

## The Home Designer Fall in Love

### ... continued from page D6

From Richard's polished skills as a nature photographer, and their wide tastes in art and decorative accessories to their shared appreciation for 20th century architecture (they once lived in a Frank Lloyd Wright designed home) – they had a strong aesthetic sense of what they were looking to accomplish, and allowed me to help shape it into clearer focus.

The best example of how we accomplished this was in the family room – the largest space, but the most poorly laid out room in the house. It featured obtrusive cabinetry, an overpowering brick fireplace and low slung decorative beams on the ceiling that made the whole space feel claustrophobic. Additionally, the lighting was underwhelming, the furniture too large and out of scale and the windows left unadorned. If I sound harsh, it's only because the room needed some tough love.

After convincing my clients that “everything must go,” we removed the interior island and cabinetry dividing the room, removed a rather large, clunky mantel, clad the entire brick wall behind new drywall to create an installation space for art and photography, stripped away the beams and low slung header, and added much needed recessed lighting to highlight all of the new furnishings. A gorgeous paint color and luxe fabrics were added – all inspired by the lovely heirloom area rug that grounded the space.

With a palette of rich reds, warm tans, teal and cream – along with espresso wood floors and polished chrome accents – the room emerged transformed into an elegant, but comfortable gathering space while keeping the best views of the garden. The lush yard was now highlighted by a new vantage point from which to enjoy it. A mix of custom designed furniture, mid-century pieces and even a couple of re-purposed chairs now work in harmony to bring a fresh, chic and relaxing vibe to a well loved room. Custom paint colors on the walls convey a soothing calm throughout the space, and I even nudged them into a rather upscale wallpaper in the elegant dining room – a nod to Lisa's tug toward a little Park Avenue moment.

Tip: When wallpapering a room don't be shy – paper every wall for full effect. A single accent wall in wallpaper looks as if you ran out of supplies.

I often speak of the transformative power of good design. Color moves us. Art inspires, and can even transport us. Take a moment and look around your space – find what speaks to you and what feels out of place. Perhaps, this too may be your own season of change.

BTW, the foosball table found a new home.



*Before – the brick fire breast and chunky mantel overpowered the room.*



*After – sleek new walls over old brick combined with glossy white crown moulding create a new polish to the room.*

Brandon Neff is a Bay Area based Interior Designer. He can be reached at [BrandonNeffDesign.com](http://BrandonNeffDesign.com) or at [brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com](mailto:brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com).

