

ROOM Rx

Make a Multipurpose Room Prettier

Designer LINDA HAYSLETT turns an awkward catchall spot into a functional area the whole family—and even guests—can enjoy.

BY LESLIE CORONA

Q:

How do I convert a dark den into an office (with all the necessary electronics), a play space, and a guest room? —Roening, homeowner in Parker, Colorado



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1

LAYER UP

Top wall-to-wall carpeting with a durable area rug that has a distressed finish so you won't worry about kids playing (and potentially spilling) on it.

TO BUY: Carina Rug, from \$249; potterybarn.com.

2

DO DOUBLE DUTY

Splurge on a sofa bed for guests that you can lounge on (look for a hardy fabric, like Sunbrella). Or get a slipcover for your existing couch. A sleek desk and swivel chair serve as both an adult workstation and a kids' craft spot. **TO BUY:** Urban Queen Sleeper Sofa, from \$2,299; westelm.com.

3

BRING ON THE BRIGHTNESS

Illuminate dark corners with a floor lamp that has adjustable heads you can aim toward different zones. Consider switching out sliding closet doors for mirrored ones to add light and make the space feel larger.

TO BUY: Jacob Floor Lamp, \$80; brightech.com.

4

GET SAVVY WITH STORAGE

Place bins and shelving inside the closet. You can stash toys, office supplies, and any bulky electronics out of sight.

TO BUY: Trofast Storage Combination, \$69; ikea-usa.com.

Submit your own design dilemmas to room.rx@realsimple.com.