

**Leila's  
Office:  
*A Users  
Guide***

**Section A: Outward Appearance:**



**Image 1**

Image 1 is a view of the door, lamp, and wall. The height of Styrofoam peanuts, in this view, go up to the top of the door handle.



**Image 2**

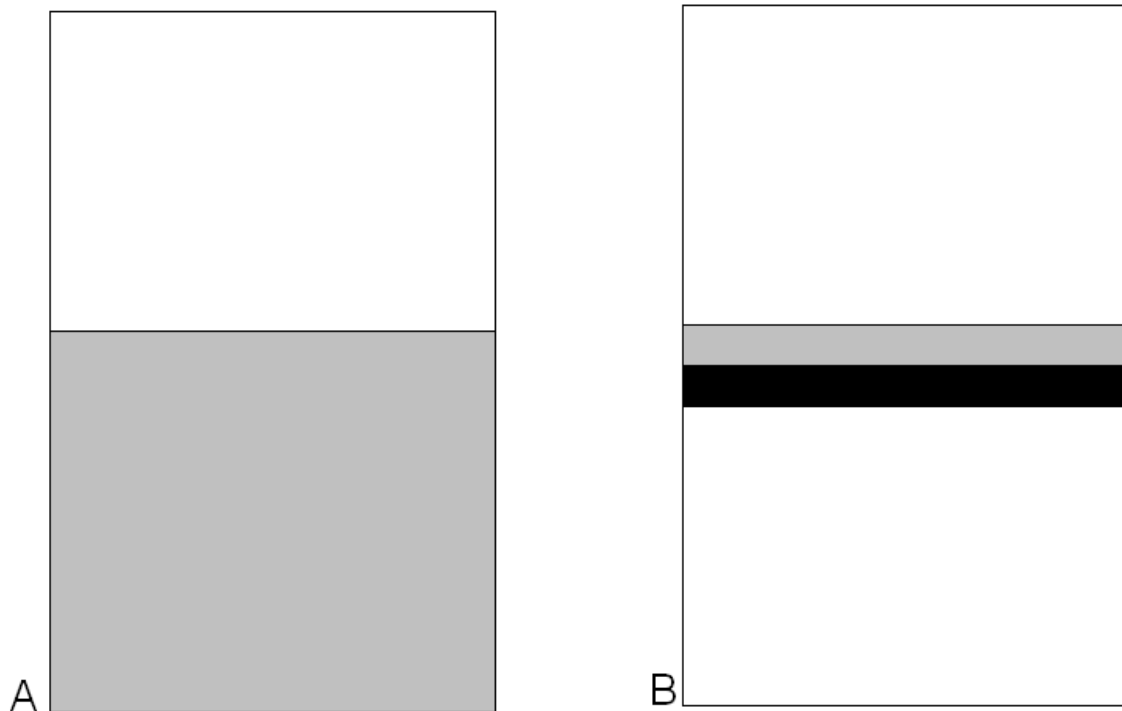
Image 2 captures the corner of the room: Two bookcases, the window, and what would, normally, be a desk.



**Image 3**

By all outward appearances, McArthur Hall 255 appears to be filled with Styrofoam packing peanuts. As Images 1, 2, and 3 show, this seems to go to a height of the windowsill. The last image, Image 3, shows the desk and computer area. (It should be noted, the plastic visible from the door is the computer being covered to prevent any damage.)

## **Section B: Reality – The Structure Has A False Floor**



### **[Graphic A]**

While all outward appearances seem to show that the office is half-filled with Styrofoam peanuts (an apparent quantity near 1170 cubic feet of them), the reality is quite different. A false floor has been built into the room at the height of the windowsill.

