

CHARLOTTE URBAN

HOME

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2015

CELEBRATING INSPIRATIONAL DESIGN AND PERSONAL STYLE





BETH KEIM

This large, large room with its shades of gray is a space calm enough to spend hours relaxing in and punchy enough to be exciting!

Three Shades of Gray

Gray is definitely my favorite neutral; I use it a lot – Benjamin Moore 1550 to be exact. There are cool grays and warm grays, both of which are the perfect backdrop for any pop of color. When Carla Fuller called me to help with her new home in Myers Park, she knew she wanted to create a look for her great room that used plenty of my favorite neutral color.

This space is large, open and full of light. When I first walked in, I admit I was a bit envious of all the elbowroom. We brought in two long, 100-inch custom sofas instead of a sectional, and two swivel chairs and an ottoman large enough to complete the entire sitting area. Not only was “large” the name of the game in this space, the colors were very important to Carla, too. Each fabric, while different in texture and feel, are all very similar

in the warm gray palette. To add even more cohesiveness, we chose to do a gray wash finish on the sofa legs and incorporate a sofa storage console with just a slightly deeper version of the same gray wash. The side tables got a warm gray shagreen finish as well.

With our neutral base in place, it was time to mix in a little color. Carla’s an orange girl and we pulled this warm and juicy color into the space with pillows, art, accessories and two ottomans. These single additions brought it all to life and added the cozy warmth this large space needed. Accessories are key to any space and while many clients want to wait on all those details, I try to discourage the delay. These pieces finish and personalize a room and are just as important at the perfect sofa.

Bookcase styling can be tricky, but my one big





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piece of advice is to keep pieces on the large size and layer them. Prop artwork, stack books, lean things, float things — all words I keep in my head when placing bookcase accessories. Framed pictures are great; just keep them larger and similar in materials.

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Beth Keim is the owner of Lucy and Company, a full-service interior design firm located at 1009 East Boulevard. For more information visit www.lucyandcompany.com or call 704-342-6655.

