

decorating



LEFT AND BOTTO
LEFT: "There's a lot
of furniture, but
everything is clear
lined," says Marisa
Lupo, the decorator
and homeowner of
this sunny family
room. The room
was made more
serene through the
use of muted
colours and clutter
concealing pieces
like the armoire. A
glass-topped coffee
table keeps
magazines handy
but out of the way.
Wall paint, Benjamin
Moore HC29.

personal best

Three award-winning rooms that offer easy style for family living.

BY KATERI LANTHIER

Last spring, *House & Home* editor Cobi Ladner and senior design editor Hilary Smyth accepted an invitation to judge a contest held by Decorating Den, a network of franchised decorators across Canada who offer everything from consultation and design to installation of wall and window coverings, lighting, carpeting, furniture and accessories. The decorators submitted their most successful spaces. The three winning rooms, created by four Ontario-based decorators, are all creative, budget-minded and distinctly personal.

FAR RIGHT: Simple curtain panels, in a mellow pattern that echoes the cappuccino-coloured rug, are lined with flannel for greater substance. They

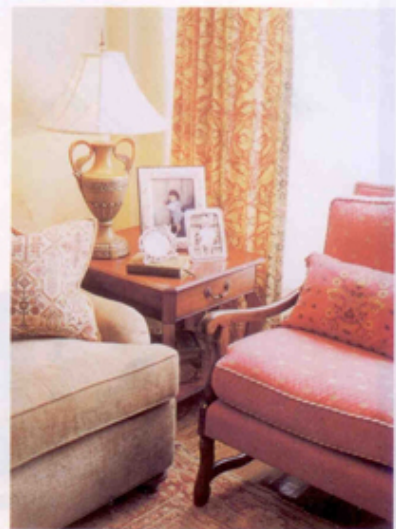
were made extra-long so they can later be moved into a room with higher ceilings. Light quilting brings subtle texture to the vibrant chair and cushion fabrics.



1

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"I often work for families with children, who need a safe, comfortable family room," says decorator Marisa Lupo, who redid her own family room with Luisa Maringola. "In my home, I also wanted a room that was elegant and calm. But we now have three children and may eventually move, so we didn't want



to invest too much." She painted the walls a camel colour, and added crown mouldings of MDF, a marble fireplace surround and painted-wood mantel. Also new are the muted-green chenille upholstery on the sofa and love seat, tiny footstools for the kids, a spicy red French-country armchair and a handsome but inexpensive armoire for the TV. Most pieces can move along with the family.