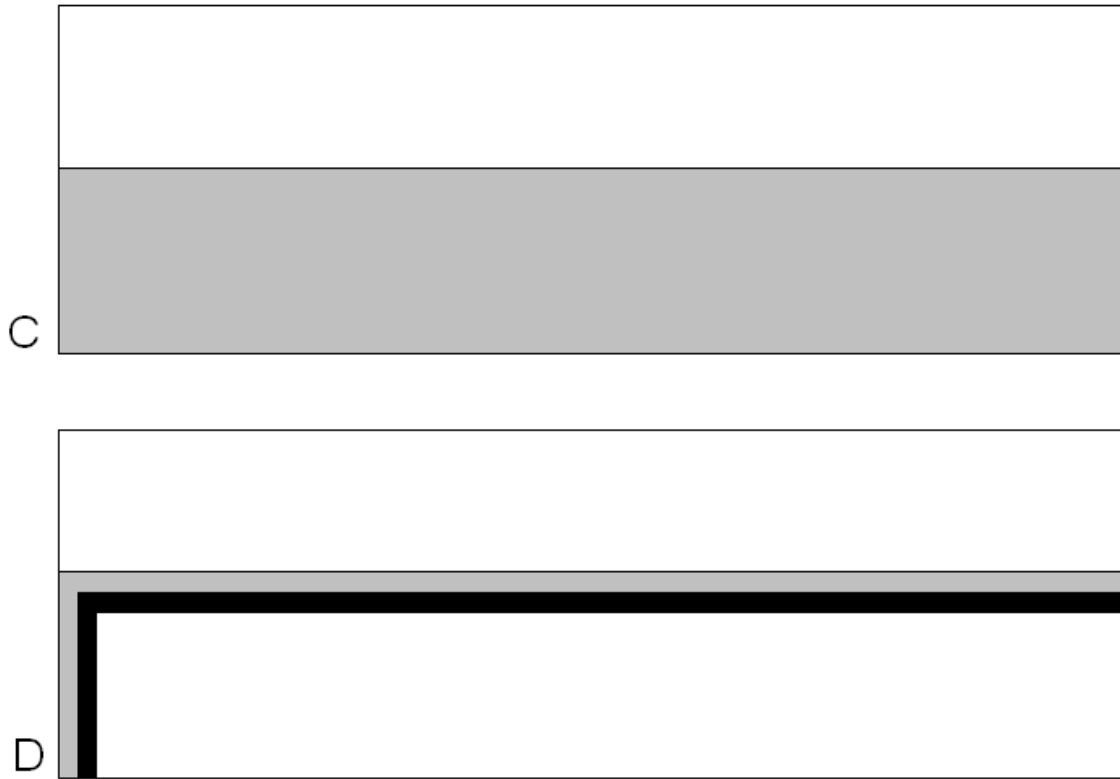
### **[Graphic B]**

This false floor, constructed using plastic trash bags, masking tape, and packaging tape<sup>1</sup> allowed for the peanuts to have the illusion of being significantly deeper than they really are. *Section E: The Details – Designing And Building* will go into more details regarding the design and building of this false floor.

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<sup>1</sup> For a more detailed list of supplies used, please see *Section D: The Details – Staging and Materials*

## Section C: Reality – The Room Has A False Wall



### **[Graphic C]**

The second illusion necessary for the success of this project was to create a way to make the structure appear, when looking through the windows in the door, as through the false floor didn't exist. The desired outcome was to create the appearance of Graphic C, that if looking into the room from the left of the graphic (where the door is) that the entire room was filled.

### **[Graphic D]**

The reality is that a false wall was built into the false floor. This false wall, attached to the door itself, creates a pocket of peanuts next to the window, creating the appearance of depth to the peanuts in the room. The pocket was created using white trash bags and 1 cubic foot of peanuts. Again, *Section E: The Details – Designing And Building* will go into more details regarding the design and building of this false wall.

## *Section D: The Details – Staging And Materials*



**Image 4**

**[Image 4]**

McArthur Hall Office Suite 253 was used as a staging area for the materials, design, and implementation of the plan.

