

Thanks to its cheery and calming vibes, this Calgary living room will have you California dreaming — and that's exactly the effect designer Aly Velji was going for when he revamped it for a mother and her two children. Originally decorated with pieces from their previous house, the 350-square-foot room seemed lacklustre and no longer suited the family's style, so out went the furniture. With the flooring in tip-top shape and a great layout, the space became a stunning blank canvas.

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A bright, sun-soaked living room with a beige armchair, a wooden coffee table, and a floor lamp. The room is filled with natural light from a window with sheer curtains. The armchair has a gold frame and a beige fabric. The coffee table is made of light wood and holds a small potted plant in a glass dome and a geometric terrarium. A floor lamp with a white shade and gold frame stands to the right. A patterned rug is on the floor.

SWEET SPOT

This bright Calgary living room boasts a sun-soaked California-cool vibe.

TEXT MARIANNE DAVIDSON | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JOEL KLASSEN



1. Texture Tricks

The homeowner prefers a soothing neutral colour scheme, so instead of using pops of bold colours, Aly introduced interest through multiple textures and sculptural details. “Wood, metal, marble, wool, leather and linen all make appearances here,” he says. “Texture is definitely key.”

2. Vivid Views

The large painting hanging above the sofa is the focal point of the room, pulling together its palette and providing a stunning graphic statement. The piece is made of stretched linen, which adds more depth and texture to the space.

3. Throwing Curveballs

Rustic yet elegant, the coffee table is made of aged elm and boasts a curvaceous form, acting as an anchor and keeping the scheme from appearing too linear.

4. Dazzling Details

Intricate stitching, a trademark of Moroccan pouffes, and cognac-coloured leather lend the space warmth and bohemian flair.

5. Golden Touches

The roomy armchairs have a soft laid-back appeal that’s in contrast to the dainty yet dramatic metal side tables, but both items have one thing in common: hits of glamorous gold.

6. Classic Components

The existing fireplace and its marble surround were sleek features the homeowner didn’t want to lose, so Aly worked them into the design. The veined stone casts a classic mood, while its subtle luxury blends perfectly with the overall aesthetic.

DESIGN, Alykhan Velji Designs, alyveljidesigns.com; **SOFA**, CF Interiors; **ARMCHAIRS**, Article; **COFFEE TABLE**, RH; **RUG**, **FLOOR LAMP**, Crate and Barrel; **POUFFES**, AVD Shoppe; *We May Have To Reschedule* **ARTWORK** by Lori Harrison, Art Interiors.

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Tasked with creating a setting that put family-friendly feels first, Aly focused on balancing a relaxed practical look with one that’s polished. “It’s all about finding that sweet spot between casual and elegant, which can be difficult to pinpoint. But we made it work, and the room turned out really beautifully,” says the designer, who believes that having kids in the house doesn’t mean forgoing a sophisticated design.

Here’s how Aly transformed this living room from a mundane space into one family’s happy place.

