a few

rich woven rugs covered the floor, and created a warm and welcoming atmosphere. An antique leaning mirror glistened in the sunlight in the corner of the room. Travel cases and boxes blocked my path to the mirror but they created a more individual atmosphere to the room. The majority of the furniture in the room appeared to be second hand or antique, not that it decreased the style (in fact it increased it in my opinion), I really felt what Patricia had done with this space was utterly amazing considering her limited budget! I turned to look at Patricia, a look of happiness was blooming on her face; "So you like it then?" she asked, excitedly. I passed on my compliments and asked why she wanted to create such a dynamic space.

"Well, as I am a design student, I have taken many a class about different design styles, but when I was designing my space, I wanted something completely individual and different. So I mixed my two favourite styles together, antique and orient, to create the sort of style you see around me," she gestured around the whole room. It really was a magnificent room, in style, atmosphere, and décor. If I learned anything, it would be a name to look out for in the future: Patricia Gamble. Her style and sass will definitely get her noticed, her design flair is so different and individual that she is bound to make herself known within the interior design world.



Turning Japanese

When Akane Sato moved to the bustling city of Bridgeport, nothing she did could ease the pang of homesickness she felt almost every day, that is until she bought an empty plot of land in upper Bridgeport. Taking inspiration from family photos, and pictures on the net, Akane created the perfect Japanese garden, a peaceful haven from the hustle and bustle of Bridgeport.

Article by: fashionista125
Photographs by: Kementari



"Japan is such an inspiring country, and leaving it all behind really saddened me," Akane revealed as she led me through her modest living area. "The homesickness was the worst! When I first arrived here, almost anything and everything would somehow make me remember Japan or my family, but when I saw this plot of land, I knew it was just a blank canvas ready for me to create on!" Before leading me out of the sliding doors into the garden, she brought out some rough ideas of her garden which she had before the work had started. She pointed out the vital points, the fountain,

stream and types of flowers; the pride in her voice was evident, it was her own design after all. If the sketches were anything to go by, the garden I was about to walk into would not just look good, but would be filled with tradition and style.

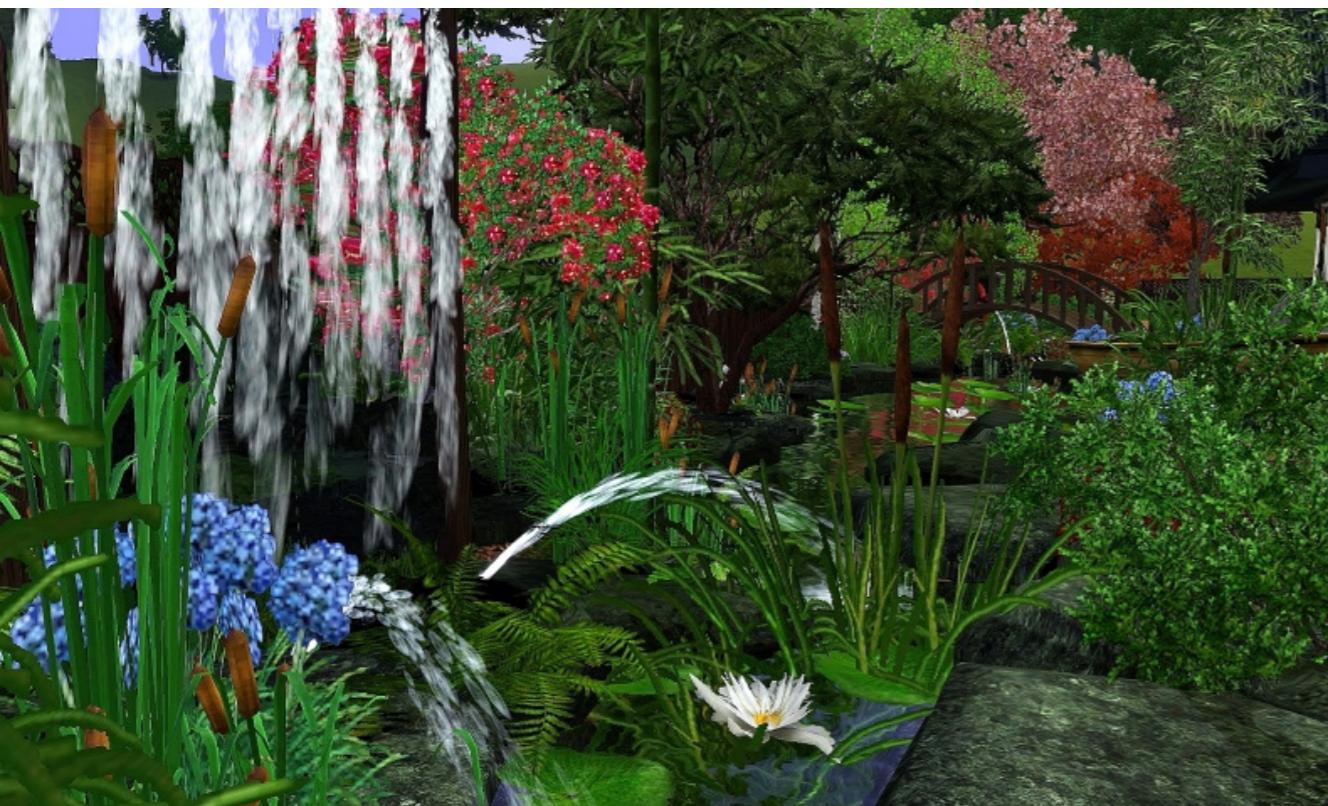
"In the end I took different aspects from the sketches to create one final design, and the design is what you're looking at right now," she said as she welcomed me into her garden. My suspicion had been correct; this garden was truly breath-taking! The delicate trickling of a stream could be heard in the background, but

