

Evolving Interiors

As the Malouf children mature so does their playroom.

BY CAROLINE RANDALL FREEMAN PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BARRETT



Kristin and Patrick Malouf knew just what they wanted when they decided to transform their children's old playroom into a fresh living area. Both of their children's bedrooms had been recently redecorated to meet their ever-growing personal sense of style. This opened up the opportunity to transform the playroom into a family gathering area. What was once a 20 by 25-foot space filled with toys and games is now a cozy, yet functional, media room the family enjoys together.

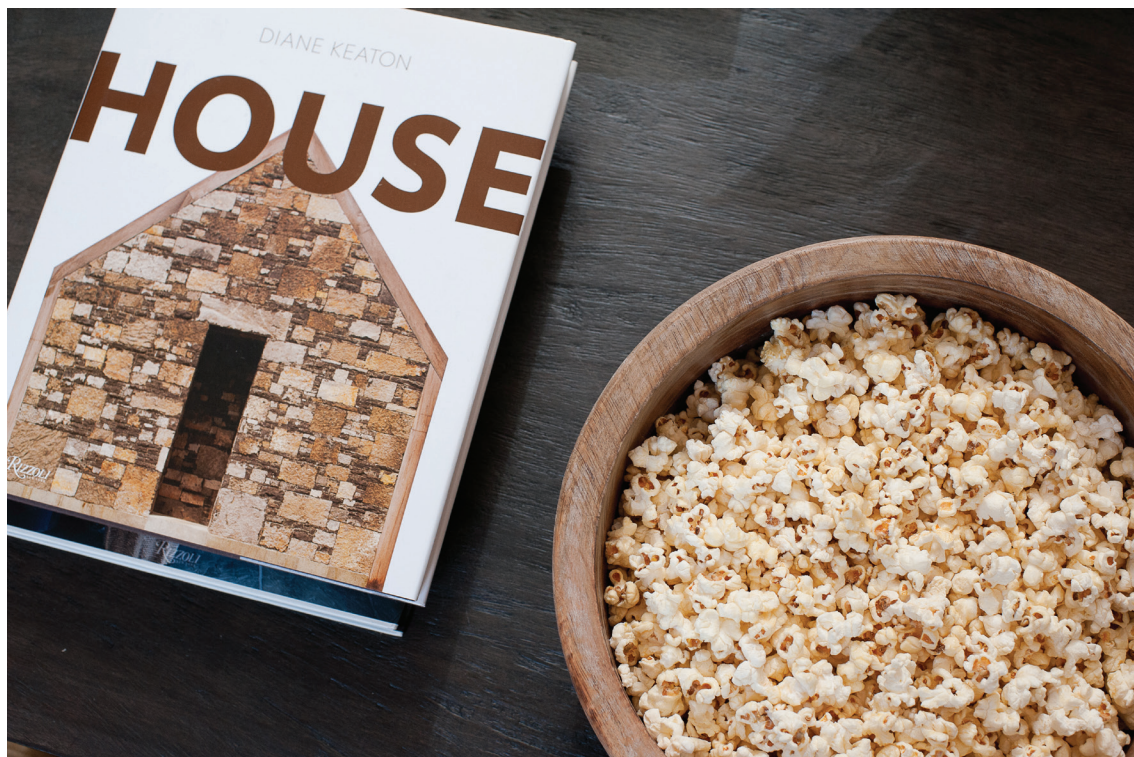
Kristin explained, "we didn't do a whole lot with the room when we first moved in. It was quickly taken over by toys. At one point we hung a big TV on the wall just so our kids could play Xbox and video games."

Having used a team from SummerHouse to redecorate their children's rooms, the Maloufs brought them in again to spearhead the project. Kristin's goal was a space that was comfy, non-gender specific, and would allow the room for growth.

Within 8 weeks, Lisa Palmer and her team designed and



The goal of the transformation was to convert a kids' playroom into a versatile media room, suited for all family members.



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Keeping with a more neutral color scheme provides a room that can mature with the family.



installed the new media room. Already knowing the Malouf's style, "we wanted to create an extension of the aesthetic of the house."

The main pieces of interest were a large sofa to provide lots of seating, a table area for the children to do puzzles and homework and a storage piece to hide the toys when they weren't in use.

The team brought in a sizable sectional for ample lounging in a neutral and sophisticated fabric that is still durable. They also brought in a couple of comfy chairs and kept a floor space open so their kids can still bring the toys or sit on the giant pillows to watch movies.

In keeping with the multi-functional theme, a bar height table and leather benches were positioned in the corner. The area is perfect for the kids to focus on homework and play with puzzles. This space is versatile and works as an entertaining area for the adults, as well as another family dining space. Not only functional, the scale of the bar height table also adds diversity to the area.

One of both Lisa and Kristin's favorite aspects of the room is the fir and metal media cabinet beneath the television. "It's amazing—super textural, funky, and fun.

It adds a lot of dimension and art to the space," Lisa explained. Not only is it beautiful and interesting, it's useful as well by providing a space to store DVDs and video games.

Block prints in acrylic frames pop on the darker walls. The acrylic frames add a modern touch and the printed symbols tie in the eclectic theme throughout the room.

The structured, stained, wooden coffee table creates a nice juxtaposition placed with the organic shape and light wood of the media piece.

Heavy linens in different patterns and colors were used for pillows, upholstery on the club chairs, and the custom drapery. In theme with the high contrast effect of the room, the cream drapes have black tonal stitching that brings interest and accentuates the high ceilings and beautiful window. The fabric choices were practical enough for the kids but still chic and crisp. The walls, painted in Benjamin Moore "Fair View Taupe," create the perfect backdrop for the lighter, neutral tones accented with the upholstery.

The finished product is an elegant success, and as Lisa perfectly described, the Malouf's new room is "comfortable, earthy, eclectic, and fun." ◉