

Designed for Style *and* Durability, BOTH INSIDE AND OUT

WRITER | LINDSAY MEEK PHOTOS | BELL TOWER LAKE HOUSE LIVING CO.

Let's face it: we'd all love our home to look like the pages of a magazine, but, well, we live there. Life happens, and it can sometimes be hectic and messy. That's why it's important to plan for life when designing and selecting furniture throughout your home. Following these key ideas will not only help create a beautiful space but will increase your home's durability and possibly even your peace of mind.



Smart Slipcovers: Slipcovers have come a long way in fit and design. In fact, the slipcovered look is increasingly popular for chic cottage and beach casual design. It can also be a lifesaver when you have kids and pets - especially covers that you can toss into the washing machine. Four Seasons and Lee Industries, for instance, offer a great selection of furniture with custom slipcovers that wash beautifully. Having the option to toss an entire sofa slipcover into the laundry is a wonderful time and money saver.

Resilient Rugs: Rugs are a must to add color, texture, and warmth to any room, whether inside or out. Selecting the right type of floor covering is important, particularly in those high-traffic areas where durability is a necessity. Dash & Albert offers a beautiful selection of rugs with a multitude of benefits: durable, eco-friendly construction, soft texture, lightweight, reversible, and washable. These rugs are even great to warm up your outdoor rooms, as the durable polyester fiber is made of recycled plastic water bottles that resist moisture and staining.

Life-Approved Fabrics: You don't need to sacrifice looks or comfort with today's indoor-outdoor fabric. Increasingly more difficult to distinguish from conventional indoor fabrics, indoor-outdoor fabric, also known as performance fabric, comes in a variety of styles. Prints, textured, solid, or striped, performance fabrics can work for you lakeside, at the dinner table, in the living room, and even in pet areas. The stain resistance of these fabrics makes them especially good candidates for dining and bar chairs, where spills and moisture can easily be cleaned. In fact, some fabrics, such as Sunbrella, can even be bleached without worry of color loss. Performance fabrics also resist fading and weakening from light exposure, so they are a great option for sunrooms and, of course, outdoor areas.

Purposeful Plastic: Yes, plastic is becoming a key element in durable design. Recycled plastic furniture is necessary for outdoor spaces when you want low-maintenance, long-lasting furniture. The nonporous surface resists fading, staining, and splintering. That means the furniture can be left out all year, even in the Michigan winter. Brands like Seaside Casual and Telescope Casual offer a variety of deep seating sets, dining sets, and Adirondack chairs made of high-performance, eco-friendly recycled plastic, and marine-grade polymers.