

...that it pays to
... A beautifully
... the season for
... cozy wooden bench
... a wonderful place to
... stay

almost beyond
we stayed more or

I joined the work
numbers, families
ormal living room
home from work.
e of utility and
nly not a place to
i working, needs
ration of kitchen
r served, and the
d to provide an
hile the evening
. The advent of
so helped this
ng kitchens into
laces.

f this new family
ensurate deletion
er used with any
g room became a
for the arrival of
bt be offended by
en when I'd visit
r a first meeting
I'd assume the
asonably he used
s they decided I
they'd suggest we



meet at the kitchen table. So it seemed they were often spending a big chunk of their construction budgets on rooms for people they'd rather not have in their houses. Does this make sense?

By explaining this logic to my clients, I was able to help reduce or eliminate the formal spaces and spend the money saved on

making the spaces they use every day into truly wonderful places to be — both for formal and informal occasions. After all, most of the people we have over to our houses are close friends — people we want to have in the areas of the house that we do in fact live in. A rule of thumb I've developed over the ten years since *The Not So Big House* was released, is that no matter