

## How to make your home warm and inviting

The time is near for good tidings, great cheer and happy holidays. In an effort to prepare for entertaining during this joyful time, Sally Morse, director of creative services for Hunter Douglas, provides the following tips on how to decorate the home in preparation for visiting friends and family.

- Go for a simple way of decorating in the living area and use wide ribbon to "gift wrap" throw pillows like packages to give your couch a festive feel. Adorn your walls with indoor wreaths created from scarves and a little boxwood.

- At the dinner table, dress up dining room chairs while also protecting them by attaching gold tassels to colourful fabric and draping it over the seat. Create a festive centerpiece by filling a crystal bowl with fresh cranberries, adding one aspirin per bag, and topping it with fresh flowers

with cut stems. For place cards, use holiday cards in small gilded frames. If your dining room features a chandelier, decorate it with ornaments to round out the holiday look.

- Windows are really the focal point of any decorative scheme. Whatever you do, be it simple or grand, they draw attention to a beautiful view, the holiday treasures you've lined up on the sill or, at night, reflect the mirrors and artwork on opposite walls to create, in effect, a masterpiece all their own. To add just the right touch for the holidays and a soft look at the window that is beautiful year-round, use Silhouette window shadings. Featuring soft fabric vanes suspended between two sheer facings, this line of window shadings transforms the look of a room by changing the quality of exterior light - from harsh and unyielding to gentle and controllable. It

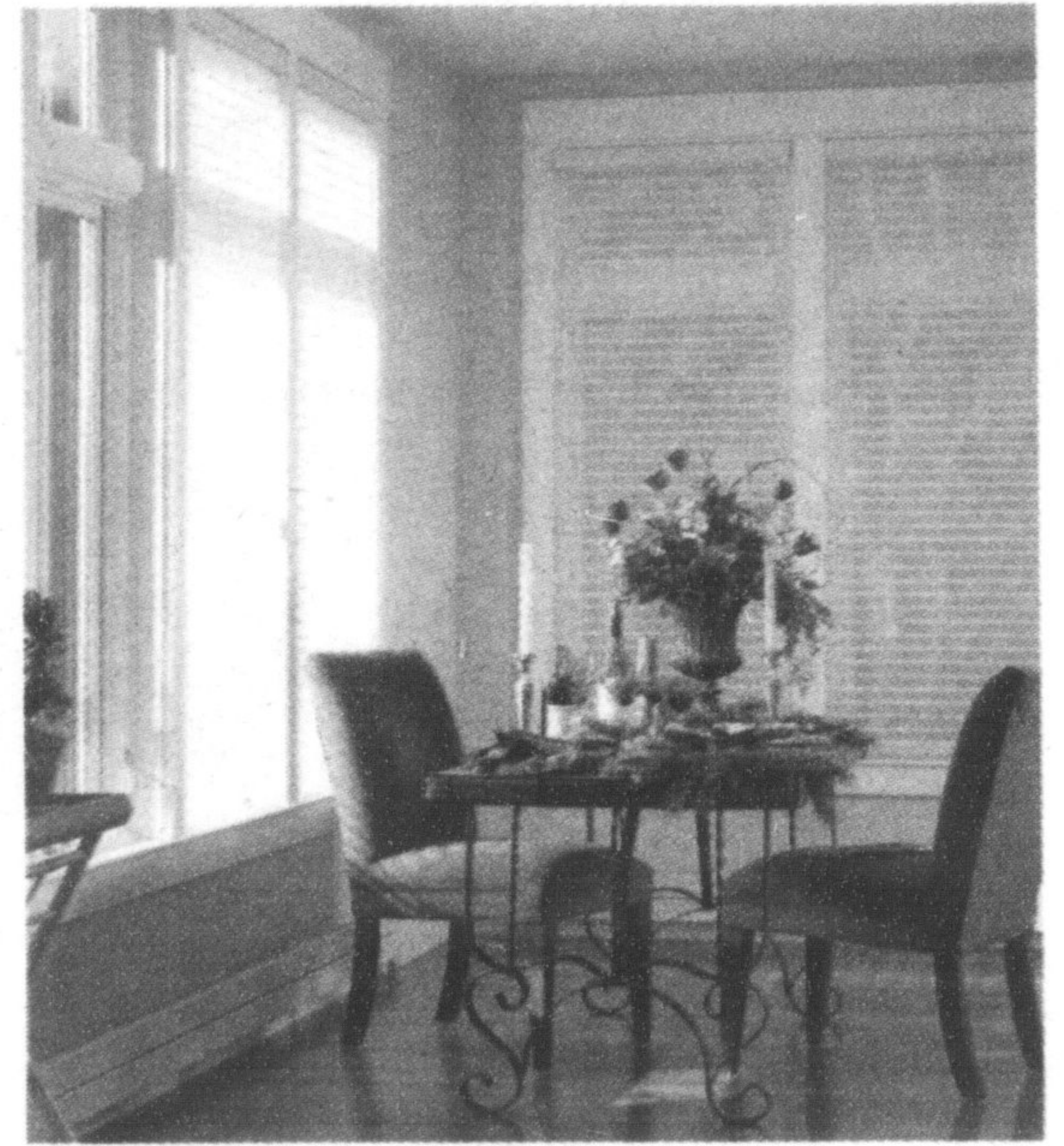
also protects against the sun's harmful U.V. rays while still revealing the view of the outdoors.

