

Charlotte

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HOME

DESIGN & DECOR[®]

*Let There
Be Light!*

Lighting Roundup

Solar City

Sleek & sustainable energy solutions for your home

Designer Charlotte Lucas shakes things up

Contributor

ROOM SERVICE



B E T H K E I M



SHOTGUN DESIGN

It can be a little tricky to design a shotgun home – that is, a long narrow house, often with a straight shot view from the front door to the back door. It needs to be light and bright, not too cluttered, and have an airy feel. With windows in just the front and back and a limited traffic pattern, it’s a challenge to create that open feeling. What to do?

I recently installed a project like this for a couple of city dwellers who love color and pattern but live in a small space. My design plan centered on all white walls with smaller areas of wallpaper that define each space. The dining room just off the front door and exposed to the kitchen, hall, and stairwell needed to feel open and easy to maneuver.





My solution is to offset the dining table and banquette to allow a traffic pattern all the way through. We outlined the entire space with wallpaper on the ceiling, framed out to define. The result is a bright, open, fun space full of color and light. With spring here, the floral fabric keeps everything airy, and the wallpaper is to die for.

When working with a color palette like this, it's important to keep similar tones with a stronger color on the floor. In this case, we used a dark bottle green over-dyed rug. I am also a huge fan of large centerpieces. It's all about the scale, and anything small paired with the large banquette would just feel inadequate. Spring has sprung in this fun space. ♦

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.

MAKER'S MARK

An exclusive look behind the studio doors of local furniture and lighting designer Josh Utsey's process, aesthetic, and vision for the future.

By Ashley Hotham Cox
Photography by Dustin Peck

Hometown:

I was born here in Charlotte and grew up in Dilworth.

What drew you to lighting and furniture design? How did you get your start?

A few years ago my dad was building a small two-seater plane in the back of his warehouse. I saw him assembling a lot of the main components for it and became intrigued with how things are made. I then taught myself how to weld small things. From there it grew into woodworking and then lighting.

Can you tell me about your design process?

I start with an overall concept and build from there. By looking at how the piece will be used and what function it will serve, I then layer in details or edit down as needed.

How would you describe your aesthetic?

I'm all about clean lines – whether it's highlighting the hand-blown glass elements in my lighting or drawing your eye to the organic live edge of a table. I try not to have too many elements fighting with each other.

How does living in Charlotte affect your aesthetic?

Charlotte has come a long way from its traditional roots. There are

so many amazing designers bringing such a fresh new look here. I always like looking at what is going on in other cities to see what could work here. I like coming up with ideas I know will be a little out there and seeing how people react to them.

Do you have a favorite design?

Too many. I'm always drawn to very simple but intricately assembled pieces.

Who are your favorite designers or artisans?

I've always been a huge fan of BDDW and Apparatus. They have such a high level of detail and craftsmanship in their work, which is always something I'm thinking about when it comes to applying to my own work. How can I make each piece the best it can be? How can I take one little element to the next level?

What's next for you?

Keep pushing forward. I have new ideas for incorporating more materials in one piece of work, whether it's machined brass and acrylic in a table base or marble and hand-blown glass in a light fixture. I am finding more local resources that can help my designs become a reality, which in itself is fueling my drive to keep creating.



Interior Design by Beth Keim with Lucy and Company;
Image courtesy of Mekenzie Loli.

