

Analyze Your Living Room

Print out this form. When you have a few minutes for yourself, make a cup of coffee, go into the living room and get comfortable. Look around the room. I mean really look! Look at the room as if you were seeing it for the first time. Write down the first 10 words that come to your mind,

Here are a few words to get your creative mind going. Is it warm, cozy, inviting, cold, country, traditional, formal, bare, cluttered? Don't think about this and spend a lot of time on it. This is just to get an idea of the first impression your home presents to visitors.

First Impressions:

Take the time to answer the questions below. This is not a timed test. Take as much time as you need. A day, a week, or a month, time does not matter here. What does matter is that eventually you will have a concrete idea of what you want to accomplish in this room.

Questions:	Answers:
What is the main purpose of this room?	
What are the main activities conducted here?	
Do you entertain here?	
If you entertain – How often? How many guests? Is your entertainment style formal or informal	

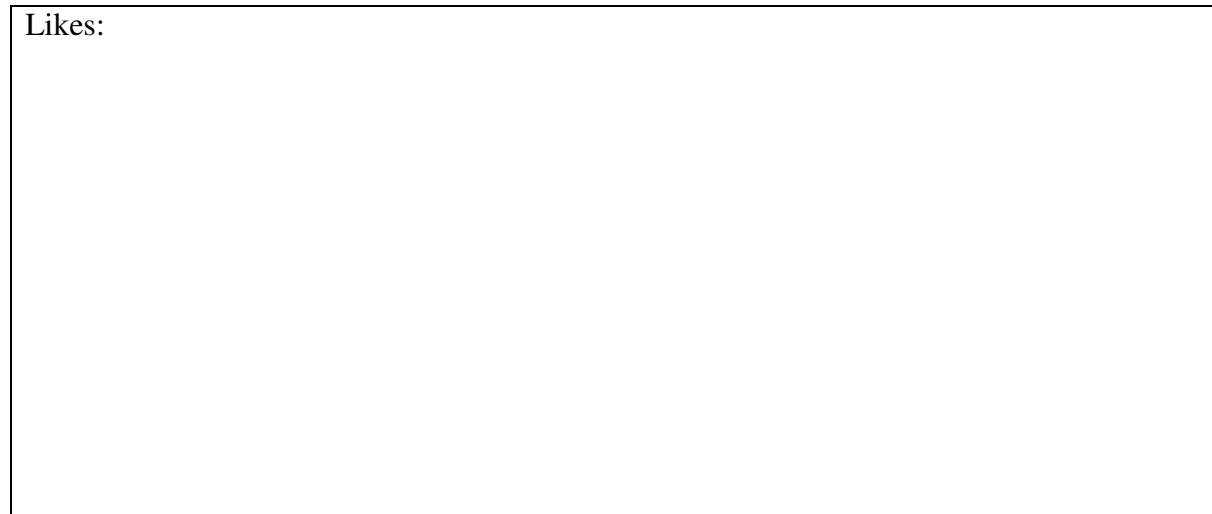
What type of entertainment?	
Do you eat here or serve meals here?	
Is this a place where the family gathers to talk and relax?	
Is this room used by children as well as adults?	
Do you play family games here?	
Do you read here?	
Do you nap here?	
Is this where you watch TV, play video games, or listen to music?	

This list of questions is just a jumping off point. I'm sure you have come up with a list of your own. Take note of your own questions and ideas at this point. The clearer picture you have in your mind about what you want, the closer you will be able to create your ideal room.

Here is another exercise to help you with the preplanning of your room.

Once again, carefully examine your room. What do you like about your living room? Do you like the architectural features? The colors? The furniture arrangement? Write your impressions in the space below:

Likes:



Now do the same exercise with your dislikes. Is it too dark? Not enough privacy from the neighbors? Cluttered? No particular style? Once again, write your impressions in the space below:

Dislikes:



For this last exercise, you will be analyzing and writing down your preferences. Fill in the questionnaire below to round out the picture of what you would like to accomplish in this room.

Questions:	Answers:
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Style</i></p> <p>Do you have a particular style of furniture here?</p> <p>Do you want to continue in this style or are you looking for change?</p> <p>Which pieces of furniture do you want to keep?</p> <p>What needs replacing?</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Walls</i></p> <p>Are you happy with the wall covering?</p> <p>Do you prefer paint or wallpaper?</p> <p>Are you happy with the artwork or do you prefer a family photo area?</p> <p>Do you like the feeling of openness that mirrors provide?</p>	

<p><i>Flooring</i></p>	<p>Do you prefer hard floors (wood, tile, vinyl)?</p> <p>Do you like wall to wall carpeting?</p> <p>Do you prefer area rugs?</p> <p>Do you mind vacuuming wall to wall carpet or do you prefer the ease of a quick sweep and mop that hard flooring provides?</p>	
<p><i>Colors</i></p>	<p>Are there any particular colors in the room that make you feel good and that you would like to continue using?</p> <p>Do you prefer the calmness of neutrals and pastels?</p> <p>Would you rather have the lively, upbeat feel of brights?</p> <p>Or perhaps the solidness of darker colors?</p>	
<p><i>Lighting</i></p>	<p>What are your feelings about the present lighting in your room?</p> <p>Is it convenient for the activities conducted there?</p> <p>Is there only central lighting?</p> <p>Would you prefer dimmers?</p> <p>Do you have ample lamps around the room?</p>	

<i>Window Treatments</i>	<p>What type of draperies do you have?</p> <p>Are you looking for a new style?</p> <p>Do you have shades or blinds? Do these need to be updated?</p> <p>If you have blinds, do you prefer horizontal or vertical blinds?</p> <p>Wood or vinyl?</p> <p>Do you like a room that is bright and sunny, or do you prefer a room that is dim and cool?</p>	
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If you've arrived at this point with me, you are ahead of 95% of most people in the planning stage of home decorating. At this point, you are starting to get a true picture of what you would like to accomplish.

After you have reached this phase of the planning stage, again take some time for yourself, make yourself something to drink, and once again find yourself a comfortable spot in your living room.

This time, you are going to envision the room you want to create. Try to visualize the finished room. If you are not used to visualizing, you may have a hard time with this. Try one thing at a time. Close your eyes and try to see the wall color you may like. Place the furniture where you would like it be in your final plans. See the new window treatment you would like to have.

You may not really know exactly what you want at this point, but you should have some idea of the atmosphere and feeling you would like to create in the room. Try to visualize yourself walking into a beautiful finished room and feeling assured and confident because of what you have created.

If you can't get into this step, don't worry. More help is on the way. With this questionnaire in hand, you are ready for the next step. Return to the website: <http://www.home-decorating-room-by-room.com> and click on the Dream Shopping tab. Let's take off on our next adventure!