

CHARLOTTE **URBAN**

HOME

JULY/AUGUST 2011

Designs | Lifestyles | Investments | Improvements

CAPE COD COOL

**OUTDOOR
KITCHENS**

Decorating with
LIGHT



Jim Schmid Photography

room service

Lego My Wii



Beth Keim

It was funny that in a matter of two days I met with two clients about their big, empty playrooms. They both wanted a more sophisticated room, pulled together, colorful, with real seating and storage. Both of these women, Shannon Avason and Tanya Clawson have boys, one with a sprinkling of girls, but mainly boys...boys that loved Legos and Wii. Both wanted a pulled together space, and, no offense to Ikea (I love Ikea), were minutes from heading there. Much to my happiness I was allowed to pull it ALL together with ALL the details.

It was clear, the Avason boys, were all about Legos and after just returning from the New York show and having taken a few pictures in the Lego Store, I was excited to incorporate the look without being too "young". We wanted the space to clearly read Lego, but not in a child-like way. I had several images blown up and framed (and thanks to Ikea found some great, inexpensive frames!). We had a true Lego work table built to house all these little gems in a nook all their own. The

colors read Lego, as did the crazy plexi box art installation, but overall the room turned out sophisticated yet fun. I knew I hit a home run when Shannon's husband, Frank, made a home of the room that night, not to mention I discovered Shannon was a photographer and helped me with these great shots. Large seating, original art and Lego storage was the name of the game! The boys were taken back and I received a "so cool"...the response typical and appreciated by me from my young clients.

Tanya had a great space on the third floor, empty, and with storage, but a little lifeless. We met and I quickly realized it was all about hanging out, reading and playing Wii. They had great storage, but not too pretty. We added depth to the built-ins and doors, then painted the entire space. The built-ins had a heat and AC return in them, so using metal mesh on the doors let the air flow, but more importantly to me, broke up all the color and added some depth. Seating was the big issue here, a comfortable place to watch movies and play all those games, but having a very tight stairwell to the space required a "tear-down" sectional. Our local furniture maker helped to accomplish that and we got it up there. Tanya and husband, Mike, joined the kids on night one, all lined up on a big new sectional!



We used bold colors in both rooms, but once all the accessories were added it did tone it down. Rugs layered over wall-to-wall carpet added color and anchored the seating area. Window tinting on skylights cools things off.

Now the once keep-the-door-shut room, is a space appealing to everyone in the family and I was thrilled to work with such great families. ❖

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Photography: Shannon Avason Photography and Beth Keim