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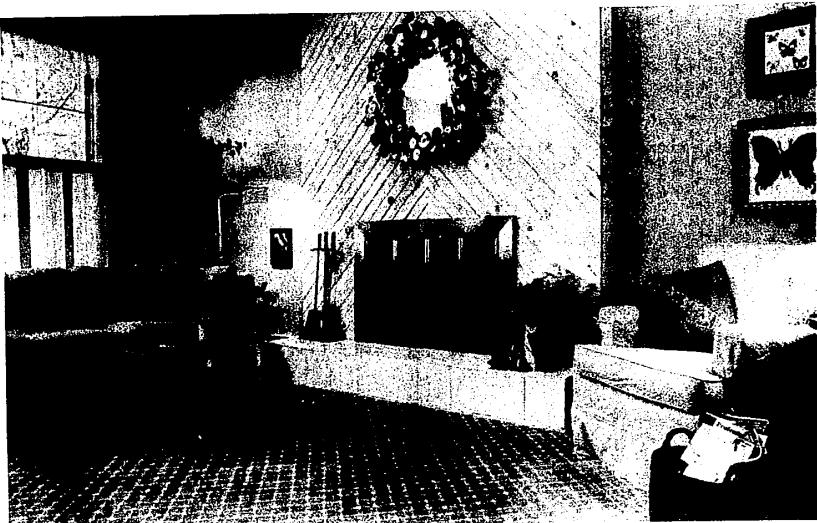
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Family room gained a lot of light and, although it's an optical illusion, a lot of space too. It was done with color, designs in fabrics and a change in the fireplace from red brick and maple style colonial to contemporary pine and white tile.

New decor lets the sunshine in

By Corinne Abalt
staff writer

Before it's new look, a heavily traffic family room in a Troy colonial sported a typical red brick fireplace and lots of wood paneling. With dimensions of about 12-by-15, one door led to the kitchen and another to the foyer.

The owners contacted interior de-

signer Leonard K. Krass who works out of Hudson's Northland. Could he give their family room a much lighter feeling, but still keep it functional and ready for a lot of use by this family which includes a couple of young children?

Krass and his clients agreed that some of the accessories they already had and loved would be part of the new

look — her needlepoint butterflies and a circular mirror with copper sculpture framework.

The big change was in the fireplace. The brick was covered in pine installed in an attractive diagonal pattern. The wood was rubbed with white stain and thinned-out oil paint. Krass, knowing exactly the look he wanted, ended up finishing the wood himself, after a false start by someone else. The raised hearth was covered in lovely white, quarry tile.

With paneling removed, the walls were done in a plain covering with a combed texture in an all over pumpkin color.

The diagonal pattern in the earth tone and white carpeting opens up the dimensions of the room, making it appear larger. The shutters on the lower

half of the colonial style windows are covered in a natural off-white fabric and the light streams in through the open upper half. The modular pieces are covered in a durable, warm toned textured fabric. Another favorite arm chair was slip-covered in a honey and white diagonal pattern.

With brass accessories, touches of greenery and favorite family pieces there's a warm glow to the new decor.

Krass and his clients agree that the red brick and wood paneling closed the room and gave it a cramped, tight feeling. The new look is pleasantly contemporary, light and seemingly full of sunshine all the time. It's still a family room in every sense of the word, but now it's better suited the upbeat, active life and attitude of this young family.

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When insulating an attic floor, MIMA recommends that you dress in old clothes — a long-sleeved shirt, baggy pants, gloves and a dust mask. If pouring in loose-fill mineral fiber insulation, a garden rake for leveling the insulation should prove useful.

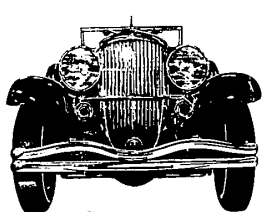
Some building supply stores have machines available for rental by do it yourselfers. These machines blow mineral fiber insulation in attic floors or walls and are fast and efficient.

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