

My quilt design wall is on the floor. It is in the Livingroom near the laundry room heading to the garage. It is a popular place. The large screen...well medium screen TV casts a certain red, green, and blue light onto the block pieces, bringing them to a cartoon-like life. And, lots of foot traffic to and from the garage lifts block pieces up as if ready to grab ahold of each sock covered foot.

Since the quilting studio is the dining room table, only a hop, skip and jump from the design floor, the walking distance between the two is minute. The ironing board with a hot iron serves as a breaking border. Up, down, in and out is the method I use of transporting a pieced block to the hot iron and then onto the design floor. The carpet quivers in anticipation of each finished piece. So, too, does my husband.

"When is this quilt going to be finished?" asks the interested bystander. He awaits the use of a favorite chair near the fireplace. "There's no hurry, just asking," he assures me. His early morning reading times are becoming a bit cooler now that Autumn and fallen like the leaves from the tree in the front yard. He likes the warmth of the gas generated fire flames. Those early mornings find me in bed snuggling underneath an already completed quilt comforter. I feel smarter and warmer there than rising out of my bed before the sun rises.

"Almost finished," I reply as I scootch the blocks two inches to the right. "You can now put the footstool down and swivel the chair to the left, a little. See?" I say as I redesign the designing floor blueprint.

With the sashing complete and the breaker border stitched down, the quilt design floor morphs back into a carpeted walkway. There is lots of room for the swivel chair to do its early morning routine of complete turnarounds prior to settling down in front of the warming flames. Soon, though the "piano key border" will, again decorate a larger portion of the carpet and the design floor will be the feature item in the Livingroom.

The design floor has worked well in the 20 or so years of my quilting. Numerous quilts posing as works of art have been started and then completed on our Livingroom space. Quilters have learned that the design wall area does not matter to the finished work. Many of us have had the use of beds to view a growing baby quilt, had the use of a family dining room table to see the wedding quilt reach its width and length as the process continues.

Design walls are great, design stands are also among the quilters' delight. Wherever the space allows is a prime space for viewing a "work in progress" step by step.

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