

# 7 quick and easy steps

## ARRANGING FURNITURE



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Any beautifully decorated space begins with proper furniture placement. Without taking a little time to consider a room's function and then placing furniture accordingly, you'll struggle to give your space a functional, cozy feel. And every other aspect of the room's decor will suffer.

But, the good news is anyone can properly arrange furniture. Armed with the same tips & tricks professionals use, you too can quickly and easily create an inviting space that feels cohesive and well designed.

As the song goes, just "put one foot in front of the other". So here are the step-by-step basics for foolproof furniture arranging:

### 1- ***Clear The Room***

Yes, I did say quickly and easily. But, you're still going to have to roll up your sleeves and do a little work. Clearing the space is the most IMPORTANT step of the process. Without removing all the furniture, you'll have a much more difficult time seeing the room's potential and determining its Focal Point.

### 2- ***Pick A Focal Point.***

What is a Focal Point you ask? Picking one sounds a lot more complicated than it is. A focal point is exactly what it sounds like. It's whatever draws your attention in a space. Sometimes, it's even possible to have more than one Focal Point in a room.

Ask yourself, "Does the space have a feature that draws the eye?" For example, is there a fireplace? Or, is there a large picture window with a killer view? These are known as Architectural Focal Points. Unless you're purposely ignore them, they are almost always your primary focus in a room and shouldn't be ignored when arranging furniture.

Other focal points are generally activity-driven. They revolve around things you do in the room. Think television, piano or maybe a dining table or a bed.

Successful furniture placement always centers around a designated Focal Point or points. Clearing the room in step one should've helped you figure out exactly what that is or should be. If you have two focal points (i.e. fireplace and t.v., create two seating groups one focusing on each. Or, try unifying the two focal points by moving them as close together as possible and treat them as one.

### 3- **Position The Largest Seating Piece**

After you've determined your Focal Point, place your largest seating piece (generally a sofa) directly facing it. Take your time. The rest of your furniture will be grouped with this piece; so getting this piece positioned just right is crucial! Do you have a clear view of your Focal Point? Is there enough space for other seating pieces and accent furniture without the space feeling crowded? Don't be concerned if placing your largest piece means it's on an angle to the walls. *Angles are our friends!* Even though it may look like it eats up more floor space, putting a large piece of furniture on an angle to a wall helps make a space feel bigger. Angled furniture also helps create cozier groups in the middle of larger spaces.

*NOTE: Rugs really aren't part of your furniture placement strategy. But they do work wonders as an anchor for your seating groups. Just remember that the front legs of your furniture should always touch the rug rather than being pushed back away from it.*

### 4- **Add Secondary Seating Pieces**

Obviously, you have (or should have) more than just a sofa in your living space. Secondary seating pieces include loveseats and chairs. Add them to your sofa, (largest first). Work your way down in size as you build a seating group that is cozy and conversational. Keep in mind that you should never have to turn your head more than about 45 degrees to talk to anyone in your conversation group.

### 5- **Share The LUV**

One of the easiest ways to arrange furniture is to create 'letters' using the various pieces. The most common letters to create are **L**, **U** and **V**! I call it sharing the **LUV**!

It goes kinda like this:

If you put a loveseat on a 90-degree angle to your sofa, then you've created an "**L**".

If you put two loveseats & chair on 90-degree angles to one another you've created a "**U**".

And if you put a sofa and loveseat on a 45-degree angle to one another, you've created a "**V**".

Occasionally, you might also need to create an "**H**". That's what you get when you place two sofa's facing one another with a coffee table in between. Or maybe, you are placing two pairs of matching chairs facing one another with the same table between them.

**H**'s tend to create very 'formal' seating arrangements and since you rarely feel the **LUV** in those surroundings, it makes perfect sense to keep the "**H**" out of it!

### 6- **Mind The Gaps**

The hard part is over. So far, you've created great conversational seating groups using the **LUV** method. Now you just have to add in the rest of your furniture including tables, ottomans, benches, stools, etc.... Cocktail/cocktail tables generally pair with and are placed in front of the largest seating pieces. Side tables fit logically and nicely in the corners of your **L**, **U** and **V**.



A good goal for adding accent pieces is to provide a place for every person to have a place to put a book or drink without leaving their seat. They also provide places for additional lighting (i.e lamps).

## **7- *Avoid The Traffic***

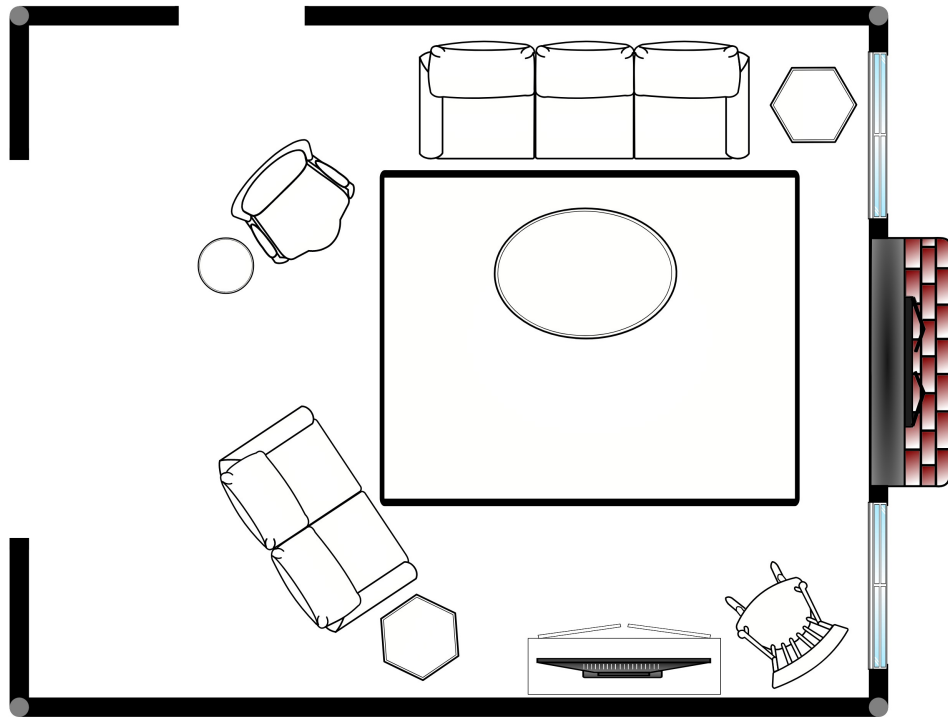
Of course, any discussion of furniture placement needs to acknowledge the traffic patterns that exist in every room. Traffic patterns are generally the most logical ways for getting from point A to B with the least amount of obstacles. Whether it's between doors or hallways, it's always a good idea to avoid blocking the most used paths through a room. However, don't be afraid to intrude on lesser-used paths with furniture. Requiring visitors to a space to "walk around" furniture in order to sit creates a much more intimate seating group than one where people walk through to get to another area of the home.

And there you have it... a detailed overview of how to arrange the furniture in the main living areas of your home! Since bedrooms and dining rooms are generally less troublesome, we've ignored those spaces for the purposes of this discussion. Keep in mind, however, in those spaces the furniture can sometimes be the focal point rather than the view from it.

