



## Stacey L's Backstory

It's funny how Stacey and I came to work together. Her husband actually called me first, inquiring about my services as a Valentine's Gift for Stacey. (Isn't he sweet?)

From the initial introduction with Stacey, it was fairly evident that she wasn't completely sold on the idea of working with an interior decorator (even if it *was* a nice gift). Her body language and expression at the start of our conversation told me that she was wary of this new relationship. But by the time our meeting ended, I knew that her fears had been assuaged and was now comfortable with the idea of us working together on her living room project. Her specific concerns about her home becoming a version of someone else's style instead of her own were no longer an issue after our discussion.

Stacey has two active little boys (so cute!) and she was very concerned with the wear and tear they might bring to her new furnishings. Keeping this in mind, we selected highly durable yet beautiful fabrics for her sofa, chairs and ottoman. A special fabric protectant was applied to the pieces as a precaution against the potential popsicles that might make their way into the room. Leather was selected for the large cocktail ottoman as we knew that shoes, toys and food were soon to become close companions with this piece.

We selected beautiful pieces from Sam Moore (chairs) and Vanguard (sofa), as well as Miles Talbott (ottoman). All manufacturers have excellent reputations, high quality control standards and superior workmanship. Stacey was keeping a lounge chair and matching ottoman from her previous furniture group and it was this piece that became the starter for our fabric selections, paint color and artwork choices. The fabric selected for the two Sam Moore exposed wood chairs was hands down, our favorite (or was it the window treatment fabric? – either way we loved them all!) Nail heads on the sofa and ottoman, along with complimentary brass details on a chairside table all worked together in developing the overall design details.

Having a large wall to contend with in this room, we decided that six, large vintage botanical prints with gorgeous frames and green linen matting was a perfect presentation. These beautiful pieces now hang in a gallery style arrangement, filling about three quarters of the entire wall. On the opposing wall, static window treatments were the optimal choice as there is a screened porch beyond the bank of windows (which created a low light effect), so blocking these windows in any way was not an option. I designed a two-fabric design with a ball and tassel trim at the intersection. I had them fabricated with English 'bump' (to add fullness and bulk since they were only one width each) and chose an informal euro-pleat design to keep things casual. The treatments hang from a custom iron rod and rings that is installed close to the crown moulding to accentuate the nine foot ceiling height. Another iron piece we added was a small iron and granite-topped table for between the two side chairs and this has been the perfect spot for the morning paper and coffee. A few well placed and coordinated accessories on the mantel and bookshelves and the room was completed.

So what started out as a reticent first meeting, definitely ended with a beautiful result and a satisfied client. Stacey is very pleased with the outcome and is confident that her boys will not have an adverse affect on the new furnishings – (I can almost hear her sigh of relief)!