The Home Design Book + your one-room planner

See how the plan becomes a decision.

A clear route through the room. A color with somewhere to go. A purchase that fits both the space and the budget. These samples show the kind of work the complete package helps you do.

THREE FILES IN THE COMPLETE PACKAGE

160-page reference eBook with room-by-room ideas and measured examples.
20-page fillable planner to work through one room at a time.
Room Budget Tracker XLSX with automatic totals and a worked example.

The following seven pages are selected from the finished PDFs: the planner route, a before-and-after example and budget, measuring and finish worksheets, then kitchen layout and color lessons from the eBook.

The original page numbers are preserved. References to other pages refer to the complete files. This preview is read-only; the purchased PDFs include fillable fields. Draw layouts by hand or with PDF annotation tools.

See the eBook + included bonuses

Digital downloads in English. No physical product is shipped.

One room. One working plan.

You do not need to fill every box or read the reference eBook from beginning to end.

01 **Define and measure**

Pages 5-7: name the problem, record the room and decide what stays.

02 **Try the arrangement**

Pages 8-10: sketch, compare and test furniture in use. A second layout is useful when there is a real tradeoff.

03 **Choose the finishes**

Pages 11-12: place colors, materials and light where they have a job.

04 **Buy only if needed**

Pages 13-17: check fit, set the full cost, then record any orders. Skip these pages if you are only rearranging.

05 **Set up and review**

Pages 18-20: finish the essential work, live with it and keep the useful details.

Start with the example on pages 3-4 if you want to see what a finished decision looks like. Your room does not have to look like the example.

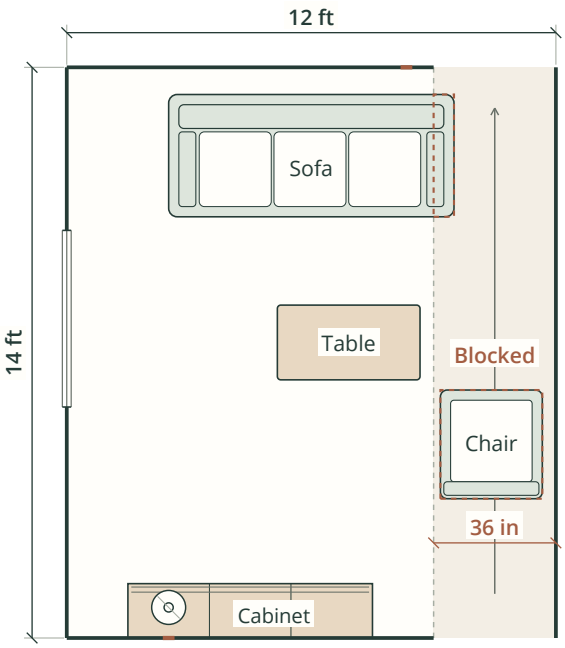
Digital: download, open in a PDF reader that supports forms, type in the boxes and save a copy. Draw on grids using annotation tools. Paper: print selected pages on Letter or A4 with Fit. Choose what each square means; do not measure the printed drawings.

The PDF does not calculate. Use the included XLSX OR page 14 for your budget. A form reader on a tablet or computer is easier than a phone.

Keep the sofa. Clear the route.

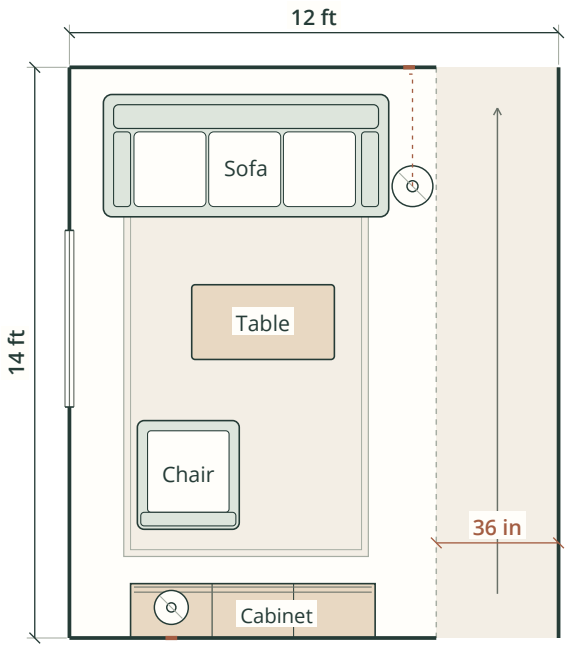
Constructed example: a 12 x 14 ft living room. These dimensions explain this room, not a universal spacing rule.

BEFORE: THE CHAIR BLOCKS THE ROUTE



Example dimensions; not a print scale.

AFTER: KEEP A CLEAR SIDE ROUTE



Example dimensions; not a print scale.

The brief: keep four seats and the cabinet, make the hall-to-kitchen route direct, and give one seat useful reading light.