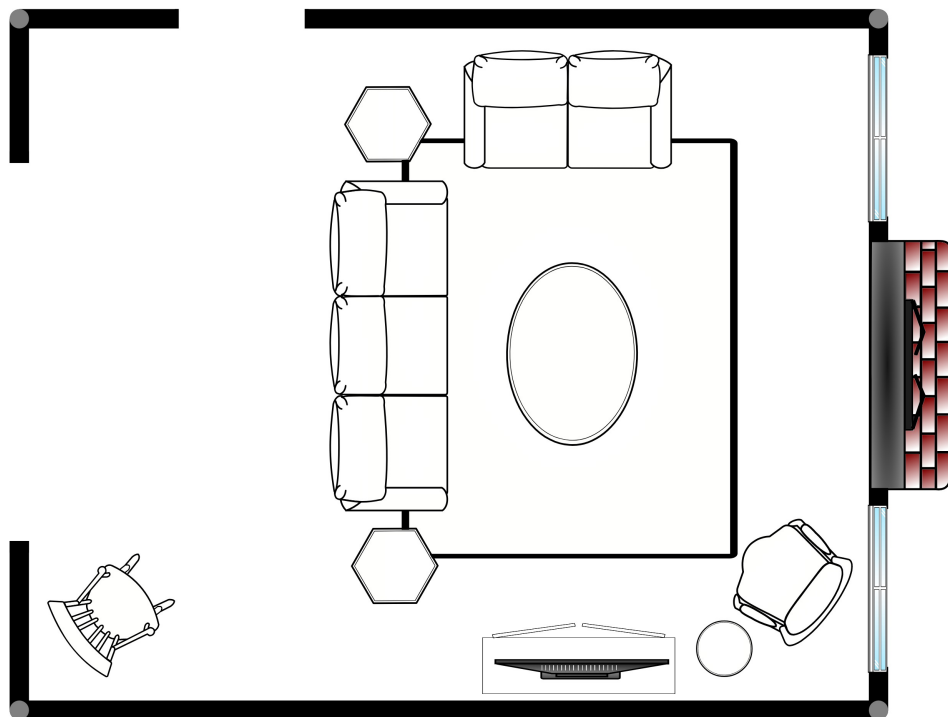
Obviously, there's a lot more to a beautifully decorated room than well-arranged furniture. But, creating a space that feels inviting, cohesive and thoughtful begins with furniture placement. Nothing is more important.

As you continue decorating by adding lighting, window treatments, artwork and accessories, your perfectly arranged space will come to life with a style and personality all its own.

There are endless combinations of traffic patterns, focal points and furniture placement possibilities. On the following pages are examples of some of the most common spaces we've encountered over the years. The Before layouts are what an average homeowners might do in the space. The After diagram is an idea of how you might make better use of the same furniture in that space.

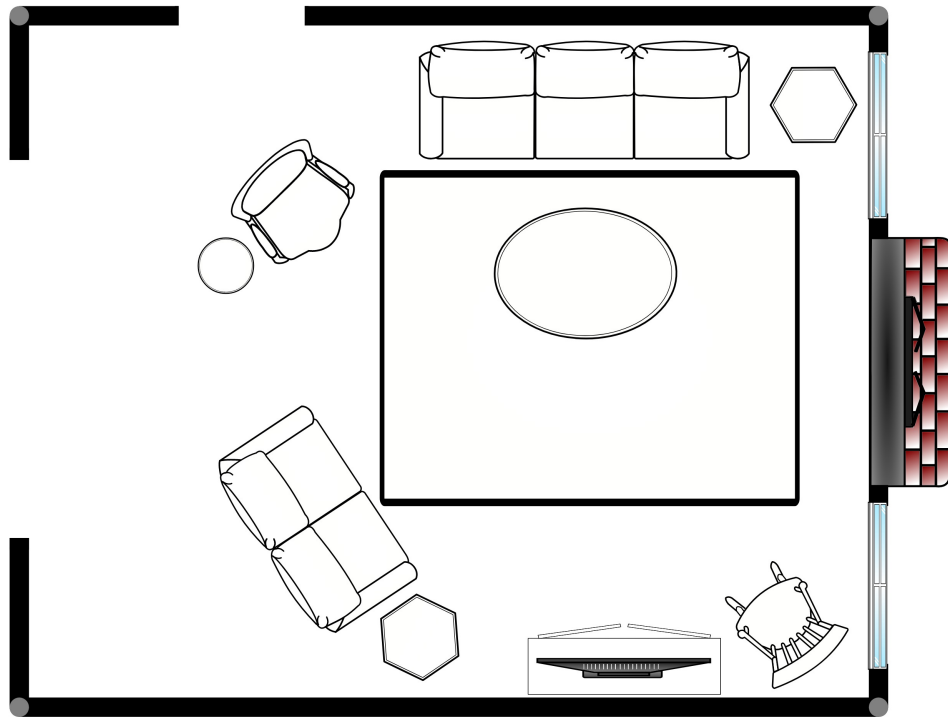


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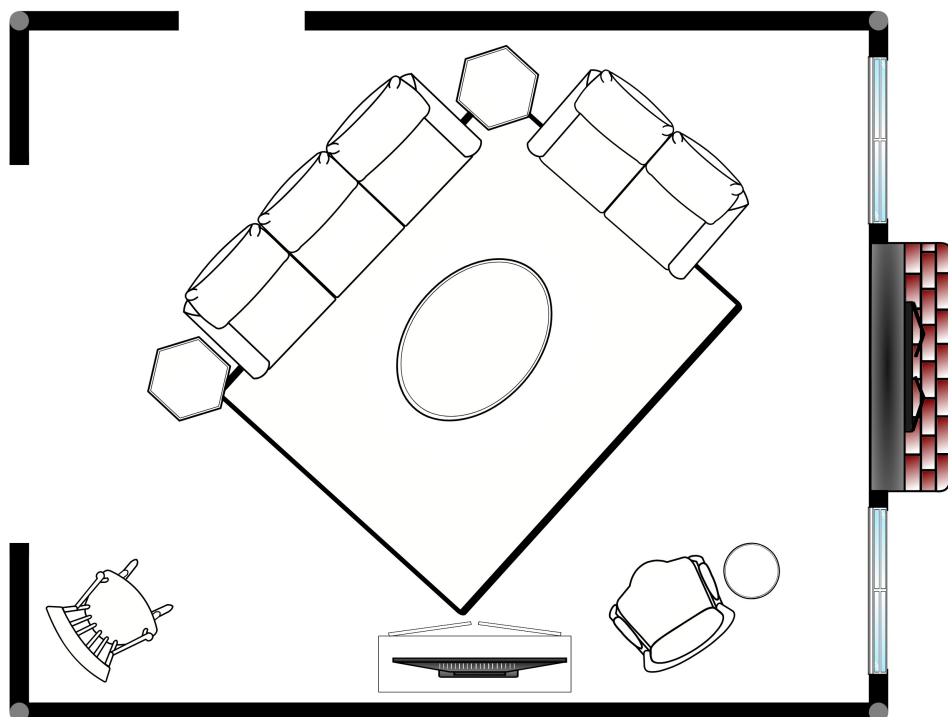


