



SLEIGHT OF HAND

Little-used entertainment rooms are redecorated and repurposed, allowing the family games to begin



STORY BY **ANDREA ALEXANDER** PHOTOS BY **MELISSA OIVANKI**



This Stine Game Table poker table converts seamlessly into a dining table when covered. Sporting Italian leather on its outer rim, the poker table with claw-foot pedestal base seats eight players and is equipped with chip and cup holders.





{ Now you see it, now you don't! }

Looks have never been so deceiving as in this picture of Dana and Troy Miller's dining table, which handily converts into a high-end poker table.

In American culture, quality of life seems to depend on the ease, comfort and convenience of entertaining. The very success of family life can even hinge on how comfortable, engaging and multi-functional are the rooms where we spend most of our time.

At least, that is the case at Dana and Troy Miller's home in Lafayette's Beaulieu neighborhood. When the couple teamed up with local designer Denise Kartsimas of Swags and Tassels to remodel their downstairs family rooms, they hoped to re-imagine and thus breathe life into a living room and a dining room they hardly ever used.

In fact, their dining room was empty. "We wondered whether we should add a dining room table," Dana Miller recalls. "We didn't know if we would ever use it."

The answer to the Millers' dining room dilemma—and to their quest for a revitalized living/entertainment area—presented itself in the form of a gift for Troy from Dana, who had discovered the website of California-based Stine Game Tables. She bought one of the company's high-end poker tables which easily converts into a dining table. (Game tables by Stine are frequently found in the homes of celebrities the likes of LeAnn Rimes, Montel Williams and John Travolta.)

Replete with polished wood on top and red crushed felt underneath its cover, the unique claw-pedestal table





The classic “dog playing poker” picture. Lafayette designer Denise Kartsimas of Swags and Tassels designed the poker table chairs, some the Millers’ pet schnauzer can appreciate. Simple frames with slightly distressed black wood tones contribute a modern sensibility while the bold pattern of the cut velvet upholstery enhances the dining room’s elegance.



Opposite: Dining room chairs designed by Denise Kartsimas meld with a bold red color scheme that is also woven into the traditional rug.

that Dana purchased for Troy sports Italian leather on its outer rim, plus customized chip holders, cup holders and seats for eight players. The convertible aspect of the table is a virtual sleight of hand, guaranteeing a double function without compromising the traditional elegant looks of the dining room.

Kartsimas flanked the table with dining room chairs that boast black distressed wood for a more modern feel. The chair seats and backs are upholstered in a bold red-patterned fabric of cut velvet. A heavy scrolled light fixture, gorgeous yet efficient, is poised above the poker table. Sprawling underneath, a traditional rug serves to pull together all the room’s colors of red, black, and green.

