

TRIANGLE URBAN

# HOME

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2013

CELEBRATING INSPIRATIONAL DESIGN AND PERSONAL STYLE



Jim Schmid Photography

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“Tile is easier to clean than hardwoods, especially if this will be home to family pets.”

— ASHLEY THOMPSON —  
ASID AND DESIGN LINES



2

“a well-designed home should reflect your family. incorporate art and accessories that have personal meaning and provide inspiration.”

— VICKY SERANY —  
SOUTHERN STUDIO  
INTERIOR DESIGN

3

“An easy and affordable way to update a space is to switch out the lighting. There are so many great options out there nowadays for chandeliers, sconces and lamps that will quickly add a pop of color or interest.”

— MELISSA ARMSTRONG —  
MELISSA ARMSTRONG INTERIORS

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## DESIGNER TIPS

WE ASKED LOCAL AND NATIONAL DESIGNERS TO OFFER US SOME OF THEIR BEST TIPS AND FAVORITE RULES OF THUMB FOR DESIGN. WE'VE COMPILED THEM ALL HERE FOR ONE EASY GO-TO LIST, SO GET OUT YOUR MARKER AND CIRCLE YOUR FAVORITES.

VICKY SERANY ASHLEY THOMPSON MELISSA ARMSTRONG M.A. ALLEN JONATHAN ADLER  
MARTHA BROWN TANDA JAREST LAUREN MCKAY HEATHER GARRETT  
PATRICK CASEY THOM FILICIA LORI LANGDON

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“Create flow. It's so important in design and decorating that the different spaces flow, particularly with the open floor plans we commonly see today. When selecting paint colors don't be afraid to add a pop of color, but make sure large rooms have different colors that transition easily. Nothing makes a house feel choppy than walking from one red room to a blue room to a beige room. Flooring selections play into this flow too, so consider running hardwoods throughout a space instead of switching flooring at cased openings.”

— M.A. ALLEN —  
MA ALLEN INTERIORS

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“ALWAYS BUY A CHANDELIER THAT IS BIGGER THAN YOU THINK YOU NEED AND MORE EXPENSIVE THAN YOU THINK YOU CAN AFFORD.”

— JONATHAN ADLER —

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“Don't be afraid of bold colors. Just make sure they are placed strategically.”

— VICKY SERANY —  
SOUTHERN STUDIO  
INTERIOR DESIGN

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“Do not be afraid to pull a variety of metal finishes when making selections for a new construction or remodel project. Door hardware, plumbing, and light fixtures should all be coordinated. I don't recommend completing a house with the same finish throughout. Dimensional layered finishes blend warm and cool tones and pair well with standard finishes. Other accents in drapery hardware, decorative accessories and furnishings can work to fully blend the look. This approach lends a more timeless interior that stays beautiful.”

— M.A. ALLEN —  
MA ALLEN INTERIORS

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“IF YOU'RE AFRAID OF USING BOLD AND BRIGHT COLORS, ADD INTEREST WITH DIFFERENT TEXTURES AND PATTERNS INSTEAD.”

— MARTHA BROWN —  
ALLIED MEMBER ASID



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“When it comes to furniture, use a mix of materials in your space. Don't be stuck with mahogany and fabrics, throw in a little bling with metals and glass...add some jewelry!”

— MARTHA BROWN —  
ALLIED MEMBER ASID

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“Purchase a Summer Lite Duvet that can be used year round. Always be sure to keep a cover on your duvet that is made out of sheeting fabric. By doing this, you do not change the weight of the duvet, it stays light and can breathe allowing you to use it even in those hot summer months.”

— TANDA JAREST —  
DUXIANA AND OPULENCE

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“Don’t overcrowd bookshelves, mantels or side tables with too many picture frames. Try to pick the very best ones and then mix in with other accessories.”

