

## The Home Designer

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*Dramatic linen draperies, pale walls and beautiful textures make the room a chic gathering space.*

They wanted a place for cocktails and conversation – a place to enhance their lifestyle and heighten moments with friends and family. And they wanted a little romance.

What I created for them was a room that feels twice as large and 10 times more glamorous. And don't let the chic furniture and fabrics fool you – everything is durable, functional and washable, fashionable and practical in perfect harmony. Soft lighting keeps you looking your best, jewel tone upholstery surprises you, and sensuous shapes and textures stimulate all of your senses. Let's face it, if we didn't care about our surroundings we'd all still be living in caves. We evolved and discovered a life less ordinary.

Simple tips. I removed the dated shutters on the windows and hung full length drapes mounted just below the crown molding for exceptional drama. It takes the eye up and makes the room feel grand. In lieu of a clunky coffee table, I placed two smaller "tea height" tables in the room to catch cocktails and canapés – they're easy to move around as needed and add great sculpture. A pair of matching chairs replaced the love seat, creating more personal space for guests – no one wants to share a love seat unless they're lovers, and even then just for a short period of time! Creating sexy lighting was key – always mix overhead lighting with more flattering task and accent lighting at eye level. So important. Lastly, for added glamour, mix in a few unexpected elements like that chandelier fashioned after a sea urchin – with so many choices out there why would one want something ordinary? It's whimsical and unique – just like my clients.

Remember, interior design is personal, intimate and revealing at the same time. You have the choice to live your life in a space that speaks to you, makes you smile and lifts your spirit when you open the door – something akin to love, right?

For this Valentine's Day surround yourself with what you treasure; choose wisely. If all else fails, choose dark chocolates!



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