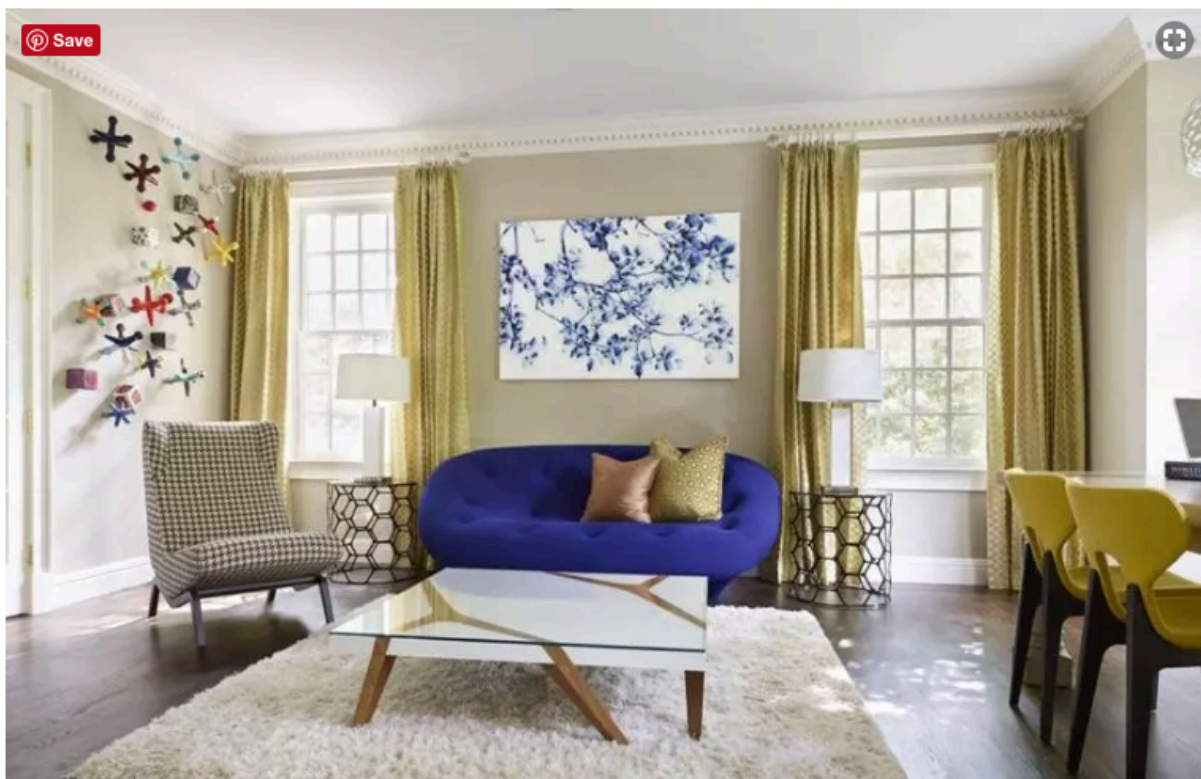


STYLE WATCH

# A bright, new homework room to keep the kids on track

The parents sought a shared space to encourage their six children to hang out together.



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By Marni Elyse Katz JUNE 22, 2018

A Weston couple had a simple request: a homework room that would encourage their six kids to hang out together. “They wanted them down in the main living space rather than up in their bedrooms all the time,” says Kurt Hakansson, whom they hired to design the interior of their central-hall Colonial. Hakansson and associate Jaye Gordon created a room that has a fun, comfortable vibe without sacrificing function. They commissioned a sizable quarter-sawn-oak table (far right in photo) for the bay window adjacent to the sofa and chose a large square coffee table that works for projects and games. As for the look and feel, Hakansson says, “The mister is very contemporary and missus is totally traditional, so we gave them a little of each.”

**1** An **installation** of ceramic jacks, cubes, and spheres by sculptor Kaiser Suidan, acquired through Boston Art in the Seaport, adds whimsy. In composing the cascade, Hakansson says he asked himself, “When you toss jacks on the floor, how do they land?”

**2** Chunky white wood **curtain rods** with large crystal ball finials stand up against the prominent crown molding. “Oversize pushes oversize,” says Hakansson.

**3** The **artwork** by Jackie Battenfield, of leafy branches, spoke to the wife, who wanted the room to have a connection to the outdoors. “Its ethereal nature balances the boldness of the sofa,” Hakansson says.

**4** The Ploum **settee** from Ligne Roset was the room’s starting point. “We wanted that good pop of cobalt,” Hakansson says. Traditional houndstooth upholstery takes the edge off the contemporary silhouette of the **chair**.

**5** The laser-cut steel bases of Roche Bobois Pollen **end tables** balance the bulk of the sofa and coffee table. Sleek porcelain table **lamps** recede from the scheme. “Everything can’t be the star,” Hakansson explains.

**6** A plush **rug** was a must so the kids could gather comfortably around the table for games and such. “Yes, it’s white, but all the textiles were selected to stand up to heavy use,” says Hakansson.