

WEEKEND *SETTLING IN*

STYLE

Dorm Rooms for Dummies

// BY ISABEL TIBURCIO

It's move-in day. You and your parents are probably arguing about desk placement and panic-making a shopping list for a day-of Target trip. While I can't help you with the feng shui of your freshman dorm — although desk-in-front-of-window supremacy forever — I can give you a look into some of the dorm essentials that turned my formerly sad prison-like dorm into a home. Here are a few things I bought, brought, and made that you should too.

IKEA Dog Bed

Starting a bit controversial, so hear me out. Bean bags are expensive, make that weird sound when you sit on them, take up too much space, and are annoying to stow away. A dog bed is chic, cozy, sturdy, and happened to be on clearance for \$2 during move-in last year. Best \$2 I never spent — thank you to my suitemate Nastya. Since it's a flat surface, unlike a bean bag, it's great for studying, sitting with more than one person and naps that won't make your neck ache the next day.

Target Cube Book Shelf

I will admit that this was a panic day-of Target purchase, but has got to be the best one I've made. This 3 by 4 cube shelf is perfect for storing literally anything. They come with cute cloth cube bins that currently hold my socks, hair products, school supplies, food and miscellaneous clutter. It can lay straight up for a tall, space-saving feel, or horizontally for enough top shelf space to hold my TV and some decor! It's super easy to use and sits directly on the ground, leaving your wall free of holes.

My Camera Collection

One easy and basically free way to decorate your space is with hobbies! As a filmmaker and photographer — whose only source of dopamine is thrifting cameras — my room is filled with them. Eighteen of them to be exact. Five digis, four video cameras, four film, three DSLRs and two instant cameras. Not only is this a fun way to show off my personality and cover my blank walls, this collection also serves as a gentle reminder of what I'm most passionate about. You'll find that at Yale you'll get busy fast. Your GCal will be booked with meals, classes and clubs. It's easy to get caught up in the whirlwind of this place. Your dorm should function as a grounding home base. Waking up to see my cameras grounds me in what I love. If you're into tennis, hang some rackets. Fashion? Hang some handbags.

Watercolor Paintings

I am no painter. I am actually comically bad at it. But halfway into my first semester, sick of having blank walls and refusing to spend a ridiculous amount of money on prints, I decided to decorate it myself. I covered it with "amateur" paintings of flowers and animals. Not only is it easy and free, it's a great activity. When I want to spend time with friends, I'll invite them over for mocktails and watercolor. It's a creative way to spend time with people on campus instead of meals and coffees. Also, it's super cute and customizable. If you've got a pastel blue theme going in your room, paint a dainty blue teapot. If you're more into sports memorabilia, paint the jersey of your favorite player!

Polaroid Wall

You've definitely seen this one online, but please please start taking polaroids of the friends who visit your dorm this semester. You can tape them on the wall, hang them from fairy lights, or keep them in a scrapbook! As someone who desperately wants to be a girl who journals — but can't for the life of her — it's an easy way to keep track of who your friends are through the years.

There's always pressure to decorate your dorm. If you walk into a girl's room and her walls are empty, there's a good bet she's a serial killer. I didn't want to spend money on prints for my dorm, or an Ikea beanbag, but with this creative decor I didn't have to! Turns out dorm shopping procrastination and cheapness was the key to a room that was authentically me and an escape from GCal-meal-scheduling hell.

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REVIEW

A Guide to New Haven Restaurants

Discover New Haven beyond the dining hall with this guide to the city's best restaurants and coffee shops, sorted by price, vibe and neighborhood to help new students eat on any budget.

// BY NINA BODOW

To Yale's freshest students, First of all, welcome. This is very exciting. Although many of you incoming Fizz demons will find ways to complain — this place is close to perfect. Savor every moment, live it up. But in order to "live it up," one must eat. And there's a lot of eating to be done at Yale. The food in the dining halls is quality and has range. Not every college dining hall serves raved-about plant-based steak, veggie Korean japchae, and fought-over sour-dough-bread grilled cheeses. There are plenty of options and we are so lucky to chow down on crave-worthy dining hall food. But when Yale Menus drops that dinner is kelp meatballs for the sixth time, venturing into the food world of New Haven is inevitable. Below are some options for such an occasion, as well as recommendations for when the parents are in town or a sweet treat is needed.