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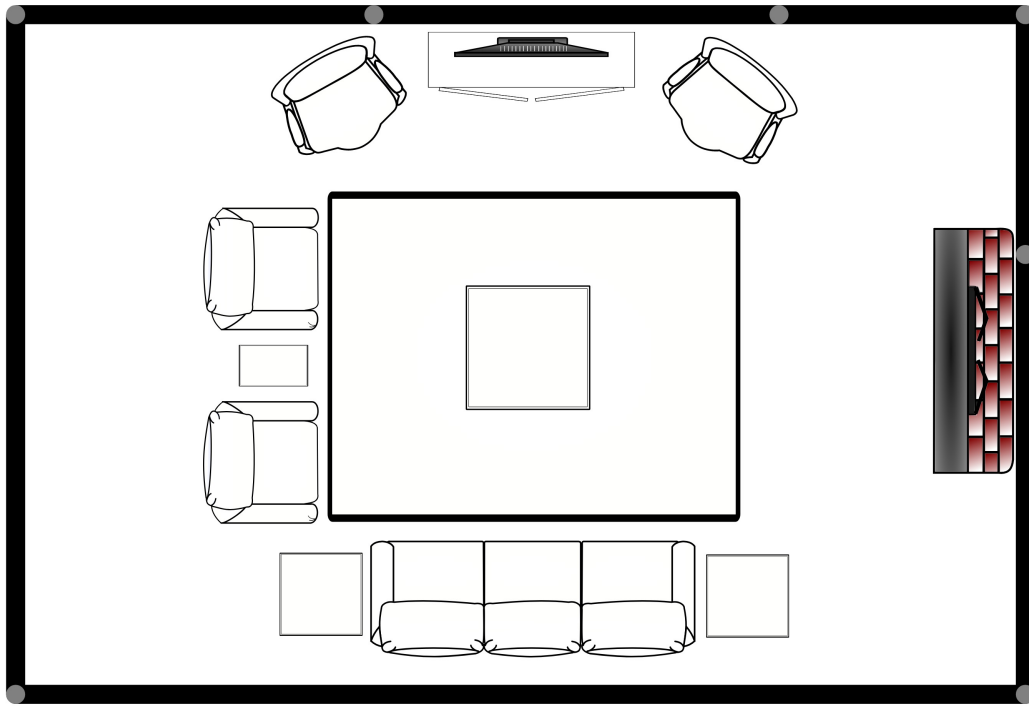


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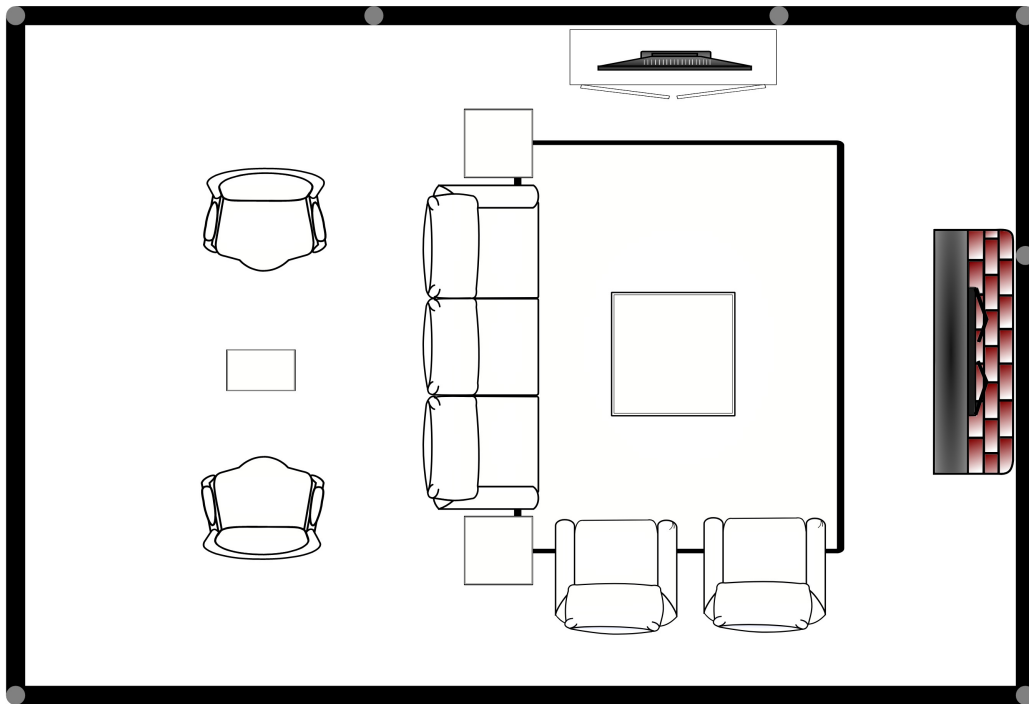


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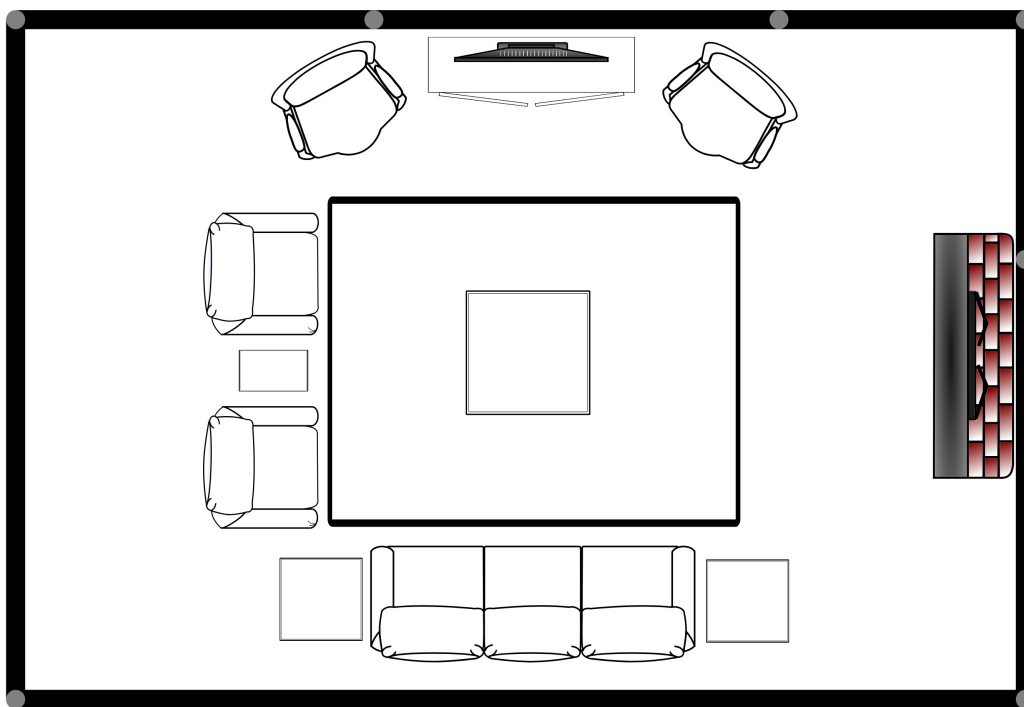


