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New This Week: 7 Casually Stylish Living Rooms

See how the right mix of furnishings and materials can create a relaxed look and a comfortable space



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The living room is an important space in any home. It's where we go after a long day to relax, watch movies with family and hang out with friends. That's why it's important that these rooms feel comfortable as well as stylish. After all, you want your living room to be a place you look forward to spending time in. The following seven living rooms have the right mix of comfort and style.



2. Breezy With Blue Accents

Designer: Courtney Thomas

Location: Laguna, California

Size: 360 square feet (33 square meters); 18 by 20 feet

Homeowners' request. Open up a wall between the kitchen and living room to create a more unified plan.

Main feature. "The sofa was the anchor," designer Courtney Thomas says. "It was a preexisting piece and had to stay. We played up its casual, relaxed style with beachy throw pillows, a wall ladder of cozy blankets and accent furnishings in warm woven materials like sisal and wicker."



Other special features. Breezy white walls (Cool December by Dunn-Edwards Paints). Whitewashed brick fireplace surround. Watery blue X-stools.

Designer tip. "The original fireplace surround was raw brick," Thomas says. "To bring out its coastal vibe, we whitewashed the brick and built a white oak wood mantel to sit over the original brick mantel. It was a simple change with big impact. I think it anchors that wall and softens the look of the brick."