my attention was immediately drawn to the colourful array of flowers blooming all around the garden. Bright ruby reds, contrasted with the lush greens and bright blues to create a stunning effect throughout the garden. It wasn't just the plants that made this garden special, it was the effort and soul that Akane had put into creating it. Making my way down the paved path I came to a small stream running through the garden; weathered rocks adorning the banks, and pale lilies floating lazily down the river created a calming effect. The scene before me was something you would find in Japan; and you



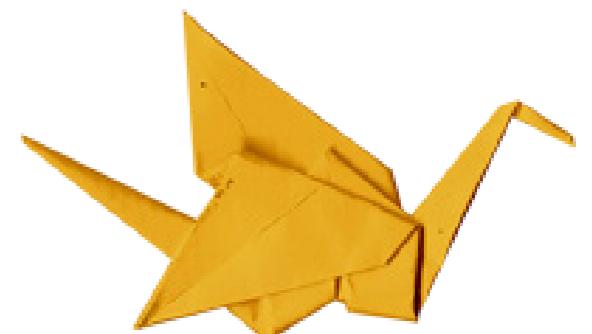
could almost believe you were standing in a garden in Japan. As I looked further around the garden, I noticed a small wooden bridge, and an unused row boat; these details really made this garden a cut above the rest.

After asking where she took inspiration from Akane smiled, "I took inspiration from my memories mainly. I grew up in a very traditional family, so I saw a lot of traditional architecture and design, all of which inspired me for this project. But some of the things in this garden, are from my own past," she revealed, gesturing to the boat and the ornate dragon fountain. My



attention was immediately drawn to the latter. Encased in the rock was a delicate carving of an Asian style dragon, jets of clear water flowing gently out of its mouth. In the light of the slowly fading sun, the dragon seemed to be made of fire, its red light gleaming in contrast against the rest of the garden.

Looking back over the garden as I entered Akane's house again, I thought about how she really made herself a 'little Japan' in the middle of the busy city of Bridgeport; her own little haven, a place to remember her own country; the amazing and inspiring Japan.



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When East Meets West

A Marriage of Style

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The delightful home of Jake, a Bridgeportian and Masuyo, who was born in Japan, seamlessly combines the industrial roughness of a modern loft apartment with the grace of a Japanese ryokan. By marrying one another they not only joined their love and their cultures but also joined the styles of their two countries in their home.

Article by: Sebausten
Photographs by: Lex the Jeweler



When Jake was sent for mission work to Osaka, he never imagined he would fall in love with Japan. "This country is so different from what I've known, I totally fell under its spell as soon as I stepped out of the plane," he said. Little did he know that he would fall under another spell when he met the dazzling Masuyo. "She was my company's correspondent in Japan so she became my working companion," he said, adding with a laugh, "but soon after she became

my life companion!" They married in Japan and started living in Osaka.

"After a few months into our marriage I felt Jake wanted to go back to his country," Masuyo said, "so we made the decision to move to Bridgeport." However, Masuyo was not ready to completely leave her lifestyle behind and neither was Jake. "It seemed to us we had to show our two personalities, our two cultures in our new home," he said.

And so they did. They chose to settle in a loft apartment; they were seduced by the light and the sense of space around them. As for the colour scheme, they insisted that they wanted something neutral and befitting the industrial nature of the space. To help them in their choice they turned to the famous interior designer, Bella Goth. She suggested they paint the walls a dark metallic grey and cover the floors with rough metallic tiles. To add a classy touch, she had the floors glazed to give it a shiny look.



The main room is divided into a sitting room and a dining area. Dramatic carved stones frame the minimalistic fireplace. The sitting room showcases the most exquisite low seating, upholstered with antique imperial silk. Red accents in the antique rug and in the paintings above the lacquered black desk tie the room together. Behind the low seating stands a large bookcase, the modern lines contrasting with the exquisite charm of the seating. The bookcase displays artifacts brought back from Japan

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and chosen with taste; vases of both antique and modern design, okimono and, of course, a bonsai. Next to the bookcase, a couple of plants, a china urn and a blue ink painting revisit the concept of tokonoma, the traditional Japanese alcove.

The dining area is dominated by the soft honey tones of wood. The monastery table is kept modern and light with its glass top, which is complemented by transparent designer chairs. Instead of a heavy sideboard, Masuyo and Jake,

following Bella Goth's advice, used a traditional Japanese tansu. They took out its doors, making it a stunning display case for exquisite knick-knacks as well as more useful objects. At the end of the dining table, a potted bamboo and a paper lamp soften the modern lines of the side console table while an ikebana and an antique vase grace the dining table itself.

