

# Designing a Young Adult Center on a Budget:

## The Ohio Way

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{ymi} is the new young adult ministry of New Life Christian Center in Lancaster, Ohio. When we decided to start this ministry, the first thing we needed to do was design a place for our young adults to meet on a weekly basis...on a budget! Designing an exciting, vibrant young adult center on a budget is possible. The ambience of the room we create as leaders should be one that cultivates an atmosphere where young adults can connect with each other and most importantly, with God.

About the time we began laying the groundwork for this ministry, one of the offices in our Family Life Center became available. What started out as carpet and wallpaper has now turned into stained concrete and paint. Where a desk once sat is a fluffy couch with pillows and throws. What used to be an ordinary table and lamp is now a funky footstool and lantern. With a few dimes and a bit of creativity, any room can be completely transformed into a contemporary, unique meeting place for young adults.

One word will help you design a new young adult classroom on a budget: IKEA.

Our budget for the room you see above was \$3,000. We were able to stay under that by shopping at IKEA ([www.ikea.com](http://www.ikea.com)), along with a few other places. So, to help you design on a budget, let's journey through the process of designing {ymi}!



### Floors & Walls

**Floors.** Stained concrete - brown. We pulled up the carpet ourselves and did some research to find a company that was able to stain the concrete to match our color pallet, along with our budget.

Rugs: IKEA.

**Walls.** Paint - 2 brown and 2 blue, along with the {ymi} logo. Our paint was purchased at Lowe's. A volunteer removed the wallpaper and helped a team of students paint the walls. A student used an overhead projector to draw the logo onto the wall with a pencil, then painted it.

**Wall Decor & Place of Purchase.** Clock, lantern,

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message board and small black mirrors: IKEA. Empty frames and big black mirror: old antique store for a total of \$8. We spray-painted them ourselves. Metal wall hanger, candle, and spray-paint: Hobby Lobby. Panels covering windows: IKEA.

## Seating & Lighting

**Seating.** Couches, stools, pillows, and throws: IKEA.

**Lighting.** Chinese lanterns, chandelier lantern, and small lamps: IKEA.

## Accessories

**Table Toppers.** Flowers, vases, coasters, mugs, place-mats, and candles: IKEA.

**Book Shelves & Books.** Check-mark bookshelves: IKEA. Books: for list, see reading tab on [www.hyphenonline.org](http://www.hyphenonline.org) to purchase, we used [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

**Coffee Bar.** A builder in our church designed and built a coffee bar for us to serve drinks and snacks on.

**Extra's.** Trashcans, basket, bathroom rug, bathroom mirror, soap and paper towel holder: IKEA.

## A Little "Flair"

With a long empty wall as a blank canvas, I needed to figure out which creative route to go. There was the usual picture frames, wooden quotes, and shelves, but I wanted something unique, something special. Then, it hit me! Use this wall to display the talents of our {ymi} students! This included paintings, architectural drawings, poetry, sermon notes, and musical compositions. It is the perfect way to add a little "flair" to the room.

**Now, it's your turn.** No matter how small or big your budget or room may be, taking a little time to prepare a space for the young adults in your church and community is worth the investment. You are not just decorating a room with cool rugs, lamps, couches, and coffee bars; you are providing a place to equip young adults with the tools they will need to make good decisions when faced with life's tough questions. This is not just a room, it is a space that will become their personal altar. This is the place they will find the answers they are searching for; this is the time the course of their life could be changed.

The purpose is priceless; it's time to dream and create. ★

— Kristin Keller  
{ymi} Student Leader  
New Life Christian Center | Lancaster, Ohio