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Stacey Lopez

How does she do it?



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On the cover
Stacey Lopez

This busy mom of two knows how to brighten a room! See how she does it on page 10.

Photography

by Karl Maasdam Photography, see advertisement on page 13.

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*interview by Krista Klinkhammer
photos by Karl Maasdam*

Stacey Lopez

How does she do it?

This busy mom is on the run between home, two active girls and the family business JR Painting. We got a chance to ask her how she does it.

Family

How do you balance motherhood and school activities and dinner and life and running a business and...?

Wow this is a hard one. I can't say that I easily do this. I do volunteer in my children's classrooms when possible because I think it's really important in your child's life to be involved in this. I know my girls love it when I'm there. But I've learned to say no when I have too much on my plate. As for running a business, I try to get as much done as possible while my kids are in school. After that it's family time. I'm not perfect though. There are plenty of times I'm still busy in the evening and have to ask my family for some time to finish up business. Those are definitely the nights we're eating out!

What are some of your families' favorite pastimes?

We love to watch family movies together, and we all get involved (especially my girls) when cooking at home. We also all love to travel and try to take at least one family vacation together a year. Last year we went to Disneyland and then on a Mexican Riviera Cruise that left out of L.A. This year we just got back from an Eastern Caribbean Cruise that went to Panama, Costa Rica and Cozumel. We've found that cruises work great as a family because it's an affordable way to take the kids and they have so many activities for them all day long, they have a blast and we get a break too!

How does your husband help with the family workload?

My husband Miguel is amazing. He is great at sensing when I'm stressed and asking what he can do to help me. Or he just sees what needs to be done and just does it. He definitely keeps our girls entertained too. I am the one who usually keeps them on schedule, so I'm not the fun one. When I try to be fun they just look at me weird like I'm out of my usual role.

Do you and your husband make "couple time"?

We used to have a "date night" every Thursday night and come to think of it we're about a year behind! Money got tight and this sadly became non-existent. But we try and get the girls to bed every night by 8 p.m. and then we have about two hours to ourselves.

The April/May MOM magazine is our home decorating issue...what is your favorite color to decorate with?

Oh my gosh, I love this question! My favorite subjects! I of course love color, so I have a lot of faves. I love to decorate with lime green and navy blue, or white on white with little "pops" of the same color (something bright) repeating itself in the way of accessories through-out the room. Or bright orange with beige or brown, chocolate brown with light blue, or grayish blue with black trim and red accents. I could go on and on.

How would you describe your decorating style?

My style is definitely contemporary, modern or transitional, which is a blend of contemporary with some familiar or more traditional elements. I am currently decorating my new house with some tones, grays and blacks, but then I will have

Stacey's Favorites

Interests and pastimes: I love playing softball, traveling, planting flowers and mini landscaping, decorating, remodeling houses and interior and exterior design.

Quote: "The best things in life aren't things." That was always my motto but recently I heard the quote, "You can choose to live by faith or live in fear, I choose faith." Not sure who said it, but that's my new favorite.

Book: My favorite book is *The Shack* by William Young. I also enjoy reading any autobiography by someone interesting and intelligent.

Recipe: Swiss Chicken. It's easy to make, delicious, somewhat healthy & gives people the impression you made a gourmet meal! (See the MOM Blog at www.mommag.com for Stacey's recipe)

TV Shows/Movie: Just about anything on HGTV! I especially love watching their design shows. As for TV series, currently I'm really into *House* but in the past it's been *The Shield* or *Prison Break*. As for movies, I love comedy, especially anything with Vince Vaughan, Jack Black or Adam Sandler. I also love suspenseful type action movies, like every single movie Denzel Washington has starred in!

Family meals: We have been eating out way too much lately. So much that my daughters don't ask me "what's for dinner tonight mommy?" But "where are we going for dinner tonight?" We are really trying to cut back on this right now. Grilled tacos, teriyaki chicken and spaghetti are a few of our family favorites when I do cook at home.

continued on page 12



≡≡ Pretty in paint

Stacey loves decorating bedrooms with her daughters Melia, seven and Arika, four. One is pink and brown surfer-girl themed. The other is pink and black princess themed with a European or Parisian flair, chandelier and all. "It's so fun having girls!"