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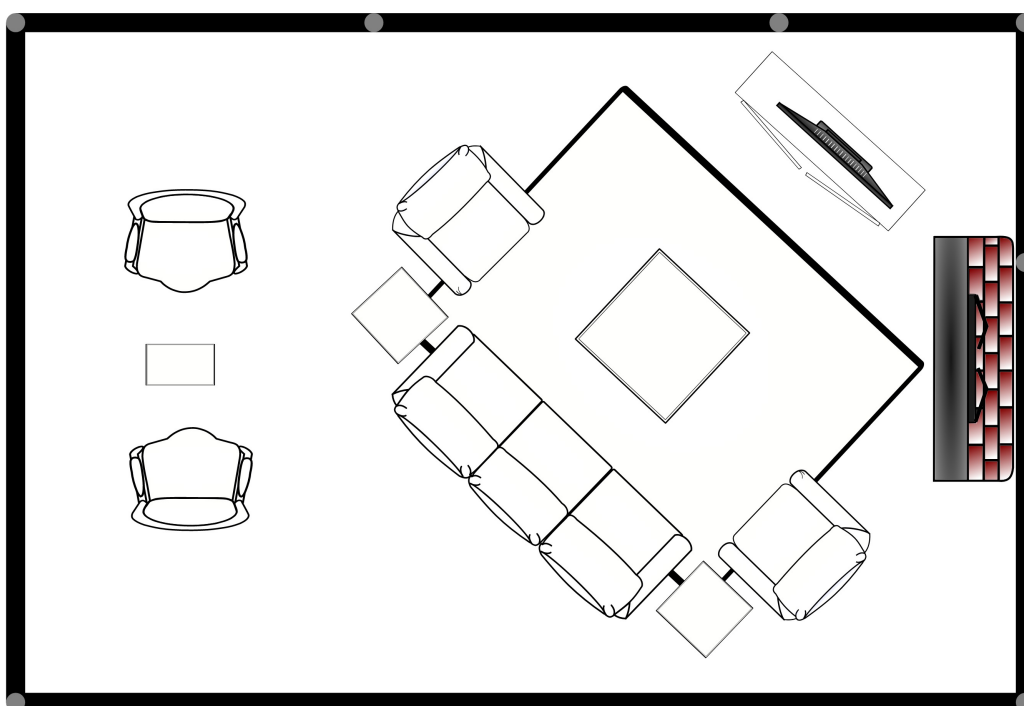


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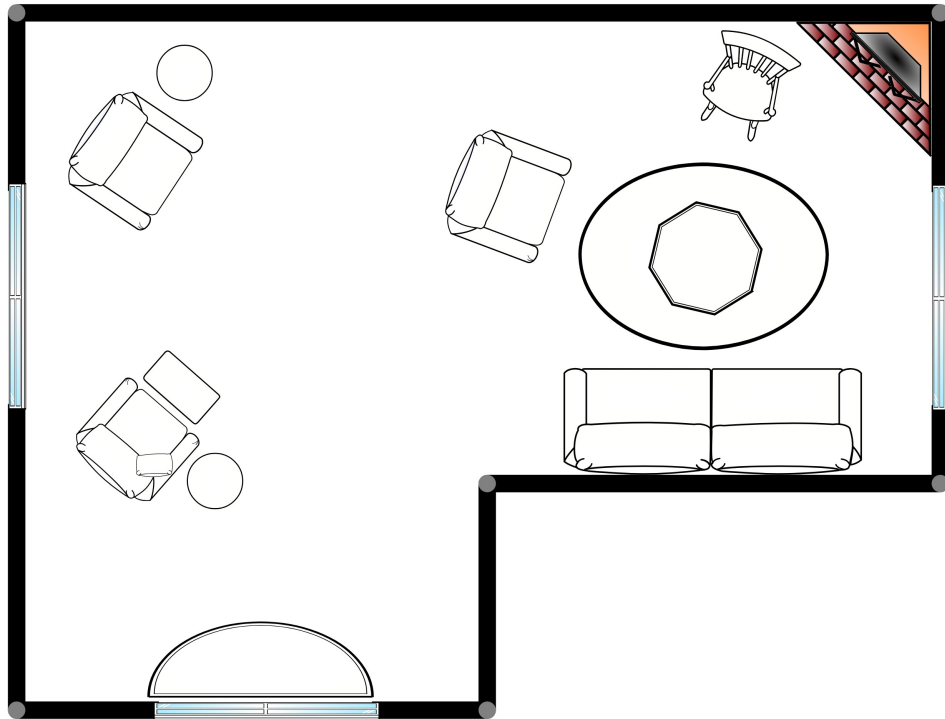
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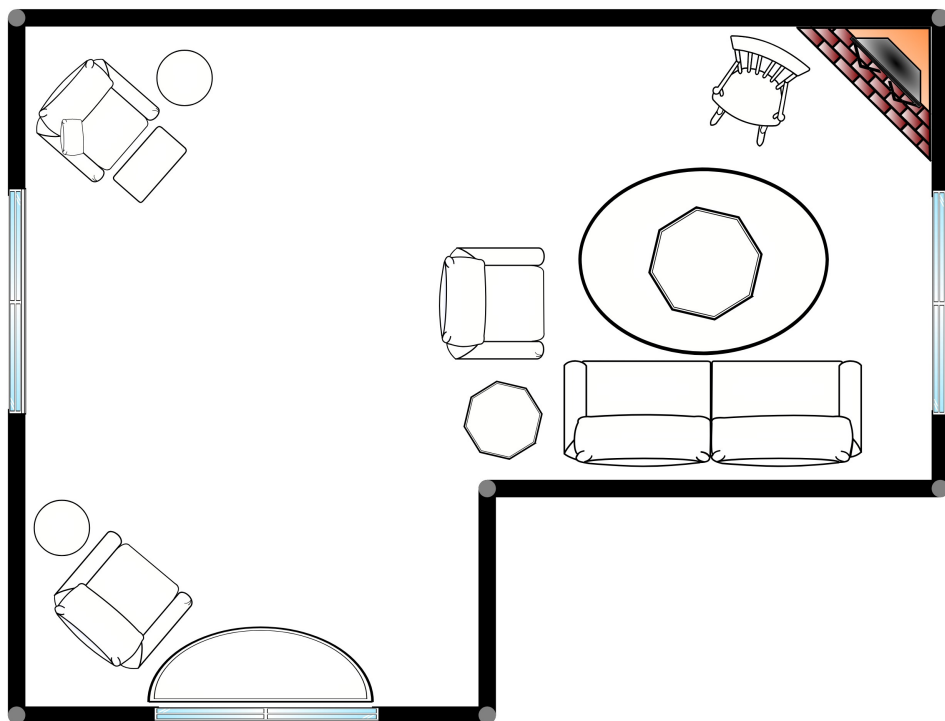
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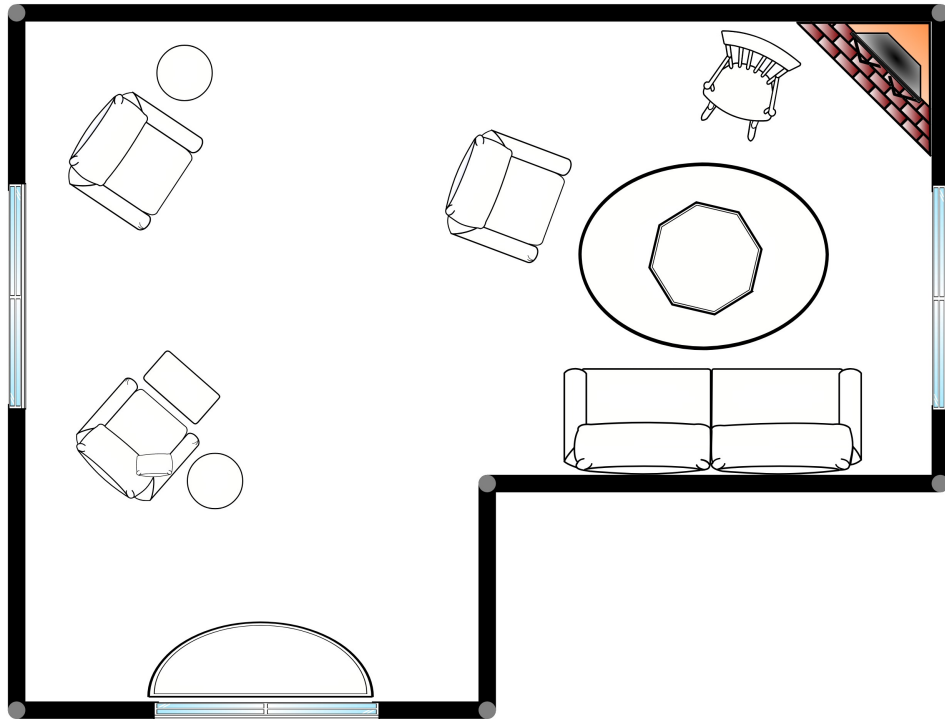


