



2 Circular seating arrangements work from all directions.

In an open-floor-plan home, furnishing the first-floor great room can be quite the conundrum. “You basically have these needs from each direction, and they all fight each other,” says Lauren Collander of Naperville-based Lauren Collander Interiors. “You want to sit and gaze outside, but you also want to sit and look at the TV. But you don’t want your furniture to be a wall in the middle of the room. You also want a flow from whatever rooms you have next to it. This is a four-pronged problem we are always trying to solve.”

In this Hinsdale home, Collander and her team eventually settled on a circular seating arrangement. “The clients were

dead-set on wanting a large sectional, but we basically pulled it apart,” she says. Mid-century American furniture designer Vladimir Kagan was one inspiration. “He was one of the first people to be doing these organic serpentine lines, and it was all about conversation,” Collander says. “That’s taken a huge resurgence in the last five years. And having some furniture with some angles like this is a way to baby step into that world without going with full-on sculptural seating.”

A round rug, angled sofas, and a pair of swivel chairs create a flexible gathering space that works from all directions. There’s prime seating for TV-watching, conversation, or sitting with a cup of coffee and swiveling to face the sunrise or watch the kids playing out back. “It’s really about a plethora of options of how you want to live in that room, and it’s not just: Stare at the TV with your back to the people in the kitchen behind you.”