

CHARLOTTE URBAN

HOME

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CELEBRATING INSPIRATIONAL DESIGN AND PERSONAL STYLE





BETH KEIM

Don't miss an opportunity to take this overlooked room to a new level.

Say Goodbye to the “Wreck Room”

The bonus room is sometimes called a “rec” room, which is short for recreation but I think it’s actually short for “wreck” of a room. It is often a dumping ground for pre-wedding bachelor furniture or filled with oversized, long forgotten toys, endless games and videos – generally the outcasts of home furnishings. It often lacks style and so I have been asked to help with several “wreck rooms.” Not surprisingly, when we’ve finished, the room often becomes a space preferred over the main family room.

Not too long ago, I was asked to transform the Wagoner’s bonus room from a storage and play space into an area for everyone to enjoy. As most bonus rooms are, this space is on the second floor of the home, making looking after the two small

children challenging if you’re downstairs in the main family room. Bringing some of the elements of comfort into the same room their kids were playing in was a win-win for all.

Designing a bonus room? The number one request is for larger, more comfortable seating. I say go for the sectional and pull it away from the wall. Doing so gives you eight feet of storage behind the couch, at least. Attractive bins or baskets now have a new accessible home that won’t be the first thing you see when you walk in. These rooms often have angled walls – a missed opportunity to create interest, so I chose to highlight them with great wallpaper. This paper inspired my colors for the rest of the space and became a welcome site when entering the bonus room, instead of bins



filled with Legos and plastic trucks. This nook also became the perfect place for a desk to hold the printer and computer.

An area rug helps define the seating space, also adding much needed color to an often builder-chosen sea of beige carpet. Add a large, kid-friendly coffee table and think round when doing a sectional to avoid banging those shins on a corner.

Don't miss an opportunity to take this overlooked room to a new level. Wondering where to start? Weed out the long-forgotten toys your kids haven't touched in a year, consolidate and let go of old uncomfortable furniture and call for help if it all seems overwhelming! We designers might bring a fresh idea to the mix. ❖

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.

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