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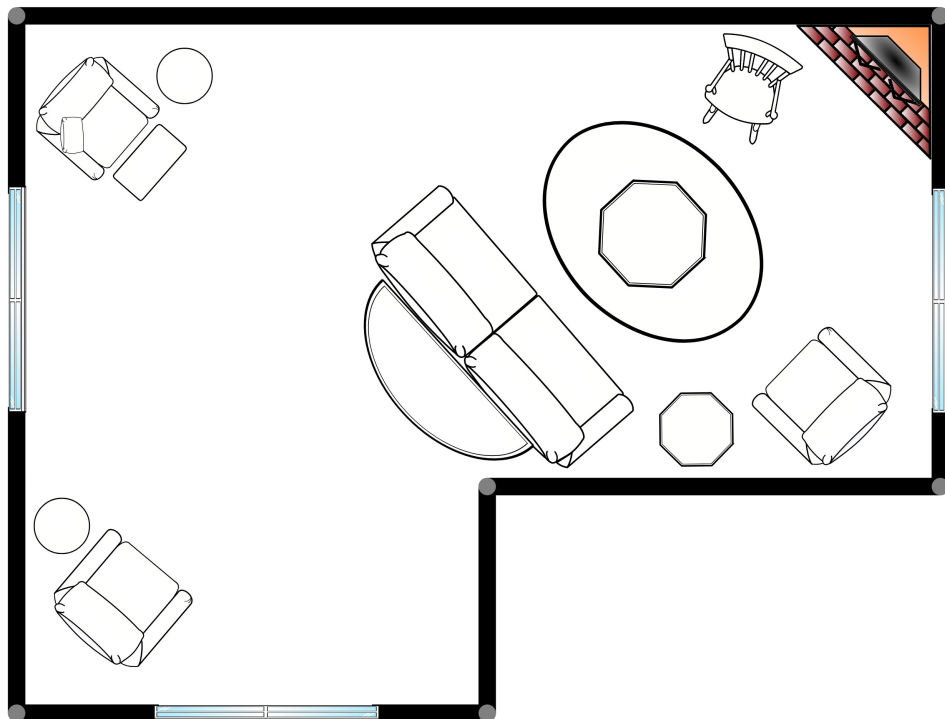


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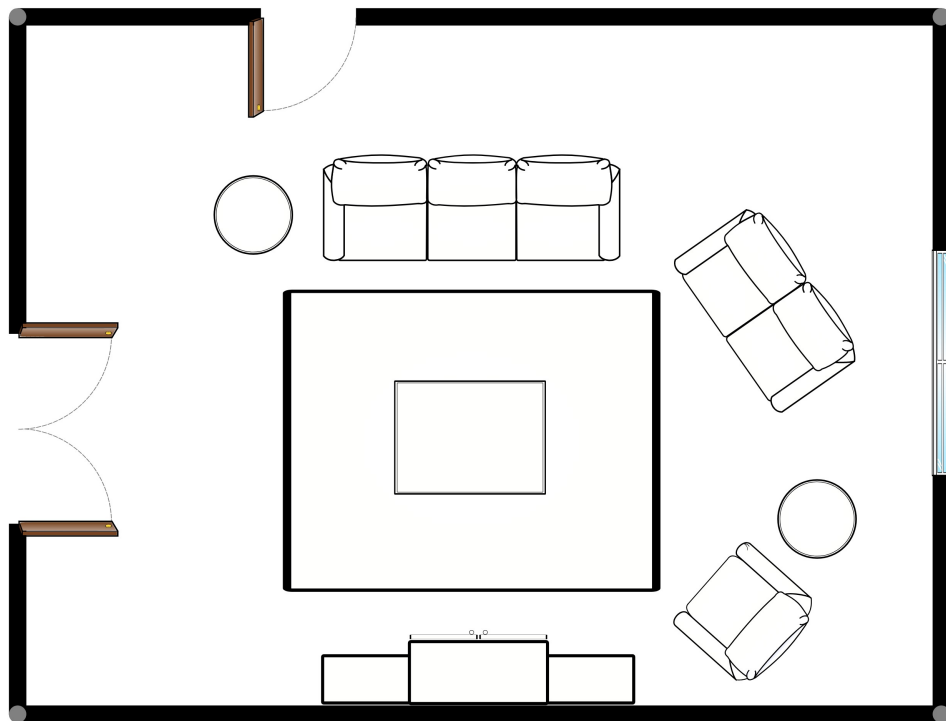


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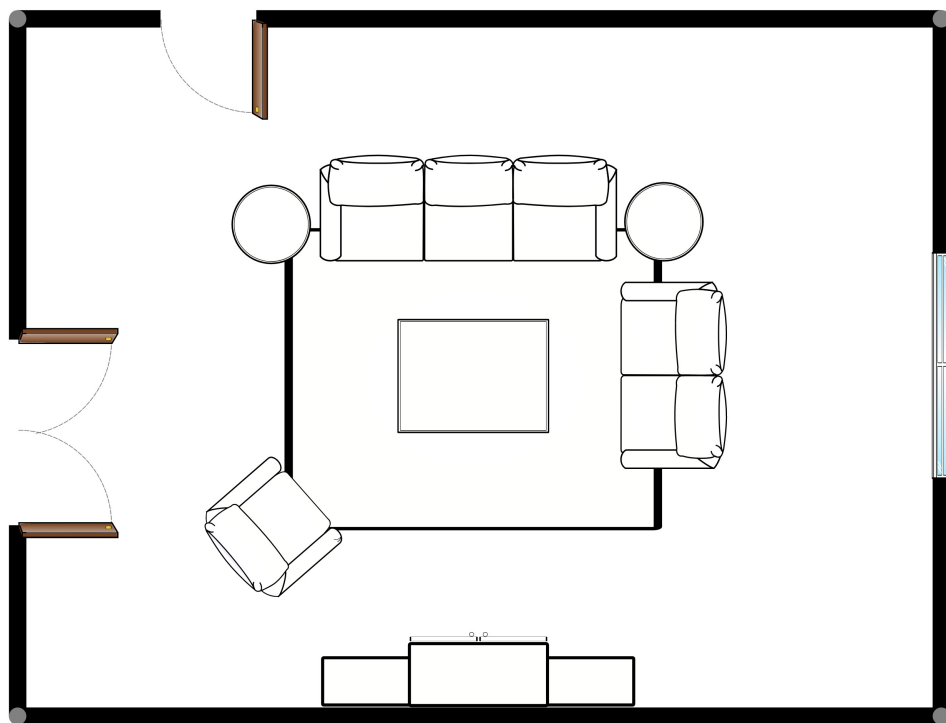


