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Subject: Getting It Together: Decorating for Dad
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June 2010

Decorating for Dad

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Events & Info

Father's Day is June 20. Want to give your dad more time for fun stuff? Consider a free organizing consultation or a prepurchased redesign gift certificate. [Email](#) or call 856-905-3202 for details.

Need something you can wrap? One of my favorite organizing tools, [Dynamic Frames](#), is having a 25% off sale until June 30. My family all love these frames that load up to 50 pages in a single frame.

Quick Tip

Want the quick high that comes with an organizing project completed?

Take ten minutes to go through the pockets on your family's winter coats. Clear out the tissues (yuck),

Dear Dan,

When is the last time you surprised someone? I had great fun surprising a friend of mine recently with a room redesign. He was off doing amazing stuff in Haiti, so I enlisted his kids to let me in to his house and create a "man room" that he had been wanting. His man room was designed completely around the TV and comfy furniture that allowed him to relax when he returned. If you are lucky enough to surprise some guy that you love this month for Father's Day, take a few tips from this fun project below.

Sincerely,
Darla DeMorrow, owner

Decorating for Dad

...it's all about the TV

We're taught not to stereotype, but really would it be wrong if I generalized that most guys are looking for the best seat in the house? Shoot, one of the biggest trends in the last ten years has been the introduction of a dedicated "media room" in high end homes. Even though most of us don't have a tricked out home theater and seats with built in drink holders, even modest homes can have a family room where the focal point is truly meant to be the TV. Did you know there is even a TV show called **Man Caves**?

Man Den before



Man Den before

When decorating for dad, there are a few things to keep in mind. Like, let him have a say. Obvious, but maybe not so much. One of my guy clients surprised me a few years ago by asking me to help him choose between two colors he had picked out. I was surprised he was stressing about the

repurpose the hand sanitizer, stash the little forgotten treasures, and treat the family to ice cream with the coins you find!

Next Month

Organize Your Car for Summer Fun

Survey Results

It's official. 100% of last month's respondents said they sometimes go to real estate open houses just for fun. It's a great way to get new design tips for houses like yours.

Please weigh in on this month's survey:

Would you rather take a class on time management or paper management? [Click Here](#)



colors because I knew he was color blind, which is a pretty common condition in men. According to Wikipedia, about 8% of males are color blind. But I learned again never to assume...even a guy who doesn't see colors the way most of us do can still make a color choice!

For the man room pictured here, despite my best attempt to use the room in a space-efficient way, the client really wanted a set of recliners, which I knew would eat up all the available space in the small room. We found a recliner and a double reclining loveseat that maxed out the space and the comfort level. We outfitted the walls, or what was left of them around the humongous TV, with golf landscapes. If a guy has sports art or memorabilia, give them a chance to show it off and enjoy it, even if (sometimes especially if) it doesn't flow with the rest of the household decor. My own dad has his famous Indiana University room, where all things IU get showcased...in the basement.

As to the most important accessory, there is a rule of thumb about how far to locate the TV from the seating area. The distance from the TV should be one and a half to two times the size of the screen, so viewing distance from a 46" screen should be about 6-8 feet. Although not every seat in the room needs to be lined up like stadium seating, usually dad's seat is best placed in a direct line with the screen for best viewing.

Man Den After



Man Den After

One of the best investments in many decorating projects can be an excellent electrician, as was the case here. Rather than keeping the TV by the existing outlet in a cramped corner, we were able to add one more seat to the room by running a new cable and placing it on the longest wall. We also improved the lighting by adding both spotlights overhead and floor lamps for task lighting. (By the way, I love *my* electrician and will gladly share his name with those in the NJ/PA area!)

Window treatments were upgraded to something more masculine and practical to control the lighting for better TV viewing.

As with most jobs, the personality of the client really came through in the accessorizing. More sports and travel related accessories were brought out to fill in the alcove that previously housed a smaller TV. Designing a man room, after all, is no different than any other design job. It's all about showcasing the fun things about a person, those things that make them unique and happy. And what guy doesn't want to be surrounded by his favorite toys? Go team!



Accessories

About HeartWork Organizing

Our mission is to help you find peace and purpose. 856-905-3202

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