



The new window treatments feature intricate Indian embroidery, lending a casual yet sophisticated look.

BEFORE



Enormous picture windows on either side of the room now feature elegant floor-length linen draperies. The fabric adds a touch of lightness and femininity while balancing out the darker hues used in the room

Mid-century Musical Makeover

Music, merriment and style inspire a family room renovation



The Chamberlin family always has music playing. So it's no surprise that music provided the inspiration for their reimagined Maplewood family room. Knowing that their 450-square-foot room had great potential, but not knowing exactly how to pull it all together, the family contacted local interior designer Amy Yin. "Amy quickly got a feel for our style, and helped us fill in the details," says homeowner Meghan Chamberlin.

"The first time I saw the space, I noticed the clients' intriguing collections that were full of personality, history, and personal meaning. My goal was to use as much of them as I could in the new layout, making them sing in a whole new way," says Yin.

"Our primary objectives were to make sure that the room was the right mix of formal and comfortable. It had to be kid friendly, but not kid-centric," Chamberlin says, adding that they also required adequate seating for entertaining family and friends.

Re-using as much of the Chamberlins' existing furnishings as possible, including an oversized sofa, Yin composed a plan for furniture arrangement, wallcoverings and window treatments. Yin, who loves to mix budget items in with higher end pieces, also advised on the purchase of new items that would lend a classic mid-century feel but wouldn't break the bank.

Textured wallpaper was something the Chamberlins said they would never have considered on their own. And when the family found lighting that they liked online, Yin recommended a local craftsman who could dip the hardware to a coordinating finish.



BEFORE

Rather than a space where the family enjoyed time together, it was a room they barely visited.

Vast nine-foot ceilings and a general lack of cohesiveness made this Maplewood living room feel empty and incomplete.



BEFORE



Existing pieces like the Chamberlins' vintage bar cart and antique piano were the perfect accents for the room's new "mid-century" style. Yin created a layout that would help these items stand out in the space rather than blend in. The homeowners had several interesting pieces and collections worthy of display, but the space lacked an appropriate background to pull it all together.

The mid-century concept was the perfect setting for pieces such as a vintage bar cart, an antique piano, and a throwback cabinet record player with brass accents, which the family says gets tons of play during parties and fun family nights at home. "We didn't want these items to blend in, but rather stand out in the space," Yin says.

Instead of paint, Yin chose a sky blue textured silk vinyl wallpaper from Philip Jeffries. The warm wallpaper enhances the mid-century vibe while providing the perfect background for the family's album collection. Album covers primarily from the 1960s make a stylish wall collage while adding to the artistic flavor of the space. What's more, the wallpaper offers an easy-to-clean, family friendly surface. Plus, the thick texture helps to mask imperfections in the walls of this grand old home.

The Chamberlins found lighting they liked online, but it wasn't the right finish. Through Amy's network of design resources, she was able to refer them to a local craftsman who could dip the hardware to a coordinating finish – something Chamberlin says she didn't even know was a possibility. The furniture configuration is fresh. It not only offers increased comfort and sociability but also opens paths to other rooms, allowing guests to flow from room to room with ease. The ends of the room were fairly empty and disconnected from the main seating group. To fill in the spaces, Yin placed the

homeowners' existing chairs near the record player so that people can sit and enjoy music or get up and dance in the open space nearby. On the other side of the room, the bar and antique piano flank the window, offering a great spot for entertaining. Yin suggested movable ottomans on wheels for versatility. With trays on top, they make the perfect cocktail table during parties.

Today, the family enjoys the space and generally spending time together as a family. "We never could have pulled this room together without Amy's design direction. Her expertise was invaluable," says Chamberlin. "She has such a nice way of giving advice and providing options while still allowing you to feel ownership over the direction you're taking." 

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Amy Yin Interiors is an award-winning, woman-owned, residential interior design studio. Believing that the power of good design can enhance lives, bring daily joy, and lift spirits, she donates all profits from the studio to local charities. A two-time winner of the National Interior Design Society's "Designer of the Year" Award, her studio is the first – and only – New Jersey firm to receive this accolade.

Learn more at amyininteriors.com

photos by Joy Yagid