This stunningly calm and delightful room totally proved that opposites can get on well. Who would have believed that a rough

industrial space could be complemented by these graceful and seemingly fragile pieces of Japanese decorative art?

"This proves, as Bella Goth told us when we voiced our fears," said Masuyo, "that no taboo exists in interior design anymore." Indeed, everything seems possible. Jake and Masuyo's home shows that besides a marriage of true souls, their home is a testament to a marriage of styles.

Apartments with a Difference

There are all sorts of apartments: for instance small, dingy, scary apartments or big, modern, fancy apartments. People live in apartments for many reasons, reasons I often wondered about.

I always imagined that the only reason anyone would live in an apartment would be because they can't afford to buy a house; imagine how surprised I was when I was proven wrong.

Article by Speechless



Apar

It was early last May when several new buildings appeared on Bayside Road. They were no ordinary buildings, they were actually rather fancy looking apartment buildings. These were the very first apartment blocks built in Neverglade and I would often walk past them on my way to work, seeing them rise from their foundations to being painted. Each time I wondered what sort of people were going to live there, why would they want to live there in the first place and what would their homes look like.

So when I needed something new for my assignment for LivingSims, I decided to visit some of these owners and get some answers to my questions. Oh well, let's be honest - I was curious and dying to see inside these homes, and an assignment for the magazine was a pretty good excuse to snoop around.

First, I met Shelly and Henry Hanson, who bought a one-bedroom apartment on the second floor. Their apartment was filled with down-to-earth colours and memorabilia from their travels.





"We would jet around the world, and when we would come home... it did not feel like one," Shelly said.

"See, we had become so accustomed to hotel rooms, and bunking in other people's spare bedrooms or sofas, that being in a house which fully belonged to us felt really strange..." Henry added.

"So when we decided to finally retire and settle, we really wanted something smaller, something more self-contained and at the same time, familiar; these new apartments were perfect. That's why we bought one," Shelly said.

They showed me around their one-bedroom apartment, which truly was tastefully decorated, it almost had a tropical hotel feel to it. It also felt homey and cozy.

I asked them if they ever missed their house, and they both shook their heads. It was clear they adored their apartment and it offered everything they desired.

Next, I went to see a mother and daughter living opposite the Hansons. Anna and Annabella Michael were both beautiful young women, well dressed and perfectly groomed.



It was obvious that Anna was very house proud and couldn't wait to show me around. Chattering away, she pushed me right into a spacious hallway while telling me all about her new home.

"I hate gardening, really hate it...you know it totally ruins my nails, I mean what kind of self respecting woman would want to have a garden...no thank you, I get plenty of fresh air while I walk to work!

See these frames? I couldn't find perfect paintings, so I just used the frames; I call it modern art," Anna laughed.

"I really like modern, but I also like colour and I like to be noticed, so I just made sure my home looked different...as you can see I tried to make a great impression with the hall."





We soon moved on to the bedrooms. Anna continued, "I tried to create immediate drama in my bedroom by using a lot of red and bold statement pieces. In my daughter's room I, unfortunately, had less of a say, so I guess it is more bland and youthful than I would like, but as long as she keeps her door shut no one will really see!" Annabella rolled her eyes and snapped that she loved her bedroom, and that her mum was way too obsessive about the look of their home.

While they argued about the style, I climbed up the stairs to admire the rooftop living/dining/kitchen area which was simple, bold and had amazing views. Looking out over those floor-to-ceiling roof windows I realized that maybe, just maybe, living in an apartment wouldn't be as bad as I thought after all.

The last person I visited was an eccentric artist, Willow, who lived in an open-plan rooftop apartment.

Her kitchen was her living room, her dining room was her bedroom...you get the picture? She only had one room, but boy I have never seen anyone cram so much stuff into such a small space. Brilliant colors, old, second-hand, mismatched furniture and little nooks made this small apartment oh so interesting. I felt at home. I sat with a cup of coffee on her sofa, watching her paint while she told me how she always wanted to live on the top floor, and how this space was perfect for her.

"I like that my studio is also my home. I can go and make tea and two steps later, I am back at my canvas, playing my piano, or stargazing. I like it simple. All my furniture is second-hand, passed on by friends and family...and I made all the textiles myself. It is perfect for me!" she said.

I know she said a whole lot more, but by that time I had drifted into my own thoughts.



"I asked them if they ever missed their house, and they both shook their heads. It was clear they adored their apartment and it offered everything they desired."

I had always pitied people living in apartments, always assumed they couldn't afford more. It was small of me to think that way. I had just met three different families, all who had chosen to live in apartments for various reasons. They were all happy and none of them were there because they couldn't afford a house. The truth was they didn't want a house; their perfect home was their apartment and they wished for no other.





Gorgeous one bedroom flat with third floor views, bright and spacious with bursts of bold colour throughout.
Easy open plan living/kitchen, 1 bedroom and 1 bathroom.

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Challenge Me To

The LivingSims Staff Favourites

Challenge Me To has been very popular ever since it was launched on our forum. The rules are simple: you say you'd like a challenge in building, decorating or gardening and someone gives you one, if you accept you have 2 weeks to complete it. We have had amazing entries and the staff at LivingSims couldn't resist to share with you a selection of their favourite entries.

