

Modern Makeover

This combination living and dining room gets a fresh start with strategic furniture placement, lighting and colour techniques.

BY KAREN KIRK | DESIGNED BY JANE LOCKHART
PHOTOGRAPHY, STACEY BRANDFORD



Awash with natural light, a lofty down-filled sectional sofa bed defines the modern style, practicality and comfort of the space.



“HAVE NOTHING IN YOUR HOMES THAT YOU DO NOT KNOW TO BE USEFUL AND BELIEVE TO BE BEAUTIFUL.”
— William Morris

JANE'S BOOKCASE TIP:
For a less busy and cluttered look, expose the spines of some books and the pages of others. Stack some flat to support upright books and top with photos or collectibles.

DID YOU KNOW?
Piecrust tables, carved with a raised series of curves that resemble the outside edge of a pastry crust, were the ultimate challenge for the colonial craftsman who crafted precisely spaced scalloping on the rim.

1 | A neutral greyish blue colour scheme provides contrast for the white and cream furnishings. Easy to install foam crown moulding adds architectural detail. Sico Country Road 6204-41, sico.ca. Moulding, cana mould.com.

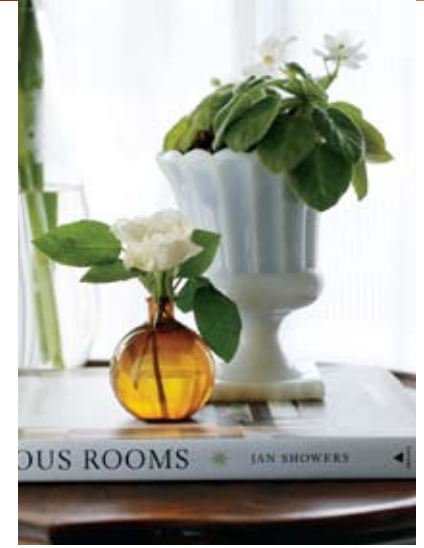
2 | A down-filled sectional sofa in a durable cream linen-polyester offers the same amount of seating as two sofas with the added bonus of a double sofa bed. The chaise is the perfect spot to curl up and read or watch television. Statum Designs Prestigious sofa bed and cushions, all through Jane Lockhart Interior Design, janelockhart.com. Framed prints and floor lamp, all windergarden.com. Throw, homesense.ca.

3 | There were some pieces I couldn't part with: a pine pedestal table and an antique piecrust tea table. They're the perfect size and height for use as end tables and add a personal touch that complements the new pared-down contemporary style of the room. Statum Designs Brisbane chair, through Jane Lockhart Interior Design, janelockhart.com.

4 | After painting the walls and moulding, I repainted the red coffee table in a durable semigloss cream to match the sofa. An old wooden tray

corrals accessories, books and television remotes. The dark indoor-outdoor rug complements the light coloured furniture and is easy to clean. Benjamin Moore Advantage paint in Wheeling Neutral HC-92, benjaminmoore.com. Savannah Bark rug, crateandbarrel.com.

5 | A longtime dream of mine has been to have a library wall for all of my books and collectibles. The Liatorp wall system from Ikea perfectly suits my traditional style and works well with my antiques. By combining coordinating pieces in the collection, I was able to cover almost the entire 11-foot wall. Adding doors to the bottom of the two bookcases gives me storage for odds and ends, and creates a more built-in look to the unit. Liatorp in white (includes two bookcases, two doors, one bridging shelf and one sideboard), all Ikea, ikea.ca. Radio and CD player, tivoliaudio.com. Sharp Aquos TV, sharp.ca.



For several years I've had the pleasure of working with homeowners, decorators, designers and contractors to produce and write decor stories for *Canadian Living*. Recently, I've decided to put all of their valuable advice into practice by creating a fresh new look for my own home.

To help me edit down all the styles and trends I've grown to love over the years and achieve my personal style, I've turned to interior designer Jane Lockhart, a regular contributor to

Canadian Living's Home pages. Now that I'm living in a smaller place, the decisions seem bigger and more important. With Jane's objective eye and practical design sense, she was able to advise me on where to start, what should stay and what to keep based on how I wanted my space to work, look and feel. The first step was to clear the space of unwanted and unusable stuff. I have a passion for books and have far too many for my small digs to handle; towers of stacked books became plant stands and side tables. After a couple of calls

to the Furniture Bank (furniturebank.org) and to a friend's daughter in need of furniture for her new apartment, as well as several trips to thrift shops and recycling depots, I finally felt I was on my way. With the clutter gone, it was easier to visualize the space and to follow Jane's keep-it-simple plan. The result is a fresh, minimal look for my living and dining room that offers comfort, storage, light and even a place for guests to sleep. Here's how it all came together – finally!





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6 | An old painted pine table was replaced with a round pedestal table, so that more people could sit comfortably without having table legs to contend with. Upholstered chairs offer a more relaxing dining experience. A china cabinet with space-saving sliding glass doors, interior lights and four drawers on the bottom provides plenty of storage and display for a tight space. Kincaid table, chairs and cabinet, all windergarden.com. Mirror, bouclair.ca. Rug, speersroadbroadloom.com.

7. A sculptural light fixture mimics the shape of the table and adds a formal look. Its elegant detailed polished nickel design creates a focal point for the open living-dining space. Light (083426), unionlightingandfurnisings.com.

8 | Patterned Ripplefold-style floor-length sheer curtains are hung on a simple track system that's installed in the ceiling and barely visible. It's an inexpensive alternative to costly rods, and the curtains snap on for easy installation and removal. Today's modern sheers offer privacy without blocking the light and view. Irma sheer fabric in Silver, robertallendesign.com. Draperies, drapesandmore.ca. Installation, Final Touch Interiors, Toronto, 416-822-4986.

9. The old dresser that formerly served as the living room's television stand now sits against a small wall adjacent to the dining area for convenient access to decor, craft and photography supplies. "Chair" original acrylic painting by Mark Gleberzon, markgleberzon.com. Barometer lamp, ikea.ca.



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NEED A PAINTING PRIMER?

Visit canadianliving.com/march to find tips on selecting the right type and colour of paint, plus when to do it yourself and when call in the pros.

Interior designer Jane Lockhart, Jane Lockhart Interior Design, janelockhart.com



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