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warm accents, like red or orange. I'm also having a lot of fun decorating my daughters' rooms. One is pink and brown surfer-girl themed. The other is pink and black princess themed with a European or Parisian flair, chandelier and all. It's so fun having girls!

Mom's thoughts

Do you remember life BC (before children)?

Yes, but barely. Honestly, my girls add so much joy to my life, the only thing that comes to mind when I think about life "BC" is the lack of responsibility I had then.

How do you make time for just you—mom time?

I don't. But fortunately my husband does for me. He usually just senses when I need it and takes the kids and keeps them busy. I'll hear him saying "C'mon girls, let's leave mom alone for a while. She needs a break." And then I realize, "Oh yeah, I guess I do."

Spring into Action!



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What have you learned as a mom?

I've learned not to sweat the small stuff and that when I have a question on how to handle a situation I always have my mom to consult and also the bible for guidance and instruction. Even a non-believer or someone not religious would have to agree that the instructions given to us in the bible make sense for building a happy home and family.

Advice

Do you have any valuable parenting advice for other moms?

Make sure that your kids always get enough sleep! LOL, but wow sleep is so important.

Any closing thoughts as a mom?

As a mom, I've experienced so much joy and a different kind of love than I ever knew possible. I am very blessed to have such an awesome family!

home décor

A living room before and after

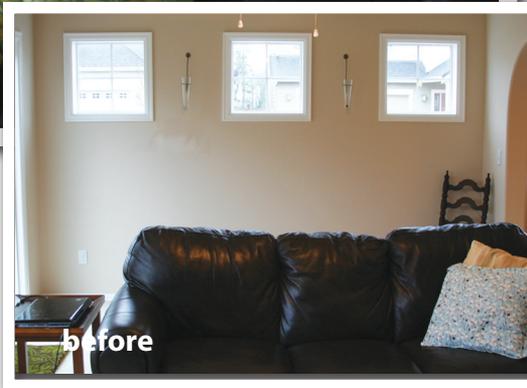
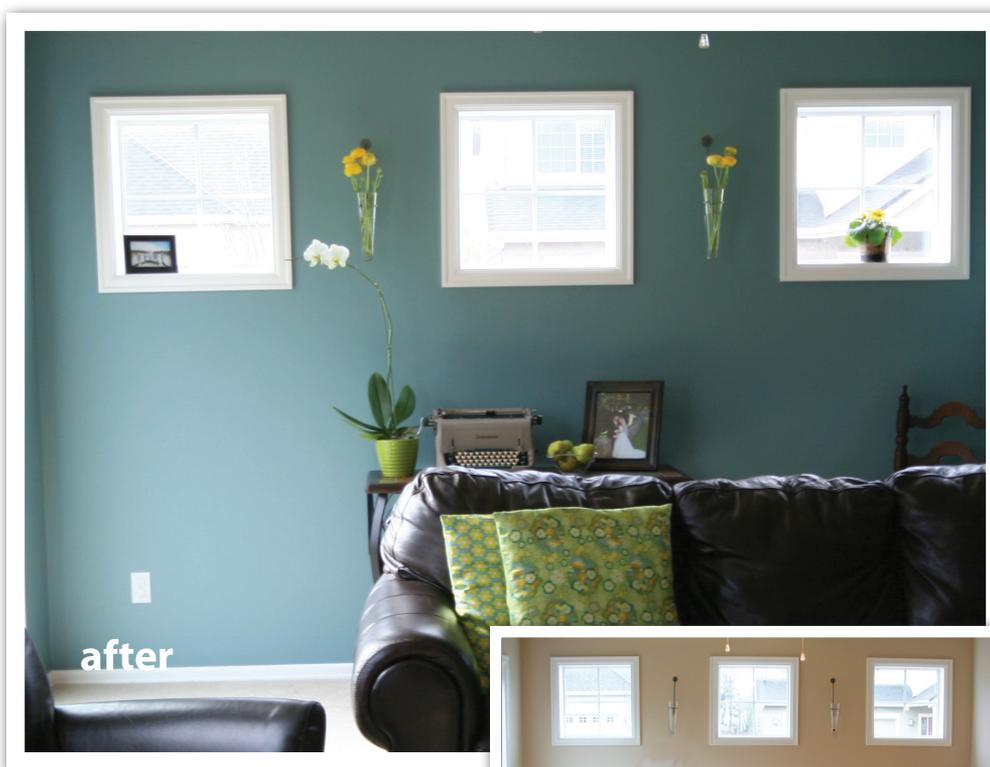
by Krista Klinkhammer

