

Lynda calls the living room, left, her belle epoque room. "It's a little more formal than the rest of the house," she explains. Silk, taffeta draperies, and an antique linen tablecloth lend quiet elegance.

Because the taupe and soft blue living room is almost monochromatic, the artwork in it really stands out. Below, an oil reproduction of a Degas ballet scene, originally done in chalk, gives the room a burst of color and romance.

Getting Comfortable

Lynda. "And anyway, I like to have one room that's alive with color. A home tends to float if *everything* is light."

As an interior designer, Lynda participates in many showhouses, and the Levy house is sprinkled with many pieces from those shows. "You can incorporate a lot of oddities in a home if you're smart about it," Lynda says. "I really enjoy taking furniture out of one situation and playing with it so that it fits comfortably into even some unlikely places," she says.

That practical spirit is at play throughout the house. For the library, for instance, Lynda skillfully pared down a bank of draperies from a showhouse into a shorter window treatment. She used the painted curtain rod they were hung on, and she salvaged extra fabric to cover the sofa and wingback chair.





In the Levys' spacious bedroom, the look is restrained but sumptuous. The chair below, upholstered in an Aubusson carpet-pattern, dates to the 1890s. The antique, shell-motif cupboard in the corner showcases Lynda's majolica collection and a few of her celluloid clocks.

room and shares its airy mood. Pine cabinets, glazed in cream and taupe, look like handsome furniture. The central island Lynda designed is pretty *and* functional—it's a worktop that converts to a table for seven. "The kitchen is the most important room for a family. You end up spending a lot of quality time there if it feels right," Lynda says. "It's the best room to renovate if you're only able to do one."

Lynda admits that her own busy schedule means she is taking one room at a time at home. And she *does* have a few rooms left. Her current project is Biff's upstairs study. "He's working on a mystery novel," says Lynda. "You'll never guess where it takes place . . . in a designers' showhouse." □

For more information, see the Buying Guide on page 112.

Getting Comfortable



Various shades of green were used as accent colors in the breakfast room, above. To further bring the beauty of the outside in, Lynda put valances on windows instead of full curtains. The round table is new, but the chairs surrounding it were retrieved from yet another showhouse.

Lynda designed the new kitchen, below, to replace the awkward '50s-style design they inherited. The large center island functions as a worktop and snack bar, and has lots of storage. The pine stove hood conceals an exhaust system and is painted with an allover leaf motif and a small pear.