The materials list for the project was as follows:

1. 7 Bags of 2-cubic-feet of Styrofoam Pellets
2. 4 Boxes of 3-cubic-feet of Styrofoam Pellets
3. 2 Rolls of clear packaging tape
4. 2 Roll of masking tape
5. 1 Box of 80 white trash bags
6. Miscellaneous equipment (scissors, knife, Leatherman, etc.)

The project took approximately 5 hours to complete, working straight through from 11am to 4pm on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.

## *Section E: Design And Building*



**Image 5**

Image 5 shows the room when the false floor was half-completed. The false floor was constructed over the left-half of the office first. This allowed for the Architect fill the office sections full at a time.



**Image 6**

Image 6 is a close-up view of the left-front corner of the office. The plastic bags, having been attached to one another with packaging tape, are being masking taped to the wall of the office. This masking tape can be seen in the bottom left hand corner of the photo. (A detailed up-close of this can be seen in Image 7)



**Image 7**

This close-up shot of the wall next to the door shows the plastic bags attached to the wall through the use of masking tape. The floor lamp, seen above, was left in place. A plastic bag was cut open, then spliced back together, leaving the lamp in its normal position in the office. When the peanuts were added to the room, this would leave the impression that the false floor did not exist.



**Image 8**

Image 8 shows the room with 9 cubic feet of green Styrofoam peanuts already added. The desk was used for an on-site staging area, as is shown with the quantity of materials located in the bottom-right corner. Extra peanuts, which would be needed to be stored in the room after the door was closed, can be seen in the upper-right corner on top of the desk. Approximately 8 cubic-feet of peanuts are located on top of the desk, waiting to be used. Another 9 cubic-feet are stored under the false floor. The wooden desk chair, normally located immediately inside the office, is used in the middle of the room as a

weight-bearing structure. The desk chair is on its side, placed under the desk. This was to allow the Architect more space to work in the room.

Once the left half of the room was complete, and the false wall was attached to the door (actually the first task completed), the door was closed. This left the Architect in the room with all the remaining materials. Starting at the front of the office, the false floor was attached to the door, to the wall, to the desk, and then connected to the false floor that was installed earlier. Peanuts were added in stages, allowing areas to be within arms reach for as long as possible.



**Image 9**

At the end, the Architect was in the back corner of the office, completely surrounded with peanuts. At this stage, there were still some extra materials remaining (tape, plastic bags, etc.). These materials were stored in the office, in one of the top areas of the desk. This was done to eliminate the necessity of taking materials with me when I left. (Leaving empty-handed would be hard enough!)

When the final peanuts were placed down, the office was exited through the window, onto the roof of McArthur Hall. Earlier, the office window in McArthur 256 had been opened, the screen removed, and the window closed, but left open enough to be able to be opened from the outside. Once on the roof, the window to McArthur 255 was closed, the roof was traversed, and entry back into the building took place through McArthur 256.

(It should be noted that the individual in McArthur 256 was not involved in this project at all; their office was simply the most convenient to use, and certainly beat having to jump off the roof—an act that was considered!).

Once back into the McArthur 253 Office Suite, the Architect took one last photo, Image 10, below:



**Image 10**

While dark, Image 10 clearly shows the appearance of the office from an outsiders view looking in.

As a final act, three things took place: A box of plastic bags was left to assist with the clean up of the project; a note was left for the individual residing in the office; and tape was placed across the door to prevent any cleaning crew from accidentally opening the door and ruining the work.

## **Section F: Removal**

Once the door to the office is opened, quickly grab onto the plastic bags nearest the door. This will prevent the entire floor from collapsing. Starting from front to back, and right to left, roll up the floor and peanuts, creating what would look like a rolled up rug.

***Please be careful on the left wall—the objects from the windowsill were placed on the desk to prevent damage!***

Once the entire false floor is rolled up, packaging tape can be found in the top center of the desk. Tape up the roll, making sure to secure both ends.

Three extra trash cans have been left in the room to assist in taking care of any extra peanuts that fell out of the floor during construction or during removal.