

# jute



When it comes to beautiful homes, there's fashion, function and, well, family. At Jute Design, we believe fine art and finger paints can co-exist. We specialize in smart, stylish spaces for young families that are as livable as they are unique, accommodating dinner parties and play dates with equal aplomb.

Our design philosophy is simple. Begin by investing in the basics and then layer in a measure of practicality and one-of-a-kind pieces. Before you know it, the perfect balance of playful and posh has been achieved.

**THE BASICS.** Spend on the things that will give you a return on your investment: built-in cabinetry, fantastic countertops, unique lighting. Things that stay with your home should err on the safe side; a transitional style is a good bet—not too traditional and not too modern. Neutral color palettes are also great. Don't spend on over-the-top appliances, plumbing fixtures, or anything really unique to your taste.

**THE BLING.** Next up, layer in your personality and make the space your own. Artwork is a great way to do this. Not only do many people have an emotional or sentimental attachment to artwork, it also elevates the aesthetics of a space. And, when hung over a piece of furniture or a mantel, it can remain out of the reach of children. Antiques are also a great way to personalize a space. Contrary to what some may think, they are kid friendly. They look better over time and an aged patina shows character and can be very forgiving.

**COMFORT.** Most parents of young children want a comfortable place to relax. Invest in well-made upholstery that uses premium materials and exudes quality craftsmanship. It will stay with you for decades and can be reupholstered easily. Don't spend on textiles for upholstery. Outdoor and washable fabrics can look great and are reasonably priced. When you see your child lunging toward the sofa with a Sharpie, you can relax.

**WINDOWS.** Do invest in custom window treatments. Dressing a window is a foolproof way of pulling together a room. Windows are also a great place to use unique textiles that you wouldn't want to put on the family room sofa.

**SAFETY.** Use rounded corners or softer edges for cocktail and occasional tables. Upholstered ottomans are great for this. Don't use glass-topped anything.

**STORAGE.** Find unique storage solutions. A trunk can be a flea market find and used to store everything from toys to video game controls, plus it looks great as a surface for serving drinks when it's cocktail hour.