



Blues and browns marry beautifully in this warm, yet contemporary family room that offers an expanded view. Linen drapery and quality framed art create a backdrop to a comfortable sectional couch with embellishments and an assortment of pillows.

Achieving Balance at Home

ARE YOU AMONG THOSE that have reevaluated your life from the perspective of quality, rather than quantity? This has become a driving force within the interior design field.

The stress presented by the noise factor of technology, fast-paced careers, and everyday existence has created the need for a retreat offering tranquility, a sense of order and organization, ease of function, and personal pampering that soothes and quiets one's soul. Creating that environment begins with a few simple steps.

EVALUATE WHAT YOU HAVE

Many of us have collected a multitude of items during our lifetime. Take a good look and determine what furnishings and accessories best reflect your current tastes or hold special meaning for you. Evaluate the quality of each piece and its ability to serve you in the future. If it is a trendy piece and you



Mixing metals and textures is in, as seen in this combination of three mercury glass and an etched decanter. Set atop a black glass topped bar cart, this fresh accessorizing look can go traditional or contemporary.



Pedestals to the rescue! The layered grouping of three multi-height custom designed pedestals are tucked into a custom-made folded screen with square shaped bronze hardware. This three-dimensional placement can live up an entryway, powder room, or bring a touch of fantasy or whimsy next to the stairwell or other open space. For added interest, an animal print fabric-covered table joins the grouping.

are now tired of it, perhaps it is time for it to go. Lastly, look at your anchor pieces, determine whether they should be in that room or another, and mix in some new pieces with the old to give your room a fresh look.

ORGANIZE WHAT TO KEEP

Create a better life experience by making it easy to lay your hands on what you want, when you want it. Organization of closets, baths, kitchens, garages, and basements will increase your ability to get things done.

PROVIDE A FRESH BACKDROP

The entire atmosphere of your home can be enhanced with changes to paint, wall coverings, window treatments, floors, and ceilings. Maintain your individuality by avoiding the interior design of the masses.

Texture, warmth, and the glamour of Hollywood and drama are all in. There is also a hunger for color. Indulge in the opulent tones of blues, grays, warm metallics, tans, and accent palettes of pastels and blushing colors that reflect your personal statement. Bold and savvy accents may be the right choice for you, or you can let hushed neutrals bolstered by darker and mid-tone shades of color create an atmosphere of organic elegance. Appropriate

colors in paint—paired with textured wall coverings and specialty finishes—will make the architectural features of your home come to life.

EXPANDING YOUR VIEW

Window treatments provide the next layer of renewal. Today's window treatments are more tailored to outline and showcase spectacular exterior views. Remember to coordinate under treatments that provide appropriate privacy and light control with the chosen drapery presentation.

WHAT LIES BENEATH

Flooring is also important in setting a room's character. Many homes have wonderful oak floors that need an update. Consider refinishing wood flooring to a richer brown, gray, or ebony to underscore your furnishing and accent pieces. There are fresh and new introductions in every category of flooring, such as planked tile, that should be investigated.

To make a completed statement, walls, window treatments, flooring, floor coverings, furnishing, art, and accessory selections must be coordinated during every moment of the process.

ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE

Can you appreciate your home's beauty if you cannot see it? Layer lighting to provide function and enhance your ability to see your treasures. Floor lamps, table lamps, wall sconces, art lights, can lights, and chandeliers all work together to set the stage.

ACCESSORIZING

Less is often more. Accessories, including art pieces, are the spice of décor and should be used sparingly. While larger pieces may make a greater statement, scale in relation to the size of the room and furnishings is essential. Accessories can also be used to balance an offsetting element of interest.

CONSTRUCTION

Staying in an existing home, rather than moving to another house, is a growing trend which has led to renewed interest in renovating, remodeling, and additions. Make certain that your plans include placement of the furnishings you envision within these projects so that you can properly place architectural elements, outlets, etc.

Achieving a sense of balance through your home style can be accomplished on your own, or with the help of a professional interior designer



who can help you choose custom-designed home furnishings within your budget. The result should reflect your tastes and offer you enjoyment and the quality of life that you deserve. U

Loren Reid Seaman of LRS Interiors is a licensed interior designer with 30 years of experience in the industry. The images shown are from LRS Interiors' new studio and showroom, which is located at 1150 Heather Drive in Lake Zurich. To learn more, call 847-550-6363 or visit www.LRSinteriors.com.