

# DAILY NEWS

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*your*  
**HOME**

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**\*DIY Room**  
with a pro  
designer's touch

## YOUR HOME INSPIRATIONS

# The D.I.Y. Room

"I never wanted to cover the living room windows. With the water views, we didn't have to worry about anyone peeping in to the apartment. The curtains aren't even operable," says Cook. But they add texture and soften the room with light color.

Wood beams not standard to the development were applied to the ceiling to give the room the feel of a "timber-style loft" popular in industrial buildings at the turn of the century.

The track lighting on the ceiling highlights the art wall.

"The lighting was an issue," says Cook, who had to deal with the nonconventional room layout. An arc lamp from Adesso hangs over the living room for mood lighting.

An art wall strung together by stainless steel chains is suspended from the ceiling. Purchased at [www.art.com](http://www.art.com), the posters depict New York City scenes and places.



The shelves to the left of the table can hold books, ceramic art forms or decorative plates for dining.

For storage purposes, Cook placed a luggage trunk from Design Within Reach that can hold personal objects or double as seating when entertaining.

The sitting area also has less expensive copies of famous chairs designed by the architect Le Corbusier.

Add a neutral-colored sofa to balance a bright-colored wall. The sofa is from Lazar, from Jensen Lewis. The strong wall color is Sherwin-Williams' "Cajun Red."

An overhead lamp gives light for working at the dining room table.

*"I want people to walk in and say, "Wow, I want to live here,"" says designer Mary Cook*

**M**ary Cook earns her living specializing in model apartments. She designs the model rooms in sales galleries for new condominiums; they're so inviting, people want to buy an apartment. "I want people to walk in and say, 'Wow, I want to live here,'" says Cook, who also designs common spaces in golf clubs for the purpose of increasing club membership and dining frequency.

"We get hired a lot after marquee decorators go first and design showrooms that no one thinks they can live in. We design environments where people feel



comfortable."

The model living room here, in the sales center at Toll Brothers' Hoboken Hudson Tea condominium, has objects from Ikea, West Elm, Crate & Barrel, [www.art.com](http://www.art.com) and Sitoom Style.

For each room, Cook and staff create a story for a personality type who they think might buy a unit in the condominium.

For this room in Hudson Tea, with water and Manhattan skyline views, Cook concocted a male personality who works on Wall Street, loves New York City culture and is an early adopter of tech-

nology. The owner's girlfriend, also fictional, selected the accessories and art for him. He has a passion for contemporary and modern design and does not play by normal rules.

"We wanted a less conventional space where areas are not clearly defined," says Cook. "The dining room table can double as a desk. If he wants to entertain, he can place a buffet on the shelves near the table."

Cook does not design residences, preferring to stick to model apartments and golf clubs, an area where she has won design awards.

"We want our interiors to be accessible to anyone," says Cook. "Buyers or golf club members can take cues from us to design their own homes." Jason Sheftall