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HOME room for improvement

the challenge: Steve and B.J. Anderson rarely used the living room of their Clyde Hill home. "You couldn't relax," recalls B.J. Despite a vaulted ceiling, the room felt cramped, with a small, dark rug surrounded by mismatched furnishings that boxed in the space and looked cacophonous together. Collections of marble carvings and Indian baskets were lost amid the clutter; shiny brass lamps and fireplace accessories were dated and didn't fit the room's proportions.





WRITTEN BY FRED ALBERT PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRIAN FRANCIS

the solution:







PILLOWS LEND COLOR, PATTERN AND TEXTURE.

A TRANSITIONAL CHAIR OFFERS A LINK TO FORMAL PIECES.

To make the room feel more inviting, interior designer Pamela Pearce replaced the mismatched furniture with a more cohesive selection of tailored pieces upholstered in a neutral palette drawn from the large new Ushak carpet. The opposing sofa and love seat were replaced with a perpendicular arrangement that doesn't block the window wall, letting in more light and view and allowing the deck beyond to feel like an extension of the room. Transitional occasional chairs provide a link to the more traditional furnishings in the adjacent dining room; taller lamps help bridge the void between the furniture and the ceiling. Although the new coffee table is large, it's transparent, so it appears to take up less room, and the lower shelf provides display space for the owners' collections. The Paris street scene over the fireplace was replaced with a smaller abstract canvas better suited to the proportions of the hearth and the home's Northwest contemporary style.

Send before-and-after shots, along with a SASE, to Room for Improvement, Seattle Homes & Lifestyles, 1221 E. Pike St., Suite 305, Seattle, WA 98122.