

One of the reasons I love going home to the house I grew up in is the familiarity and memories that I associate with every area of the house. The image of my room next to my parents room at home is something I have seen an infinite number of times as I walked upstairs, however this image is particularly meaningful to me because I painted a similar image in one of my first oil paintings. Unfortunately, that painting was lost, thus I decided to work with this image again for my final project by making alterations to it in Photoshop. Considering how often I think about home while at school, I decided to use this image to contrast my bedroom at home with my room at school.

I started with the image of my room next to my parents room. I had two versions of this image, but I decided to use the one taken at night with the lamp in my room turned on because I liked the contrast of light and dark in it (from the lamp to the bedpost) better than the other image, which had a more monotonous gray color to it. Next, I had to choose an image of my room at MIT to use. I took various pictures of my room from different sides and at various angles. The image I chose to use fit the best with the angle and what would have been able to be seen when looking through the doorway in my picture from home. Using Photoshop, I cut out my parents room and placed the image of my room from MIT in a layer underneath it. After adjusting the size of the MIT room image, I added a piece of the floor from the home image to transition from the textured carpet to the linoleum tiles.

After putting the two images together, I was ready to start filtering the images to better depict how I feel about the two rooms. I definitely have more fond feelings towards my room at home. To illustrate this, I tried to increase the brightness and contrast of the

home room and added a dark layer over the MIT room. This change made my room at home look more inviting than the drab, gray colors of my room at MIT. To enhance this contrast and transition from light to dark, I also added a layer with a gradient over the wall between the two doors leading to the rooms. There is still a light area coming from the window of my MIT room, which I at first covered with an additional dark layer. However, in the end I decided to remove that layer because I felt that the light from the window balanced the light from the lamp in my room well. Finally, I went through the numerous filters that Photoshop has to try to find an effect that gave the image of my room at home a more unrealistic feel. The filter I ended up using was sprayed strokes because I liked how it makes the image look almost as if it were an unclear memory that was repainted in the picture.

The final image, for me at least, depicts how I often have mixed feelings between having to be at school and wishing to be at home. Like my eyes when I am viewing the picture, I am drawn towards the brightness and comforts of home but find it is only a blurry image, so return to the focus and reality of textbooks and computers. Nonetheless, at least the dreary tone of my room at MIT still has a light coming from the window.