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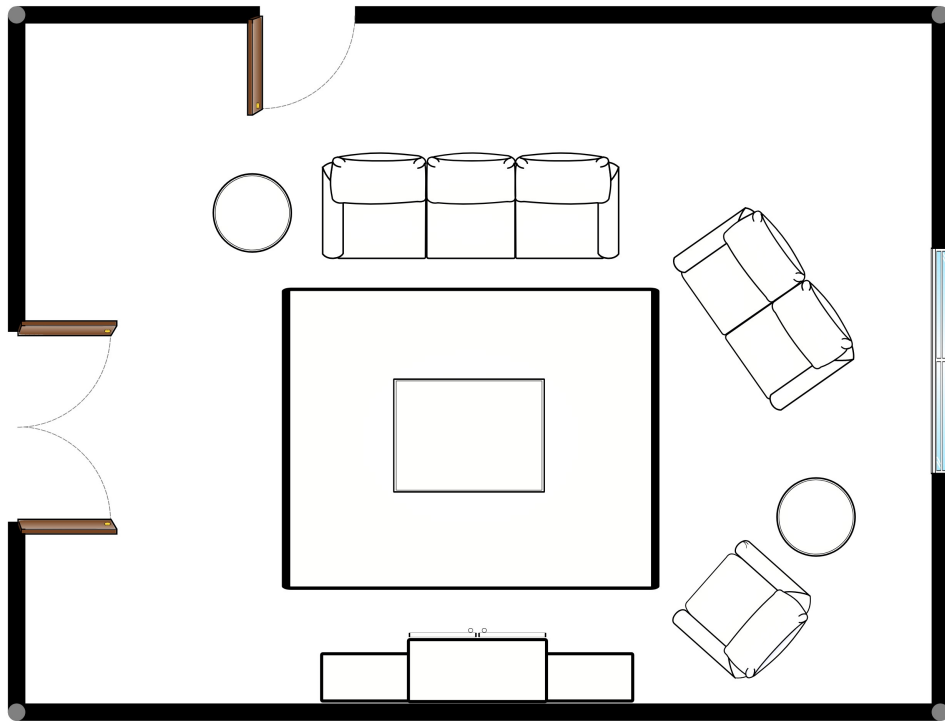


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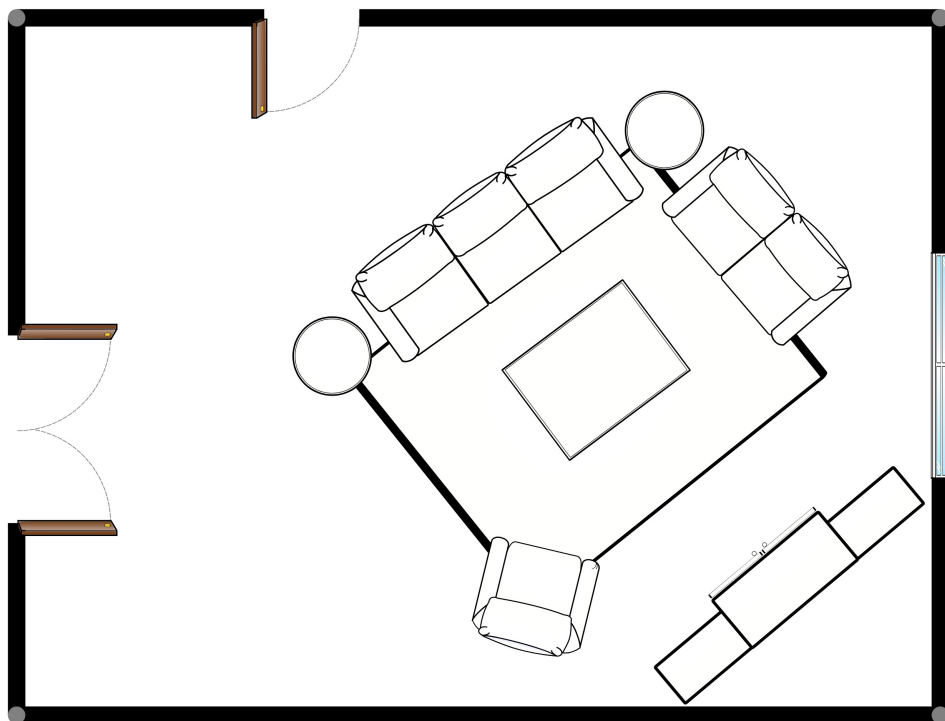


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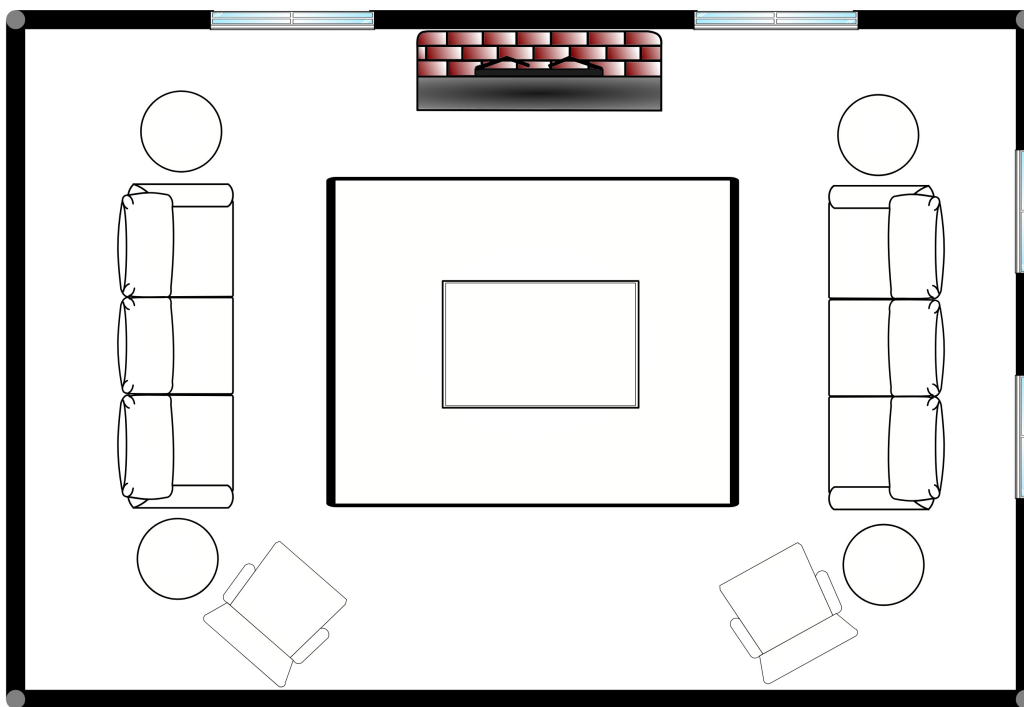


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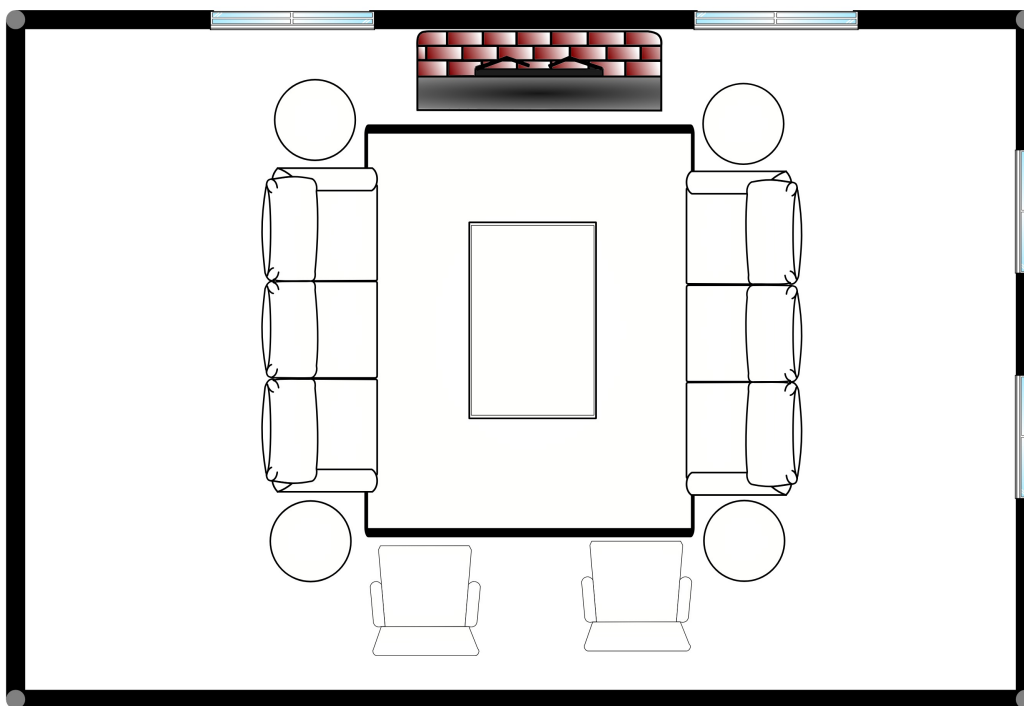


