

CHARLOTTE **URBAN**

HOME

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Designs | Lifestyles | Investments | Improvements

A photograph of two glass vases containing bright green chrysanthemum flowers, placed on a rustic wooden surface. The background is a blurred wooden table.

**Eclectic in
ELIZABETH**

**DIAPERS TO
DENIM:**

**Decorating
Preteen Rooms**

room service

A Family Room for the Whole Family



Beth Keim

Basements often present some interesting design challenges. If you are lucky enough to have one with windows and a backyard entrance do you turn it into a room to send all the kids or do you make it a quiet get-a-way for mom and those girl's night get-togethers? Dr. Amy Boardman came to see us with those thoughts in mind and while we were keeping her husband Robie and the kids Sophie and Will in our thoughts, when working on the design, we were secretly thinking of something pretty

for us girls.

Ashley Goodwyn was my lead designer on this project and did a beautiful job pulling together Amy's colors of choice, grays with a pop of yellow.

She started with a special rug, something a little different, but soft and full of pattern. This is always a good place to start your design project when you have a blank slate.

Things started falling into place with the introduction of the "to-die-for" yellow pleather chairs with silver nail head accents, a large grey velvet-like sectional and loads of unique pillows. But with all that beauty, comfort and functionality were not compromised.

Amy worked closely with our amazing carpenter of choice to create a functional (with the metal backsplash) yet practical wall unit complete with large drawers full of dividers, cubbies and open and closed shelving. We created plenty of space for books, crafts, and games.

I find that storage units are our most requested ingredient in playrooms and family rooms and we always like to pull in a skilled craftsman to tackle the details here. Don't skimp with carpentry, as it is often a large piece of the budget, good craftsmanship is well worth the money spent.

You can never have enough storage and if you are anything like me, I like to put all the plastic toys behind doors. ❖

Beth Keim is the owner of Lucy and Company, a full-service interior design firm located at 1009 East Boulevard. They can be reached at 704-342-6655 or at www.lucyandcompany.com.





TIPS FOR BUILT-IN STORAGE

- Take the unit to the ceiling and paint the upper crown molding the color of the cabinets not the trim color of the rest of the room.
- Adjustable open shelving is great to stagger your books and collectables for a more eclectic mix or unify them for that clean and orderly look.
- Try turning all your books horizontal and centered.
- For picture frames, keep your photos in similar frame colors.
- Try lighter frames against a darker backdrop and yes, you can mix your metals.
- Don't over do the frames.
- Try the photo books from iPhoto, Snapfish or Shutterfly.
- Create a yearly "favorite pics" photo book and consolidate all the framed photos in your new coffee table book.
- Use a little imagination with larger than normal drawer pulls and knobs.
- Reconsider hardware such as curtain tie-backs for use as pulls or even re-configured door knobs.

