

a cheerier interior

Too busy to revamp your decor? Give your room a sunnier disposition by phone.



Who lives here: Julie Stone Doherty, Dennis Doherty (she's a photo editor, he's a home contractor) and their 2½-year-old son, Luke.

Room for improvement: With pale green walls and monotone furniture, the living room of their first house, in Larchmont, N.Y., lacked spirit. Not that the couple was without inspiration. "I've been ripping pages from decorating magazines since we moved in two years ago," says Julie, "but I don't have time to shop."

Expert opinion: Libby Cameron of Sister Parish Design and Libby Cameron LLC agrees. "The room didn't reflect this happy little family at all." Since the Dohertys were desperate for change, but short on time, Libby bought everything online or by phone (you can, too).

The results: Punchy, practical decor. Libby reenergized the space with bright yellow and cornflower-blue pieces. She found items that were not only stylish, but also deep-dish comfortable and functional. "A living room needs cozy spots for sitting and a nice light to read by," she says. Julie is thrilled with the results: "We feel like we're on permanent vacation here. Now we really live in this room."

1 Mix colors and patterns

Stick with hues that have the same intensity, and balance your prints with a few substantial solid pieces. "The red pillows break up the yellow and blue scheme," says Libby. Pillows arrived in **Sister Parish Design Campbell and Apple Cotton Twill**, \$73.50/yd.; **Blue and White Doherty**, \$199 (72" x 108"); **Benjamin Moore Latex Paint in "Sweet Butter"**, \$36.59/gal.; 800-772-4385.

8 Jazz up the floor

The dark Oriental rug—more dusty-antiques-store than hip-young-family—was replaced by a sturdy cotton dhurrie in traditional Indian flat-weave rug, which delivers graphic pop at a nice price. **Blue and White Doherty**, \$399 (72" x 108"); 800-767-5490 or wisteria.com.

2 Pay attention to detail

"The original moldings were beautiful; I didn't want to cover them with curtains," says Libby. Instead, she used simple shades, perked up with rose and white pom-pom trim. **Smith + Noble Roman Linen Shades**, \$225 each; 800-767-7778 or smithnoble.com. **Conso Antique Ball Fringe**, \$4/yd.; Calico Corners, 800-213-6966 for store locations.

3 Add a touch of glass

A classic pair of clear lamps help balance the mélange of color and pattern. They also provide just the right light for before-bedtime reading. **Simon Pearce "Fairlee" Tulip Lamp**, \$135 for base and \$39 for shade; 877-452-7763 or simonpearce.com.

4 Tier it up

These tables were picked for their simplicity and versatility. The top is handy for glasses (or sippy cups), and Luke can stash his books and toys on the lower shelves. **Pierre Deux Cane Three-Tier Table**, \$350; 888-763-7722 or pierredeux.com. **Crate & Barrel "Carla" Marigold Vase**, \$14.95 (available until early September); 800-996-9966 or crateandbarrel.com.

5 Show off your curves

The pretty shape of these armchairs was hidden behind loose slipcovers. Libby upholstered them in **Sister Parish Design "Burma" Fabric** in blue, \$73.50/yd.; 800-920-1365. **Libby Ross Textiles "Clover" Hand-Embroidered Wool Goose-Down Pillows**, \$180, add plushies; 212-842-1705 or judyrosstextiles.com.

6 Choose big pieces carefully

Cushy and classic, this couch anchors the room. Plus, much to parents' glee, the cotton-twill slipcovers are machine washable. **Crate & Barrel "Potomac" Sofa in Citrus**, \$1,999 (custom color; 11 weeks for delivery); 800-996-9966 or crateandbarrel.com.

7 Swap the coffee table for an ottoman

Footrest, seat and coffee table: Soft edges make it kid-friendly. **Pierre Deux St. Remy Tufted Ottoman in Vendome**, \$595; 888-743-7712 or pierredeux.com. **Lekker Votive**, \$12.50; lekkerhome.com. **Crate & Barrel Zest Vase**, \$18.95 (available until early September), on a **Gallery Tray**, \$14.95; crateandbarrel.com.



PHOTO BY DEBORAH JAFFE

The List

Liz Claiborne "Golden Era" Area Rug, \$599 (63" x 99") Yearn to live in an English country cottage? Transport yourself with a delicate pattern of blossoms on 100% wool; select Carpet One stores or 800-227-7381.

Calvin Klein "Bramble", \$1,400 (66" x 96") A watercolor finish of cool lavender is a laid-back study in home decor minimalism; select Bloomingdale's stores or 877-256-7373.

WE LOVE: **The Rug Company "Anemone" Cocoa Rug by Marni, \$78/sq. ft.** (\$2,925 for 60" x 90") Like couture for your home, this have-it-forever piece has saturated color and is handmade of the softest, finest Tibetan wool; The Rug Company, NYC, or 212-274-0444.



5.

(the floral rug)

Fusing nature, fashion and art, fall flowers are the look du jour for your floor.



Judy Ross Textiles "Clover" Runner, \$875 (30" x 72") Oversize, abstract blooms plus a modern shock of fuchsia revive even the most neglected hallway; Auto, NYC, 212-229-2292, or judyrosstextiles.com.



What rug size to buy? To make a small room look bigger, pick one that's no more than a foot away from all four walls. In a dining room, the perfect rug is four feet larger than both the width and length of the table. In a living room, front legs of furniture sit on the rug, back legs sit off.