happyhome

WOMAN'S DAY

EASY IDEAS TO CELEBRATE YOUR SPACE



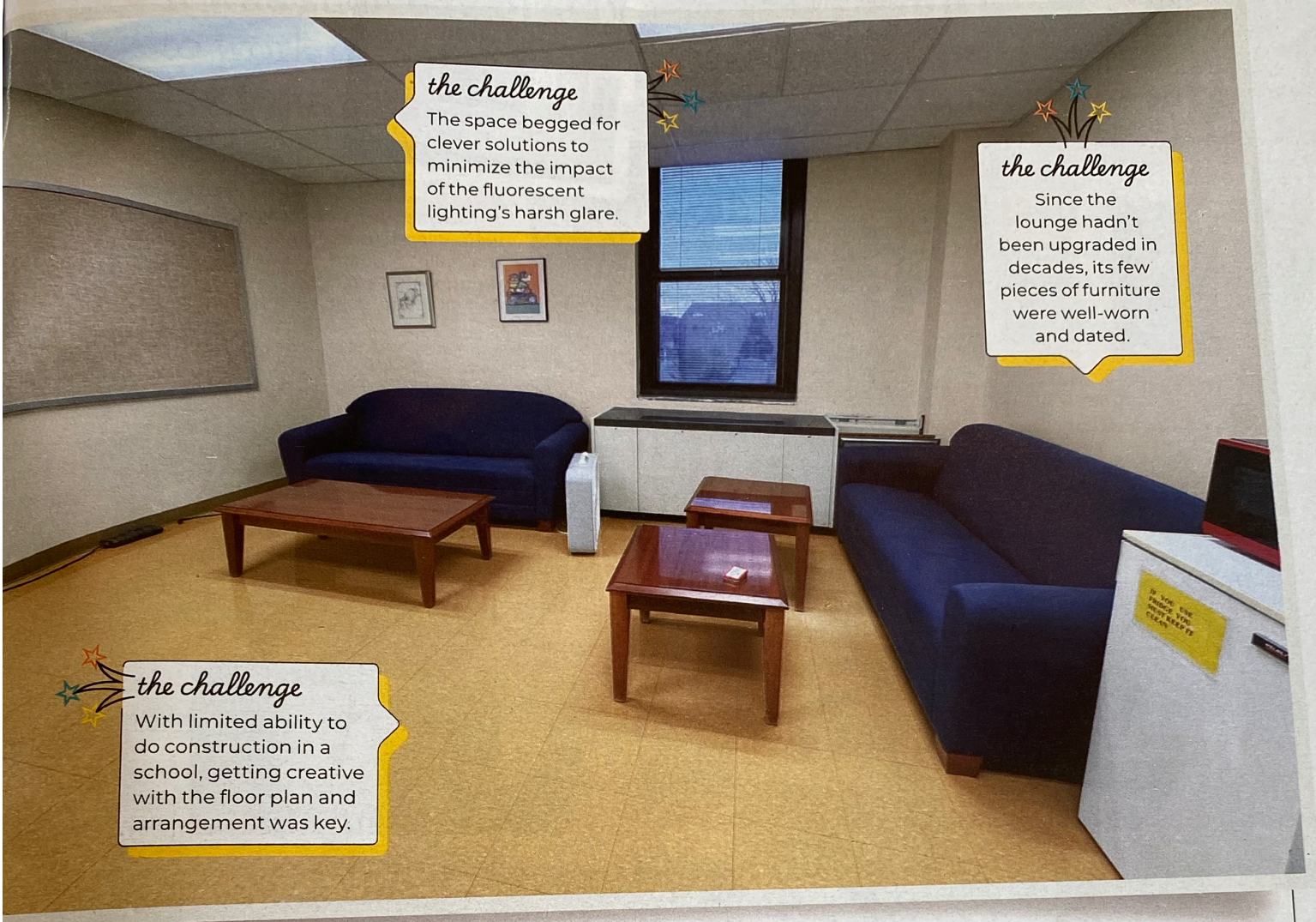
Mike and Ellie circa 2000.

ellie mroz | design

Michael Robert CONSTRUCTION

A+ TEACHERS' LOUNGE makeover

High school sweethearts Mike Mroz of Michael Robert Construction and Ellie Mroz of Ellie Mroz Design, now married, teamed up to redesign their alma mater's faculty lounge—in one of the projects they call "MRC x EMD"—as a way to give back.



WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

These home-transforming powerhouses go way back. Mike and Ellie Mroz have lived in Westfield, NJ, since both were 3; they met at a 13th-birthday party and began dating as Westfield High School (WHS) freshmen. After college, Ellie returned to WHS to teach Spanish, then left to undergo treatment for cancer and later launched Ellie Mroz Design alongside Mike's Michael Robert Construction. When WHS health teacher Susan Kolesar asked the couple if they knew anyone with gently used furniture to brighten up the faculty lounge, they offered to donate a full remodel and redesign in appreciation of the community that had supported them through it all.



The Dream Team: *From left,* Susan Kolesar, Mike, Ellie, and artist Callie Campbell.



Throwback yearbook pages were used to decorate the bulletin board, providing unique and nostalgic conversation starters.



The addition of a TV made the space more social, encouraging teachers to gather, unwind, and connect over shared moments.



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> “It was such a cool experience to work on the project with teachers I actually had in high school.”
> —ELLIE MROZ



Callie Campbell, an alum and a former WHS math teacher, donated a piece of her artwork, which brought color and motion to the space.

ARTWORK ON WALL BY CALLIE CAMPBELL/@CALLIE.CAMPBELL.ART/CALLIECAMPBELLART.COM.

FINISHING TOUCHES

In designing the space, Mike and Ellie focused on engaging all the senses. They paired beautiful fabrics and accessories with a fresh overhead light fixture for a calming vibe. A new TV offered entertainment, and EMD’s signature diffusers and room sprays gave the space a clean, luxurious scent. Soft pillows, cozy textures, and easy-to-care-for rugs made it feel like home. The teachers gave their improved lounge an A+!



A round table and chairs create a more private area where teachers can get work done, grade papers, or even take a personal call.