

# Cozy

Most Katy families live a busy life, and they desire a place to escape the chaos.

High contrast colors are appealing to the eye and create a dramatic look



# *Family* Rooms

Comfortable Spaces  
for your Katy Family

Written by Kelly Isenberger





Using an ottoman as the coffee table provides additional storage as well as a comfortable foot rest



Accenting plain sofas with bursts of colorful pillows adds instant pizzazz to any family room

The home is often a sanctuary for both adults and children, and by making the family room cozy and comfortable, you'll provide a place for everyone to relax. It's a place to come together, talk about the day, watch television, or just hang out. Whether you have two living spaces, one designated as the formal and the other as the family room, or if you only have one living room, we have some design tips that will make your family room what you have always wanted.

## Visualize the Finished Room

The first step in redecorating your family room is to ask yourself a few questions. What do you want out of the room? Who is using it, and what is its purpose? What do you want it to look like when you are finished? Martha Gray of Interiors by Decorating Den suggests, "Start with the end in mind." Setting the vision of the project before you begin will make the big decisions that come later a lot easier.

## Set a Budget

Now that you know what you want from the room, you need to think about what resources you have to get you there. Evaluate your existing furniture and accessories to decide what big purchases you will need to make. For the crafty person, decide if you can do some of the work yourself. Can you refinish furniture or do some faux painting? Are you willing to hire a consultant to help? Keeping these things in mind, set an overall budget for the total project, but be willing to be flexible when it comes to purchasing individual items.

## Start Big

When Gray decorates a room, she always starts with the big things. This is also how you set your color palette. Begin searching for window treatments, rugs, sofas, and chairs. Martha warns, "The biggest mistake people make is they don't first measure the space, and they buy furniture that is too large for the space." When arranging the furniture, remember that everyone will want to see the television. Give a good distance between the television and the furniture. Gray also says, "Comfort should be the number one priority in the family room. This is where you spend the most time

and the seating gets the most wear." You may be tempted to spend more money in a formal living room, but the family room should be the bigger investment.

## Picking the Paint

"Get rid of the builders off white," suggests Gray. Color adds personality and mood to the room. If you want a cozy nurturing atmosphere, go with warm colors. If your family is fun and outgoing, perhaps a brighter color suits you best. Beth Peters, who recently redecorated her family room, says, "The room was so blah. It wasn't something you wanted to come home to. We wanted something comfortable and nice." So, they put in dark wood floors and painted the walls brown with orange and red accessories. Gray also suggests, "Faux painting is wonderful in the art niches that are in many of the new homes." Putting ironwork over faux painting and in an art niche is a nice touch.

## Finishing Touches

Now that you have the room painted and all of the furniture purchased, you can begin to pull it all together. Lamps, artwork, and family pictures are the finishing touches to make your room your own. Gray says, "Otherwise, your room is like a black dress with no jewelry." If you have a mantel, hang something personal above it. Great big family portraits or artwork that you love make the room your own. If you have a theme, purchase artwork that completes that theme. Peters loves her finished room, and she says, "I don't really have a favorite couch or chair in the room. It's the overall outcome of it. How it all came together is what really makes the room."

Decorating your family room can be a great investment into your family. Keeping their needs and personalities in mind, redecorating can be fun and easy. With a little vision and some patience your family room can be transformed into a cozy sanctuary for you and for your family. **KM**

*KELLY ISENBERGER is a Katy mom. She loves hanging out with her husband and watching their favorite shows.*

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# 5 Decor Tips for Family Rooms

- 1 Declutter! Get rid of all the trophies and collector's items, and only keep those things that you really love
- 2 Paint. Change the colors, and get rid of the builder's off-white
- 3 Add great artwork and accessories. Do them according to the color scheme or to the theme of the room
- 4 Area rugs and window treatments lift the color and style of the room. Window treatments can be simple and it lifts the eye upward
- 5 Hire a decorator. A professional can help pull it all together artistically. In the end, this can end up saving money

*-Tips courtesy of Martha Gray*



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