

AVAILABLE AT MDC: CAI Designs sofa and swivel chair.

The designer observes that more and more, kitchens are becoming extensions of the living room. With this being the case here, Rodriguez selected conversational swivel chairs that can turn toward the kitchen. "Sometimes when mom or dad are cooking, it's nice that the kids can spin around rather than shouting over their shoulder," she says. "It's good to have the extra functionality and comfort there, which was really important to them." She also has a special process to determine her client's comfort needs: "Whenever I have a client who is purchasing furniture, we do a seat test. We go into the showroom—I do this a lot at CAI Designs—and we sit, and it's great because there are so many different cushion options." She notes that it's important for the client to get a feeling for the fabric and to ensure that the piece is suitable for that all-important nap.