

Charlotte

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# ART INSTINCTS

BY BETH KEIM



“THE FULL EXPRESSION OF WHO YOU ARE.” THESE ARE WORDS THAT AUTHOR CARSON TATE USES IN HER NEW BOOK, *OWN IT. LOVE IT. MAKE IT WORK*.

I have never met a more interesting, upbeat, and visual person—one who loves and collects art, and not just the traditional “painting-on-the-wall” type. Art comes in so many forms. Textiles are art; furniture is art; lighting is art. This project was one where she wanted as many one-of-a-kind pieces as we could incorporate, creating a visual uniqueness to her new surroundings. Designing Tate’s home was a dream project.

While downsizing to this home, designed by Mermans Architecture & Design, we took great care in collecting unique pieces to complement her growing collection. With an open concept, every space is within eyeshot of the other, so continuity was important to both of us.

The living area now houses more abstract pieces with the addition of a metal console and coffee table, mixed with vintage leather and wood, atop a must-have area rug from The Rug Company. Their rugs are truly art, and you have the ability to create custom sizes and colors.

As you scan the space, the dining area dips into the living space, again filled with special, unique pieces. We had a



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custom hide rug made with the help of Kyle Bunting, and Josh Utsey created the most beautiful dining table with brass details. The wallpaper by Mark Alexander is stitched and textured. Jacob Wolfe and Tuan Le constructed a unique metal console, all welded and buffed. This is a comfortable space that is used and lounged-in regularly, which is exactly the point.

The well-appointed kitchen mixes both wood and painted cabinetry with brass details and a spectacular backsplash from Palmetto Tile, one of my favorite go-tos. We used large drum pendants to complement the larger brass and matte-black pieces in the nearby room.

I've always been a big believer in hunting for original items, and there's nothing I love more than working with someone who feels the same. Channel your artistic side when creating your space. Be original. Be unique! ♦



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