

# Lamorinda

# OUR HOMES

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*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian*

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## Creating a living room that sings



Photos provided

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Decorating a space like a living room can feel like an overwhelming task as you try to put all the pieces together to make it feel harmonious. You have to consider paint colors for the walls, what kind of furniture you already have, what pieces you need, furniture layout, colors, accents and accessories. Often times you put everything together and yet the space still feels "off" or "missing something." Here

are a few tips to get you started on the right track.

#### **Declutter**

The first step of creating a beautiful inviting space is to declutter. Getting rid of the junk many times frees up extra space in the room that wasn't there before. Remove papers, toys, shoes, or any other miscellaneous items that do not belong in the living room. Create a sorting system of three boxes or bags and label them: keep, toss, and donate. Once

your space is cleared out use baskets, bins and decorative boxes to keep the items that are staying organized.

#### **Invest in quality**

Invest in quality upholstery. Look for pieces that are made in the USA. Frames that are made with kiln-dried hardwood and eight-way hand tied springs (the part where the cushions sit) are the best construction for sofas and chairs. For cushions, look for high-density foam; lesser quality foam can break down quickly. I prefer cushions that have individually wrapped coil springs covered with high density foam and then wrapped with a soft down fiber. It's a triple layer cushion that provides a soft seat yet bounces back when you get up.

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