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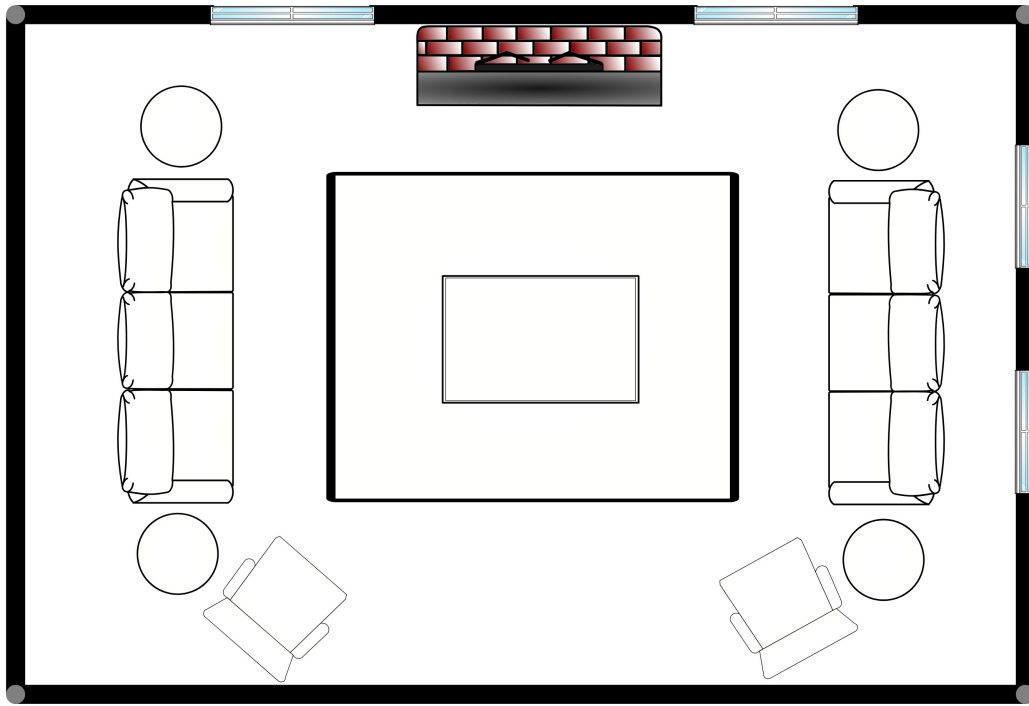
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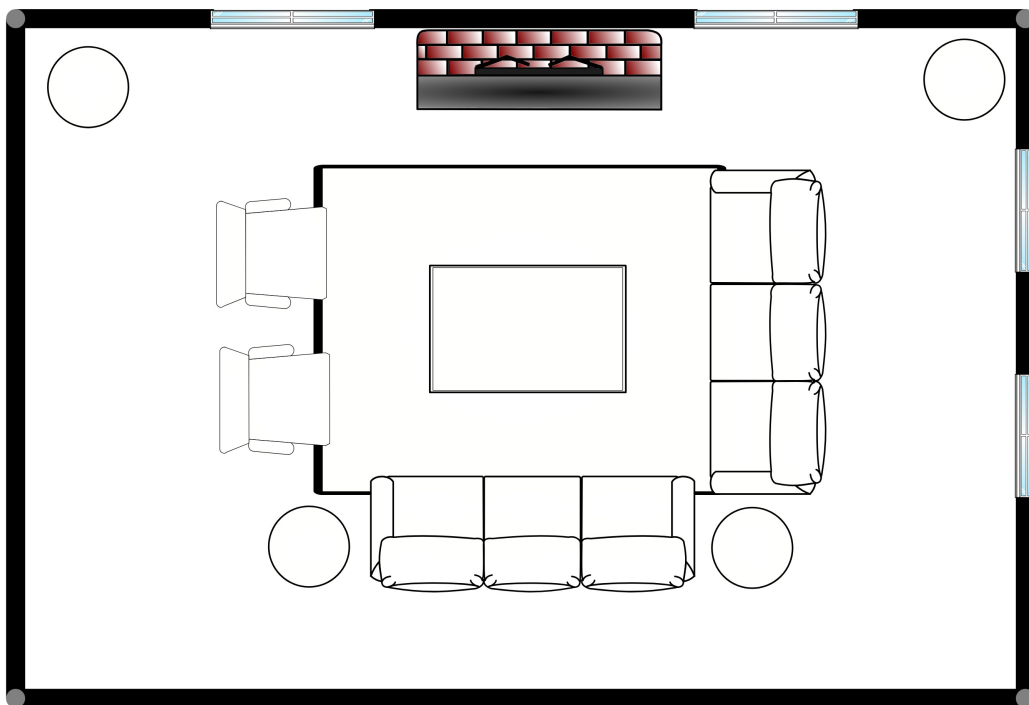
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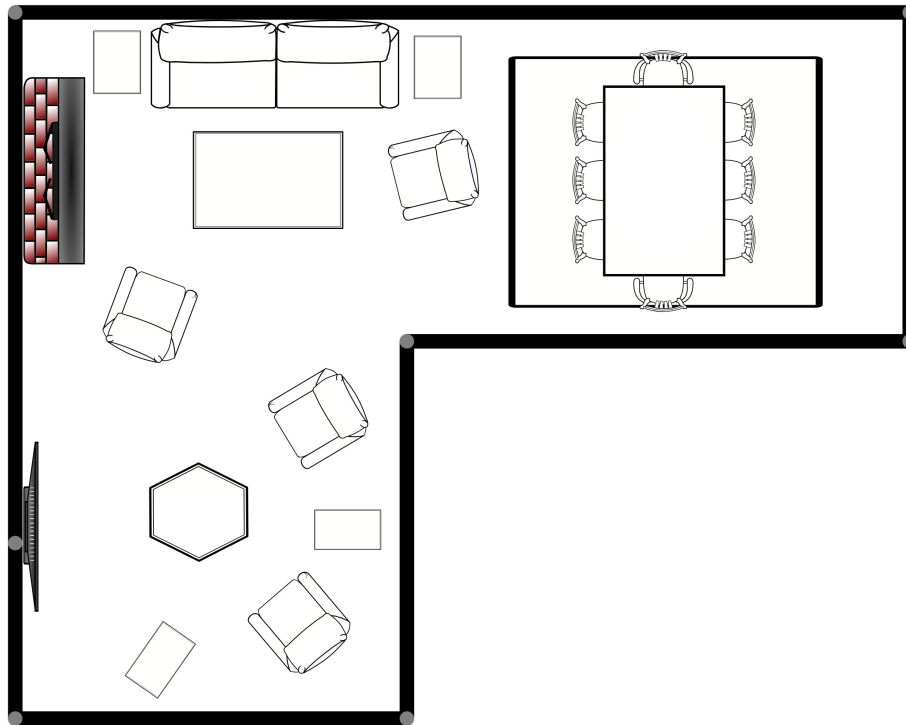


