

Deer In the Headlights

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The inspiration for my light fixture came from the idea that it would come from the earth. I didn't just want my materials to be green, I wanted them to also represent nature. My materials that I used reflect the outside world. If the material was not natural I did not buy it, I used all materials that were already owned or partially used by my dad with the exception of the light itself. I used negative space by letting the light shine through the fixture itself, so that instead of having the focus on the bulb the focus is on the light itself. This light feature will be a focal point in the home because it sticks out from the wall and attracts the eye with not only light but also with the unique quality of the piece.

I went to central fixture in Peoria and picked up the, lamp cord, the switch, the socket, the bulb, and the plug. I looked through my dad's drawers and shelves in his garage and found spray paint (and chose black white and grey), extra hardware that I used to hang my fixture, left over wood stain, and he also had short pieces of wood left over from building his shed. I also got the deer skull itself from his garage as he has a collection of them from hunting. The parts from central fixture were assembled, then the wood from the shed was cut and assembled for mounting the deer rack, then it was stained. The deer skull was prepared for being marbled by wrapping electrical tape around the horns close to the skull so that paint wouldn't get on the horns. A base coat was put on the skull before dipping it into coats of spray paint that were layered on top of warm water. Once I pulled the skull out it was marbled and I let it dry before mounting it to the wood with screws. (two screws in the skull, and two screws from the plaque to the smaller piece of wood) Also there is a cut in the back for the cord to lay in nicely.

The wood used for the mount that will hang on the wall was all left over wood from a shed my dad built. The materials I used to build the fixture and the materials I used to apply to the fixture were all from my dad's garage, these include the wood stain, the hardware, and the spray paint. The deer skull and antlers itself were also already in my dad's garage as well because he hunts and uses every part of the animal as to not be wasteful, and sometimes has left over things such as antlers. So in short the materials were all unused or partially used items from my dad.

The item will probably have a long life because I don't plan on getting rid of it. I will keep it in my home because I am very proud of it and I think it is a good addition to my home, however after I am gone if no one else wants to use it, it's probably not the most eco friendly item to be thrown into a landfill. Although I used items from the earth or reused materials like the wood from the shed, some of the materials used are harmful to the earth. Yes, my spray paint and wood stain were going to be wasted if I did not use them, but either way they make my light fixture a lot less green because of their chemical composition. I am also not sure that the wood my dad used for the shed would decompose nicely either, because it was treated wood that he used, it may be alright but I don't know what chemicals were used to treat the wood. It is best if the item continues to be used and never goes to a landfill.

My light fixture was designed to be mounted on the wall in my bedroom in my apartment, it goes with the rest of my apartment and once I had the idea I designed the light fixture around that space. I wanted the piece to reflect me and I think it does with it's dark wood and marble materials. It also reflects my personal style just in the simple fact that it is a deer and I have simple hints at deer and wildlife throughout my apartment so it should fit right in.