

DESIGN & DECORATING



GOOD RECEPTION In a Jackson Hole, Wyo., house designed by CLB Architects, a TV nearly disappears against a richly painted wall.

MATTHEW MUELLMAN

WHEN FIRST RUMINATING on the look of this media room in Jackson Hole, Wyo.—masterminded by locally based CLB Architects—we failed to notice its most brilliant achievement. Completely. We were too distracted by the gutsy color scheme, which blends the muted pale olive-green of the sectional sofa and wallpaper with screamingly primary yellow and red (see: the circular coffee table and pouf from Design Within Reach). That led us to look down at the chunky wool rug and take in how it, too, combines this peculiar trio of colors.

We looked at the photo some more. Unmissable were the strong perspective lines—the planks on the floor and ceiling, the stripes on the rug, the soffit and built-in on the right wall—all commanding our eyes to gaze out the window. The view of the delicately treed property and the Grand Tetons beyond is all about wood, a theme the cedar ceiling and engineered-beech floor seemed to be acknowledging.

We looked at the photo some more. How welcoming the room is. Our theory: Its friendliness has a lot to do with the way all those angular lines make the soft, curvy elements appear even softer and curvier. The circular coffee tables and that expanse of gently organic wall covering (Timorous Beasties' White Moth Circle paper) are

OUR DESIGN ASSESSMENT

THE CRITICAL EYE

Big-Screen Drama

A designer outlines her thinking behind this media room's design—and reveals her tricks for hiding a TV in plain sight



thrown into contrast by the nearly naked rectangle of window and the insistently linear boards above and below. Just as we were wondering how the designers resisted hanging art on that wallpapered wall, we finally noticed the giant TV hung so discreetly to the right. How had we missed it?

MAKING THE TELEVISION disappear when it was shut off turned out to be the goal. "I always struggle with TVs placed on white walls, which makes the TV so obvious," said Jennifer Mei, lead interior designer on the project. The homeowners didn't wish to spring for the cost of millwork to cupboard away the equipment since the room is used mostly for watching

television. So they and the designers hit on the budget-friendly solution of painting the wall behind the screen in Sherwin Williams's Black Swan, a very deep purple-blue.

"The intention was it was dark enough that the TV would almost disappear," said Ms. Mei. Light from the window ensured that the entire wall didn't become a black hole. Directing the room's many lines toward the window further drew attention away from the screen. The orientation of the carpet, for example, was deliberate, said Ms. Mei. "If we turned the rug, it would guide your eyes to the TV, which you don't need." The unusual combination of primary and tertiary colors in the space was inspired by the floor covering, from Spanish brand Gandia Blasco.

"The room has a lot of olive-green, which we weren't really working with at first, but the client loved this rug so much it became the driving factor," said Ms. Mei. Missoni throw pillows on the sofa, which feature animals from the Chinese zodiac for each family member's birth year, contain pinks, blues and violets not found in the rug but which are simpatico with the purple wall. "They pull the whole thing together." As for the uninterrupted wall of moths, "They add a delicate texture that doesn't appear anywhere else in the house," said Ms. Mei, "which is about clean, modern architecture with a capital A." —Catherine Romano

THE DESIGNER'S RESPONSE