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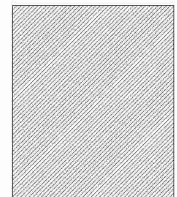
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Detroit News photo illustration



cover story

# SUPER STYLE

*Enjoy the big game from the comfort of your castle*

**T**ry not to be envious of the thousands of NFL fans who will flock to warm and sunny Tampa, Fla., on Feb. 1 for Super Bowl XLIII.



**MARGE COLBORN**

That's because you, as an arm-chair quarterback, may enjoy the big game from the comfort of your castle, thanks to state-of-the-art TVs and consoles, recliners that

respond to your commands at the touch of a button, versatile home theater seating complete with cup holders, and counter-height tables and chairs that let you nibble snacks or consume a feast while watching the action.

According to a La-Z-Boy national survey, 79 percent of Americans will be watching the Super Bowl from the privacy of their homes, many hosting game-day parties for family and friends.

"Game-day parties are a tradition that many people look forward to — some have been involved with football pools all season long and others are just there for the fun," says Penny Eudy, product manager for La-Z-Boy. "No matter the mix, it is important to create a comfortable viewing space for each party-goer."

But can you purchase a piece of furniture this weekend and get it in time for the Super Bowl?

"Absolutely, yes," insists Nancy Christiansen, a buyer of recliners and motion furniture for Art Van.

"Our Recliner Express Program means you can buy a recliner today and have it delivered tomorrow," she explains, adding that the three most popular times for recliner purchases are Super Bowl, Christ-

mas and Father's Day.

While La-Z-Boy and Barcalounger have become synonymous with recliners, other manufacturers such as Lane, Flexsteel and Thomasville also offer recliners that rock, swivel, massage and lift. Prices start as low as \$300 and go as high as \$1,800.

Christiansen, who has a La-Z-Boy press-back recliner in her home, says the most significant trend in motion furniture is the power recliner.

"This means that there's actually a small motor in the chair," she says. "Not only does the motor provide ease of operation, but you can stop it in any position that pleases you."

Monroe-based La-Z-Boy is especially proud of its Skyler and Larson recliners.

A "rookie" in 2008, the Skyler brings a sophisticated touch to the living rooms of football fanatics by combining comfort with a sleek, contemporary look. With its pillow-top seat cushions, which provide an extra sense of luxury, Skyler starts at \$549 in fabric and \$949 in leather.

Larson offers a generously cushioned design accented by flared arms and a pillow back. Larson starts at \$599 in fabric and \$849 in leather, and it's also available with an EcoComfort soy-based foam cushion option, as well as several eco-friendly fabrics.

Skyler and Larsen are available with matching motion sofa and loveseat options, so the whole team can watch the game in comfort.

Barcalounger Home, as it is now known, still offers big, beefy recliners, such as the Affinity, but the line also includes recliners with the female consumer in mind. Lofton, a press-back recliner and ottoman, offers transitional styling with a loose seat-cushion construction. It's also available as a push-on-the-arm, three-position recliner. A leather upholstery in metallic silver is

subtle but sexy, too. Prices start at \$1,499 for chair and ottoman.

As flat-screen TVs become more prevalent, people are mounting them on walls in living, family, dining and breakfast rooms. (Admit it, you have a TV in your kitchen or you'd like to.) Functional dining room furniture follows form with counter-height tables and bar stools as consumers dine and watch TV.

"Lavish, formal furnishings, especially in the dining room, seem out of step with the current economy and consumer mindset," says George Weldon, director of licensing for the Wrangler Home brand. "At the center of what we're calling 'dinnertainment' is a more relaxed, inviting and casual dining room where meals are shared, stories are told and games are played."

Wrangler's Big Horn entertainment base, \$1,149, looks like a vintage sideboard, but it's sized to fit under any flat-panel TV and is fitted with flip-down shelving and rear cut-outs for media components.

Aspenhome's Kensington counter-height table and chairs are perfect for anxious game-time grazing. The set makes it easy to watch the game perched high over the heads of fans seated on the sofa or sprawled out on the floor in front of you.

The Kensington server has a heat- and water-resistant top, and there's no penalty if you want to mount your TV above it.

Finally, while most people purchase flat-screen TVs to enhance their viewing experiences, it can't be denied that a sleek, flat-screen TV display improves the overall appearance of a room. To ensure that your screen looks as impressive as it possibly can, consider some well-thought-out, wire-clutter management. Managing cables not only hides them from view, but also prevents them from becoming tangled and disorganized. CableOrganizer.com, a provider of equipment-management-related products for home and office, suggests the Wiring Solution, a channel that installs vertically below wall-mounted screens to cover equipment-to-TV cable runs, which can be easily painted to disappear into your decor.

Sounds like the perfect touchdown accessory.

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Art Van

Art Van's Slate Collection includes this five-piece, counter-height table and chairs, \$799.



La-Z-Boy

This perky red Syracuse recliner will appeal to women and men. Find it at La-Z-Boy Furniture Galleries. For a store near you, go to [www.lazboy.com](http://www.lazboy.com).



Lane Furniture

Lane's Heritage living room collection with its rustic, leather seating is ideal for a family/TV room. Find the collection at Art Van, Macy's and JCPenney. Go to [www.lanefurniture.com](http://www.lanefurniture.com) for a store near you.



Wrangler Home

Wrangler Home's Big Horn entertainment base, \$1,149, is sized to fit neatly under any flat-panel TV. Wrangler Home is available at Klingman's in Grand Rapids, or, for a store near you, go to [www.wranglerhome.com](http://www.wranglerhome.com).



Aspenhome

Aspenhome's Kensington counter-height table and chairs is ideal for buffet-style nibbling or a sit-down meal. Purchase it at Art Van.



Flexsteel  
Seating for a crowd is a snap with this leather, modular, motion sectional from Flexsteel.



The Lofton press-back recliner and ottoman, \$1,499 from Barcalounger Home offers transitional styling with a loose seat cushion construction. Find it at Gorman's, McLaughlin's, Macy's and [www.barcaloungerhome.com](http://www.barcaloungerhome.com).

Barcalounger Home

**ON THE COVER: Back:** Flexsteel's plush Kenilworth fabric sofa features an English arm and camel back. Purchase Flexsteel furniture at Your Nesting Place in Milford and Jimmie's Rustics in Birmingham and Shelby Township. For more retailers, go to [www.flexsteel.com](http://www.flexsteel.com). **Right:** Contours recliner from Barcalounger Home is available as a wall lounger, swivel rocker recliner or swivel glider recliner. Purchase it through Gorman's, Macy's and McLaughlin's. **Left:** Lane's Zoe recliner, \$949, is at Art Van, Macy's and JCPenney.

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