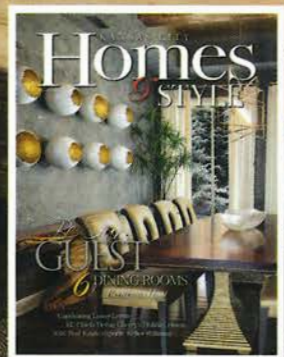


2016 DECEMBER



ABOUT THE COVER...

This dining room designed by Patrick Madden and Sharon Cooper of Madden-McFarland Interiors is a symphony of color, warmth, depth and style.

PHOTO BY MATTHEW ANDERSON

BACKGROUND PHOTO BY MATTHEW ANDERSON
 PROJECT BY ERAN • THOMAS DESIGN STUDIO

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Not Your Mother's **DINING ROOM**

When it comes to creating that perfect dining room, there are no rules except to simply have fun with it!

STORY BY ANN BUTENAS

If you have been searching for a guide book to advise you how to create that perfect dining room space, you probably won't find it here. In fact, according to JoAnn Craig, owner of Couches to Curios, a home furniture and décor consignment store in Overland Park, Kansas, there are no rules when it comes to creating the dining room best suited for your home. There truly are no trends or definitive styles. If it speaks to you and makes you happy, that should be the statement your dining room makes. In other words, just have fun with it.

"People are going more casual in their approach to the dining room," noted Craig. "Designs are becoming more eclectic now, such as having chairs and a table that don't necessarily match." Formality with respect to this room has fallen to the wayside and a more casual ambiance is taking its place. Today's dining rooms are inviting home owners to design it in whatever style they

desire, and also giving them the freedom to switch it up as often as they choose.

"I love that people are putting into their homes what they like and what makes them happy," expressed Craig. "It is no longer your mother's dining room; it's whatever you like and want it to be." So, forget about that formal china (unless, of course, that is what you want to use!) and break out the table servings, furniture, décor and colors that make you smile. While your dining room may only be so big, the sky is the limit when it comes to making your own personal statement with it.

In other words, when it comes to making this space yours, the pressure is off and the fun is on! Enjoy incorporating those elements, styles, and designs that speak to you. As the following series of dining room features prove, this room can truly speak its mind and enjoy the results.

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE

DESIGNER:

Carmen Thomas, Tran + Thomas

PHOTO BY MATTHEW ANDERSON

When this Leawood residence underwent a complete tear-down and re-build, its owners wanted the dining room to be an integral part of the family dynamic.

"The family uses this room every day," noted designer Carmen Thomas, who worked in conjunction with business partner and designer Jill Tran to cater to the clients' desire for a happy, fun and bright space.

Boasting an eclectic appeal while simultaneously encouraging a relaxed and upbeat ambiance, this room relies on a casual approach to make its statement. The key players include the green wallpaper mural; a Sisal area rug; rustic-style 150"-long table and chairs; and playful light fixtures. All combined, this spirited dining room is appropriately dressed for any occasion.

"Everything was chosen with respect to the mural," said Tran, who also gave a nod to the glass cabinet, purposely used to create the illusion of more light in the room.

Adding to the fun is an eye-catching contemporary art piece on the wall, contributed by local artist Paige Davis of the Kansas City Art Institute. Tran+Thomas also created the centerpiece, a bread box filled with succulents and white quartz rocks. PLEASE TURN THE PAGE