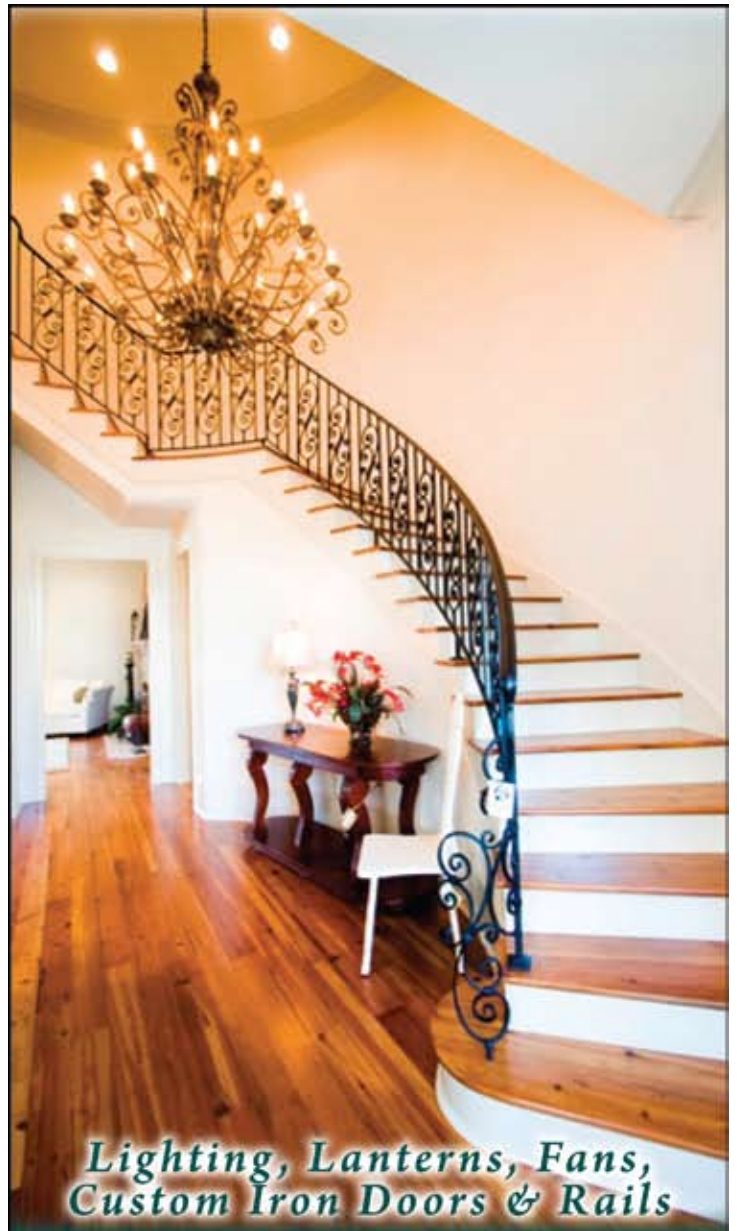
A few choice accessories—framed family photos, wall sconces, throw pillows and a framed mirror—endear themselves to the updated decor. Simple green-gold silk drapery panels with pleated tops consummate the lovely picture in the Millers’ updated and now usable dining room.

But poker isn’t the only diversion in the Miller household. The couple had a pool table upstairs in an out-of-the-way room, far from the traffic flow of the main living areas. After it was custom-covered and monogrammed to match the poker/dining table, it became the prominent focal point of the home’s living room. Taking up residence next to double doors that open directly onto a





Casual and inviting, this keeping room pairs warm, rich chenille-covered furnishings with warm green silk drapery panels offset by multi-banded pleated tops. Framing the view to the outdoor swimming pool are hobbled striped Roman shades.



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Designer Denise Kartsimas created a coherent look by monogramming both the pool table and the poker table and covering them in red crushed felt.

Stine Game Tables, a California-based company that caters to celebrities, manufactured the pool table pictured here. The Miller family and their guests move easily from pool table to the convertible poker table glimpsed in the background.

swimming pool, the pool table now is surely more accessible to family and guests.

“We grouped the game pieces together to establish an effective flow,” designer Kartsimas says. “It’s a highly functional space, where the bulk of family time is spent and guests are entertained.”

The remodeled entertainment space is completely open, affording glimpses of the poker table, pool table and swimming pool from different vantage points within the house. The walls, alternately spicy red and soft green are unobstructed by large furniture or clutter so as to enable game players to move easily about. That flow and easy movement is also fostered by the scarcity of doors in the

expansive living areas of the 4,000-square-foot house.

Reinforcing the comfort of this multi-purpose living space, Kartsimas outfitted the keeping room with an oversized sofa, an armchair and an oblong ottoman, all covered in rich chenille fabric. Silk drapery and tailored shades coordinate throughout the newly designed rooms, including hobbled Roman shades in stripes that offer a pretty complement to the cozy furniture.

With comfortable new furnishings, multiple game pieces and a perfect open layout for entertainment, the Millers’ downstairs family rooms no longer suffer from disuse. And it all started with a dining table that was simply deceptive. 🏠



This Stine Game Table pool table was formerly housed upstairs, but the Millers and their designer relocated the table downstairs where it breathes new life into the living room.

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