

It was originally the bigger space.

"They had everything jammed into the sitting room, which is now the dining room," says Hayes. I said, "Why don't we make that the sitting area, fit the dining room into the nook area?" Now you can comfortably read the newspaper in front of the fireplace [which was already in the room that became the new sitting room]."

For Hayes, it was important that all three areas flow seamlessly into each other but still feel like separate spaces. For cohesive design flow, she used EKO-engineered hardwood flooring throughout all three areas; painted all of the walls—with the exception of a paprika-colored accent wall in the dining room—the same golden-yellow hue; and extended the owner's new cherry-wood cabinets to flank the fireplace. Cherry remains the most popular wood for kitchen cabinetry in 2010, according to the National Kitchen & Bath Association. To set the sitting room apart from the other spaces, Hayes and the homeowners laid an area rug across the room and angled the furniture toward the wood-burning fireplace.

Hayes also moved the kitchen doorway over to the east by 30 inches to improve the flow from the front entry into the kitchen and gain the space she needed for a refrigerator and pantry. The pantry and cabinetry surrounding the fireplace added nearly 10 additional linear feet of storage, an invaluable asset for any home cook. Other useful touches included roll-out shelves in the pantry and for small appliances; deep pull-out drawers for cookware; jewelry dividers; tray dividers; and a double recycling pull-out.

The intricately designed Enkeboll cabinet fronts on either side of the stove ventilation hood pay homage to the couple's love of wine. The doors depict monks making wine—from picking the grapes to fermenting the wine in barrels.

A growing wine collection calls for a built-in wine refrigerator for white wines (red wines are kept in a separate cabinet), which Hayes added, along with replacing old white appliances with new stainless-steel ones, including a dishwasher, refrigerator, five-burner gas cooktop, double ovens, ventilation hood and below-counter microwave.

While stainless-steel appliances may not increase your home's value, they do increase your kitchen's "wow" factor, says Hayes, and they were the right choice for this particular space. "White or black



would have been glaring against the warm wood cabinets. Stainless steel is much softer and more neutral."

The material selections for the countertops and backsplash were based on the kitchen island's paprika hue. "The owner said, 'Let's do red,'" Hayes says. "That started the whole theme."

The countertops are Red Montana Granite, a popular countertop material known for its durability and heat resistance. The backsplash, which Hayes extended to the ceiling in order to visually negate the ceiling's low height, consists of limestone tiles laid on the diagonal (again, to create visual height), with red glass-tile inserts for pops of color. "Glass was the perfect complement to the natural stone to pick up the gemlike quality in the granite countertops," Hayes says. In 2009 the National Kitchen & Bath Association identified glass elements as an up-and-coming trend, specifically when used in backsplashes or countertops.

Night at the Movies

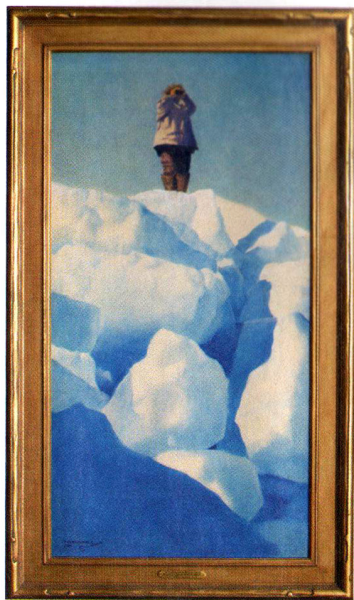
At 6,800 square feet, an Arizona vacation retreat wasn't your typical intimate getaway home. But the owners, a couple with a 1-year-old daughter, wanted a second home that didn't skimp on the amenities. Case in point: the home theater, which was originally a guest room. "They asked me if we could do a home theater that is like a boudoir—very comfy, very intimate and inviting—where they could watch TV together," says Valerie Marcus of Scottsdale-based VM Concept Interior Design Studio. "They didn't want a traditional theater with a curtain."

The space, which is located on the second floor of

In an Arizona getaway home, a guest room was transformed into an intimate, inviting theater, with lighting that makes the room comfortable for reading when movies aren't being shown.

FRED MACHETANZ

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a tower and is 23 feet around, presented Marcus with the challenge of finding a place to mount the massive 103-inch TV screen. Because the circular room has four windows and a door that leads to a balcony, Marcus was left with only one open wall on which to hang the television.

"I didn't have a lot of choice of how I was going to put this big-screen TV in the room," Marcus says. "In order to not lose too much space, I hung the video projector from the ceiling. I then created a seating platform for quality of viewing."

The raised platform gives viewers on the back couch the same unobstructed view as those in the front, just like stadium seating at your local movie theater.

The room's canyonlike acoustics were another challenge. "The acoustics were strange," Marcus says. "There was an echo, so we needed to pad everything."

She lined the walls with golden-brown, faux-silk upholstery, which absorbs sound. Laying down carpet, which also absorbs noise, was another solution to the sound issue, and added to the theater's cozy feel.

To conceal all of the necessary home-theater gadgetry, Marcus custom-designed an alder-wood media console, which stores everything from the subwoofer to DVDs. The console is round on the back to accommodate the room's curves, while the cabinet-door faces were covered with the same upholstery used on the walls. She also used alder for custom ceiling moldings and window casings that helped to tie the room's design together.

So that the homeowners could get as much use out of the space as possible, Marcus gave them several lighting options. During the day, sunshine pours in through the windows, so for midday TV viewing, she created custom, flat Roman shades that block out all of the light. Four can lights in the ceiling brighten the space for reading when the natural light isn't enough, while stylish wall sconces emit a warm but not overwhelming glow.

"You can watch TV, watch a movie or hang around and read a magazine," Marcus says. "It's not a home theater where you only watch a movie. And next to the TV there's a door that leads to a gym. The wife

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