- To add warmth at the window as well as soft, diffused light control, consider using Duette Architella, honeycomb shades, which, with their highly energy-efficient honeycomb-within-a-honeycomb design, can reduce heat loss at the window by up to 50 percent to stay warm during the holiday season.

In the spirit of the season, Hunter Douglas is offering a "Wrap Your Windows for the Holidays" promotion from October 15 to December 15, 2008, during which consumers can obtain rebates on a variety of its most stylish window fashions.

More information is available online at [www.hunterdouglas.ca](http://www.hunterdouglas.ca) or toll-free at 1-800-265-8000.

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## A do-it-yourselfers guide to creating a home theatre

By Ryan Hubers

When some people think of a home theatre what comes to mind is a large room with a giant projection screen, tiered seating with oversized chairs, lights on dimmers, possibly a hand-painted mural on the ceiling, and expensive acoustic equipment. These high-end theatre rooms are impressive but unrealistic unless you have a large budget to work with, and a room you don't mind sacrificing for the single purpose of watching movies.

The good news is creating a home theatre is a lot easier than most people think and affordable on a smaller scale. Many modern home theatre systems are versatile enough to be used in a family room or any place where any number of daily activities takes

place.

Oftentimes, you can find all the elements you need to create a home theatre from the same manufacturer. This makes shopping easy because you can do it all online and have the products shipped to you. One company that offers a complete home theatre solution is mount and furniture manufacturer Sanus Systems. Sanus offers TV mounts for virtually every flat-panel TV, and even offers an online mount finder to help you determine which mounts are compatible with your TV.

"One of the hottest new trends in home theatre design is to combine a wall-mounted flat-panel TV with a wall-mountable furniture unit," says Jim Wohlford, general manager for

Sanus.

