



**DESIGNER'S EYE**  
with BARBARA PALLAT

# Room seeks users

Dear Designer's Eye,

Can you help me make this room more useable and user-friendly and possibly add more seating? The floors and walls have been updated. I like the tables but the seating, drapery and lighting are bad.

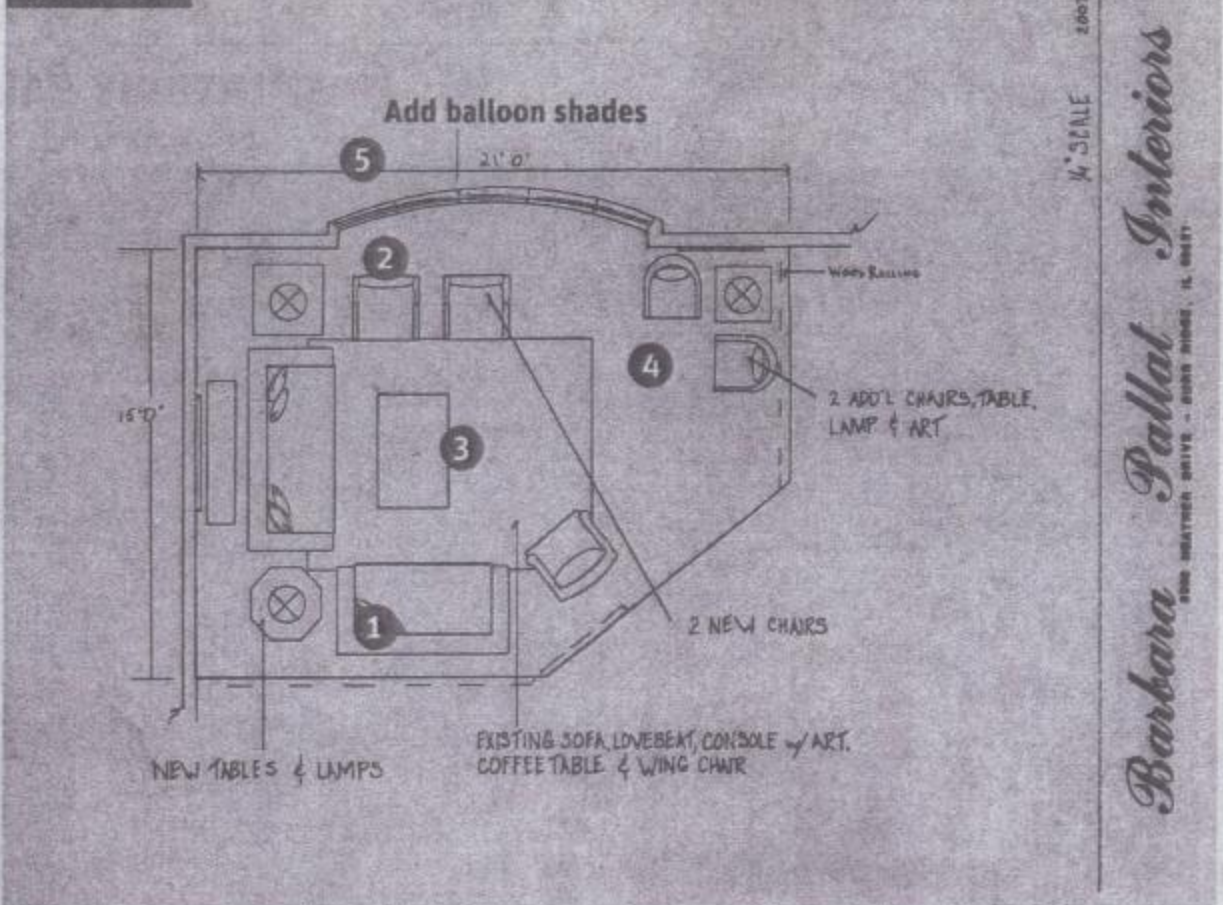
We are a family of four adults — mom, dad, college grad working full time and sophomore in college. We have a married son who has his own home. We do have holidays with a large extended family. We use this room once maybe twice a year and we would like to make it more user-friendly. It is the first thing you see when you enter with the dining-room left, so looks matter. The measurement of the living room is 15 feet by 21 feet.

Thanks,  
Judy Nevell



**PROBLEM**

**SOLUTION**



**DESIGNER SUGGESTS:** Existing furniture can work with lack of wall space.

Dear Judy,

This is a lovely, open living room and I enjoyed making your existing pieces of furniture work in the space to provide the seating and look you wanted. The open wood railings and high ceilings give the area a larger, more spacious feel and can present you with an architectural challenge of lack of wall space, as well as volume changes with the high ceilings. Here are my recommendations.

1. I opened up the traffic pattern into the room by moving the sofa and console to the far wall to draw people in. Leaving the artwork over the console, you could add a picture light here.

2. Your existing wing chair was placed near the steps and I have added two extra chairs in front of the bay window. The larger tables at the ends of the sofa provide space for lamps, which should be a minimum of 30 inches tall to provide better lighting. The larger tables and lamps will help balance the room.

3. To add more color, I suggest some colorful pillows and accessories. The area rug that I have shown is an 8 by 10 and would look great with a pop of color.

4. By providing chairs next to the railing that can be moved closer to the large seating area, you will

have four extra seats when entertaining large groups or at holidays. I've placed a 24-inch table, lamp and artwork on the wall in this area.

5. For the window treatments, try balloon shades made from a patterned sheer fabric in a neutral shade to complement the touches of color added to the room.

I hope this helps!  
Sincerely,  
Barbara Pallat, ASID

Barbara Pallat Interiors  
[www.barbarapallatinteriors.com](http://www.barbarapallatinteriors.com)

**Design challenged?**

The Sun-Times At Home section and the Merchandise Mart are partnering to pencil in a quick fix for your interior design problems.

Feeling design challenged? We can help!

- ◆ Write some background on your

living situation (25 words or less), live alone, family of 25 — you get the picture — the problem with your space and your vision of how you'd like that room to be used and how you'd like it to feel.

- ◆ Send four to six color photos, digital preferred, to

[Homelife@suntimes.com](mailto:Homelife@suntimes.com) with Designer's Eye in the subject line.

- ◆ Include views of all sides of the room, including the floor, ceiling and four walls
- ◆ Send us the overall measurements of the room.
- ◆ Name the room — is it your master bedroom, guest room, media room?

**READY, SET, GO!**

Send your quick-fix rooms for consideration by snail mail to Designer's Eye:

At Home c/o Laura Castro  
Chicago Sun-Times  
350 N. Orleans  
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—Sally Duros, Real Estate, Homelife and At Home editor

# At Home CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

Reader Judy Nevell's living room gets a solution from Barbara Pallat in Designer's Eye — a partnership of the Merchandise Mart and Sun-Times. Page 3