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Designed for Living

Stella Ludwig helps her interior-design clients uncover their personal taste and create practical spaces for their lifestyle

COMFORT. Sophistication. Coziness. And that's all before your foot meets the lusciously woven carpet. Not bad for a living room that was designed with two teenage boys in mind. At first glance, it may be hard to believe that this very space would be the stomping grounds for pizza and Cheetos binges and all-night video game tournaments. Instead, the room ushers you in and tells you a story of a well-traveled couple and their love for family time and relaxation.

"Most people think it's an impossible dream to strike that balance between functionality and showcasing their authentic selves," says Stella Ludwig of Interior Redesign Services. "They find it difficult to reconcile putting a quality sofa in a room where kids may be, or they hesitate to showcase some of their antiques, fearful that these objects may not have a place." Stella has been making that fantasy a reality for Philadelphians and suburbanites for years. "I encourage my clients to think more outside the box and to find pieces that can embrace both the need for space saving and for giving each room a bit of

their personality." It's a philosophy that works and has shown it can adapt with the times.

Upon entry of the room, guests are warmly greeted and embraced by the soft, billowy wave of window treatments. Thomas Paul prints by Duralee just always seem to have that effect. One step further and visitors are summoned to quiet their minds and take a deep breath by the dark brown Maxwell fabric on the sofa that centers the room. Whimsical charcoal leaf prints found on the chairs might suggest that the room's occupants may have been transported to a charming and snug cabin instead of an upscale Philadelphia walk-up, but the breathtaking views of the city and its skyscrapers insist on something else. After the hot toddies have been poured, and the guests are immersed in conversation; a slight whisper from the left and one might find it hard to resist the urge to inquire about the vintage rattan suitcases that stand elegantly nearby, storing remote controls and spare gadgets. Did we mention that they traveled all the way from Hong Kong?

Then somewhere between the minimalist

architecture and the naturally inspired accents, you might have noticed that the calming glow of the lighting. As you might suspect, this arrangement was no accident. The Asian-inspired floor lamps graciously lend their services and open the space, meanwhile the chandelier and stools used as coffee tables frame the children's play area.

At the end of the day, it would be impossible to deny that this would be the place to be. Whether being used as a backdrop for some warm and fuzzy cuddle sessions or as a grand battleground for action figures, this room offers versatility and refuge from the bustling world outside.

Spaces with complex needs like these and many others can be yours with the help from Stella Ludwig of Interior Redesign Services. ■

→ **Stella Ludwig of Interior Redesign Services**

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