Decorating your home can be fun and rewarding, but it can also be intimidating and expensive. Many people struggle with “finding their style” and end up leaving things as is in fear of making something look bad. In my experience, there are very few things you can do decorating-wise to a room that is permanent, so my advice is to just go for it and make a change! People are especially afraid of paint and color—but fear not, you can always paint over it if you don’t like how a color looks.

As much as my husband and I love decorating and house projects, we really struggled with what to do with our living room. It’s an odd shape, has open curved entries to the kitchen and hall. With the placement of the fireplace and windows, there wasn’t a lot of space to put furniture. For a while, we only had our couch, TV, and coffee table. With the help of JR Painting, we finally were able to turn it into a warm, inviting and decorated space instead of a bland, boring, not very functional space; and on very limited budget. Many of our items are either antiques that were handed down, bought second hand from Craig’s list, or were floor samples and therefore bought at discount.

I started out with a color palette in mind, (see color swatches above) and went from there. I love that pear green color, but it was too loud for the walls. We have a couple of pieces of artwork in that Moody Blue (by Sherwin Williams) so we decided that was going to be the wall color. Since most of our furniture is dark brown, the pear green color would serve as the accent color.

Krista Klinkhammer is a MOM Magazine Editor and proud mom of Mia, five and Alex, three. She loves scrapbooking, photography and decorating her home.





Around the room:

Wall color: Moody Blue by Sherwin Williams, painting done by JR Painting

Hanging vases on the wall: Pottery Barn

Ranunculus flowers in vase: Trader Joe's

Side table & coffee table: Pier One Imports store samples

Typewriter: OSUsed sale

Orchid: Home Depot

Brown canvas bins hide the kids' toys and books

Ladder back chair: antique handed down from my parents

Leather couch: floor sample from Ashley Furniture in Salem

Two leather chairs: Craig's list

Pillows: these are old ones I had a long time ago, and I keep sewing new slip covers. The fabrics are by Anna Maria Horner. Creative Crafts is now carrying her gorgeous fabrics.

Curtains: I made these from Anna Maria Horner fabric as well. I just sewed straight lines around it and clipped them up with the rod and clips purchased from Fred Meyer.

TV Stand: Target

TV: Craig's list

Artwork over the mantel: print from Art Gallery of New South Wales. I fell in love with this print while studying abroad in Australia. My parents got this for me as my college graduation present.

Books stacked on fireplace: handed down from my grandmother.

Home decor color blocks:

Kuler (<http://kuler.adobe.com>) is a cool website you can use to explore and create different color palettes. Use it to test out how certain colors will look together, and look through palettes created by others. You can sort by the highest rated to see what combos are hot. It's a great starting point when you need some inspiration for your home decor.

"Working with Stacey Lopez at JR Painting to choose the wall color for our living room was a life saver! I had an idea in mind, but I had no clue how to translate an idea in my head to the right color for the walls. She showed me several samples in different shades, and walked around the room explaining how the different colors would effect the look of the tile on the fire place and whether or not it would coordinate with our furniture."

— Krista Klinkhammer