

CHARLOTTE URBAN

HOME

JUNE/JULY 2015

CELEBRATING INSPIRATIONAL DESIGN AND PERSONAL STYLE





BETH KEIM

Designing interiors in an all-neutral palette doesn't have to be dull, by any means.



Amped Up Neutrals

When asked to create an open concept great room and breakfast room in neutrals with just a *touch* of color, I find it's sometimes hard to reel myself in – I tend to layer color on color and pattern on pattern. However, I also love the look of a tone-on-tone room with a dramatic pop of something saturated. My client for this project was all about neutrals and thus, so was this space. She wanted clean, streamlined and soothing; on the other hand she loved color and wanted that punch. She had a blank slate to work with and for this large room that opened into the stairwell, kitchen and foyer, a single wall color was the way to go.

Designing interiors in an all-neutral palette doesn't have to be dull, by any means. Various textures in similar colors create a modern look, and can end up feeling luxurious. Working on this great room, I needed to be conscious of the newly painted space, which was a beautiful shade of grey. Their big request was a new sectional that worked with their existing grey leather chairs. I chose to keep all the shades similar and really focus on the

accents. Bright pillows and a simple ottoman tray brought everything to life. Open to the breakfast area, a new banquette in a kid-friendly "pleather" (also in a neutral shade) comes to life as well with a large art piece, created by my husband Keith Keim.

The most important thing in any space, and especially a tall, open concept space is accessorizing on a large scale! Take a look at the lamps, for example. I chose to go tall to fill the open-air space. Bigger accessories and bigger art simplified in similar colors (but full of texture) is just another layer every space needs. When working with open concepts, remember that it will be visible from many other rooms in the home. I like to stand in all the doorways and really think about the things I have chosen. My biggest advice on tall walls is to use tall accessories❖

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