

Condo Life

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The Party Room *transformed*

After eight years, the residents realized they needed an entirely new kind of Party Room

The Party Room looked fine the day the condominium complex opened, but after eight years of use, it was starting to look shabby.

The carpeting was stained and worn. The venetian blinds were broken and caked with dust. The furniture, covered with a light-coloured fabric, was stained beyond cleaning. Many of the chairs in

the games area were broken and the rest were stained.

Even more distressing, it was obvious that the Party Room needed more than a fresh coat of paint and a few new chairs. The Party Room, as it was, simply wasn't the room that the residents needed — they needed an entirely new kind of Party Room.

The list of complaints went on and on. The wing back chairs were too heavy to be moved for flexible seating. The games area wasn't useful for afternoon tea parties; and the dance floor was never used. Storage was needed for extra chairs, and the TV needed a new home. As for the long valances over the windows, they blocked too much light, and ruined the



ABOVE: The old Party Room was starting to look shabby. It simply wasn't the room that the residents needed.

LEFT: The room was transformed with warmer colours, more durable materials, and new furniture that met the needs of the residents. The old wing chairs were replaced with new tub chairs that could be moved easily.

other residents, Anita analyzed the room and the needs of the residents. She noted, for instance, that the bar area was in good shape, and could be left alone.

Anita proposed transforming the room with warmer colours, more durable materials, and new furniture that met the needs of the residents. She developed a new colour scheme of red, green, and blue mixed with neutrals. Walls were kept light, but a wallpaper border was added, with the new colours. The old wing chairs were replaced with new tub chairs that could be moved much more easily.

Smaller lamps were also chosen to make them easier to move when needed. In a convenient niche, a custom cabinet was built for the TV set, with storage below for folding chairs. The cabinet replaced a bulky armoire, and takes advantage of otherwise wasted space.


In the games area, the new chairs were better made and were covered in a colourful stripe to brighten the area and show fewer stains. The tabletops were edged in walnut, to match the new chairs. Table bases were chosen in an antique gold finish, for warmth and a less "commercial" feel.

Along one wall, two six-foot tabletops, matching the wallpaper, were wall-mounted, so they could be folded down,

out of sight; they allow for serving during tea parties, or other special occasions, so the residents don't have to move heavy tables around. Electrical outlets were moved to allow for tea and coffee makers to be plugged in.

New carpeting was chosen for its durability, to avoid the 'zippering' tearing of the past, where the carpet began to unravel. The wooden dance floor was removed, and carpeted over. The window treatments pulled everything together, with a traditional print on damask base cloth for richness. The new kingston valances hid sheer weave roller blinds, which filter harsh glare, but allow full view of the gardens outside.

New artwork was chosen and framed in a variety of complementary styles and colours, so that all residents could find a favourite. The old beveled mirrors were reframed. The old silk plants were kept, but were given a facelift with a special cleaning spray.

The new Party Room is bright, comfortable, and functional. 

Designer Anita Wiklem may be contacted at Decorating Den Interiors, (905) 737-1488.

view of the landscaping outdoors.

Almost everything about the room was wrong. Finally, after much debate (it seemed to go on forever), the Party Room Committee was authorized to make things right.

Anita Wiklem, a designer at Decorating Den Interiors, was hired to take on the job. Working with the Committee and