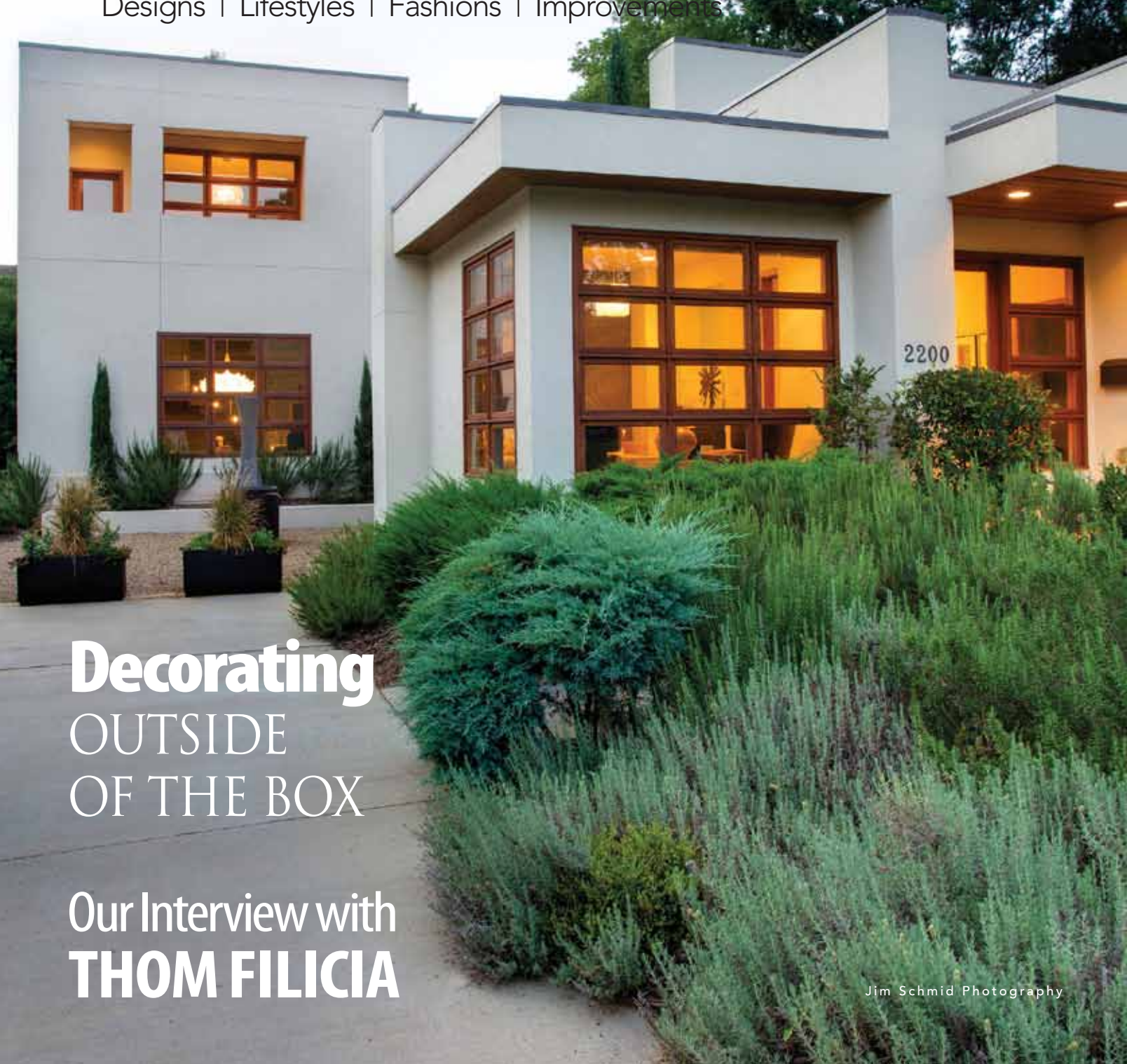


CHARLOTTE URBAN

# HOME

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2011

Designs | Lifestyles | Fashions | Improvements



**Decorating**  
OUTSIDE  
OF THE BOX

Our Interview with  
**THOM FILICIA**

Jim Schmid Photography



## room service

# Boys Will Be Boys



**Beth Keim**

**Are you ready for school to start?** I am. The summer has been a long and hot one and I am looking forward to a little fall cool air. Getting the kids situated helps me focus on other big things, like getting ready for the fall and winter holidays, parties and visiting company. A well-organized room for the kids is a great way to start a productive school year!

When I meet with new clients about their boys' rooms, my first question is generally to know the functions of the room and how to maximize the space. I want to build a room that grows, will easily transition, is timeless, as well as visually clean, organized and unique.

Boys love bunks, so my advice with bunks is to purchase quality brands. They should be well-made, sturdy, stylish and can be broken down to a twin when you want another look or layout. I usually avoid the twin over full bunk because of



the bulky look. They tend to fill the room with “all bed.” Bunks can be floated in a large room, which allow for easy bed-making! Bunks can house a trundle with mattress or trundle with drawers which offer even more storage.

Think about your aesthetic and your overall vibe. Clean and modern was the direction I went recently using this lacquer and honey bunk. Mixing in the egg chair completed the modern look, yet adding the plaid which typically is not a “mod” look gave the room a nice mix of texture and style. We also added a large distressed mirror behind a very modern lamp. The juxtaposition worked well.

For teenage boys, upholstered beds are always beautiful if the right shape and fabric are used. I generally keep the fabric soft and darker in color. If a lighter color is chosen, use a vinyl. Vinyls come in so many textures and colors these days, you are hard pressed to find one that could not pass for real leather. They are a fraction of the cost of leather. Look for “stamped” vinyl that is quirky and interesting. Keep the shape more angular and try a nail-head detail. If space is an issue, try floating side tables and swing arm lighting.

As far as themed rooms, my general advice is to not overdo it.

This boys room shown in the photographs, while “woodsy,” it was also simple, clean and simplistic. The colors and textures expressed the look. A leather chair, Aztec-inspired fabric, paint choices and that hit of birch tree custom artwork was all it needed to get the natural look.

Clean, organized and functional creates a calm and productive (as well as fun!) year. So, get the new pencils, new uniforms and book bag and load them on the bus! We have the holidays to prepare for soon! ♦

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](http://www.lucyandcompany.com).