The decision: shift the sofa, chair and table into the left seating bay. The 36 in route in this example begins 108 in from the left wall. The sofa ends at 94 in, leaving it outside that route.

The tradeoff: the arrangement is off-center. Turning the sofa onto the window wall would also clear the route, but would make the window harder to reach and change the viewing direction.

Before you move on: Tape the positions, sit down and walk through with a basket. Change a position that fails before buying anything.

Carry the decision into the budget.

Illustrative USD amounts, not current retailer prices or tax rates. Delivery is assumed to be $0 in this example.

A SIMPLE FINISH DIRECTION

Keep

Neutral upholstery



Keep

Existing wood



Repeat

Muted green

Repeat the green in the rug and covers. Keep the new lamp plain. Test actual samples beside the sofa and cabinet in daylight and under the normal evening lights.

PURCHASE	ITEM	TAX	TOTAL
Reading lamp + bulb	$65	$6	**$71**
6 x 9 ft rug + fitted pad	$195	$18	**$213**
Two covers + two inserts	$75	$7	**$82**

$366 planned purchases + $50 uncommitted reserve = $416 allocated.
$500 cash cap - $416 = $84 headroom after plans.

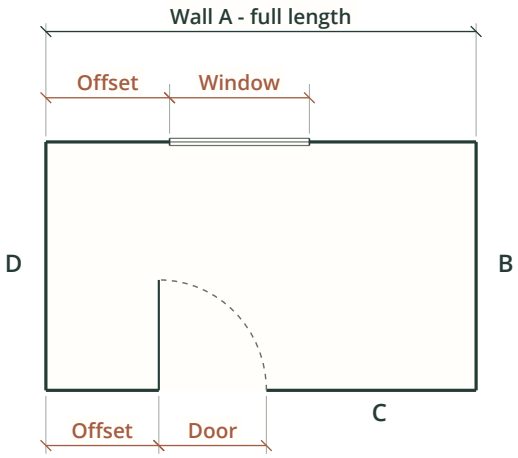
Purchase order: test the layout first; confirm the rug and lamp size and terms; choose the covers after seeing the rug. Keep the $84 unallocated unless a real need appears.

Review: before the actual return deadlines, test the route, window access, cabinet access, table reach and reading light again.

For the complete measured project and a different bedroom problem, see The Home Design Book, pages 7-16.

Record the fixed room first.

Use one unit throughout. Label the walls A-D clockwise, beginning at a corner you can identify again.



Record width + distance from the named corner.

1. Measure each wall and the ceiling height.
2. Locate each opening from the same wall corner: corner-to-opening, then opening width.
3. Note door swing, sill height, trim, outlets and fixed obstructions.

Measure the floor space at the tightest points. A baseboard, radiator or sloping ceiling may reduce the space a piece can use.

Wall A

Wall B

Wall C

Wall D

Unit used (in, ft + in, or cm)

Ceiling / limiting height

Doors and windows: wall, corner offset, width, swing / sill

Fixed features and outlets: location + space to keep available

Give every finish a place.

Begin with the floor, large furniture and other finishes that stay. Use actual samples in the room before committing.

Existing finishes that stay (material + color)

ROLE	COLOR / MATERIAL / SAMPLE	WHERE IT WILL APPEAR
Background		
Connecting color		
Small accent		

One leading pattern / texture, and what stays quieter

What changed in daylight?

What changed under evening lights?

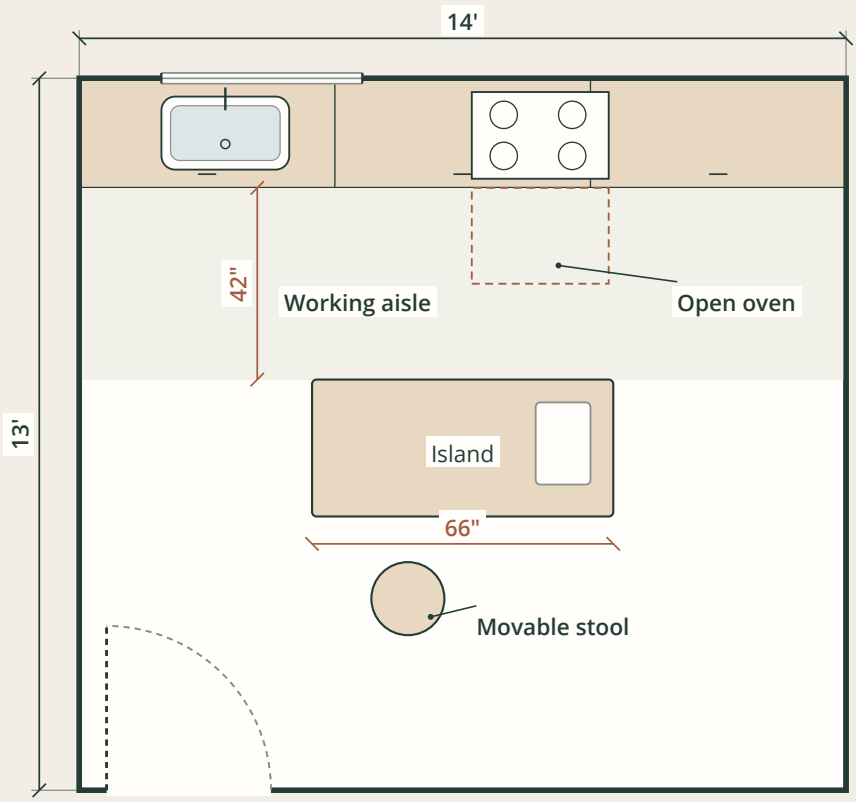
Example: keep warm wood and neutral upholstery; repeat muted green in the rug and covers; let one pattern lead. No fixed color percentage is required.

