

CHARLOTTE **URBAN**

# HOME

SUMMER 2010

Designs | Lifestyles | Investments | Improvements

## Artful Living in MYERS PARK



**5** NEW  
TRENDS  
in Kitchen and  
Bath Design

room service

# Losing the Formalities



**Beth Keim**

**For me, when I come home** and don't feel a sense of calm, but more so, don't feel inspired or happy with my place of refuge, I know it's time for a change.

I recently decided to take my own advice and I gave the largest room in my house—a room originally designed as a formal living room—a new feeling of comfort. I wanted to make this room a place I would actually want to spend a lot of time in. I wanted it to reflect my style and I wanted it surrounded with the things I love.

Nowadays, transforming an entire room not only seems daunting, but it seems expensive, and like most of us, I was looking for a way to completely change things as inexpensively as possible.

The first part of my challenge involved shifting, consigning and a big fat yard sale. Let's face it, a yard sale can be a huge drag, but well worth it, if it helps offset costs for that new sofa you've been dreaming of.

I pulled out everything. Some things ended up in my Master, some in my Den, which provided a mini-facelift for those rooms. I now had a clean, but unfortunately, empty room.

**Phase One: Color Inspiration**

I wanted a major change. I went with blue, a beautiful blue with a hint of green. This blue was not present anywhere in my house, so the trick came in how to make it work overall and not have the room look like a complete diversion. I knew I had to thread that color in other rooms and it is easily done with a pillow here—a piece of art there—a random side table over there. I also quickly realized I could pull things from existing rooms, back into my new “blue room.”

**Phase Two: Repurpose**

I loved my dining room curtains but thought if I moved them to the new room it would bring the two together. My curtains then became the fabric on my new flea market gem, a great big, comfortable and interesting chair.



Ashley Goodwin Photography



This chair was made well, but needed painting and fabric. If something catches your eye in style, try and envision in another color or fabric, both are easy fixes. I now had blue walls, a new sofa and a fabulous chair, major accessorizing was needed.

### Phase Three: Finishing Touches

This part is all about your creative side. The search begins for pillows, side tables, a rug and art. Here are a few tips:

- Lose the back pillows on your sofa and add new. It doesn't take a lot of fabric to make a pillow, so choose something fantastic.
- Wallpaper can be framed and become art.
- Take an inexpensive chain store piece of furniture and embellish to make it something unique.
- Transform a vase, or rewire a vintage lamp, and add a new shade. Lighting is everything.
- Retire all those dated picture frames, scan the photos and create your own "Coffee Table Book."



Hmmm...what can I do next?❖

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