

CHARLOTTE URBAN

HOME

APRIL/MAY 2012

Designs | Lifestyles | Fashions | Improvements

**MINIMALISM
FINDS HOME IN
THE SOUTH**

**THE ALTERNATIVE
GARDENER**

**BEYOND THE
BACK PORCH**



Beth Keim

room
service

LOFT MEETS RANCH



How do you bring the “loft” look into your ranch-style home in the ‘burbs? With no exposed pipes, 14-foot ceilings or interior concrete floors or walls, it seems impossible to incorporate.

I was presented with this challenge when working with my clients, the Carons. While a home on a quiet street with a large back yard was a must for this family of five, the couple longed for the look and feel of their loft days in the city. Paula Caron, a photographer, was drawn to clean lines and minimalistic furnishings with a slight eclectic dash. Dan Caron prefers a much more industrial aesthetic. They asked for a “less cluttered, no-fuss, need-to-decompress” look and I was up for the challenge.

The Caron’s had an empty living room and dining room to work with, which helped. No empire sofa to contend with, no oriental rugs. I started with a color scheme of cool colors including whites, grays and black with a touch of teal. Furnishings for this look are generally modern with straight lines, with a dose of metal and worn wood, so I chose a long grey sofa with a pair of white chairs. These pieces were perfect for our industrial color palette, yet in keeping with the style of house. The coffee table looked very “warehouse” with its wood top and metal wheels and the rug added the illusion of a concrete floor.

When creating a loft or industrial feel, white walls are a must. Paula’s photography really popped and the unique furnishings really stood out. The result was so fresh and modern, definitely the look we were going for. Large art is a key ingredient in the look and feel of a loft space, so we did a custom piece over the sofa, adding a splash of color and a “wall paper” piece between the chairs in black and white.

The Caron’s had no need for a formal dining room, so we decided this space was best used as a playroom and workspace. A custom desk, open floor plan, chalkboard paint and storage make this room fun and functional. By carrying the living space further into the dining area, we achieved the look of open space, unifying the décor throughout.

As we moved into the kitchen, breakfast room and den, I wanted to continue the color palette and mix of industrial-modern. We freshened up cabinets and walls and added Mid-Century Modern furniture. The breakfast room now showcases beautiful windows with painted black frames against white walls. A teal graphic wallpaper clings to the ceiling, adding drama as well as color cohesion. Bench seats replace chairs and a beautiful pop of interesting light finishes the look.

My favorite motto is “there are no rules.” Your home, whatever exterior style it may be, can take you to an entirely new place when you walk in the door.❖



Beth Keim is the owner of Lucy and Company, a full-service interior design firm located at 1009 East Boulevard. For more information visit www.lucyandcompany.com or call 704-342-6655.

