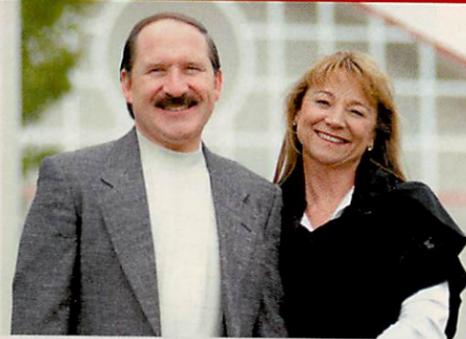


Tom & Sandra Kaye of Your Home Interiors



Recently we had a client ask us what suggestions we might have on how to decorate the spare room in her new home. While this didn't seem like a difficult decision, she felt her ideas weren't exploring the full range of possibilities.

Our response wasn't complicated, but it revealed to her the many alternatives she had yet to consider. Whether you have one too many bedrooms, an unused den, or garage space for the third car you don't have, this extra square footage has untapped potential. Prospects vary according to lifestyle and family size, but there are answers for every category.

A primary solution for parents with young children is to turn the extra space into a playroom, providing essential storage, as well as a recreational area to exercise the imagination in. Those of us who have small ones know how toys seem to spontaneously multiply, eventually crowding bedrooms and spilling out of closets. In effort to contain this surplus, designating one room to your children's playthings is a practical resolution. Furthermore, their excess of energy will also have full license and freedom to wear itself out within these confines. This allows them to act their age without the risk of disturbing your calm or your tidy living room. With an extensive range of children's furniture

companies that offer brightly colored pieces, decorating the playroom will be exciting and revitalizing, stimulating your youthful creativity. Include pint-size tables and chairs for afternoon tea parties, arts and crafts. Bunk beds with a playhouse and slide offer hours of occupation and entertainment.



Beanbags are a great alternative to sofas and armchairs, and are incredibly comfortable without making children feel as though they are being swallowed up in adult furniture. A chest or two, several bookcases, and a few large baskets should help you organize their stuff. Stock the room with coloring books and crayons, boardgames, and some sport equipment, like bouncy balls and jump ropes, and you may gratefully wonder at the amount of peace and quiet this room affords you. While television is inevitable, hide it away in an armoire as a last option, stowing video games, DVDs, and other electrical gear below. When they're finished watching cartoons, or hopefully the occasional educational program, shutting the television up will encourage them to engage their minds and bodies actively. With most of our children achieving computer literacy between the ages of five to seven, a PC and workstation might be necessary to complete the total entertainment experience. Finish off with splashes of primary colors or faux paintings to inspire their imaginations, incorporating vibrant hues in singular pieces, prints, or wallpaper. Or, if you are exceptionally clever and motivated,

a hand painted thematic mural adds the perfect touch of love. The new playroom will be utterly fit for your little princes or princesses, quickly becoming their own little castle in the sky.

Another popular use for your extra space is a communal game room. It is, literally, fun for the whole family! Your kids will be more inclined to stay at home if there is plenty of entertainment readily available, so quality time spent together won't be such a rare occasion. Game rooms typically revolve around billiards. Used pool tables are advertised in the paper and online, or splurge on a spectacular carved-wood, regulation-size table, created for you in a classic turn-of-the-century design with your choice of stain and custom color felt top. Order a matching stained-wood cover to convert it into a convenient buffet, just don't forget the decorative bullion trim for your custom leather pockets. Add a vintage jukebox designed in the malt shop style for a hip source of background music.



*continued on page 55*

**Your Home INTERIORS**

- CUSTOM WINDOW FASHION GALLERY
- BUY TRIPS TO SAN FRANCISCO FURNITURE SHOWROOMS
- INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICES
- UNIQUE FURNITURE SHOWROOM

2003 HOMES & LIFESTYLES READERS' CHOICE AWARDS  
Voted Best Interior Design & Best Blind & Drapes

VISIT OUR HOLIDAY ASSECCORY ROOM

**YOUR HOME INTERIORS**  
FINE FURNITURE AND ACCESSORIES FOR YOUR HOME  
6687 NORTH BLACKSTONE AVE. • FRESNO, CA 559.277.1234  
www.discountblinds.com