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## **Planning a Room Around Your New TV**

The flat screen TV sales have skyrocketed since their introduction three years ago. Since the electronic components are compressed into a 3-6" depth, TVs can now be placed on walls or low consoles-becoming part of the art in the room rather than a bulky piece of ugly furniture. However, with the flexibility of the TVs positioning, furniture placement can be a challenge. When the TV is mounted above the fireplace a room can have a single focal point. Also, if the TV is wall-mounted, the additional floor space will offer more seating options such as individual recliners or a large sectional. The TV should not be any further than 8 ft. from the viewing area. Unless the TV is mounted on a tilting swivel bracket, it is best to have the TV positioned so that the center of the screen is even with your eye level when you are seated. This is where a 22' high console will work well. New consoles for these TVs are better constructed than ever before. Many manufacturers are producing bookshelves and etageres that coordinate with TV consoles to create dramatic wall displays and storage areas.

If your household includes children, you can get space saving seating by investing in large floor pillows or a tightly upholstered bench- style ottoman. The ottoman can be tucked under a window or used as a coffee table when it is not needed for seating.

The TV still needs to be positioned where the glare from light sources are minimized. Consider placing overhead lighting on dimmer switches. If the TV has to be next to a window, drop down black out shades to reduce eye strain and enhance the contrast on the TV screen. Do you need new window coverings to control the light level? Consider Evescape Luminettes and Silhouettes from Hunter Douglas which have room darkening features and come with a life time warranty. These shades are designed to resist static electricity build-up, so they don't require the dusting necessary for shutters and blinds. That leaves you with more time to lounge in front of your new TV without guilt!

**For more practical decorating ideas,**

**Call Jean Cary Interiors at 650- 593-9622.**