

CELEBRATING LIFE IN WEST LAFAYETTE AND

# LAFAYETTE

FALL 2018

MAGAZINE

## RESTORED ELEGANCE

Renovations  
breathe new life  
into historic  
O.W. Peirce estate

**UNDERGROUND RAILROAD**  
Lafayette family's role  
in the road to freedom

**AUTUMN GARDEN**  
How to make it shine  
after summer's gone

**MAN ON THE MOVE**  
Catch up with 7Six5 Live  
mastermind Kofi Austin

\$3.95



0 40901 22593 5 08 >

# space by space



When purchasing new furniture, consider investing in pieces that will perform well for the needs of your family, rather than making purchases with the intention of replacing them in a few years. PHOTO PROVIDED BY THIBAUT



# Mix function & style

Choose durable materials to withstand active kids and pets

Story by Amy Smith Photos provided

After receiving an inquiry from a new client, our first appointment generally takes place in the home. At this time clients walk me through their spaces and provide information on their lifestyles. They share with me their immediate priorities and projects that can be addressed at a later date. All of my clients have different home lives, yet the one thing they all have in common is that they have pieces of furniture or areas of their home that they do not want to improve until the children are older or the pets are trained.

There is a common misconception that if we have children and pets we can't have nice homes. This could not be further from the truth. We do not need to sacrifice beauty for functionality. In fact, by making selections that are appropriate for your lifestyle, there are elements of your home that could just get better with age. Here are a few suggestions that will assist you in creating a home that matures with your family.

When selecting flooring material keep in mind that a hard surface is easiest to keep clean. Spills can easily be wiped up, and debris will not be hidden in carpet fibers. Porcelain tile is one of the more durable options,

but it can be cold underfoot and less forgiving than a luxury vinyl tile. Luxury vinyl tile is available in a variety of styles and can mimic the aesthetic of hardwood or a stone tile. This material is resilient and generally has sound-absorbing properties. I always recommend area rugs to those that choose to incorporate these flooring materials in their homes. The fiber will help absorb sound and create warmth in the space. Polypropylene is a widely used fiber in area rugs as it is easy to clean and less susceptible to staining than natural fibers.

If you prefer to bring natural fibers into your home, a jute or sisal rug can withstand heavy traffic but may not perform well when subjected to moisture. Polypropylene, jute, and sisal are all available in styles that are aesthetically pleasing and will not break the bank. Keep in mind these are not heirloom-quality rugs, so you should expect to replace them as they wear from daily use. For clients who prefer wall-to-wall carpet throughout their homes, I suggest exploring the option of carpet tiles. These provide the warmth that is inherent to carpet but allow the homeowner to replace one small square in



**If your family has an active lifestyle, spills and stains will happen. There are myriad new fabrics available that make cleanup easy.** PHOTO PROVIDED BY THIBAUT

the event of soiling, rather than an entire room of carpet.

When purchasing new furniture, consider investing in pieces that will perform well for the needs of your family, rather than making purchases with the intention of replacing them in a few years. Crypton, Sunbrella and leather are examples of materials that can handle harsh conditions when applied to upholstered furniture. Crypton is a fiber that repels stains, does not harbor bacteria and has a

moisture barrier to ensure that liquid does not penetrate beyond the face of the fabric. Sunbrella is similar in the sense that it is extremely durable. It is fade resistant, machine washable and bleach cleanable. While leather can be penetrated by claws or sharp objects, it is easy to keep clean and is a durable material. These characteristics can make it a smart choice for busy households. It will develop a patina over time as it ages, and the aesthetic value will improve with use.

Selecting pieces with exposed legs over skirted or upholstered bases will provide ease of cleaning and will not collect dust and pet hair.

Making smart selections and investing in pieces that support your family's lifestyle are the ticket to a worry-free home. These purchases will create a space that not only looks great but the entire family can actually live in. Gone are the days of deep cleaning before guests arrive, feeling embarrassed over stained carpet, and moving all of those home improvement goals to the bottom of your to-do list. Wouldn't it be nice to share the things you love with the ones you love?

*Amy Smith is an interior designer at Stephan Design Inc., where she spends her days designing residential and business interiors. Smith obtained a bachelor of arts in interior design from Purdue University and continues her education to bring the most innovative product and design solutions to the Greater Lafayette area. Submit questions, comments and design-related topics to info@stephandesignstudio.com. ■*



**Find Your New Home Today!**



**Len Wilson & Associates**

210 Meijer Drive Suite C,  
Lafayette, IN 47905

**765-250-4644**

**lenwilson.com**