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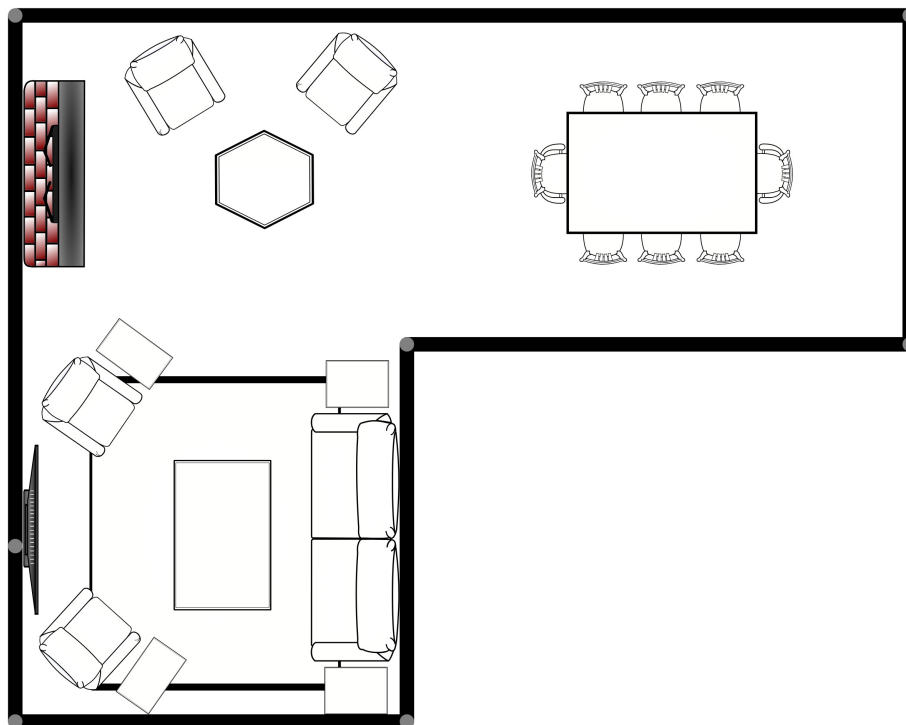


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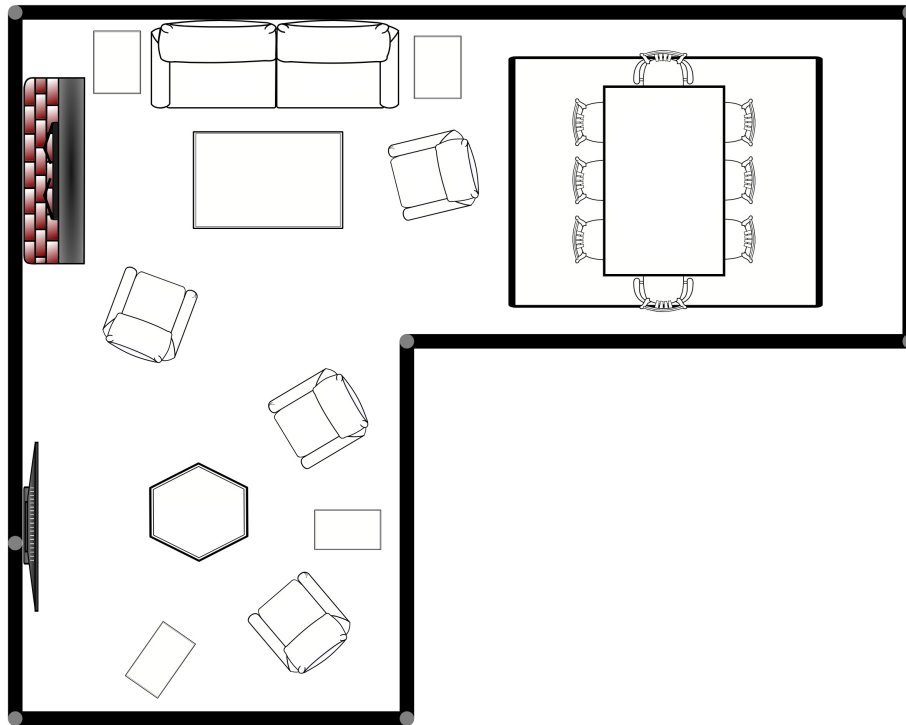


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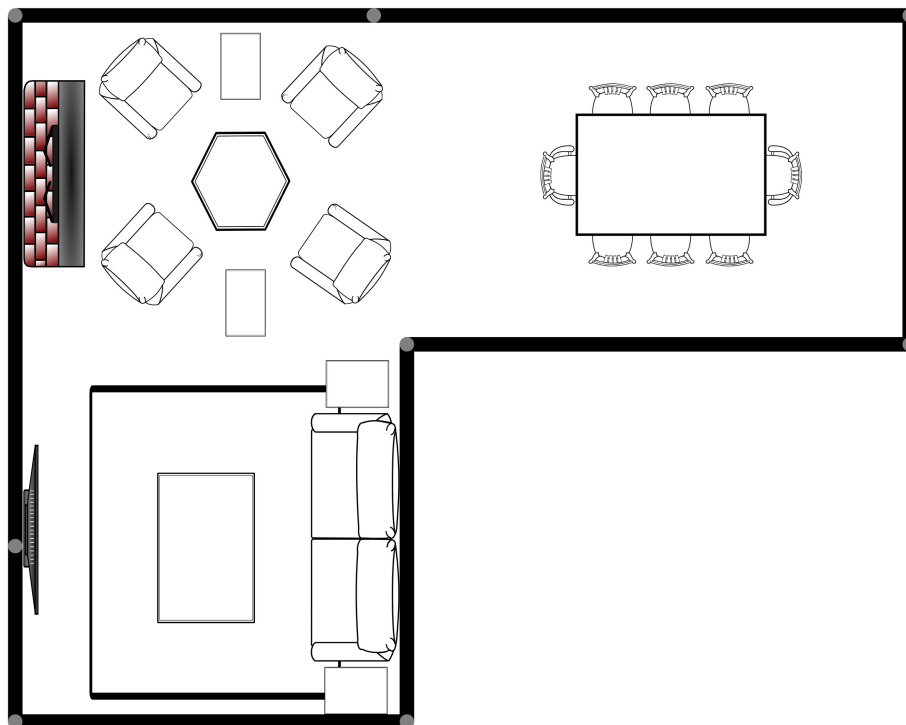


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So, to recap, here are the 7 Steps to Arranging Furniture:

- **CLEAR THE ROOM**
- **PICK A FOCAL POINT**
- **PLACE THE LARGEST SEATING PIECE**
- **ADD SECONDARY SEATING PIECES**
- **SHARE THE LUV**
- **MIND THE GAPS**
- **TRAFFIC**

With a little practice and patience, you can make a huge difference in your spaces just by following these simple steps.

Of course, if you need us, our team of decorating professionals at Décor Designs is ready to help you with furniture placement and all of your decorating dilemmas. Give us a call or email us today and we'll make sure you're "Making the Most of Your Good Taste™"!

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