Sebasten

When I first saw this room, my jaw dropped. Apart from the dramatic two-story height, the symmetry contributes to the grand aspect. See how Kementari chose to have everything mirror each other: the two fireplaces on the side walls, the lines of tables, the stage and the bar... And not only the architectural parts, but also the decorative elements mirror one another.

In this room, Kementari displayed all her wonderful creativity: the grand chandelier is an actual combination of twenty four regular chandeliers, and for the tables, she used combined regular long tables from the Store to make extra wide tables befitting this room.



Another masterpiece of creativity is how she built the room diagonally to be able to have the stairs meet at an angle.

But creativity without Kementari's acute attention to detail would not have given us this entry I like so much. See how the tables are set, ready to receive guests? And a small array of butlers waits motionlessly for guests to arrive, while an elegantly dressed piano player, not to forget the bartender, make you expect the wedding party to arrive and start reveling at any moment? Attention to detail reveals a keen eye, an eye that gave us these amazing photographs, a token of a great job.



Ballarose

There is just something about Moxxa's kitchen that makes me feel all warm and cozy inside. I am in complete awe at the patience it must have taken to so perfectly arrange all that kitchen deco. The attention to detail is nothing short of amazing. It conjures up memories of old Hungarian kitchens I sometimes had the pleasure of hanging around in as a child. The cast iron stove and the old fashioned sink definitely help form this memory. It has such a lived-in feel I can almost smell the peppers, onions and spices simmering away on the stove.



LemonJelly

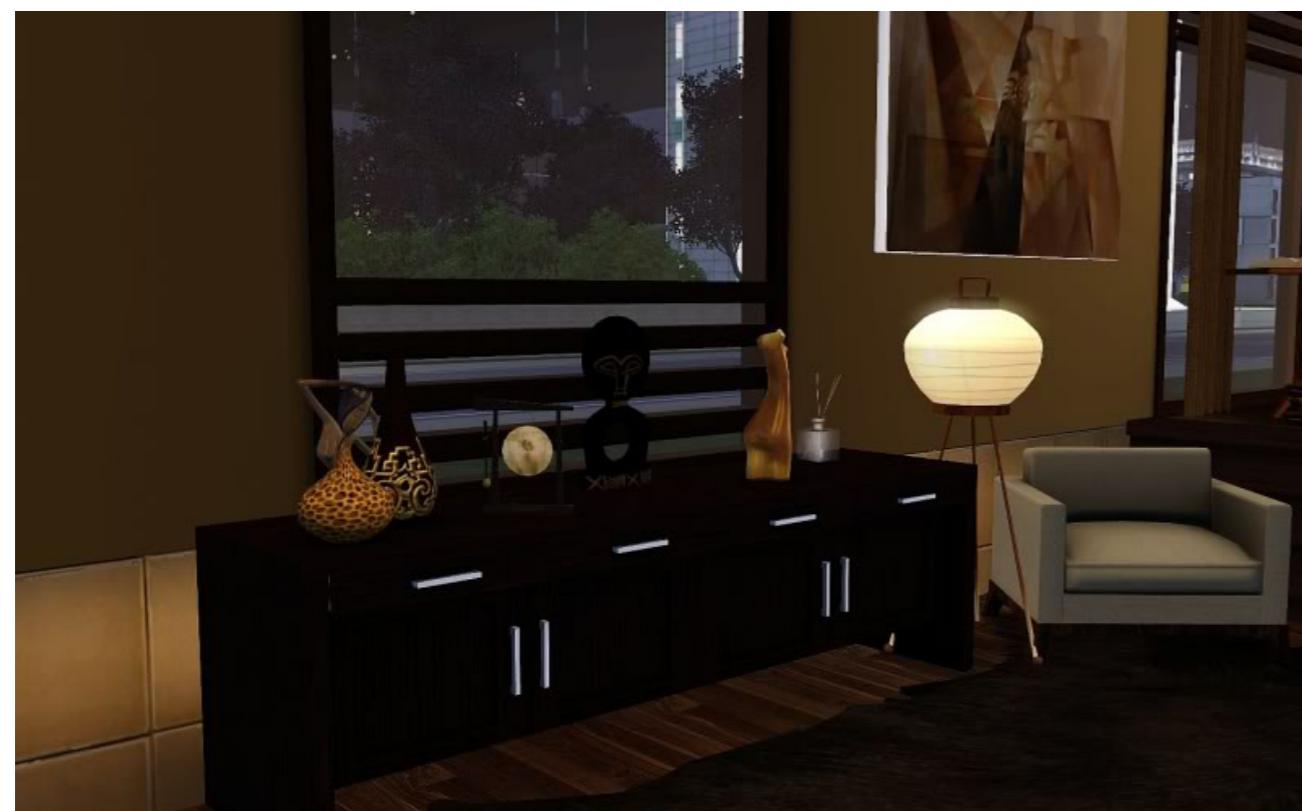
I chose this entry because of the special and inspiring way that [Camille](#) chose her colour scheme. Although out of her comfort zone with the bright colours, she manages to tie the whole room together with her signature pastel shades. Elegant and fun, this living space encompasses everything I love about interior design: Vibrance with a touch of vintage flair. A mix-match of patterns and textures, tied together with the perfect pastel stripes.



