

CHARLOTTE **URBAN**

HOME

Designs | Lifestyles | Fashions | Improvements



BONUS: HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

room service

Back in Black



Beth Keim

There is something clean, sharp and fresh about black and white. Lately I am in love with the combination. But splashing it with a douse of kelly green and you really have a strong and vibrant room.

We were recently asked to join a team of talented designers to create a room all our own in the March of Dimes Designer House in Charlotte's Eastover neighborhood. It's an honor to be asked, and also a chance to do whatever we wanted! We all immediately put our heads together and

black and white became our starting point. I have always wanted to do it and have never had a client willing to try it, so maybe after seeing this, you may change your mind.

I love the idea of wall papering a ceiling, especially a sloped one. We chose a black and white graphic and everything fed off that. A

crisp white wall, a strong black trim, reminded me of a loft in New York or a visit to an amazing art gallery. We chose strong furnishings to complement the strong color combination. The amazing custom bookcase inspired by designer Jaren Goh, crafted by our carpenter Craig Waltonowski, and the mix of other vintage and modern pieces was the ticket in bringing the entire look together.

If you are lucky enough to have that extra bedroom, why not turn it into a "study lounge." A place, in this case, your girls can go to hang out, do some homework or watch a movie. We took the closet doors off and turned the nooks into desk areas with wall mounted desks, shelves and pendant lighting. We floated a smaller custom sofa in the room facing an area perfect for a TV, or not. A comfortable swivel reading chair and floor light for kicking back and the dormer window, it was calling for another area to quietly sit and read. I love the space saving "floating" bookcases along the wall, a find at \$12.00 each!

For a strong color choice, like this one, my advice is to keep the color strong throughout the room. Choose a punch color, and with black



Photography by Ashley Delapp

and white it can be just about anything. That punch of color, mixed with black and white, calls just that much more attention to the strong elements of the room rather than it appearing too tone-on-tone.

My special thanks to my whole team for their help in creating this great space, Lindsey Peters, Ashley Delapp and Jena Strange. It was a fun project full of collaboration! ❖

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 shopping and designing unique pieces:

- Visit Charlotte's own Sleepy Poet on South Boulevard for mixing your old and new pieces.
- Don't be afraid of the "expense" of a custom piece. Every room needs a show stopper.
- Turn odd dormers or unused closets into work spaces, gift wrapping "landings" or reading nooks.
- Drop those chandeliers down, if they fall over a coffee table, it makes for a more visual entrance into the room.