



In the new-and-improved TV room, an American Leather blush swivel armchair is the perfect landing spot for McGaha to read.

DALLAS

## NETFLIX & CHIC

Dallas' Denise McGaha transforms a drab teenage hangout into a sophisticated, flexible space for the whole family.

*By Mimi Faucett Trahan*

Every home has it. The designated "dumping ground" room. Where goes the Christmas wrapping, the board games, the old futon. In designer Denise McGaha's Grapevine home, this was her second-floor TV room.

"We also do not have a television in our downstairs family living area," she explains. "That room is where the video games are, where the movies are and where sleepovers happen." After her son grew out of his twin daybed, she moved it into the room, which only added to its adolescent appeal. The problem was, this particular space is also the pathway to McGaha's CONTINUED...

Clockwise from top left: The American Leather sectional is "the depth of a twin bed," according to McGaha—perfect for those teenage sleepovers; the designer's husband is a "preacher's kid" and was given these African masks from missionaries that stayed with his family during his adolescence; BDI's Centro standing desk anchors the home design studio.



...CONTINUED home office—which she no longer used. "I didn't want to go up there," she says. "It was time for it to get a refresh."

So she, her husband, her 18-year-old son, Jaxon; and her 16-year-old daughter, Jori, held a family meeting. She had to reclaim the room, yes, but also wanted the space to stay ground zero for the high schoolers. "We want to create the house where all the kids hang out," she says. So, they got started: ripped up the carpet for wood flooring, swapped the existing landing pads for a roomy American Leather sectional, concealed the pesky game consoles in a chic BDI case piece with plenty of storage and added baskets for stray pillows and blankets.

Once the lounge was functional, she says, "we added the layer of design and sophistication that we wanted." A really fun rug, magenta Phillip Jeffries grass cloth on the wall and graphic wood pattern paper on the ceiling. For art, McGaha enlisted the help of the room's primary occupants—her kids. "I found these great old advertisements at a thrift store and let the kids go through and pick out what they wanted"—which she then mixed with a few prints from her warehouse (Hello, Gucci-esque snakes!). Also on the walls, you'll find African masks and her husband's vintage fencing mask—a sophisticated interpretation of the sports paraphernalia ubiquitous with teencentric spaces.

In her home design studio, the designer brought in a motorized standing desk—that proved useful for holiday wrapping and her daughter's final exam study sessions. An existing built-in desk is now a more occasional surface, hosting plants, McGaha's book collection and school projects. Delft by Sherwin-Williams brightened up the formerly beige walls, making it feel "more decorated and less like an office," the designer explains. Now, not only is the space cheery, it's flexible. "I tell my clients this all the time when we work on children's rooms—they grow really quickly and their needs change very quickly," she says. "Be careful what you do in those spaces because it will be irrelevant to them long before it is no longer in style." This space won't be going out of style any time soon. ■