

CHARLOTTE **URBAN**

# HOME

MAY/JUNE 2011

Designs | Lifestyles | Investments | Improvements

## KITCHEN AND BATH **TRENDS**

## AN **ARTFUL** TRANSFORMATION

Jim Schmid Photography

room service

# All in the Details



**Beth Keim**

**There is nothing** I love more than a client trusting me to pull a room together for them, with all the necessary design details. When you find a designer that “gets you,” my advice is set up an accessory allowance, let it go, and trust their advice.

On a recent job for the Bryants, Meg and her mom, Tammy, did just that and when it was unveiled we were all happy! I had creative freedom to express my complete vision for the room. They came home from spring break to a complete look without the somewhat frustrating task of accessory shopping.

Accessories can be challenging and mixing styles and colors is a little tricky. That unexpected combination of colors gives a room character and keeps it from looking too predictable and “geranimal.” Accessories are pure imagination and creativity. I love to make them, shop for them and discover them.

A designer can take you out of your comfort zone, bring something new to the table and show you all the things you may not be thinking of. There is a process to it and it’s called “layering.” It’s that layering that takes a bare room to one filled with individual treasures.

If you take the notion of matching every color out of your head and try mixing it up you will be surprised at just how unusual, interesting and beautiful a color combination you’ve created can be. The expression “your art should never match your sofa” is true. Find a piece that you love first and foremost, and then consider the size and color tones. Art will complete the room and is the icing on the cake.

Mix up your textures and finishes. You can mix metals, you can mix silks, wools, cottons and velvets and most importantly you can mix furniture styles and finishes. This room has wood, lacquer, cane, old and new. It also has several tones of greens and blue with the unexpected infusion of grey and lavender. It was all completed with modern art to bring all of that together.

My tips on accessory shopping... do it last. After you have picked the main furniture, rug and window treatments start your hunt. Local



Ashley Goodwin Photography





antique shops, flea markets, galleries, consignment shops are all great places to start. There are hidden treasures everywhere. On a recent trip to the Sleepy Poet here in Charlotte I found a vintage dress. I loved the fabric and thought I could either frame it or make a pillow using it. I also found an old pair of shoes I am shadow boxing. Flea markets are a great place to stock up on frames. You can create a wall collage mixing all the styles. Don't take it too seriously and remember you can paint the frames.

A design tip — Eastway Paint will mix any color in a spray paint. I have fond appreciation for this store as that's where I met my husband!

Accessory furniture can also be discovered at any of these places. I was lucky with this chair find, the color worked but the seat didn't. Thanks to Design Upholstery and an extra throw blanket, a new seat cover was created! ❖

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