Velvet

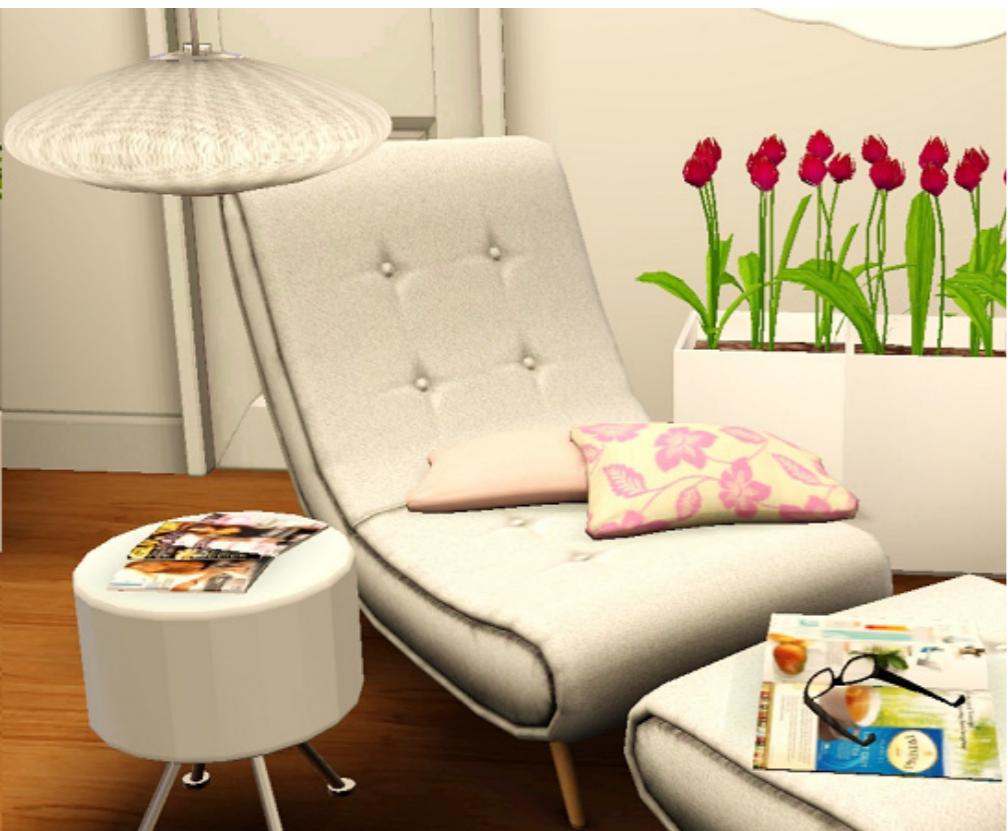
I chose Lkadas' luxurious bath for several reasons. I was scrolling through the challenge images and something caught my eye, making me stop and go back. At first glance I didn't realize this was even a bath; my mouth dropped when I saw the commode and I was left with a gaping mouth - awestruck.

The warm, deep colors creates a welcoming atmosphere that almost compels you to relax. Who wouldn't want a bathroom like this? Candles glowing in the night, a nice hot bath placed perfectly in front of a fireplace waiting to be lit - it's a scene right out of a novel! Lkadas did herself proud with this designer bath. I just wish she could do this on a much smaller scale in my little hovel.



Kilkall745

Designing a room with white as the main color might seem like a daunting challenge. But not to [nottechic](#) - she responded to RD's white challenge with panache. Pink and red accents provide the perfect feminine touch and keep this room from looking washed out. The attention given to detail lends the room a lived-in look. From the stacked books by the bookshelf to the magazine and glasses on the ottoman, it appears that you could walk right in and cozy up in this living room. Fresh flowers all about and floral patterns on the pillows and walls further add to the comfy feel. What a perfect room for the stylish single sim!



Lkadas

I found Leela's kitchen to be simply stunning. Not only did she use a beautiful color palette filled with earth tones and natural textures, but she also installed innovative design ideas. One of my favorite parts of the kitchen, and what I see to be the focal point of the room is the window wall. The subtle leaf wallpaper beautifully frames the low row of windows, which in turn frames a gorgeous city skyline. The kitchen layout itself is simplistic and clean. The island in the middle of the room that doubles as a kitchen table tops off the look. I truly think Leela's simple kitchen is absolutely endearing.



Fashionista25

When I saw Jenba's recreation of (a mini) version of Venice, I was simply blown away. I was stunned by the small details she did; the arched bridge and outside restaurant to name a few! And being partial to the real Venice, it was amazing to see such a wonderful recreation in-game. I loved the way that she had used the old stone textures on accurate reproductions of buildings, to create a stunningly realistic look! Really, as it was a building challenge, she didn't have to decorate, but I am very glad she did! The rich colours and classic furniture create such a realistic look, it's just stunning!



Maethekal

I had to pick Kementari's castle. Actually I ran in and chose her castle as soon as it was posted because it is one of the most amazing builds I have ever seen for The Sims. The castle is huge and filled with the most amazing little details. And to make it all even more impressive, there is next to no custom content involved. Kementari, I take my hat off for you. Each individual building is not very complex, but the combination of them makes up a big sprawling whole that looks very realistic. [Kementari](#) EA needs you for their medieval game.