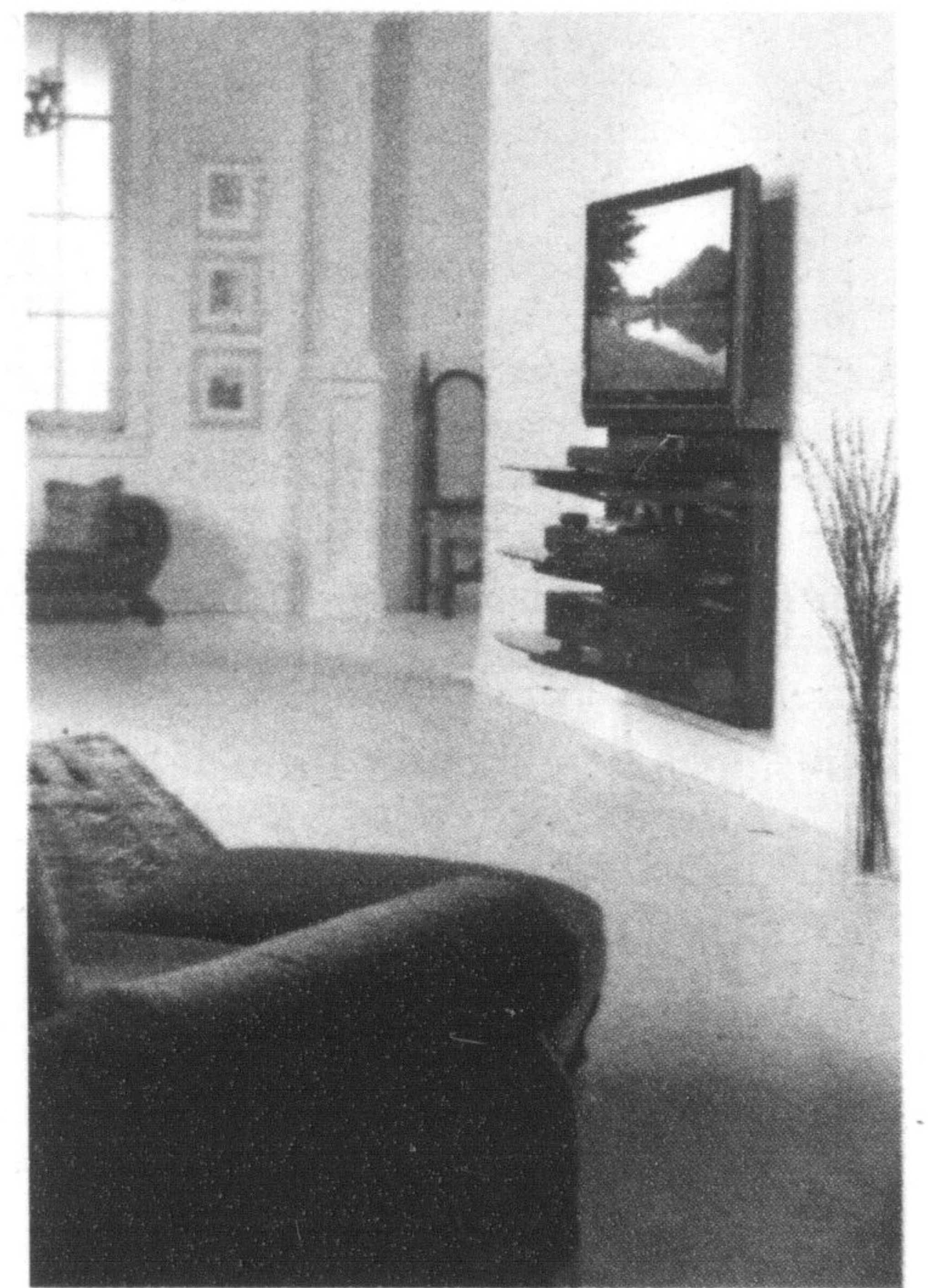
On-wall furniture units such as the Foundations Vertical series attach to the wall directly beneath your mounted TV for a seamless look. This is a great solution for people who have more electronics than they know what to do with. With on-wall furniture, DVD players, video games, cable boxes and speakers can be placed on the wall, up and out of the way. Placing everything on the wall also saves valuable floor space, and the unobtrusive design of the Vertical units let them blend in with any home décor.

You might consider adding some additional products to your system, such as side and center-channel speaker mounts that attach to the wall mount so the

sound moves with the direction of the TV as you change the viewing angle; speaker pedestals that can be placed around the room for the ultimate surround sound experience; and Click Fit accessories such as surge suppressors and electrical boxes that easily snap onto select Sanus mounts and remain hidden behind the TV. All of these products can be found online at [www.sanus.com](http://www.sanus.com) or at audio/video and consumer electronics stores.

With a little bit of planning, you'll have a versatile home theatre system that won't cost you a fortune. Even better yet, all of them are fairly easy to install and you can do so yourself with a few household tools.

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