To begin, some classics

House of Naan

Price Range: \$20-30
Cuisine: Indian
Good for: A casual dinner, take out, if you're a follower of vegetarianism, or if you have a desire to drown your sorrows in tikka masala and addictive cheesy naan. I order House of Naan whenever I'm in need of a comforting non-Yale meal. It's walkable from campus without being an Atticus-level hot spot, which is a nice happy-medium. Although it's a sit-down, wait-ed-table establishment, it's casual enough to justify spontaneous meals out.

BAR

Price Range: \$20-30, although it could be \$50 if you're a pizza beast
Cuisine: Pizza and fantastic salad — I know that's not an actual cuisine category but it should be
Good for: Large groups, New Haven-ish style pizza that's not Sally's or Frank Pepe's, and Mashed Potato Pizza. Trust me. BAR is a go-to for large groups. It's great for when parents visit and want to meet their kid's suitemates or friends by taking them to dinner. The dim lighting plus tall, open rooms feel both comfortable and atmospheric. It's both a brewery and pizza joint, which miraculously turns into a dance club at night. A hodge-podge of classic and hip, BAR will serve you up a damn good thin crust pizza, or five. Sample the classic flavors, but know their gems are the specials and their salad.

Olmo

Price Range: Under \$20
Cuisine: Bagels
Good for: Weekend mornings — but expect a wait, quality schmears, a campus escape and running into your professors or classmates. This tiny brick establishment is known by the entire Yale population. Credit to them: they're probably the best bagels you'll find in New Haven. But this prestige also means the lines can be egregious. New York and New Jersey bagel fans be warned, these bagels are not as doughy as they should be. But there is a fantastic topping selection that starts to make up for it.

Parents coming to town?

Zeneli Pizzeria

Price Range: \$20-30
Cuisine: Italian
Good for: Neapolitan style pizza, fresh mozz, last-min-you-forgot-to-make-a-res-for-something-and-need-to-play-it-off. It's walk-in only. New Haven-style pizza is tasty, but sometimes it doesn't do the job. Sometimes there's a void within you shaped like a doughy margherita neapolitan pie — and that's okay. Zeneli is here for you. Situated on Wooster St. in New Haven's "Little Italy," Zeneli's has copious seating and turbo-speed service. I'd focus on the appetizers and the pizzas, although some people rave about their cacio e pepe.

Tavern on State

Price Range: \$50-100
Cuisine: American, farm-to-table
Good for: Elevated American fare, a burger happy hour and special occasions. Every city must have at least one place like Tavern on State: white cardstock menus with tiny typewritersque font, dark lighting with limited seating, and a menu that lists every ingredient in the dish and attempts to use words aside from "with" to describe what the dish is. We all know a place like this, and they do tend to hit the spot.

September in Bangkok

Price Range: \$20-\$40
Cuisine: Thai
Good for: Last minute reservations, a slight removal from the Yale bubble and pad thai that could feed three. September in Bangkok is a Yale favorite and serves up a solid curry. This is also the mother restaurant to NOA by September in Bangkok, which is closer to campus and has more of a night-time vibe

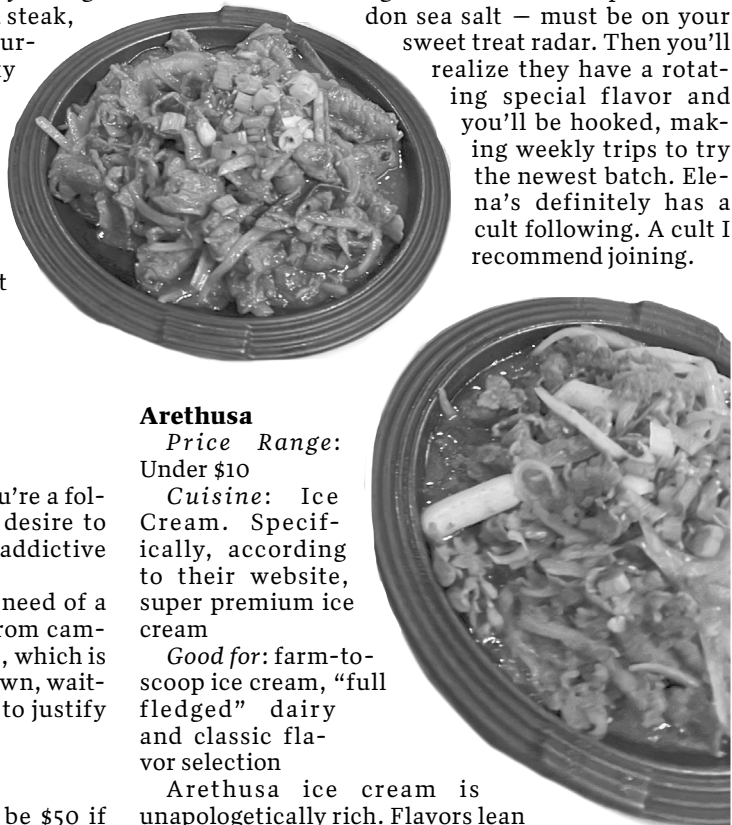
A sweet treat with your newest friends?

