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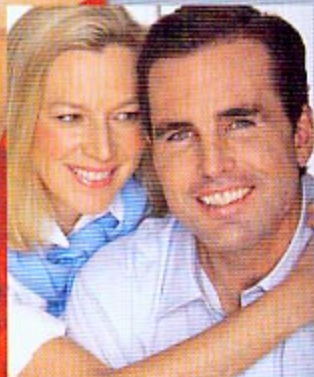
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Freshen Up Your Family Room

Is your family room low on "linger appeal"? With smart style moves you can make yours comfortable and charming



When Scott and Diane Carroll and their two children moved into their Fayetteville, Arkansas, house four years ago, they gave the family room a fresh coat of off-white paint and that was it. As for furnishings, the room was relegated to leftover pieces that hadn't found homes elsewhere in the house: mismatched sofas, a clunky coffee table and too-formal plaid wing chairs. With the kids getting older, Scott and Diane wanted to remake the uninviting hodgepodge into a place their brood would hang out in after school, and where they themselves might entertain. Mission accomplished, with just a few key changes.

Right: Swapping flimsy café curtains with wooden plantation shutters from Shutter Classic solved two problems: the room's lack of architectural detail and limited privacy. The sofas were re-covered in tight-fitting Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams khaki slipcovers and punched up with a mix of bold throw pillows from 2Modern, Hable Construction and John Robshaw. Replacing the hulking sidetables with sleek three-tiered ones from Pier 1 Imports and adding Dash & Albert's striped rug warmed up the space.

Above, left: Jack, 13, and Annie, 11, at play on a well-designed Potluck Studios coffee table whose trays lift off to reveal a flat surface. CONTINUED

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Before



Right: This formerly forlorn and empty nook was transformed with simple built-ins. Overhead shelves are the right depth for books and framed photos, while the slightly roomier middle portion gives Dell's 37-inch High-Definition LCD TV enough swivel space to be aimed toward the seating area on movie night. The homeowners love the quirky shape and racy red fabric of the tufted armchair from Lee Industries, which rotates on casters for versatility. Roxy (pictured) and Molly, the family's border collie/blue heeler puppies, adore the comfy round dog beds from Room Candy.



Above: Cabinets provide storage: a woven bin from the Container Store holds board games, while attractive linen-covered boxes from Kolo keep favorite photos safe. CONTINUED






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Left: Scott and Diane turned a long table opposite the TV nook into a study-aid station where they keep bulkier reference books and a globe from Replogle Globes that the kids often use while working on homework. The mirror just above the console makes the room feel larger and brighter than it already is, and stowed underneath, two raspberry-hued faux-leather ottomans from CB2 can be pulled out for extra seating.

Above: Bordering the mirror is a unique and personal collection of shadow boxes filled by family members with their favorite mementos. 

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Want more inspiration? See other room makeovers at www.lhj.com/newrooms