

# Better Homes & Gardens

## Soft Transitional Is the Biggest Decorating Style of the Year—Here's Why



PHOTO: COURTESY OF CAROLINE BRACKETT

### Celebrate Original Art

Soft transitional design incorporates original art and giclee prints to add interest and color against neutral walls. "Oftentimes, this art is the inspiration behind a room's overall color scheme, incorporating various shaped and sized oil paintings that are grouped together and presented in a variety of frames, including gilded and floating, or frameless canvases," says Brackett.



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### Make It Family-Friendly

While sophisticated, soft transitional also works well for families with children. "It's ideal for growing families because it typically [incorporates larger scale furnishings](#) in plush, high-performance upholstery and timeless neutral tones," says Brophy.

The diverse functionality of a soft transitional space is relaxed enough for TV watching with the family yet elegant enough to host a cocktail party. "Soft transitional presents a comfortable, livable environment for families while maintaining a sophisticated, polished aesthetic that isn't too stuffy or stark," says Brackett.

### Opt for Sustainable Selections and Organic Materials

"Part of the reason soft transitional style is so popular is because people are more environmentally conscious and making more sustainable choices," says Youngblood.

Soft transitional styles embrace wood, stone, natural fibers, and plants to create a warm and timeless atmosphere, says Caroline Brackett, principal designer at [Caroline Brackett Studio of Design](#). "It also includes finishes like plaster walls and limestone flooring, materials that have been used in design and architecture for centuries." A focus on classic shapes and forms also prevents quality pieces from ending up in a landfill.