Elena's on Orange

Price Range: Under \$10 or about \$10 if you go the sundae route
Cuisine: Soft Serve Ice Cream

Good for: Chocolate dip that makes you sing and thick vanilla soft serve that will linger in your mind until you return and housemade toppings

Elena's appreciates the tasty simplicity of vanilla soft serve with chocolate dip. I'm not even a vanilla ice cream supporter, but at Elena's it's the move. The Elena's favorite — which is said vanilla soft serve with their signature chocolate dip and Maldon sea salt — must be on your sweet treat radar. Then you'll realize they have a rotating special flavor and you'll be hooked, making weekly trips to try the newest batch. Elena's definitely has a cult following. A cult I recommend joining.



Arethusa

Price Range: Under \$10
Cuisine: Ice Cream. Specifically, according to their website, super premium ice cream
Good for: farm-to-scoop ice cream, "full fledged" dairy and classic flavor selection. Arethusa ice cream is unapologetically rich. Flavors lean classic — think chocolate, vanilla, mint chip — and the quality means you don't miss gimmicks or mix-ins. Arethusa controls their whole process: their farm, their cows, their cream. It's ice cream in its most serious form.

La Fenice

Price Range: Under \$10
Cuisine: Gelato
Good for: a post dinner stroll, the closest you'll get to Italian gelato in New Haven. This storefront looks like it would offer cheap, crappy cappuccino and a stale Italian cookie. But looks can be deceiving! It turns out that this Italian cafe houses the best — and only?! — high quality gelato in town. I have yet to try their coffee, but I now trust La Fenice and the kind old man working the counter when it comes to quality, and I must return to try their espresso.

Feeling like you want to venture beyond a 2 block radius from campus?

The Loop by Hachiroku

Price Range: SO much range. It could be a \$3 bite, could be a \$40 dinner
Cuisine: Japanese — sort of a boujee Japanese Lawson's or 7-Eleven
Good for: a quick bite, a snack section that's simply fun to look at — and also quite tasty and the most lip-smacking tuna mayo onigiri known to man. The Loop is home to the best \$3 bite one can access in New Haven: the onigiri. If you don't make the 10 minute walk to indulge in their fresh purple rice packed with your selection of meat, you're making a crucial mistake. They also offer bento boxes, egg sandos, mochi desserts and sushi-grade fish. The Loop is part of a now four-location Hachiroku restaurant family, all of which are recommendable. But this would be my first stop.

Mr. Cookbop

Price Range: \$20-\$30
Cuisine: Korean
Good for: Sharing, a sick meal and indecisive folk — their menu is small. Located about a ten-minute walk from campus, Mr. Cookbop serves up a small but comforting selection of Korean meats and soups. The staff is incredibly friendly. When I went with my vegan friend, they made her a "vegan specialty" since no menu item was vegan and didn't charge her because it was a test item. Their bulgogi fills you up and will most likely put you in a food coma.

Meat & Co

Price Range: \$10-\$20
Cuisine: Sandwiches
Good for: High quality ingredients, sandwich-craft done with diligence, funky names in fancy font. Who isn't a sucker for a sandwich shop with funky names in a fancy font? Meat & Co sits inside East Rock Market and I doubt most Yalies know it exists. But they should — this sandwich joint takes your classic sandwich line up and turns it into a meticulous craft. Most likely there will only be one guy working the counter, so bring some patience. But it will be worth it.

There's a fair amount of damage to be done in New Haven and this list is only the beginning. Get chowing, and let me know if you have any opinions or takes after you try a place or two out.

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