

Hearth Room

Five Ways One Designer Created a Warm, Intimate Gathering Space



By
**CELESTE
JACKSON**

In colonial times, the “hearth room,” also known as the “keeping room,” was the main room where the family did most of their living, sometimes sleeping there, too. Today, the hearth room is reappearing on the floor plans of larger homes with grand open spaces, as in this residence for my client.

Located just off the kitchen, this hearth room serves to balance the other large, open rooms in the house by creating a smaller, more intimate place away from the television where family and friends can gather for conversation or to curl up with a book without feeling isolated or having to retreat to a second-floor bedroom.

The challenges this room presented were creating the sense of warmth, quiet and intimacy (without obstructing the views from the large expanses of glass) and providing seating for four in tight quarters (without blocking the only access to the patio through the sliding glass doors). These objectives were achieved through the following five solutions:



1 Using window fashions to insulate this largely glass room to maintain a constant comfortable temperature as well as soften sounds carried from other more open areas of the home.

2 Furnishing the room with soft, rounded pieces upholstered in fabric and leather in rich, warm fall colors, which were intensified by accenting with a contrasting black.

3 Treating the walls and ceiling with a two-color composition using Medallion Gold and Brown Suede Luster Stone faux finish by Aqua Finishing Solutions. This added a warm, reflective quality to the environment as well as visually lowered the ceiling, giving a cozy feel to the room.

4 Mixing the homeowner’s personal mementos with new accessories to add a warm feeling and touch of home.

5 Using soft chenille fabrics for comfort and warmth.

The surprising result of combining these five solutions has made their hearth room my client’s favorite room in this expansive home. **V**

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CLOSER LOOK



Vendors for the hearth room included:

Interior designer
Celeste Jackson, CJ Consulting and Design Group Inc., Barrington, Ill.

Faux finish
Renaissance Design, Arlington Heights, Ill. (Manufacturer: Aqua Finishing Solutions. Product is Luster Stone, in a two-color composition using the Medallion Gold and Brown Suede.)

Window fashions
Tres Joli Designs, Wheeling, Ill.

Furniture
Harden Furniture.

Area rug
Shaw Rugs.

Fabrics
Leather: Harden Furniture, pattern 1094-60. Upholstery: Duralee/Highland Court, pattern 180325H, color 50 Noir; La Fayette, pattern 76E-562, Karaj Paisley.

Window treatments
Fabric: Fabricut, pattern Palo Alto-F, color crimson; Trim: Brimar Loop Fringe 9809/OB.

Window treatment hardware
Le Fer Forge, pattern Medusa #MR9.