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B E T H K E I M



WHITE AS A GHOST

When working with a new client on a one-room project, I ask to see all the other rooms that are *not* included in this project as a first step. Having a consistent style and color palette are important to me when I am working on a new design to create necessary flow and continuity. This is not to say that creating an eclectic style of mismatch isn't fun. In fact, I have often enjoyed this approach. But this project was one where my client had a strong vision and opinion about what she wanted – all white.

The look can be soothing and calm for sure, but how do you keep it from feeling cold and looking uninspired? In my book, it's the use of different textures and shades



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of white. Yes, there are different shades of white. Benjamin Moore has about fifteen different whites on their fan deck of paint ranging from cool to warm with touches of grey and even red tones.

Mixing styles with an all-white palette can also create something unique as well: sleek modern shelving layered with vintage objects, for example, or cottage style lines adjacent a Moroccan patterned rug, or beaded fixtures hanging over a traditional tufted sofa, custom made with a more modern arm.

Avoiding a strict design style while incorporating unique pieces with various tactile touches creates that collected look that makes a room feel warm and inviting. Following that

consistently throughout multiple rooms allows you to shift pieces to change it up now and then.

Scared of white with kids around? Invest in an outdoor fabric. You would be amazed at how far they have come in softness and richness. Outdoor fabrics are not all canvas-like. Have your furniture and rugs stain protected. I particularly love Fiber Services here in Charlotte. If you can't get the stain out with just water, they will.◆

Beth Keim is the owner of Lucy and Company, a full-service interior design firm located at 2108 South Boulevard, Suite 213. For more information visit www.lucyandcompany.com or call 704-342-6655.