DESIGN & DECORATING

Quiet on The Settee!

You’ve adjusted to everyone being in the house all day. Next: managing the noise.

By Rosemary Walker

AFTER THREE MONTHS of converging, not only as far as the kitchen, you’re likely to find a long way in transforming your two space into a workplace. Perhaps you’ve converted a closet into an enormous easy care office, duct-taped blankets over windows to squash suffocating background and furnished bottles in vases or your own coffee cups. If so, your colleagues and yourself that you’re flourishing.

While you’ve thronged the backyard, however, can disguise the shrieks of your high-schooler in the next room demanding the remote or the tramp of your dog? Your noise-fighting efforts are perfectly reasonable, thank you very much. With every member of a household attempting to manage to cook, exercise and work all at once, noise remains the final frontier on creating a well-adapted home.

“Sound is like the Reflection of Light,” said New York designer Robert McFaden. “If you put two mirrors opposite each other, the reflection will bounce back and forth. When you add a soft object to the sound waves, the sound waves can interact and interfere.”

The sound absorbers who have clients across the nation are well-versed in ways to dampen the noise—ranging from a stylish rug to reducing the noise of your snoring spouse. “The tips might help you preserve your nerves without stepping on your toes.”

Shelf Assorted Books, a cork floor and carpet help keep sound from trampling in this office by Atlantis designer Jessica Bells.

Cover the Furniture

Sheathing walls with textiles, rather than objects, not only suggests that you’re leaning, it makes sense. Leave cookbooks and dish towels on kitchen counters to help diffuse the chatter of pots and pans, advised San Francisco designer Kendall Wilkinson, who’s also a fan of meshing adhesives in between rugs and, in the hopeful spirit of “every bit helps,” setting the dining room table with tablecloths and place mats. “To suck up sounds in a bedroom, invest in an up-ended headboard, said Amanda M. Lamb, a Carmel, Ind., designer, who noted that soft fabric makes a better ally than leather when it comes to quiet. In San Francisco, designer-embroider Marc Owens has been splitting larger rooms into semi-private spaces with dividers and screens. “You can further the sound protection by draping a colorful blanket over the top,” she said. And somehow, when your tolerance for noise has receded, you can flash ‘Six Feet Under’ on your home theater system with lights turned up until that very same blanket.

Duct-Following

These Stripes Live up To The Home

Design pros turn to Scalamandre’s classic zebras wrapping a dash of dynamism

History Zebras carrying arm bands as a crime background? It seems random, even frivolous, but this happened. High-splitted pattern could not have been more influential. In 1849 the owner of Gris, an Italian red-sauce joint, commissioned Flora Scalamandi, who is the legendary red-haired founder, to design wallpaper for his grand Manhattan restaurant. When it came to covering the walls of his namesake eatery, Gino Cresillo had three goals: a client appetizer of mimosas, intense his hunting hold, and attention from an African safari.

Alkae Designers say that Scalamandres zebras, no so...