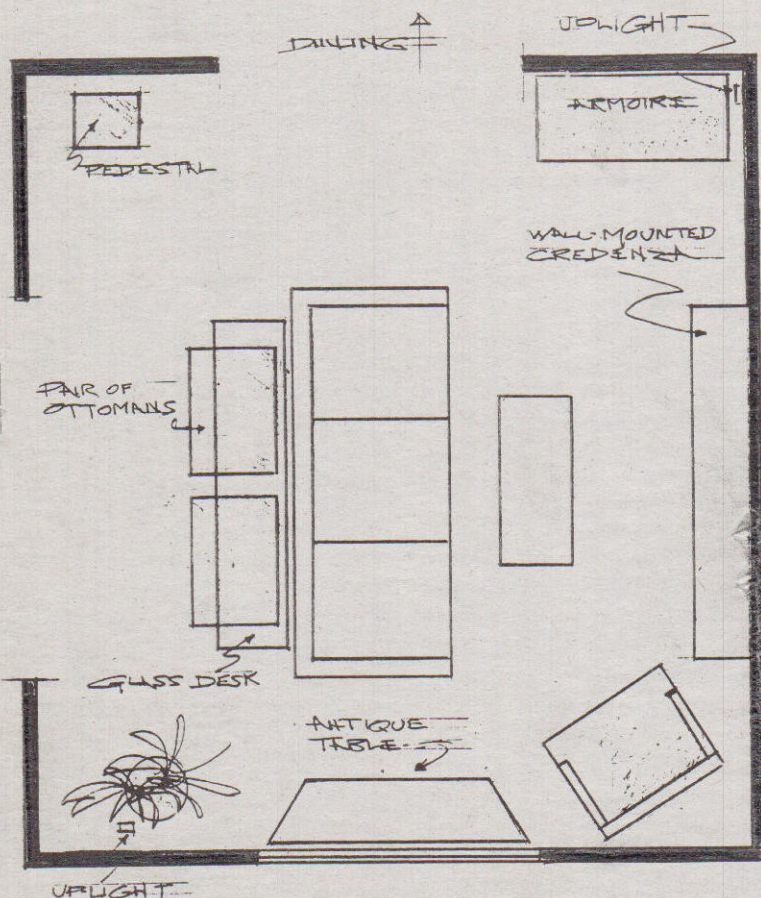


# Home Improvement Guide



▲ A POSSIBLE DESIGN OF A LIVING ROOM TO ALLOW BETTER USE OF SPACE

## GOOD PLANNING IS THE BASIS OF A PLEASING INTERIOR DESIGN

The best approach to a well-designed interior space is to focus initially on the function of the room.

A well thought-out floor plan or layout is so important.

For example, to line the perimeter of a living room with an over-accumulation of seating and cabinetry is a common mistake. The

advantages of "floating" a sofa and sofa table at its back toward the centre of a room are numerous. To enter a living space and look beyond a "floated" piece gives the illusion of space and creates much more interest.

To increase the space by — budget permitting — moving back a

wall (even as little as one foot) can make an enormous difference. Once an improved layout is established, one can more confidently approach the decorative aspects of the project.

The application of properly scaled mouldings and architectural detailing provide a richness to the space before it has been furnished.

Draped window treatments are generally overdone and should be carefully considered. A Roman shade works very well in most settings and can be trimmed in a variety of ways.

Contemporary furniture — such as glass tables, a desk, console or a wall-mounted credenza to house entertainment components — keep the floor space open and contained. These pieces may be used in conjunction with traditional or antique furnishings to produce a wonderful, eclectic interior. This allows the effective use of existing pieces.

Lighting is also extremely important. Consider all options, including up-lights or "floor spots," positioned behind a special piece, such as an armoire or within a grouping of interior plants, to cast interesting shadows on the ceiling or wall.

Implementing any of these or other ideas on your own, or by hiring a design professional on a fee per room basis at reasonable rates, will prove to be a worthwhile investment in your personal comfort or in enhancing the perceived value of your home.

— by Tristar Design Consultants