

TWIGLIGHT WOODS

SINCE A CHILD, I'VE ALWAYS LOVED WORKING WITH MY HANDS AND CREATING LITTLE TRINKETS AND OBJECTS. WHEN FUTURE PROJECTS WERE PREVIEWED IN OUR STUDIO CLASS, MY INTEREST WAS INSTANTLY SPARKED FOR THIS SUSTAINABLE LIGHT FIXTURE PROJECT. MY MIND IMMEDIATELY BEGAN RACING AND PONDERING OF DIFFERENT IDEAS I COULD EXECUTE EFFICIENTLY; AND ALMOST SPONTANEOUSLY I NARROWED IT DOWN TO ONE IDEA: A TWIG PENDANT LIGHT. LIVING IN THE COUNTRY THERE ARE AMPLE AMOUNTS OF STICKS AND TWIGS TO CHOOSE FROM, AS WELL AS VARIOUS SELECTIONS OF LEFTOVER SCRAP WOOD MY DAD HAD FROM BUILDING OUR HOUSE WHICH COULD BE USED TO FORM A STURDY AND STRONG BASE. THIS IDEA WOULD NOT ONLY BE A GREEN FIXTURE, BUT ALSO SOMETHING THAT I WOULD WANT TO USE IN MY OWN HOME.

WHEN CREATING A SUSTAINABLE DESIGN, MANY THINGS NEED TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. BECAUSE SUSTAINABLE DESIGN REDUCES NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH AND COMFORT OF THE DESIGN OCCUPANTS; IT ALSO MUST RELATE PEOPLE TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AS WELL AS REDUCE IMPACT FROM MANUFACTURE AND THE USE OF PRODUCTS. THE BASIC OBJECTIVES OF SUSTAINABILITY ARE TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION OF NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES, MINIMIZE WASTE, AND CREATE HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE ENVIRONMENTS. SO FOR THIS PROJECT RENEWABLE PRODUCTS MUST BE UTILIZED.

THE RECTANGULAR BASE WAS BUILT FROM POST-CONSUMER SCRAP OAK PIECES FROM MY DAD'S SHED, AS WELL AS CUT 2X4'S MOUNTED ON THE TOP TO ENCLOSE THE BASE OF THE FIXTURE. I GATHERED BUCKET AFTER BUCKET OF TWIGS HOPING TO ENSURE A TIGHT WEAVING FOR THE "SHADE." EACH TWIG WAS SNAPPED TO A LENGTH OF 15-17 INCHES TO ENSURE VARIATION AND SPRAY PAINTED WHITE WITH LOW VOC PAINT FOR AN ANTIQUE BIRCH WOOD LOOK. I THEN HOT GLUED EACH TWIG TO THE TOP AND BOTTOM OF THE BASE FOR STURDINESS. CREATING THIS PENDANT LIGHT TOOK APPROXIMATELY 170 TWIGS TO GET THE TEXTURED AND LAYERED STYLE I WAS ENVISIONING IN MY MIND; WHICH WAS GREAT FOR REUSING WHAT NATURE HAD FINISHED USING!

TWIGLIGHT WOODS HAS A COMPOSITIONAL BALANCE OF LAYERED TWIGS TO ACCOMPLISH A COHESIVE RHYTHM, WHICH MAKES THIS STRUCTURE HARMONIOUS AND UNIFIED. THE VERTICAL TWIGS FORCE ONE'S EYE TO MOVE UP AND DOWN THROUGHOUT THE SUPPORT SYSTEM. THE OPEN SPACING BETWEEN THE TWIGS ALLOWS FOR LIGHTING TO PENETRATE AND ILLUMINATE ALL PARTS OF A ROOM. THIS 3-DIMENSIONAL OBJECT ADVOCATES VOLUMINOUS DESIGN AND A HIERARCHY OF SPACE.

I LOVE THE WAY THIS PENDANT LIGHT FIXTURE HAS TURNED OUT AND CANNOT WAIT TO USE IT IN MY OWN HOME. IT FASCINATES ME THAT I WAS REALLY ABLE TO CREATE A LIGHT THAT WAS SUSTAINABLE IN DESIGN AS WELL AS APPEALS TO MY SENSES. "TWIGLIGHT WOODS" WOULD BE GREAT FOR ADDING A FOCAL POINT IN A BEDROOM, LIVING ROOM OR DINING ROOM AND WOULD ALSO MAKE AN INTERESTING CONVERSATIONAL PIECE. IF THIS LIGHT FIXTURE WERE TO HAPPEN TO BREAK OR FALL APART THE OAK BASE COULD BE REFURBISHED FOR FURTHER HOME PROJECTS OR USED FOR WOOD KINDLING IN OUR FIREPLACE TO AID IN EXTRA WARMTH AND HELP HEAT THE HOUSE IN THE WINTER. THE ELECTRICAL PENDANT PORTION OF THE LIGHT COULD BE REUSED FOR FUTURE LIGHTING PROJECTS AROUND THE HOUSE. UPON FINISHING THIS PROJECT I NOW REALIZE SUSTAINABLE DESIGN IS NOT ONLY GREAT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT BUT ALSO IN DESIGNING A BEAUTIFUL, EARTH FRIENDLY SPACE.

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