



IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK

An Exclusive Look into Governor & First Lady Deal's Private Living Quarters:
The Family Room

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photos by Picture This Studio

As we journey further into the private living quarters of the governor's mansion, our next stop is the family room. The family room is used not only by Governor Deal's family, but also provides a space for casual meetings, overnight guests, and for friends to enjoy.

Designers Richard and Vicki Zimmerman of Zimmerman Design Agency (ZDA) used the coral, blue and white rug as a centerpiece and a foundation for designing the remainder of the room. Prior to the use of the rug, "The entire room was centered around the old-style television that protruded two feet into the room. We moved it to the corner and added a desk and side chair for Mrs. Deal," explain the Zimmermans. Books from the main library can be seen in a glass-enclosed hutch.

As usual, ZDA began with the existing

furniture and then scoured the furniture in the attic to make the room comfortable for the Deals and guests. "We realized that the white sofa, chair, and poof ottoman were not very inviting, and the leather recliner from the Deal's home was the only really comfortable place to sit." The designers further explain, "In the attic we located the desk, an oval coffee table, a large wing chair in a huge floral print and a couple of ottomans. The coffee table was refinished, and all of the furniture except the recliner was reupholstered."

Richard & Vicki chose a deep coral fabric for the club chair and ottoman and a coral and off-white paisley for the sofa from Kravet Fabrics. Throw pillows with trim from Samuel & Sons were added. The Scalandre fabric for the wing chair and the Lee Jofa fabric for the drapes (both with coral and blue) bring the

room together in a cohesive fashion.

With exquisite yet cozy selections, there exist a few more details that personalize this room for the Deal Family. Upon entering the room a faint ticking sound may be heard from an antique-style clock that belonged to Mrs. Deal's grandmother. In the far corner of the room hangs a landscape painting painted by Governor Deal's mother, Mary Mallard Deal. In close proximity to the painting stands an 8 ½ x 11 photo of Governor Deal's father, Noah. On the opposite end of the room is yet another painting by Governor Deal's talented mother depicting elk on the open range.

On a wall leading out of the family room hangs a sketched portrait of Ida Lou Dunagan, Mrs. Deal's mother, playing the accordion, as she was known to do in her community. The portrait was beautifully



sketched by the Deals' daughter, Katie.

In addition to the art and family portraits, a few historical pieces are also focal points in the room. A convex mirror from the federal period hangs above the fireplace. (Federal period furniture was created during the late 18th century.) The Georgia governor's mansion houses one of the nation's finest collections of federal period furnishings.

The decorative mantle of the fireplace is the original mantle from the home that was on the site of the mansion's current location.

Certainly, the family room was designed as a comfortable place for the Deals to decompress after long and busy days of serving the people of Georgia. Great care has been placed into making it a place that looks and feels like home where they can relax, reminisce and make new memories. **S**