

CHARLOTTE URBAN

# HOME

WINTER 2010

Designs | Lifestyles | Investments | Improvements

## Rustic Chic

Luxe Living in the Country

SNAP, CRACKLE, POP:  
Outdoor Fireplaces

Jim Schmid Photography

room service

# Teenage Sophistication



**Beth Keim**

her immediately because she wanted to incorporate my two favorite colors of the moment: yellow and grey, yes I said grey. She also knew what she wanted, a low bed with clean lines. I don't get that request very often and I was excited to work with such a sophisticated color palette and style.

**Teenage girls**, my most frequent clients, are the most challenging of all. Girls reach that age where they are ready to pack up the beanie babies and fairy princess bedding and find their style. Where to start? Bed style and color. To my delight I recently worked with a very mature and laid back young woman named Riley Goodling. Loved

The key here was keeping it age appropriate but long lasting which is my goal in most teenage rooms.

It seems at the age of 13 or so it's time to decorate a teenage room with pieces that will be taken off to future apartments so I look for great lines and quality. The bed, most of the time, is the focal point of the room. The bed also dictates the style of the room. Will it be wood, upholstered, antique, high or low, twin or queen? In this case she wanted a more modern, low, platform style, which was perfect with the fabric we found using the grey and yellow color combination. Once you find your bed style and inspiration fabric you are off and running.

If the time has come to upgrade to the teenage room, the following questions should help in creating something they will love and something that will last:





### Scale.

How big is the room and how many functions must it incorporate?

If you are lucky enough to have a big room with a walk-in closet, go big with the bed and make it the focal point. Why do a full when a queen is better in the long run? Incorporate a sitting area and a desk area. If the bed is the focal point, it's also the starting point. I generally do solid coverlets and use my inspiration fabric for pillows. Having chosen that, find a coordinate for the windows, then lastly the walls. Remember that it is harder to match a fabric to a paint color than the reverse.

If you are dealing with a small room, try turning your bed sideways and creating a length-wise headboard mounted to the wall. This will open the room and give you more floor space. Using a platform as the base of the bed with built-in drawers also gives you extra storage. This layout will generally give you room for a desk and dresser. The bed will seem like a sofa, great for lounging with friends.

### Style. Modern, Vintage, or an Eclectic Mix?

This is the tricky part and if you think about all of it at once it can even be more confusing and ultimately frustrating. Remember to start with the bed and one fabric. The next decision is to keep it uniform in style or mix it up? If uniform furniture seems less stressful, do that but remember to mix in some different fabrics, accent tables and lamps, to give it a little personality. Don't forget yard sales, flea markets or consignment stores. Look at the lines of the piece and remember, almost anything can be painted. Mix painted furniture and wood furniture. Mix shiny with antiqued, but keep with the same color palette.

### Price.

While "bedroom suits" may come with a lower price tag if buying in quantity, they also come with lack of style. Splurge on the bed or that amazing dresser then fill the room with what I call "discovered" pieces. These are pieces that you might have discarded to the attic that just need a coat of paint and new knobs. ❖

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