

## Now the room next to it looks like...

The official countdown is on— we've had snow, Santa parades have come and gone, and it's a month before Christmas.

But I'm not even thinking about it yet!!!!

Well, that's not entirely true— I'm kinda viewing Christmas as one of those things off in the distance that I've gotta get ready for.

And part of that preparation is getting the house presentable for any holiday visitors.

After Thanksgiving, I threw myself into what I now refer to as the "Master Bedroom Campaign of '05". For nine days straight I beat myself to near death during a week of vacation to get the room done before returning to work.

I'm happy to say I made it out alive.

And the room looks pretty good, too.

Surviving that one, I figured after moving my bedroom furniture in, I'd just spruce up my former bedroom, soon to become the den.

It had been wallpapered, and was long overdue for some decorating. I measured the walls and checked out wallpaper available.

After gasping for breath when I found the cost, I realized I could buy drywall for approximately half the cost of wallpaper. Go figure...

I toyed with drywalling it myself, something I've done several times in the past. But memories of the Master Bedroom Campaign still lingered in my lower back muscles.

Just for 'fun' I thought I'd call Howard.

Howard the drywaller is a happy little Newfie who has an immense talent for slapping mud on the wall and making it look spectacular. I had called him into service during the Master Bedroom Campaign, and he had risen to the challenge admirably. A week ago Tuesday he dropped by to give me a price.

"When ya want it done, Ted?" he asked.

"Well, I don't really want it hanging on into Christmas," I said, apologetically, "But, well, you know, it would be nice if..."

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Ted Brown

"How 'bout tomorrow?" quipped Howard. As I reeled in disbelief, Howard explained he had a couple jobs on the go, but had a three-day gap so he could work me in.

Howard didn't make it Wednesday, but Thursday night, when I got home from work, the walls were covered in drywall.

Friday the taping was done, Saturday the final filling and Sunday the sanding was finished.

Since I was out of the house most the time he was working, I felt like I was in the middle of an episode of *While You Were Out*...

This week I've been burning the midnight oil, priming and painting. If all goes according to plan, I'll be moving furniture this weekend.

And with the first of December, I'll be able to focus on Christmas preparations.

After Howard and I settled up my account Sunday, he made a passing comment.

"Ya know the worst thing 'bout renovating a room like that, Ted?" he asked.

"The dust?" I replied.

"Hell no, it's the other rooms next to it," he explained. "Soon as you paint up one like that, the next one to it, well it looks just like #%&!"

Walking back to the den as his truck's tail-lights faded down the lane, a thought came to me.

Howard's right— the bathroom, you know, the room right next to the den?

Well... 'it does look just like #%&!'.

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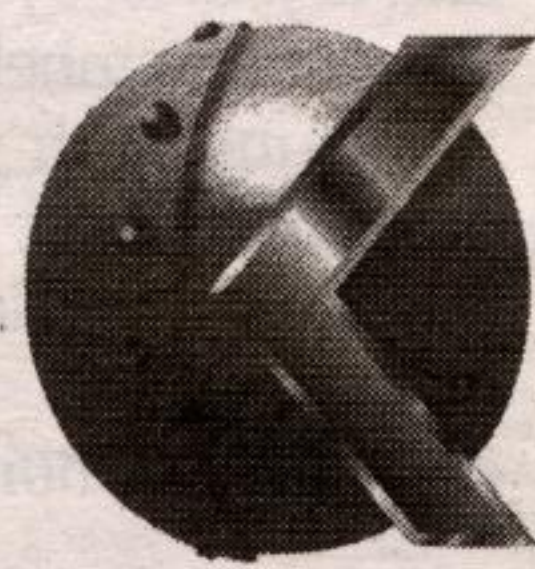
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