Ankuuh

When I first saw this building I had to look twice to make sure I wasn't looking at real life pictures. It's stunning, and Kementari has such a great eye for detail. Aside from that, the pictures made me think of Amsterdam, my capital city. The houses are just so alive and the blue and reddish colors make them pop even more. I think she managed to capture the challenge so incredibly well and that Kementari is just insanely talented.



Article by Ballarose and community
Photographs by Laure, Ankuuh, Roja, cary,
Moxxa, Justme-chelle & RepulsiveDesire

The Little cottage



We asked our readers to re-decorate a small cottage in whatever style they chose. The only rules were that they could not remove existing windows doors or walls, but they could add more. We gave them a descriptive story and set them loose.

There stands a little English cottage on the street. A plaque over the doorway reads "1829", the year this house was built. It has stood the test of time, but its age is evident in the crumbling exterior brickwork, generously painted many times over the years by various occupants. Inside, it is a different story. Peeling wallpaper, remnants of a 70's kitchen, and a fireplace - all but forgotten under all that dust - is what remains of this place which hasn't seen a Sim for many years. Here are a few of our favorites.

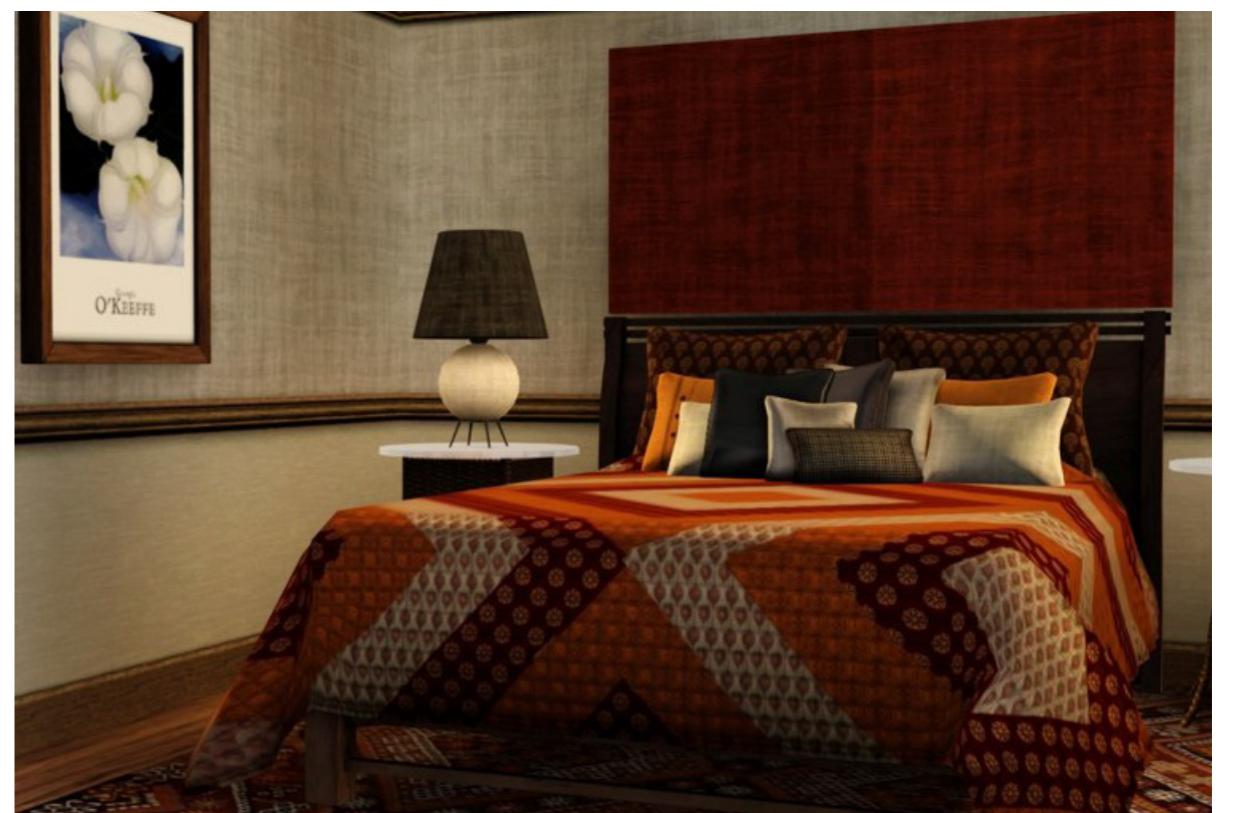
Dress your home as well
as you dress yourself

BILMORE FIRES



Laure

Laure decorated her cottage for Lisa Conway. The cottage was sandblasted to get rid of the blue and a small kitchen garden added. Inside, reclaimed hardwood floors were used throughout. A small dining area was placed in front of the fireplace. The cottage was furnished with a combination of flea market finds and classic modern pieces. Old kitchen cabinetry was replaced, and walls were repainted and papered in a muted blue. The upstairs landing doubles as a work area for Lisa. The bedroom was decorated in warm earth tones, and shutters were added for privacy. There is also a tiny guest room.



