

Boys Toys and The Art of Compromise

So the man of the house has finally decided that life will be so much better with a flat screen television. But how will that affect your decor?

These days the television seems to have found a permanent place in the living room. Fortunately, although the flat screens are oversized, they are thin and don't take up as much space as the older style TVs. In fact, they are so slim that they can be hung on the wall.

The trick is not to let the television be the dominant piece in the room. Hard I know when they command attention. Living rooms combine all sorts of usage. Families get together with children and friends or it can sometimes be used by just one person for reading or a couple for conversation.

Give the room a flexible floor plan and furnish accordingly. Soft furnishings like rugs, curtains and fabric covered chairs will absorb the sound. A comfortable armchair in a corner with a lamp and side table will satisfy the reader and a clear floor space with cushions will please the kids. If there is electronic gaming equipment then space needs to be left for that action or at least an area that can be converted into what is required.

Draw attention away from the screen by creating another focal point. It might be a stunning piece of artwork or a glorious coloured glass vase. Entertainment cabinets and sofas are low-line so don't forget to include some taller pieces like long vases with ornamental grass or twigs or a standard lamp to balance the horizontal view of the room rather than just concentrating on the floor space.

Using these techniques, the big screen can live harmoniously with your décor and accommodate everyone for all occasions.

Jennifer French is an Interior Decorator and Colour Consultant. Her business is Inside Out Colour and Design and you can contact her via the website www.insideoutcolouranddesign.com.au or on 0401 440 088.

See Jennifer at the annual Home Bazaar from August 10 - 18.

Items featured in photo:

St Ives Village Newsagency: Home Entertainment Magazine \$7.95; What Plasma and LCD TV Magazine \$12.95; Australian Best Buys Home Theatre Magazine \$8.95. **St Ives Village Florist:** Selection of twisted willow, bamboo and pussy willow from \$22 per bunch. **Bed Bath and Table:** European Hollow Light Pillow \$29.95; Cotton House Brampton Blue European Pillow Case \$39.95. **Intaglio Gallery:** 'Indecision in Pink' by Charles Arnot \$1450. **Persian Art Gallery:** Persian Handmade Rug from City of Nains \$4950. **Dick Smith Electronics:** Universal Remote Control \$49.95. **Sorrento:** Lamp and Shade \$179, Side Table \$247; Candle Holder and Pink Candle \$5.95; Pink Coffee Mug \$14.95; Blue and Black Cushion on Chair \$29.95; Grey and Silver Cushion on Chair \$29.95; Grey and Cream Flocked Cushion on Shelf \$34.95; White and Grey Cushion on Floor \$95.



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