

CHARLOTTE URBAN

HOME

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CELEBRATING INSPIRATIONAL DESIGN AND PERSONAL STYLE





BETH KEIM

A sunroom is a room to explore color and pattern freely, and the view outside is art in itself.

A Sun Filled Retreat

A sunroom can be perfect for long weekend breakfasts or lazy afternoons spent lounging, with large windows that let the light pour in. The best sunrooms, in my opinion, have no TV and serve as a place to read books or catch up with friends. It's a room to explore color and pattern freely, and the view outside is art in itself. Meant to be calm, light, comfortable, yet bright and, most of all, serene.

Not too long ago, I had the pleasure of creating such a room for my clients Jen and Cam Dyer. With four double windows and two sets of floor to ceiling French doors, I knew tall dramatic curtains were my first priority. Without a lot of wall space for art and paint color, and to soften all the glass, I chose an organic floral pattern with colors pulled from the nearby living space. These

window treatments are the focal point — the statement. Made beautifully and hung high, they're visible even from the front door, so similar colors were important.

This space was long and somewhat narrow, so we created two areas. The comfortable lounge area is anchored with the fireplace and a centered graphic flat weave rug.

The two chairs and sofa were all recovered and repurposed. I chose solid, soft chenille for the sofa and a light, airy stripe for the chairs, running the pattern horizontally for a more modern look. Chandeliers anchor both the lounge area and the dining area — on a dimmer of course!

Fill the space with live plants (silk should be outlawed!); tall fiddle fig trees are easy to care for and grow quickly with their large





flat leaves. Layer your patterns; graphic, organic, solids, stripes, all in like colors. Try a bench on one side of your dining table with chairs on the other. Cluster your accessories in odd numbers and keep the scale large – too many small knick-knacks only clutter any space. And of course, mix your styles a bit: a traditional table base with a mid-century style mirror; a stripe chair with a

crewel pillow alongside a modern shaped coffee table in a rustic burlap fabric. Layering upon layering is always the key!❖

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