



THE INSPIRATION
A lush green on the walls has cottage charm, and painting out all the panelling and trim in the same tone creates a quieter look.



Turn the Corner

Joel Bray on how to make an awkward cottage family room a comfy, relaxing retreat.

Q We've just purchased a cottage with a fireplace in the corner of the family room and one large window filling one wall. I'm not sure how to arrange the furniture to make it cosy and to accommodate our 65" TV. Thanks for your help!
—J.L., via email

A Most cottages come with quirks, and a corner fireplace is not an uncommon one. Unfortunately, as you're finding, they can really inhibit the function of a room and make creating a cohesive furniture layout difficult. But there are ways to bring a sense of balance to your space — and to incorporate a television.

Firstly, I have to be honest: a 65" TV is too big. The only serviceable place to put a television is on the wall across from where your sofa is now, between the two windows, and your TV is too wide for that space. I suggest moving your large TV elsewhere and hanging a smaller model just above the ledge.

Start with a coat of paint. Right now, the darker trim around the windows draws attention to their different sizes and awkward placements. Use the same colour on the walls and trim to bring overall balance. As in our inspiration room, a leafy hue like Behr's Fresh Guacamole (M360-5) will be great here.

To open up the layout, relocate your love seat to another room and replace it with the armchair and ottoman. I really like this chair;

it has a trad design and looks comfortable, which is what you want at a cottage! If it's within your budget, reupholster the chair and ottoman in Robert Allen's Vespertine in Navy Balzer. The blue and white floral will feel fresh but not too modern.

If you're planning to invest in new pieces, opt for a slipcovered sleeper sofa like the Willow queen sleeper in Cafe from Crate & Barrel. The dark colour will conceal stains, and an extra bed always comes in handy at the cottage. The Kubu coffee table from Wicker Emporium is a practical option, perfect for storing board games or throws. And the Rugby Stripe indoor-outdoor rug from Dash & Albert will break up the pine floors, define the living area and warm things up even more.

Finally, scatter a few Kinaree throw pillows from John Robshaw on the sofa to make it the perfect place to curl up and watch a movie during a rainy day at the cottage.

1. *Fabric*, Robert Allen. 2. *Paint*, Behr. 3. *Rug*, Dash & Albert. 4. *Pillow*, John Robshaw. 5. *Coffee table*, Wicker Emporium. 6. *Sofa*, Crate & Barrel.



Photography by Alex Lukey (portrait)/Inspiration room: Photography by John Gruen/Design by Heide Hendricks/Architecture by Rafe Churchill