

SANDRA FORBES

# LOVE YOUR *LAYOUT* FORMULA

*How to Identify and Create an Ideal Layout for Each Room in Your Home*



## Comfort Obstructions by Room

### Bedroom

- Not having the head of the bed against a wall can be destabilizing. A headboard provides a certain amount of stability in addition to being against a wall.
- Rug placed under a bed should be large enough for the feet to land on it as you get out of bed on the side.
- Light placed at shoulder height of someone sitting in bed for easy reading
- Not having a bedside table and storage on each side of the bed creates unbalance and low functionality
- Distance between bed and wall or surrounding furniture to pass easily
- Space in front of drawer unit is large enough for someone to stand and open drawer
- Avoid the foot of the bed directly opposite the entrance in line with the door
- Avoid having to walk all the way around a bed to walk from bathroom to closet.
- Window treatments that give privacy
- Storage for clothing
- Avoid clutter
- Don't have a mirror facing the bed and clear view of bed upon entering
- Clear view of the door when lying in bed
- Avoid having your desk in your bedroom
- Avoid having exercise equipment in your bedroom
- Not having a chair

## Dining Room

- Avoid pendant or chandelier lighting obstructing the view of others in the room.
- Appropriate proportion of chandelier to table size
- Light fixture centered over table
- Appropriate clearance around table to walk around when someone seated
- Rug is large enough for chair to still be on the rug when person is seated
- Height of table in good proportion to chair with enough clearance between the table apron and chair
- Table is appropriate size for the number of persons seated
- Avoid clutter

## Living Room/Family Room

- Avoid the edge of a rug be in a walkway
- Avoid having walking paths through the room cut through a seating area or between 2 chairs within speaking distance.
- Avoid the back of a chair or couch facing the main entrance to the room.
- Avoid not having a horizontal surface near a seat where one might enjoy a drink or snack.
- TV at the appropriate angle for viewing
- Sufficient Seating
- Chair arms do not overlap when placed perpendicular to one another
- Space between seating and coffee table
- Seating group facing doorway
- Lighting is sufficient
- Sufficient storage
- Delineate zones like seating area and dining room table with a rug
- Avoid tight right angle turns in common walking paths through the space and having to walk out of your way to avoid furniture when walking from one entrance to the other.
- Avoid placing the majority of the furniture in the room against the walls.

- Avoid having the wrong scale furniture
- Avoid only 1 layer of light in the space such as a ceiling light without other lighting sources.
- Avoid too little space for leg room
- Avoid narrow walkways
- Avoid clutter

#### Entry

- Seat for putting on shoes
- Hanging area for coats
- Storage for exterior clothing
- Storage for shoes
- Surface for visitor's belongings
- Avoid clutter

#### Bathroom/ Powder Room

- Sufficient storage
- Window treatments that give privacy
- Sufficient lighting on face in front of a mirror
- Appropriate height counter surface
- Sufficient clearance around toilet
- Sufficient clearance to open doors
- Comfortable reach to toilet paper from seated position on toilet
- Bath towels within reach of bathtub or shower
- Horizontal surface for clothing
- Hook for bathrobe
- Mirror in front of sink
- Avoid clutter
- Zones: bathing, dressing, makeup and hair, daily cleansing, cleaning

#### Kitchen

- Sufficient storage
- Clear counter surface adjacent to refrigerator on the same side of door handle
- Dishwasher adjacent to sink
- Sufficient storage for each zone for consumable and non-consumable items

- Typical zones are preparation, cooking, cleaning, baking, canning, breakfast prep, drink station
- Step stool access for users shorter than standard height
- Relationship of sink, stove top and refrigerator should be laid out in a triangle shape with no side of the triangle being further than five feet away from each other.
- Sufficient countertop for food preparation
- Sufficient Large appliance storage
- Avoid clutter

#### Nursery

- Appropriate child safety compliant window covering
- Sufficient storage for infant care items and infant activities
- Horizontal surface for diaper changing
- Seating with side table
- Sufficient storage for infant clothing items
- Layers of lighting to allow for low light and reading light and ambient light
- Avoid clutter

#### Office

- Avoid clutter
- Sufficient file storage
- Sufficient supplies storage
- Sufficient horizontal surfaces
- Most are comfortable facing the door with the computer monitors in front of them either directly or at their side
- Mix of natural and task Lighting

#### Laundry Room

- Sufficient storage for laundry products within arms-reach of machines
- Area for dirty laundry sorting
- Area for folding
- Clean laundry Staging area before returning to appropriate storage area

- Area for hanging for drying
- Area for flat drying
- Avoid clutter

#### Garage

- Sufficient storage with sufficient access without items stored in front of them
- Clearance around car to easily open car doors to get in and out
- Storage by how items would be retrieved
- Possible zones: gardening, lawn care, auto care, food storage, patio storage, trash collection, construction storage, work bench and tools, household storage, painting supplies
- Avoid clutter

#### Theater room

- Layers of lighting to allow for low light
- Sound absorbing materials
- TV at the appropriate angle for viewing
- Seating
- Horizontal surface next to each seat
- Avoid clutter

#### Hobby Area

- Sufficient storage for supplies
- Sufficient horizontal surfaces

#### General Standards

1. Avoid tall pieces of furniture too close to the entrance that give a feeling of being closed in. Try to be able to see the entire room as you step into the room.
2. Avoid lack of balance in a room in color, line, texture, weight and light. Don't fill it because it is empty and don't overcrowd it.
3. Create ample room at entries and at top of stairways where several rooms enter the same space.