— MELISSA ARMSTRONG —  
MELISSA ARMSTRONG INTERIORS

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*“Pay attention to the size and scale of furnishings and accessories. The proportions of individual pieces can immediately change the feel and function of a space.”*

— VICKY SERANY —  
SOUTHERN STUDIO  
INTERIOR DESIGN



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“It must be easy to use! Hooks are perfect for hanging coats and book bags. Baskets where anything can be thrown in and tucked out of sight are great. And if there’s room, a cushion to sit on and remove shoes will help keep dirt from traveling throughout the rest of the house. “

— LAUREN MCKAY —  
ASID AND DESIGN LINES

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*“Whenever possible, supplement (or substitute) an overhead light with lamps or sconces. Eye level light is warm, soft and cozy. Whatever you do, please remove the light kit from your ceiling fan!”*

— HEATHER GARRETT —  
HEATHER GARRETT DESIGN

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“When working with a rug that is too small for a room (but you’re desperate to use it), don’t hesitate to layer it atop a sisal or seagrass rug that IS the appropriate size for the room and build around it.”

— PATRICK CASEY —  
GREENFRONT

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“When starting a design, find something that evokes your creative side such as a piece of art, family portrait or a rug. It gets the juices flowing.”

— MARTHA BROWN —  
ALLIED MEMBER ASID

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**“When having to make quick paint color decisions for your new home, find your favorite “neutral” shade: gray, taupe or even lavender, and commit to that whole shade-stick in the deck of colors. Then you can explore variations of finishes: flat, eggshell, satin...and yes, even gloss!”**

— PATRICK CASEY —  
GREENFRONT

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*“Do not begin a project until there’s a comprehensive plan to complete it. There will be obstacles along the way, so plan, plan and plan some more to avoid unnecessary headaches.”*

— VICKY SERANY —  
SOUTHERN STUDIO  
INTERIOR DESIGN

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**“BE WELL-READ! BOOKS ARE A WONDERFUL WAY TO ADD AN EXTRA LAYER AND PERSONALIZE YOUR SPACE. THEY NOT ONLY SPEAK TO YOUR INTERESTS AND PROVIDE AN INTERACTIVE COMPONENT TO A SPACE, BUT THEY ALSO ADD DEPTH, COLOR AND VISUAL TEXTURE. LAYERED BOOKS ON A COFFEE TABLE OR A STACK OF BOOKS NEXT TO A CHAIR OR SOFA CAN ADD AN UNEXPECTED ELEMENT OF INTEREST THAT HELPS TO TELL YOUR STORY AND SPEAK TO YOUR POINT OF VIEW.”**

— THOM FILICIA —

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**“Don’t forget to design your home to the way you live — create beautiful and functional spaces.”**

— MARTHA BROWN —  
ALLIED MEMBER ASID

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**“For those hot summer nights use a crisp cool Egyptian cotton percale. A true long staple Egyptian cotton set of sheets should cost you about a dollar per thread. For example, 300 thread count Queen set should be somewhere around \$300/set. Anything less is probably an inferior product or an imposture!”**

— TANDA JAREST —  
DUXIANA AND OPULENCE

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**“A GREAT LOOKING HEADBOARD CAN TOTALLY TRANSFORM A BEDROOM FROM AVERAGE TO WOW!”**

— TANDA JAREST —  
DUXIANA AND OPULENCE

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“It’s all relative: one of the most important – and often overlooked – elements of interior design is scale. If items are out of scale with each other or with the space, the design will always feel off.”

— LORI LANGDON —  
BEYOND BLUE INTERIORS

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“Find a starting point. Every space needs one! The colors in an antique rug, painting or swatch of fabric can be guiding forces in the selection of paint, finishes and fabrics. New construction or remodels are best when a cohesive look’s defined at the start. All details can be harmoniously coordinated.”

— M.A. ALLEN —  
MA ALLEN INTERIORS

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“Purchase only pieces that you love: Don’t just buy a lamp to fill a space, choose a lamp that makes you smile every time you turn the switch.”

— LORI LANGDON —  
BEYOND BLUE INTERIORS