

# Variables to consider when choosing a media room

The term “home theater” once made homeowners who love movies and sports dream of the day when they could dedicate a large area in their home to watching the big game or their favorite films.

Such rooms are now widely referred to as “media rooms.” Though the terminology may have changed, media rooms are not all that different from home theaters.

Before choosing an area of their home as their designated media room, homeowners must consider a host of variables to ensure they get as much out of the room as possible.

• *Location and shape:* Of course

the location of the room is of the utmost importance. Media rooms tend to be more social settings than traditional home theaters, which were often designed to be isolated from the rest of the home so noise and natural light did not adversely affect the film-watching experience.

Homeowners may not want their media rooms to be in high traffic areas of their homes, but they needn't be completely secluded, either.

The renovation experts at the DIY Network note that the shape of a room should be considered before designating it as the media room. In general, square rooms are not ideal, as such rooms can produce harmonic distortions. A

rectangular room likely won't produce such distortions, especially when homeowners place their screens and primary speakers on short walls.

It's important that homeowners do not downplay the importance of sound, as media rooms, unlike traditional home theaters, may be used for listening to music just as much as they are for watching films or sports.

Viewers may not recognize distortions when watching something, but homeowners may notice these abnormalities when listening to music.

• *Windows:* Media rooms are multi-purpose rooms, so homeowners don't need to remove

rooms with windows from consideration. But the experts at the DIY Network note that windows are hard surfaces that can reflect sound and distort audio, and the light that gets in through windows can produce reflections on the viewing surface.

Each of those factors can adversely affect your listening and viewing experience. A room with windows can still make for a good media room, but you may want to invest in some blackout curtains to mitigate some of the disadvantages of having windows in the room.

• *Wall colors:* The colors of the walls in the room is another variable homeowners will have to

consider. Homeowners won't want to host guests for the big game in rooms with darkened walls, as that can create a dreary atmosphere and potentially make people tired. But especially bright colors will reflect light and adversely affect the viewing experience.

Neutral colors should not affect the colors on the screen, making them the ideal color choice for media room walls.

Media rooms are high on many homeowners' renovation lists. Considering a host of variables prior to designating an area for a media room can ensure the finished product is as enjoyable as possible.

# RENTALS



**BRECK GARDEN APARTMENTS**  
 5270 Dewitt Road  
 Cross Lanes, WV 25313  
 304-776-2735  
 1 & 2 Bedroom Available

3 Miles from Nitro Market Place  
 All Utilities Paid Except Electric.  
 KRT Busline

Housing Certificates Welcome  
 Monday-Friday 9am-3pm  
 TDD 1-800-982-8711

This Institution is an  
 Equal Housing Opportunity  
 Provider and Employer



**STRICKLEN PROPERTIES**  
 304-768-5848  
 www.stricklenpropertiesllc.com

South Charleston, Almost new 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath townhouse, deck, great location..... \$800 plus utilities

South Charleston, Modern 1 bedroom, kitchen furnished, close to Thomas Hospital ..... \$450 plus utilities

Cross Lanes, Updated 2 bedroom townhouse, kitchen furnished, hookups ..... \$550 plus utilities

ONE YEAR LEASES. DEPOSIT. NO PETS. PROMPT MAINTENANCE



TO ADVERTISE ON THIS PAGE

Looking to  
*advertise*  
 your  
 apartment?

304.348.4852

twitter.com/CGMRealEstate  
 facebook.com/GazetteMailRealEstate