



Examples of Good and Bad Design

Houses built in the 1980s



MOVING DAY!

I grew-up in a house that was built in 1982, so it wasn't until I became an adult, moved with my own family, and then moved back to a house built in the 1980s that I noticed the elements of good and bad design in homes built in that era. I moved into this house in January 2013 during this class so I thought it was truly fitting for this assignment.

Elizabeth Collins

Bad Design – Bathroom Vanity

First appearance - it seems nice, but...



It is full of fake drawers!



Elizabeth Collins



Bad Design – Fake Drawers

I can understand somewhat the drawer above the door because of the sink, however there is nothing preventing the top drawer from being 'real'. I have broken many nails grabbing it to open it because it even has a ridge under it for your hand.

Elizabeth Collins

Bad Design – Narrow Kitchens

The kitchen is so narrow...



You can't open this drawer due to the oven door.



Elizabeth Collins



Bad Design – Narrow Kitchens

If you have to open something else before you can open what you want...it is just bad design. My husband tried to make me feel better about it by saying, "Well you have to open the oven before you can remove the cooked food, so just make it the potholder drawer." But I still feel like I am working a maze every time I have to do it.

Elizabeth Collins



Bad Design – Grouted Tile Kitchen Floors

Appearance wise, I think they are nice. However, ever tried to sweep up crumbs your kids leave behind from them? You have to hold the dust pan just right or use your vacuum.

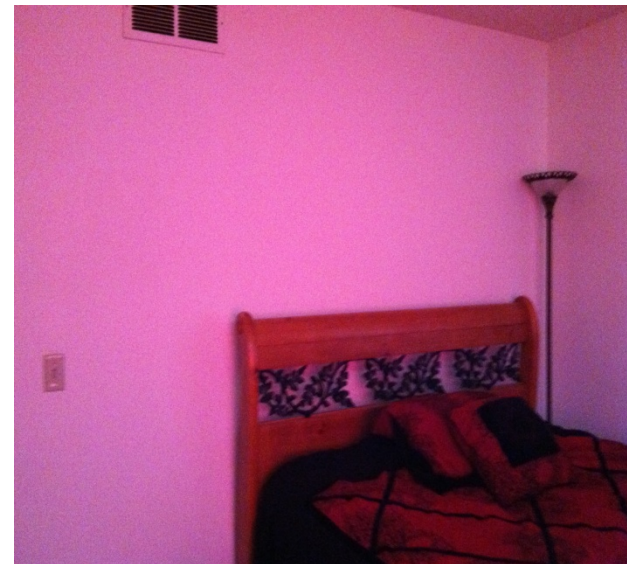
Elizabeth Collins

Bad Design – No Light Fixtures

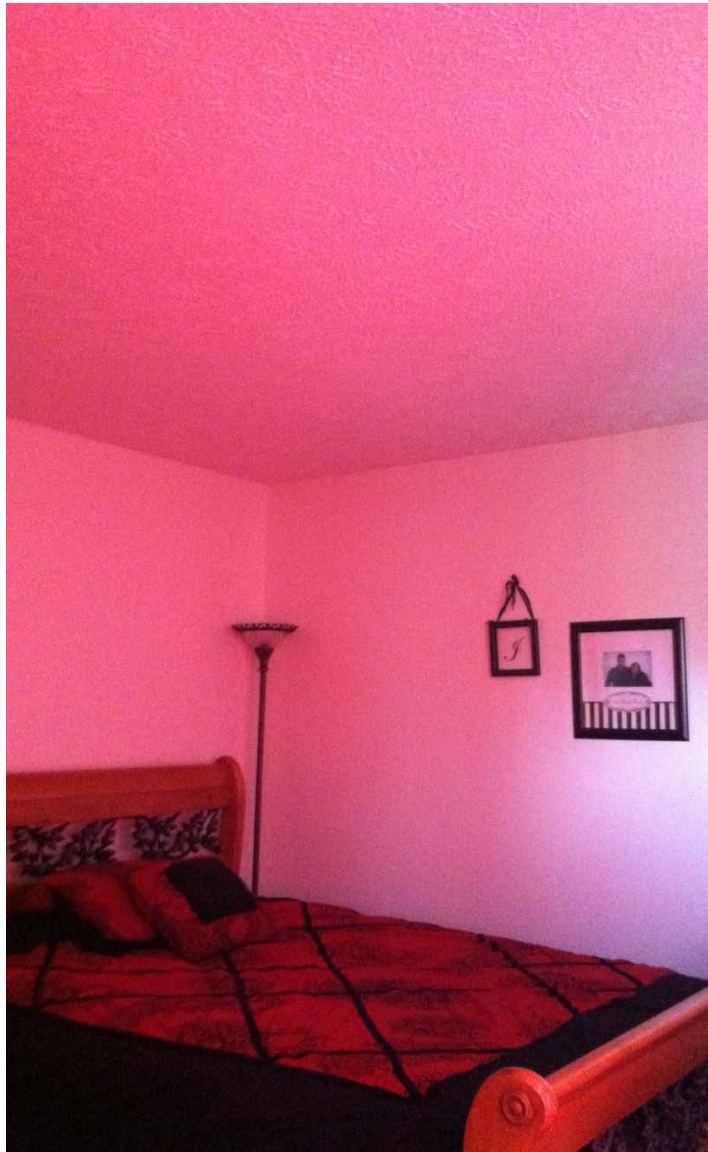
Notice the empty ceiling...



But still see that light switch?



Elizabeth Collins



Bad Design – No Light Fixtures

The light switch controls this floor lamp plugged into a power outlet. I just don't understand why it ever made sense to wire rooms for light switches to control plug outlets?

Elizabeth Collins



Good Design – Utility Sink in Laundry Room

This is not one of those sinks where the water from the washer drains into it, those I think are bad design. However, I use this utility sink to scrub my kids' grass stains with Fels-Naptha. Previously, I used the kitchen or bathroom sink and then had to carry the wet items to the washer. Having it right there is perfect. We also use it to rinse art brushes, etc. without worry of ruining it. I don't see a lot of these in houses built in the 1990s, but when we viewed new build model homes, they seem to be making a comeback.

Elizabeth Collins



Good Design – Egress Windows

I am not sure exactly when Egress windows began being installed in homes. I know that both of the 1980s houses I have lived in have had them. They are an excellent design element because they allow you to use the additional space in your basement, which is often since the trend during this time was ranch style houses built extremely close together. Plus, they save lives in the event of fire.

Elizabeth Collins