Before you move on: Choose a sample and its location. For visual help, open The Home Design Book: color placement p.114, wood finishes p.119, patterns p.121.

An island earns its space

A 14 by 13 ft example kitchen has one counter run and a modest freestanding island. The 66 by 30 in island gives preparation a defined surface while leaving the sink-to-range area accessible. A small tray occupies one end; the rest is working space. The stool can move away when someone cooks.

ROOM PLAN



Dashed box = sample open oven door. Check the actual appliance.

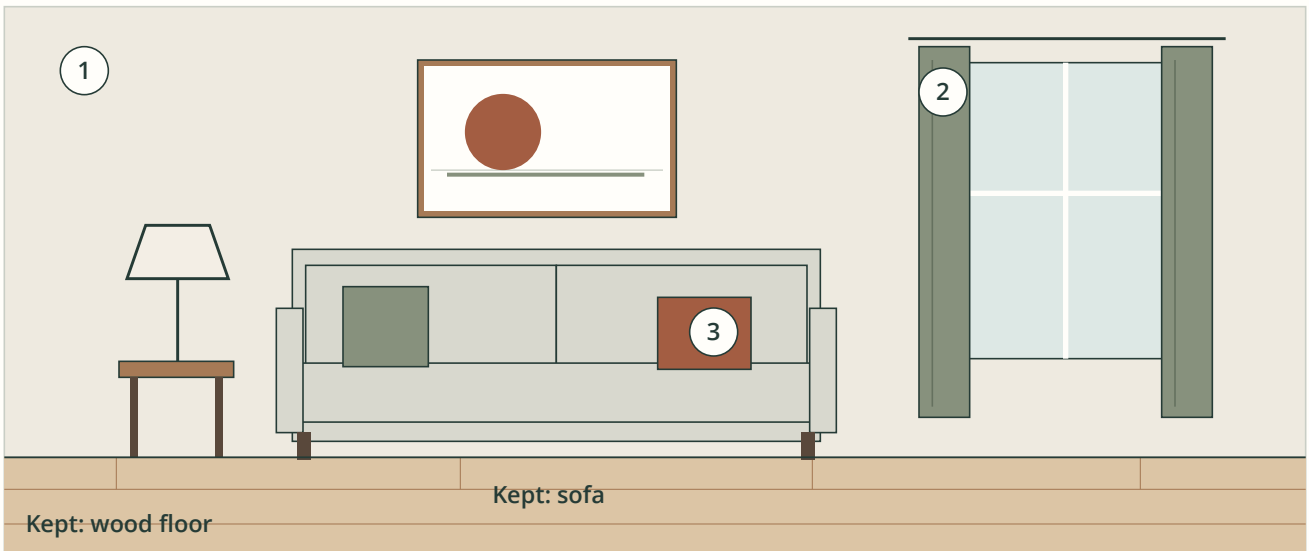
WHY IT WORKS

The 42 in dimension runs from the counter front to the island edge. The dashed oven door projects 21 in into that space, illustrating why an empty-room aisle measurement is only part of the decision. Opening the oven changes how the aisle can be used. This is a furniture study, not an installation specification; actual appliance instructions, users and the existing room determine the final arrangement.

Tape the island, then mark each appliance in its open position. Rehearse cooking and unloading before choosing a size. Reduce the island if routine cooking requires shifting the island or other fixed pieces.

Give each color a place.

This example keeps a pale sofa and warm wood floor. Three added color roles organize the wall, textiles and small accents. Start with those fixed finishes in your own room, then decide where each new color belongs.



1 Background

Wall around the sofa

2 Connecting color

Curtains + one pillow

3 Small accent

Art + a second pillow

Illustrative colors, not paint matches. The roles matter more than copying these swatches.

01 **Gather the fixed finishes**

Put flooring, upholstery and cabinet samples together, or hold new samples against those actual surfaces.

02 **Assign a location before buying**

Write where each candidate goes. A wall color and a small pillow do not occupy the same amount of the view.

03 **Test the set in your room**

Compare physical samples together in daylight and under your usual evening lights. Revise the color that feels out of place.

Try it with what you have. Use books, fabric or paper you already own to test the balance before buying matching accessories.