

Paper plates

6 students share the sustainable secrets to creating a high-design table setting with low-design materials

For this year's DIFFA (Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS) Dining by Design event held earlier this month, six Columbia College Chicago students set a sustainably sexy table using nothing more than 160 feet of brown Kraft paper, 100 feet of white tracing paper, 26 planks of cardboard, plus glasses, plates and bowls. "It was sort of like being asked to create something using

our leftover art materials," says junior Mina Azarnoosh. We clipped out a few of the table's more translatable ideas to show off here.

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Art

The six pieces of wall art are nothing more than square planks of cardboard with thin layers randomly peeled off the front. "The cardboard was really thick, so when you peeled off the exterior layer, it revealed this honeycomb texture," says junior Jared Kraft.



Paper pockets

Flatware and napkins are tucked inside folded and taped sheets of 12-by-4-inch corrugated cardboard. "They're almost like little gifts," says sophomore Garrett Cho.

Upholstery

The students gussied up ugly conference chairs by covering their backs and seats with brown Kraft paper and tape. The leathery texture was achieved by first crumpling the paper by hand. "For extra padding and dimension, we wrapped a ring of white tracing paper around the backs of the chairs," says junior Tabitha Rand.

Tablecloth

Though they appear to be made of different materials, the tablecloth and runner are actually cut from the same roll of brown Kraft paper. The cloth is crumpled while the runner is simply folded flat. For the tablecloth, the students cut five strips total (four for the skirt and one for the top).

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