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your new home

stylish *home entertainment*

Insider tips on making the entertainment room the most popular spot in your house.

Written by CELIA SHATZMAN

He wants a state-of-the-art home movie theater, but you'll settle for just a nice stereo and television in the den – no matter what style you decide on, creating a home entertainment system is exciting for every newlywed couple.





The first thing to consider when planning your home entertainment system is your space. "The size of television you choose should be determined by the size of the room you're putting it in," said Kenneth Brown, designer and host of HGTV's *reDesign*. Work with the room you have - if you have a small living room, don't buy a huge wide-screen TV. "It's okay to have a small viewing room, it may be all you need," says Brown. "Just scale everything to fit."

Your budget should be considered next. "Work out how much you want to spend, and then prioritize," says Brown. Decide on what you need and want, and what you're willing to sacrifice. Do you really need that 200 CD/DVD disc changer or will you be just as happy with a quality DVD

player? Consider what the overall goal is for your room, and then purchase everything in phases. "Most people don't buy everything all at once," says Brown. Purchase the fundamentals first, like the TV and DVD player. You can add the speakers and other accessories over time. But if you are planning to build your system slowly, make sure you learn what your TV is compatible with, such as satellite cable or special speakers. "So, then it's just a matter of plugging in a wire and adding a couple of components when you're ready," says Brown.

Invest in good electronics, but try to buy them when they are on sale. Remote controls are great add-ons, especially universal remotes. If you have a generous budget, a cool luxury is hav-

ing a remote control that operates all of the lighting in the room.

New innovative audio and visual systems are attractive enough to take center stage in your room, and high tech style can be found in everything from sleek projectors and flat-screen plasma TVs to wireless speakers and high definition digital radios. Look through interior design magazines and on www.hgtv.com for the latest stylish technology for home entertainment.

While the focus is on entertainment, it is also important for the room to look polished. A simple way to make everything look sleek is by hiding wires. "I'm very big on hiding cords," said June Saruwatari, organizing expert and founder of The Organizing Maniac.