



Room Service: 6 Top Designers Take You Inside

PHOTOGRAPH BY THOMAS LOOF

Designer Todd Alexander Romano says: "I don't think it should have anything so precious or off-limits that you and your guests would be inhibited from enjoying yourselves." This was his temporary living room while he was working on his apartment.

His Best Advice

- Seating is important. "Look at your living room after you've had guests over and see how they pulled out the furniture," Romano suggests. Then, arrange couches and chairs to facilitate comfort and conversation.
- Give it a "wow" factor. "Every room needs something glamorous, a thing that turns the owner on," Romano says. Here it's the glossy blue walls and blue mohair couch.
- Make peace with multi-purpose. "We all multi-task these days, our rooms have to keep up with that," he declares. So don't be afraid to put a desk in the living room or section off an area for your children to play.



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FAVORITE ROOM

Standout item: A gilt-and-brass ottoman (\$2,400) does double-duty—as seating and as a visual punch.

toddalexanderromano.com