

## HOUSE CALLS

**Rodney and Maria Ferguson of Chevy Chase, Md., have a soaring problem:** The 30-foot-ceilings of their living room, though majestic, tend to make the space feel about as cozy as a gymnasium. We asked Carol Freedman of Carol Freedman Design in Bethesda to suggest ideas for introducing warmth into this difficult-to-decorate room.



BY LEN SPIDEN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



**Harrison lounge chair and ottoman from Restoration Hardware.**

**Tweak the room color** to better coordinate with the dramatic stone fireplace. Try Benjamin Moore's Rich Cream or Desert Tan for a richer look. Families with

children, such as the Fergusons, should always use a scrubbing-friendly latex eggshell finish.

**Reconsider furnishings and layout** to make the room more welcoming. Invest in a pair of fine sofas. One should face the fireplace, while another faces a new media center on the long side wall, creating an L-shaped conversation area. For the media center, look for a large cabinet in a warm, distressed-wood finish. Place a lounge chair and ottoman (such as the Harrison lounge chair and ottoman from Restoration Hardware) at an angle in the corner between the fireplace and media center. Add a large, square,



**A zinc table and Marquis chair from Crate & Barrel.**

distressed-wood coffee table. Finally, add a game table and four chairs (such as Crate & Barrel's zinc table and upholstered Marquis chairs) in the rear corner of the room, to take advantage of the view.

**Soft, textured fabrics**, when mixed with some leather (as in the lounge chair and ottoman) will give this room the feel of a cozy lodge in the woods. For the sofa fabric, go with a nubby chenille; for window treatments, look for natural woven Roman shades with contrasting twill-edge bindings. (You can get these at Shade & Shutter Shack of Georgetown, or online at [www.smithandnoble.com](http://www.smithandnoble.com)).

**Don't forget a large area rug** — a Tibetan wool rug (check the selection at C.G. Coe & Son in Bethesda) or a wool sisal rug with leather-bound edges and decorative rivets (from Hollis & Knight in Georgetown) would work well.

**Remember to keep the scale grand.** Think LARGE for art and accent pieces. On walls, go for oversized photographs (try the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria) or antique posters (check out Gala in Georgetown). Small photos on the mantel can get lost in a room of this volume: Consider some larger-scale objects for the mantel and game table (at Random Harvest or Gore Dean in Georgetown).