ankuuuh

Ankuuh decorated for a couple who bought and renovated the cottage together. The outside was landscaped and painted white. The base colors for the cottage are blue, white and sand tones. Combined with patterns and dark wood, they give a warm feel to the newly renovated home. The old fireplace was replaced with a modern one which fit the room. The kitchen was kept light and moved to the back of the house. The walls of the master bedroom were painted brown, and printed wallpaper was added to the wall where the bed was located. A lounge chair and study nook allows the girls to chill and work in the same room. A girly guestroom was added in the hopes that one day it will be a room for their adopted daughter.



cary

Cary decorated the little cottage for Mark, a cookbook author. She used traditional red brick to reface the cottage, giving it more of an urban townhouse look. Using earth tones and olive greens, she created a space that was both masculine and homey. Bright colored art pieces livened up this space and worked well with the beige and brown tones. Traditional oriental rugs were scattered throughout. She chose light airy colors for the kitchen giving it a fresh, clean look.



moxxa

Moxxa's cottage is a delight in vintage shabby chic. Soft pastels of blues, pinks, and greens throughout definitely tell you a special girl lives here. An armchair sits invitingly by the fireplace, the perfect place to put up your feet and relax with a good book. Vases bursting with colourful garden flowers add to the femininity of this space. Her lovely place is all about the romance.



justine-chelle

Turquoise and gray, with splashes of purple and red, makes this cottage the perfect cocktail of elegance. A few weathered pieces infused with modern touches create a dramatic yet soothing ambiance. A turquoise hutch is the focal point in the dining room. Inspiration is drawn from the artwork, and burgundy upholstered chairs are added, pulling the space together.



repulsive desire

Woodland creatures are the order of the day in this charming cottage by ReplusiveDesire. While the word 'adorable' definitely describes this space, keeping the furniture simple and classic keeps it from going over the top. For something totally unique, yet cozy, the dining area was placed by the fire.



roja

Soft gray mixed with bold purple creates an airy and fun space for Cary's cottage. To the right, there is a combined kitchen and dining area. As you go through the entryway, you come upon a lovely living area where the color scheme of gray and lilac carry through. Upstairs, the hallway was turned into a little reading nook with seating and bookshelves. For the bedroom, Roja chose to change things up a bit and decorated it in a soft moss green with bold red accents.





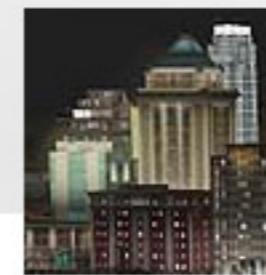
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The Sims 3. Late Night

WORLD REVIEW

Tripping through Los Angeles with WebbyMom



Article by:Ballarose
Photographs by:WebbyMom

Since the Create-A-World tool has come out, creators from the simming community have been developing some incredible Worlds that give Sims 3 Worlds a run for their money. One such World is Los Aniegos, a World that has caused quite a stir among simmers. We wanted to know what the buzz was all about, and we asked our intrepid World traveler, WebbyMom, to take us by the virtual hand and lead us through Los Aniegos. So pack some snacks for the road, put on your trekking shoes, and enjoy the journey!

If you haven't heard of Los Aniegos - wake up! This World, created by Coasterboi, was released on December 19th, 2010 and has had simmers oohing and ahing all over the place. We wanted to know what it was about this World that made it so special, so we asked forum member extraordinaire, WebbyMom, to give us the low down.



