

CHARLOTTE URBAN

# HOME

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2012

Designs | Lifestyles | Fashions | Improvements

**99 YEARS  
OF STYLE  
& COUNTING**

**2012 COLOR  
FORECASTING**

**RESOLUTELY  
ORGANIZED**

Jim Schmid Photography



**Beth Keim**

room  
service

AN  
ARTIST'S  
EYE



**When I am asked** to help in the home of an artist I admire, I am thrilled for many reasons but the primary one is because of their great eye for color and style. With that said, I know that I can take things to the next level and it won't scare them off! One such project came across my desk recently. The home of Windy and Blake O'Connor is truly a gem and since it is approaching a major renovation, Windy asked for our help in Lily Rooke's space, her 12-year-old daughter's bedroom.

Lily Rooke loves orange and low and behold, it's the Pantone color choice for 2012 - like I said, stylish crew at the O'Connor house! Pantone has been known as the "global authority" on color for the design industry and this year's color choice is "Tangerine Tango."

We had two starting points in this design - a rug, with its blues and taupes, and a set of cream-colored furniture, somewhat cottage in style. Jena Strange, recent graduate and new full-time employee at Lucy and Company, chose what was ultimately the key

ingredient in this design - the wallpaper! The strong and graphic print of the wallpaper worked in so many ways. It fulfilled my client's desire for orange, the print with its metallic threads was youthful in this application and it visually bounced light around the room. We then decided to add a second wallpaper to up the interest level even more and lighten what could have been a too-dark room. In my mind, this wallpaper full of birds related to the style of the furniture and when mixed with the orange and blues, it left you feeling "in the trees" through those beautiful and original casement windows. Perfect!

With our wallpapers chosen, we moved onto the bed. Rather than replacing it, we gave it a facelift. We used another graphic design, pulling out the blues of the rug and created an inset following the curves of the bed.

We used a lighter version of blue for the paint in her study nook to contrast the bright paper and filtered in another two fabric patterns for pillows. This is all an excellent class in layering patterns and colors. Mixing cottage style furniture with the modern





look of a bubble chair works well, as does the unique art and lighting components.

When I work with orange, I often like to use a blue with warm overtones. These two colors are completely opposite on the color wheel and a good rule of thumb when decorating is to reference the wheel and pick opposite colors. Take a look at the color wheel sometime and you will see that pink is opposite green, a color combination we all know works so beautifully!

Don't immediately discard sophisticated fabrics and papers for the youngest members of the household. While they may seem "too grown up", they will stand the test of time and when mixed with more youthful accessories, it will be age appropriate with style that lasts. ❖

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).

