Return of the
DEN

Cozier than the primary living room,
the *den is back* and better than ever.
It's the same comfortable space with
a whole new level of sophistication.

An ideal den fosters intimate conversation, snug TV watching, and the particular joy of curling up with a good book. This space, by California-based Studio Shamshiri, is designed for doing all that. Olive green walls blur the lines to the outdoors, and natural wood paneling and caramel-color upholstery add low-contrast warmth. A sheepskin throw and velvet pillows up the textural appeal. Cue relaxing in style.

by LAURA FENTON *photos* STEPHEN KENT JOHNSON

The Dream List

To create visual cohesion among the throw pillows, Commune Design used one pattern in different colors.

A Roman shade in the same tone as the walls feels restful in this lounge by designer Jeremiah Brent.
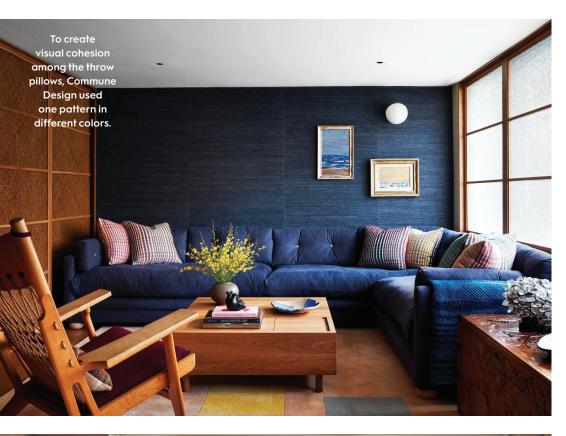
1 COLOR STUDY

The fastest way to envelop a room in comfort is to pick a midtone-to-dark wall color for depth, like Benjamin Moore Turtle Green seen in the den by Studio Shamshiri *(pages 14–15)*. Lighter hues work best when they have warm undertones, like Farrow & Ball Dead Salmon used in an NYC apartment by designer Jeremiah Brent *(below)*. Either way, opt for a flat finish to reduce reflections on the TV screen.

2 SUPERSIZE SEATING

Low-slung, L-shape sofas max out your seating, and one big piece is more visually streamlined. In a Santa Monica, CA, home by Commune Design *(left)*, the denim-covered sectional stretches wall-to-wall and almost disappears against the blue wallpaper.

3 PULL UP A CHAIR

Even with ample seating, every den needs an armchair, both to complete the arrangement and as a sculptural moment in a room full of softness. Studio Shamshiri and Commune Design chose lounge chairs by Hans Wegner with distinctive silhouettes.

4 TABLE IT

A large coffee table slightly lower than seat height reinforces a relaxed mood. Opt for one that is wide enough to join the sofa with the other seats in the room so everyone has a place to rest a drink or a book. ∎