

CHARLOTTE URBAN

HOME

CELEBRATING INSPIRATIONAL DESIGN AND PERSONAL STYLE



**BEST OF
GUIDE**



THE BEST OF DESIGN, STYLE AND INSPIRATION



BETH KEIM

As I worked my way through this home, preparing it for sale, it suddenly took on a new life

Falling In Love With Your Home Again

I have lived in my home for 12 years now and I just love my classic 1921 bungalow, with all its quirks and character. I have designed and re-designed it about three times – a bonus of being in the business – but after so many years, things are starting to look (and act) a little dated. My first thought was to move — find a new project and start all over. In reality, however, I love my neighborhood and all my neighbors, so I decided to bite the bullet, gut the bathrooms, tweak a few things and stay put. I also just recently proposed this strategy to a client.

Lori and Brian Crowder, along with their three small kids and big fluffy dog, came to me wanting to turn their front living space into a functional and cozy home office. Halfway into the project, they decided they wanted to move. We went ahead

and finished the space we started and I suggested staging the home with pieces that would work in their new place as well as help in showing the home at its best.

Buyers consistently pay closest attention to the kitchen. Will it require updating? How's the layout? Is it functional? We gave all the cabinets and the backsplash a facelift, offering an updated look. It's always amazing to me what a little paint can do. The room also had a window nook just screaming for a banquette, new table, lighting and chairs. Banquettes are one of my favorite kitchen elements; not only are they visually appealing, but they also cut down the clutter too many chairs can create, and they are a great idea for multiple kids. Upholstered in a vinyl, leather, vinalized or treated fabric, you'll have easy clean up. Pair a pedestal



table and coordinating chairs and you have a nook that dresses up your kitchen. At Lucy & Co, we have our banquettes made at the right height and length to fit like a glove in your space. One of my favorite local artists, Josh Utsey, created our table with an inset base for easy access.

Finish off the space with a few simple accessories, an oversized light fixture and, of course, artwork to pull all the colors from the other parts of the home, and you have something cohesive, cozy and beautiful.

As I worked my way through this home, preparing it for sale, it suddenly took on a new life – something that is always satisfying as a designer. However, my favorite moment of all? When my client decided to stay. ❖

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.

