

# FORM & FUNCTION

A very chic makeover made this living space work  
for all members of a family of four

FEATURE MADELINE ROBERTS | PHOTOGRAPHY ALANNA HALE | STYLING MIKHAEL ROMAIN





## PROJECT DETAILS

**DESIGNER**

Courtney B Smith  
(courtneybsmith.com)

**PROPERTY**

Bungalow

**WORK**

Full house redesign

**LOCATION**

California

Susan and Doug and their two sons, Eric and Otis, turned to interior designer Courtney B Smith to refresh the decor in their sitting room. Working with the family, Courtney came up with a design that ‘could just as easily host kids birthday parties as adult cocktail hours’.

**1 PRACTICAL MATTERS**

The sitting room is the heart of the home, and gets a lot of action. ‘This is their TV-watching, game-playing, homework-doing and casual entertaining space,’ says Courtney. Based on the need for practicality, furnishing choices weren’t precious or delicate while at the same time Courtney’s aim was to design ‘a functional and beautiful home’.

**2 PERSONAL PALETTE**

When it came to deciding the palette and direction, Susan’s wardrobe was an inspiration for Courtney. ‘She wears lots of blue and red and has a classic, fresh, preppy, approachable style,’ says Courtney. ‘We wanted to create a happy space that felt good for kids, but elevated enough for adults, and tied into the rest of the spaces we were doing in this open-concept home.’

**3 MOVING ON**

‘The couple wanted to use a few existing pieces but weren’t hung up on saving things that didn’t make sense in the context of the plan,’ says Courtney. ‘Most importantly, they weren’t afraid of custom solutions, which we utilised to solve some problems.’ These included a custom library wall that is designed to balance the previously off-centre space and add much-needed storage.

**4 FINDING BALANCE**

‘By creating a library wall around the fireplace, we were able to balance the room, add storage and create zones that made sense,’ says Courtney. To one side of the shelving is a seating/TV zone, and on the other is a breakfast table/game table zone, which defines the spaces while visually linking each of the areas. 🍷

**FUNCTIONAL DESIGN**

**‘Tucking the sofa away in the corner allowed us to orient the room so that it feels inviting as you enter, while using every square foot efficiently. It also means that you can see the back garden from the sofa, which is a win!’ says Courtney.**

**Custom sofa in fabric by Thibaut. Blind in fabric by Les Indiennes. Round side table in fabric similar to Polly fabric, Studio G. Swivel chairs, Lee Industries. Moroccan pouf, Etsy.**

**Artwork, Natural Curiosities. Similar round rattan drum pendant, Sklum. Wall light, Visual Comfort & Co**