

Contributing Editor
ROOM SERVICE



BETH KEIM

SELLING THE TONE I have always believed the entry to a home should be a preview of what's to come. Your personal style should be clearly defined right at the front door. Colors and mood almost amplified to greet you. When working with the Brady's I tried to do just that. Their Dilworth home was beautiful to begin with, but when L.T. called me to help tweak her dining room and create a front office, I had a clear direction from the minute we met. L.T., much like myself, is drawn to black and white, modern yet eclectic with unique pieces.

From their front door your first view is of

the dining room and office. My goal was to make these two rooms as unique as she is. With a beautiful dining room table and rug, finishing off this space to give it a punch was where I started. I brought in an ombre black to white wallpaper and simple curtains to really let the table be the focal point. I suggested large art pieces over the sideboard, clustered together for a little more drama. Hide rugs are under that gorgeous Josh Utsey dining table and rather than custom making one we actually seamed two together. With its vertical lined pattern, it worked like a charm.

Spinning directly around, your view is of the front office. This is where I wanted to have a little fun. L.T. wanted trim work on the walls. This is a great idea to give the spaces a cozier and more "library" look. We painted floor to ceiling in black. Don't be afraid of black walls! With the right accessories it won't feel dark and will certainly be dramatic

and cozy. We brought in two wall sconces to flood the dark walls with light and the pop of a large juju hat added a lighter color and texture.

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This space is full of texture, from the rustic wood and metal wall mount shelves to the black bamboo blinds. The soft occasional chairs are paired with seagrass and hide layered under foot. I particularly love the two side tables, one bright and white with whimsical legs, the other a lacquered black wood stump.

So I think we accomplished our goal, personality greeting you from your first steps in. This look wanders through the home which adds continuity and style.◆

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