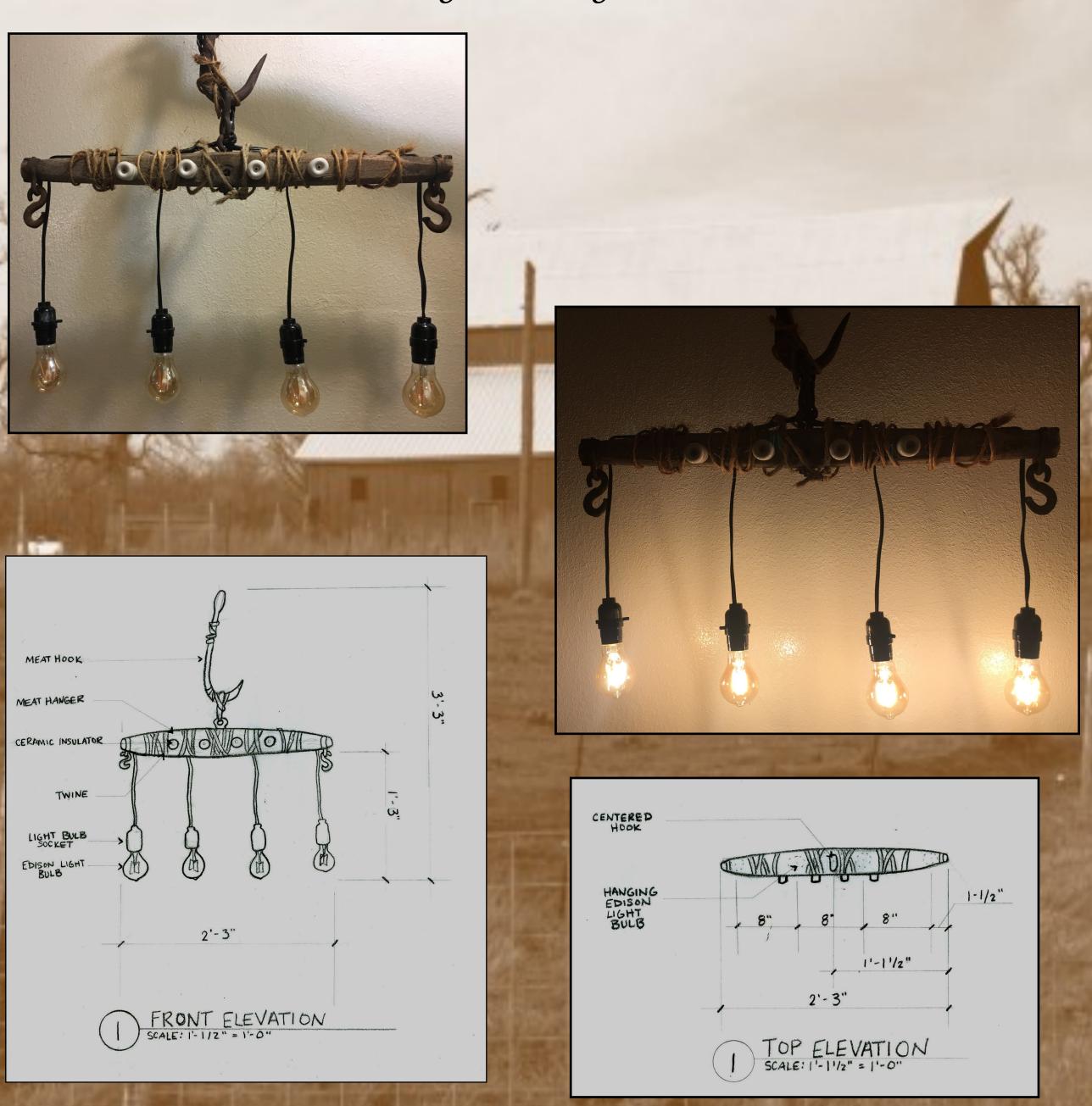# The Butcher's Light

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Sustainable design is "design to reduce negative impacts on the environment, the health, and the comfort of building occupants". The basic objectives of sustainability are to reduce consumption of non-renewable resources, minimize waste, create healthy and productive environments and to reduce impact from manufacture and use of products. It is important to reuse items so that they do not just get thrown into the landfill to take up space and create harm to our environment.

The purpose of this project was to create something new out of something old. I live on a very old family farm where there are a lot of buildings filled with old and antique objects. When I heard about this project I knew that I would find something to make a new light fixture out of at home. When searching around I found an old meat hanger. Back in the day, this was used to hang hog carcasses for the meat to be butchered. The end hooks would hold the feet of the hog to be hung. I found out what the object was used for after I had already decided that I wanted to use it for my light fixture. The hook that will hold the light fixture so that it can hang from the ceiling was also a meat hook a long time ago. When searching, for treasures, I found ceramic insulators. These were used on electric fences. Lastly, I found twine that would hold together bales of hay and straw. Together, I thought that these were items that could make an interesting light fixture so I went to the drawing board. I knew it would make a great hanging light fixture I just had to figure out how to incorporate it all. After many sketches, I decided on draping lights from the piece of wood. As trying to construct the final product though, problems were had. The trouble came about when trying to figure out how all the lights could be wired together, all work at once, and still be appealing to the eye. When I figured out that this design wasn't going to work I was disappointed but was open to changing the design. I fell back on one of my prior sketches of just four pendant lights coming from the piece of wood. I added the insulators to the piece of wood to add some interest. I also added the twine to keep the rustic feel. I originally wanted to wrap the twine around the wires of the lights, but with further thought, I decided that this was probably not safe to have something so flammable next to electricity. I decided to go with Edison light bulbs to keep the interest and the rustic, old time feel. I thought the first option would be more interesting to look at, but when this all came together, it turned out to be something that I loved.

I designed this light fixture with my parent's house in mind. They are redoing their basement to have a rustic barn bar. They are going to use old wood and corrugated tin to create the bar so I thought that this was the perfect project to create a light fixture for them. They loved how it turned out and I can't wait to see it all together!

These items that I chose to reuse were antiques. Without someone's appreciation for these old-time items, they would have just gone into the landfill. I also feel like I am recycling my family's history. The chances of someone in my family using these items is very high and being able to produce something useful out of them is satisfying.

MEAT HOOK
MEAT HANGER
CERAMIC INSULATOR
TWINE
LIGHT BULB SOCKET
EDISON LIGHT BULB

3'-3"
1'-3"
2'-3"

FRONT ELEVATION
SCALE: 1'-1 1/2" = 1'-0"

CENTERED HOOK
HANGING EDISON LIGHT BULB

8" 8" 8"
1-1/2"
1'-1 1/2"
2'-3"

TOP ELEVATION
SCALE: 1'-1 1/2" = 1'-0"