

Bonnie Martel-Buccola created an elegant space for entertaining with ample seating.

With many individuals scaling back, Cornell's clients are doing the opposite and he works to make their dreams a reality.

"We designed and built five custom homes last year and that was our best year ever, but we've already got bids and interest on several," he said. "People have decided to say, 'Let's see what's going on now, but let's move on with our dream homes.'"

And all of those dream homes have large family rooms wired for all kinds of sound, equipped with the latest technology and ready to house some fun. But that can be a design challenge.

Some great room strategies Cornell used in his own Chino home: create functional balconies that extend rooms, include arched doorways and wrought iron, go bold with fireplaces that structurally reach all the way to the ceiling and feature showcase mantels, and install large entertainment centers. He said all of this



can be done without sacrificing the homey feel the room naturally projects.

Draperies, rugs and decor items add a personal touch, which keeps a large room from being overwhelming. Large windows bring in the light. Exposed wood beams and crown molding complete a finished look.

THE LIVING ROOM

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Despite occasional claims to the contrary, there's still living being done in today's living rooms.



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