



over the top

Interior designer Frank Ponterio softened this room's large expanse with lush, flowing fabrics that express movement. A tufted ottoman in gathered velvet sits center stage between the sofas. Sumptuous silk shows up on drapery panels puddling on the floor. The same fabric was used to upholster original wainscoting, left intact in case of a future restoration.

Frank Ponterio

LAKE FOREST SHOWHOUSE
LAKE FOREST, ILLINOIS

Formal rooms can be intimidating, but this Lake Forest living room is designed not only to consider comfort but also to create magic. Designer Frank Ponterio brought a golden touch to a space that could have been stuffy but is glamorous instead.

"This room's large scale couldn't be ignored," says Frank. "I wanted to celebrate its glorious proportions without making it have that 'don't touch' look."

A light, lofty palette of ivory keeps the enormous area fresh, while swaths of fabrics in the same glowing color extend the natural light that bathes the space. Frank used several sets of "twins" throughout to make statements without introducing too many shapes. Matching tailored sofas in front of the fireplace create a central island, and a pair of identical delicate crystal chandeliers ensure adequate overhead lighting. The armchairs in the bay window provide an additional seating nook. ➤

Produced by Hilary Rose and Sally Mauer Photographs by Casey Sills

