

# More Space

A large San Rafael family looks to reclaim the living and family rooms.

BY SOPHIE SHULMAN

**T**HE LIVING ROOM and family rooms were remodeled in 2012 in this home in the Dominican area of San Rafael. The owners, a couple with four young children, envisioned moving family activity from small spaces to the largest room, the living room, which had previously sat empty and unused. They chose interior designer Annie Lowengart after falling for her fresh and youthful design style. Her practical creativity, balance of form and function and ability to stay on budget sealed the deal.

*after*



## Family Room

*before*



### CHANGES

- Painted the walls a high gloss (Benjamin Moore Polo Blue) to give them a more contemporary feel.
- Juxtaposed different patterns like the geometric shapes in the carpet and the dots on the pillow.
- Made custom 24-inch pillows that were good for both lounging and pillow fighting.
- Had a custom sectional built to fit the room and maximize the space by Partridge Associates.
- Added lime green color for a touch of whimsy.

### CHALLENGES

Before the redesign, this room had almost no architectural detail. To create contrast in the small space, Lowengart chose a chocolate and navy palette. Because the room is used for relaxation, she incorporated seating that was comfortable, durable and aesthetically pleasing.

### PRICES

- **Coffee table** Crate and Barrel, "Lodge" model table, \$699
- **Custom sectional** Partridge Associates in San Francisco, \$10,000
- **Custom chair** Partridge Associates in San Francisco, \$4,500



after



**INTERIOR DESIGNER:  
ANNIE LOWENGART**

For the past 12 years, Lowengart's Marin-based business has grown from just kitchen and bathroom remodels to entire house redesigns and major interior decorating projects. Daily life is where she gets inspiration, and it sometimes pops up unexpectedly.

## Living Room

### CHANGES

- Used custom Schumacher ikat window treatments and pillows to make the space feel sophisticated, young and fun.
- Created three different seating groups to provide separation and reduce the perceived size of the space.
- Added table and floor lamps at different heights to give the lighting some depth.
- Mirrored the sofa with the Restoration Hardware English Roll Arm Sofa and added big pops of color to contrast with the neutral walls.
- Introduced a Jonathan Adler United States needlepoint pillow and some funky turquoise and green accessories.

### CHALLENGES

Because the space is large with very tall ceilings, Lowengart had to create different seating groups to reduce the room's cavernous feel.

### PRICES

- **Custom drapes** Schumacher "Darya Ikat" fabric, \$3,000
- **Sofa** Restoration Hardware English Roll Arm in Vintage Velvet, \$2,780
- **Stools** Wisteria "X-Base" with custom slipcovers, \$600 each



before