

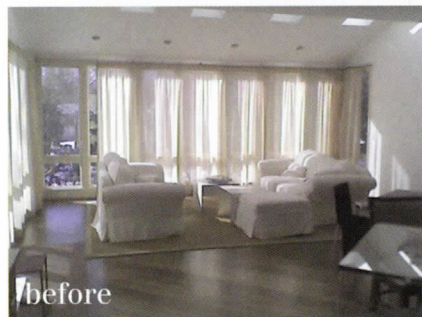
Just what the *Doctors Ordered*

by Lauren Reinhard | Photos by Justin Maconochie

A multi-purpose space is the perfect prescription for a busy family

When Designer Charles Dunlap of *Dunlap Design Group* is out around town with his longtime clients, Dr. Robert Long and Dr. Marlene Seltzer, it seems as if every other person stops the couple to exclaim, “You delivered my baby!” While the two OB-GYNs were busy bringing the next generation into the world, they wanted to maximize their time at home with their own family. The duo called on Dunlap for a kid-friendly update to an under-used room off the kitchen.

With two young children, Drs. Long and Seltzer wanted a place where the whole family could spend time – a multi-purpose space where they could do individual activities but do them together. Dunlap was not new to this space. Eight years ago he worked on the family’s kitchen, but they decided to make do with their existing white-on-white furniture in the adjacent space until they were ready for phase two. Floor-to-ceiling windows and skylights gave the space ample sunlight and provided fantastic views, but the young family was not as comfortable as they could have been in the neutral space.



ABOVE: In a multi-purpose space, every square inch is important. Here the children can watch TV, do homework, and play video games while the parents catch up on work or prepare dinner in the kitchen to the left.

Sectional and ottoman: The Designer Group Collection; Pillow fabric: Pindler & Pindler; Table: Baker Knapp & Tubbs; Chair slipcovers: F. Schumacher & Company



TOP RIGHT: Two desks meet behind the couch and serve many purposes. The rustic, limed tops nicely contrast with the slick contemporary furniture.

RIGHT: The kitchen table is topped with a durable solid surface material and doubles as workspace. A magnetized art wall keeps prints in order and adds even more color.



In desperate need of some color, Dunlap injected the room with orange and acid green. A large sectional opens up the space and provides plenty of seating. Two desks behind the sectional are great for homework, but also act as console tables or as a buffet table during dinner parties.

Instead of floor lamps, Dunlap used articulating arm lamps mounted to the desk. These can be swiveled and rotated between the couch and desk for working and reading. The branch-like sculptural kitchen table

base emulates the outside views through the trees. Little touches, like custom-made glass shelves suspended from cables for photos and a board to display the budding artists' masterpieces make the room personal.

Multi-purpose areas are important for people on the go or even for those downsizing. Now when mom and dad are home with the kids, they spend all their time in their new space. After Dunlap completed the project, Dr. Long says his son looked up at him and said, "Do we even need the rest of the house?"