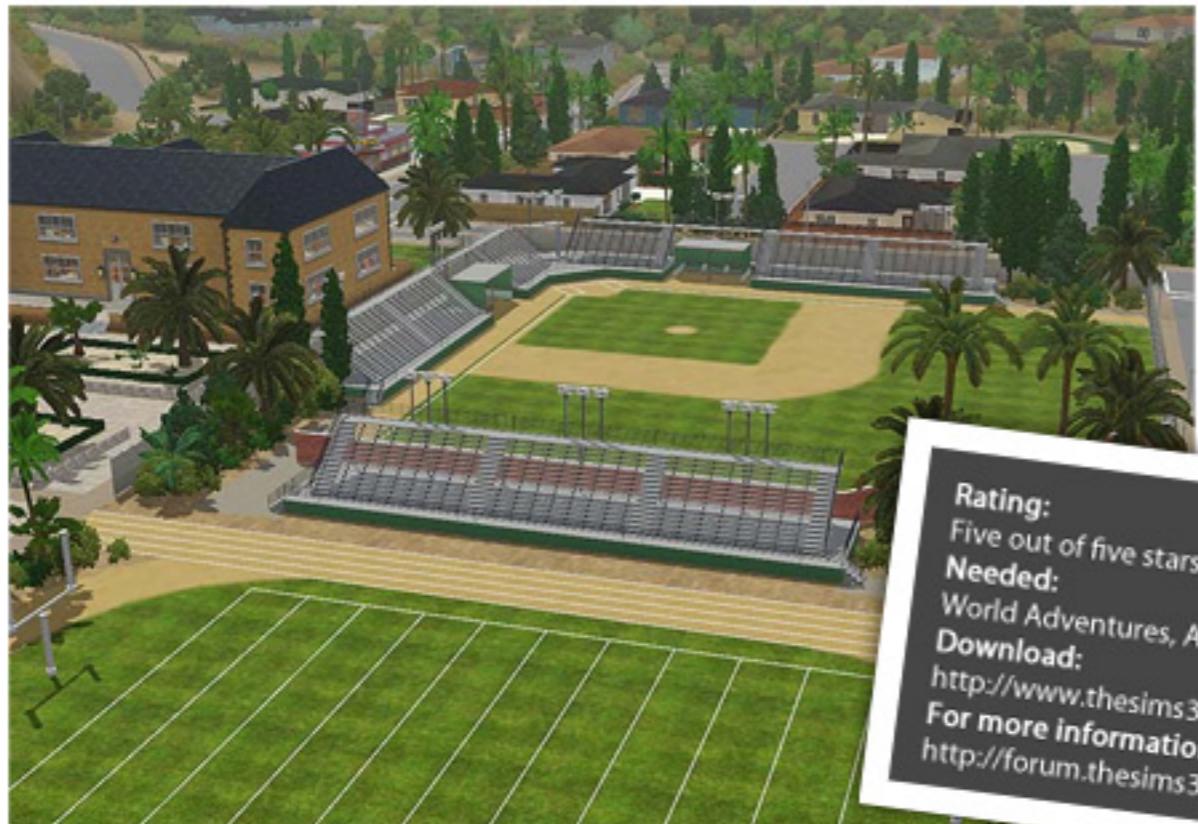


"It is a magnificent creation", she gushed, adding, "Coasterboi made this world to reflect the Los Angeles/Hollywood area, and it does just that from terrain to buildings and homes to the pre-existing Sims looks and names! It's very atmospheric, has many types of areas to play in (upper/middle/lower class neighbourhoods, downtown apartments, etc.). And the views from just about anywhere in Los Aniegos are stunning!"

While it was obvious WebbyMom was a huge fan of Los Aniegos we wanted to get down to the nitty gritty of this world and find out what makes it tick along. She told us the World is a large world that includes all the necessities. All the spawners are included. However, she added, "Fishing spawners in the community park ponds are not, due to the fact that Coasterboi thought if he designated that lot as a "fishing hole" they'd be automatically created. You can easily add them in yourself by editing community lots." She also told us that the world comes populated with many premade families and that "Coasterboi has a great sense of humour with this World and its inhabitants. You'll see stars like 'D. Piddy' and 'Lady La La' around town, not to mention "Doc Brown" (from Back to the Future) and many other spin-offs of TV and movie characters or actors." All workplace lots, community lots and residential houses are included with Los Aniegos.

"The pre-fab houses are FABulous! Coasterboi knows how to build houses, not just worlds. They're all ready to play, and each one is suited to the area it's in. There are some great surprises, too, like a guitar-shaped pool in one of the star's houses."

Your computer will need to be a bit of a work horse to smoothly run Los Aniegos. "I have lowered the number of rendered lots in my game so that it runs better for me, even though I have a fairly good computer," she told us.



Rating:
Five out of five stars
Needed:
World Adventures, Ambitions, and Late Night
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For more information:
<http://forum.thesims3.com/jforum/posts/list/295247.page>

Of course, with a World this size there are bound to be some glitches; but, as Webby-Mom told us, these are not a deal breaker.

"There is a bit of lag every once in a while. It is a large world, so I suppose some of that can be expected. There haven't been any horrid problems in my game with routing, just oddities like putting a plate of food down on a picnic table and then not being able to sit and eat because that side of the picnic table was up against a fence. Very minor - I just sent the Sim home to eat instead!"

We asked Webby-Mom to wrap it up with a few words on what makes this World so special to her.

"The desert-type landscaping, for one. It is also successful at combining suburban and urban neighborhoods all in one World. The beaches, all the pre-made houses, and the jazz club lounge downtown. I also love the fact that there is no CC included, so downloading and installing is a cinch! This world really suits the whole celebrity thing that Late Night brought us, which is also one of the reasons I like it so well - it makes sense in this town, more than in others, maybe, when one of your Sims starts climbing the celebrity ladder!"

Webby Mom X

Macaroni & Cheese for Grown-Ups

by Ballarose

We loved it as a kid. Now it's time to take that childhood favorite and kick it up a notch with this stick-to-the ribs recipe.

Stuff you Need:

3 tablespoons butter
4 tablespoons all-purpose flour
3 cups milk
2 cups broccoli and cauliflower, cooked and chopped
1 1/2 cups penne pasta
1 1/2 cups shredded cheese - old cheddar, gruyere, or a mixture of both

For the Topping:

2 tablespoons melted butter
1 1/2 cups seasoned breadcrumbs
1 tablespoon chopped parsley
1 teaspoon smoked paprika



What to do:

Preheat oven to 350F/180C.

Cook pasta in boiling, salted water for 8 to 10 minutes, or until al dente. Drain and return to pot.

Melt butter in a saucepan until bubbling. Add flour and stir over medium heat for 1 minute. Slowly add milk and whisk for about 5 minutes until thickened. Add cheese, and stir until melted. Finally, add the broccoli and cauliflower to the mixture.

Pour the cheese sauce over the pasta and mix well. Transfer to casserole dish.

In a separate bowl, combine ingredients for topping and spread over Mac and Cheese. Bake on the center rack of the oven for about 20 to 25 minutes until bubbly and golden brown.

Bon Appétit



We

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You

Happy valentine's day !