

Real Life Design

This is how we do it.

Bookshelves full of collectibles and keepsakes deserve good lighting so that they aren't hidden in shadows created by the shelves themselves. **Adjustable recessed lights with halogen bulbs direct the light beam exactly where it's needed most without causing any unwanted glare** on the tv. The bright white light keeps the room colors crisp and true.

A highly scrubbable paint, like Benjamin Moore's Regal Matte, camouflages drywall flaws with its flat finish but also withstands abuse from messy hands and daily wear. It's easily scrubbed with a scouring sponge.

If you want to display photos and decorative items, keep them in shelving and off of coffee tables and game tables. **Custom built-ins provide flexible storage and display.**

Consider weight, weave and pattern to choose fabrics that will hold up with heavy use and daily wear and tear. When choosing upholstery, start with kiln-dried, screwed, glued and corner-blocked hardwood for strength and lasting stability. Upgrade seat and back cushions to extend the wear and improve the feel of your chair over time.

Window coverings that go up and down rather than stacking on the sides are better protected from being stepped and pulled on. These white wooden blinds give a clean, crisp look to a contemporary family room while filtering light and providing total privacy. Best of all, they wipe clean with a damp sponge!

For family-friendly family rooms, you can't beat leather. Protected leather, or semi-aniline leather, has a finish applied to its surface to protect it from staining and spotting. The color is uniform, less likely to fade from sunlight and easy to clean and care for. Its high-durability is perfect for families, pet-owners or for high traffic spaces.



Sofa and chair **skirts stain quickly from dirty shoes or shedding pets**, so consider having an exposed leg on your upholstery and forgoing a skirt. Most manufacturers offer this option.

Nothing lasts longer or looks better than a well-finished hardwood floor. Three coats of hi-gloss water-based finish followed by a final coat in satin finish helps prevent the floor from yellowing over time. Maintenance is easy with a damp mop and a little ammonia.

A heavily-textured, colorful rug in New Zealand wool holds up in even the highest traffic areas. The wool's high lanolin content keeps spills, spots and stains from being absorbed into the fibers. Soil remains on the surface until you clean it up.



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