

nspiration for an amazing home décor project can be found in a variety of sources. But for interior designer Keri McKay, it always starts with one key source: her customers.

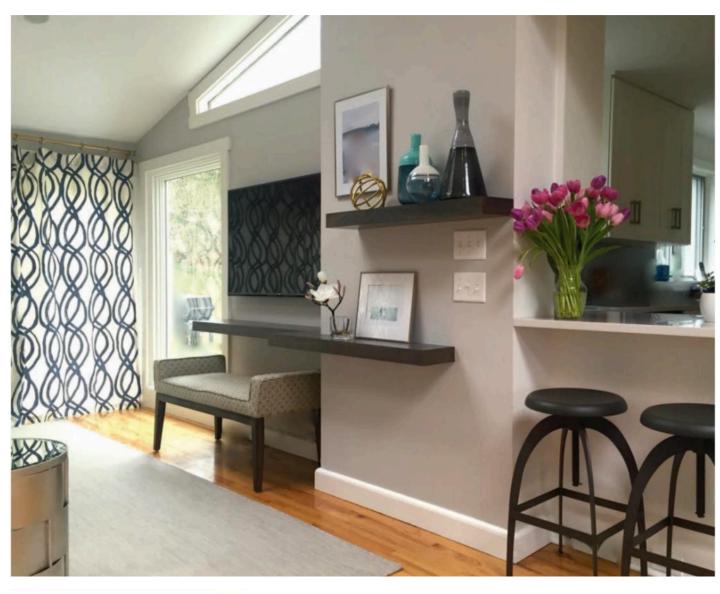
"My inspirations are my clients," explains Keri. "Understanding their lifestyle, aesthetic and how they live in their home sets the stage for every one of my designs."

It was this philosophy that guided Keri as she recently helped a young newlywed couple with a beloved dog and a baby on the way. To better accommodate the needs of their growing family, the couple had begun renovating the family room, but weren't sure how to make the area their own. "For them, the family room is their main living space," says Keri. "They use it for reading, relaxing, watching television and even entertaining. It is also the gateway to both their backyard and kitchen. So they wanted to make it a contemporary space that is grown-up yet comfortable."

Although the couple love neutral tones, they wanted to find a way to infuse a pop of color into the room. Eventually, the design team found the answer in the form of a very unique art piece. "We found an amazing, large contemporary photograph mounted on acrylic that the client immediately fell in love with," Keri explains. "This piece served as the inspiration for the rest of the room."

Taking cues from the photograph, the design team was able to pair the new soft-gray furnishings perfectly with the crisp blue pillows, window treatments and accessories. Keri also brought in a rustic wood coffee table and bone side table to give the room a more natural flair.







Perhaps the project's biggest challenge, however, was how to handle the wall where the couple placed the television. Apparently, there was an offset that made the area appear separate from the rest of the room. To resolve this issue, Keri custom-built a set of floating shelves that wraps around the offset. Doing so not only creates a place to display some of the family's favorite photos and trinkets, it also serves as a console under the TV, which conceals an upholstered bench that can be pulled out for extra seating.

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