



STYLE WATCH

Now Neutrals

TRANSFORMING A DATED FAMILY ROOM IN CONCORD INTO A SUBTLY NUANCED RETREAT.
BY MARNI ELYSE KATZ

Sometimes a room, no matter how lovely, calls out for a complete overhaul. Such was the case with the family room in this Concord home, last decorated in the early 1990s. Interior designer Phoebe Russell of Allston-based Lovejoy Designs worked with the homeowners, empty nesters with two twentysomething daughters, to revamp half a dozen rooms. “The family room walls were finished with a hand-painted watermelon pink striae glaze,” Russell says. The new scheme is based around a feature the homeowner fell in love with: dusky blue grass-cloth wallpaper with a horsehair-like texture. Camel accents infuse an earthy touch, meshing nicely with the view of open fields and trails. Facilitating the room’s many uses, Russell employed a symmetrical furniture layout with the fireplace as the focal point. “It feels very balanced,” she says, “making it easy for conversation and playing games.”



1 The 36-inch wide panels of Phillip Jeffries grass-cloth **wall covering** have a unique irregular horizontal weave that adds textured color to the space.

2 Playing off of the wall covering’s texture and subtle brown undertones, Russell chose natural woven **roman shades**, controlled via remote, for the doors and windows. Valances add substance — “I didn’t want them to seem dinky,” says Russell — and hide the mechanisms.

3 An edited collection of **objets d’art** creates a layered effect on the mantel. The tableau includes a shadow box of butterfly specimens found at Seaver & McLellan Antiques in Jaffrey, New Hampshire, a pencil drawing of togacled figures, and an antique brass orb.

4 Urban Electric Co. Melissa **wall sconces** in antique brass flank the mantel. “The long, thin profile accentuates the room’s high ceilings,” says Russell.

5 When Russell sat on the Sinclair **sofa** by Belle Meade at High Point Market in North Carolina, she quickly declared it “the one,” wooed by its graceful sloping arms, nailhead trim, and brass detail on the legs.

6 The blue and white wool diamond patterned **rug** by Stark brings a repetitive element to the bottom of the room.

7 The travertine top of the Jules **cocktail table** by Mr. and Mrs. Howard for Sherrill Furniture rests on a black steel base, the likes of which is echoed in the supports of the side table.

8 To balance the brown of the shades on the other side of the room, Russell chose the Arteriors Kara **mirror** which features a hand-applied bone inlay floral pattern.

9 The Vivien table **lamp** by Alexa Hampton for Circa Lighting adds a brass element to the vignette.

10 The Giza **dresser** by Noir with three-dimensional carved wood drawer fronts serves as extra storage, for blankets and dog toys, and anchors the small wall next to an arched opening that leads to the kitchen.