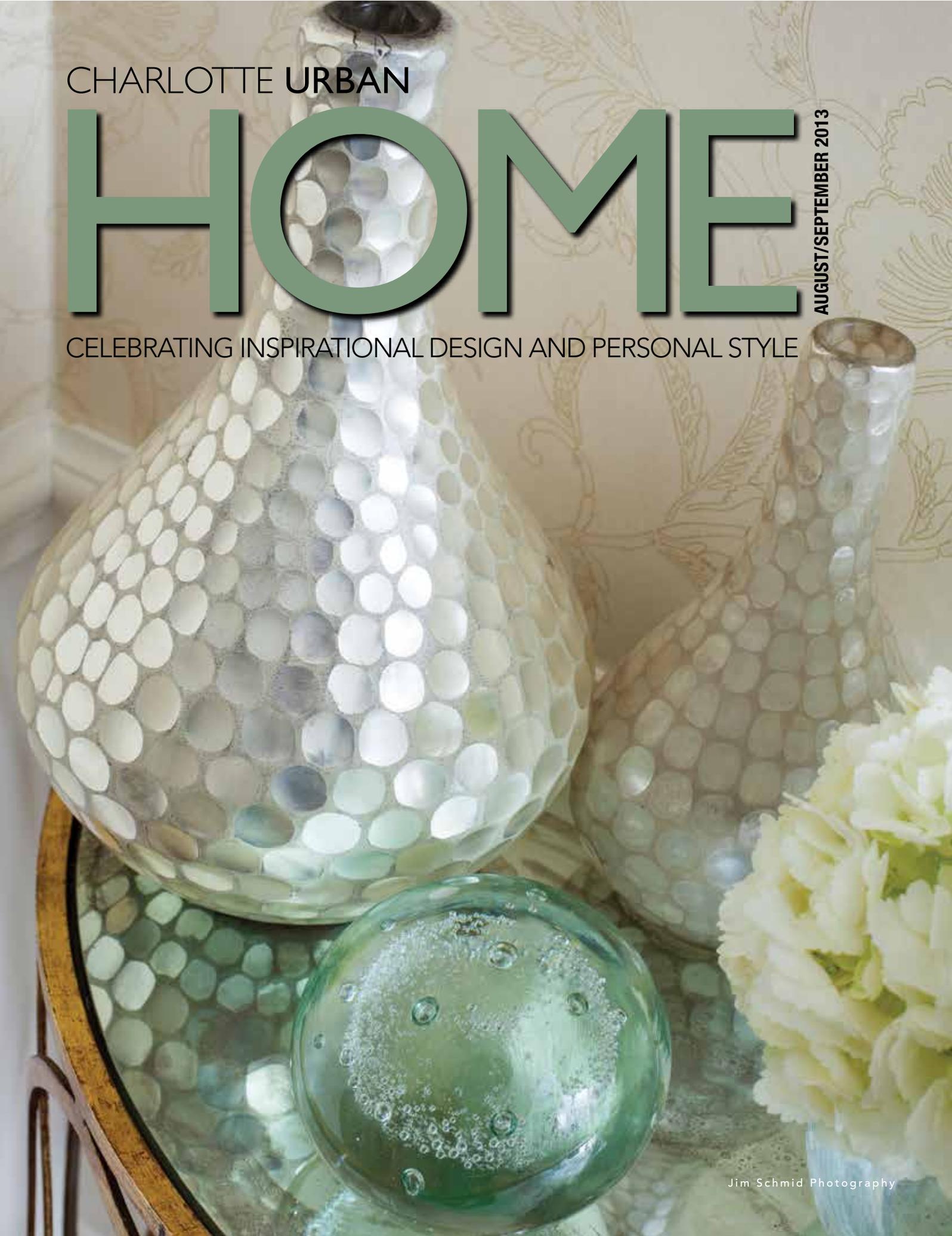


CHARLOTTE URBAN

HOME

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2013

CELEBRATING INSPIRATIONAL DESIGN AND PERSONAL STYLE



1

“It’s important to create a layering effect with textures.”

— LANA HELDA —
LANA HELDA INTERIOR DESIGN



2

paint the banister black, it makes all the difference!

— LAURA CASEY —
LAURA CASEY INTERIORS

3

“The devil is in the details, don’t forget accessories and artwork! I always scour my favorite vintage and consignment shops before an installation. I love to style shelves and side tables with interesting objets, it gives the room a personal, lived-in and finished look!”

— LINDSEY CORAL HARPER —
LCH INTERIORS

25 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.

CHRISTOPHER PEACOCK RODNEY HINES LANA HELDA LAURA CASEY TRACI ZELLER TERI THOMAS AMY VERMILLION MELISSA ARMSTRONG ERIN DOUGHERTY LINDSEY CORAL HARPER PHOEBE HOWARD JONATHAN ADLER RON SPERRY CIRCA INTERIORS THOM FILICIA TANDA JAREST

4

“Lighting is one of my favorite places to splurge on an investment piece, because it isn’t subject to the wear and tear of many other design elements. To calculate the diameter of an appropriately sized fixture, add the dimensions of the room (12 feet by 14 feet, for example, would be 12+14). That number in inches (here, 26 inches) is a guideline for the fixture’s diameter.”

— TRACI ZELLER —
TRACI ZELLER DESIGNS

5

“EVERY ROOM NEEDS SOMETHING OF QUALITY.”

— CIRCA INTERIORS —

6

“Don’t be afraid to mix high-end with affordable. The high-end usually brings the affordable up.”

— TERI THOMAS —
TERI THOMAS INTERIORS

7

“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 —



8

“WHEN IN DOUBT, SIMPLE IS BETTER!”

— TRACI ZELLER —
TRACI ZELLER DESIGNS

9

“I typically suggest an island 5’ wide by 8’ long. You don’t want it to look like an aircraft carrier, and when cleaning up, you want to be able to reach across it effortlessly.”

— CHRISTOPHER PEACOCK —

10

“When hanging draperies always take the rod all the way up & mount it under your crown molding. This way your ceilings will appear taller and make the room feel larger.”

— CIRCA INTERIORS —

11
“Measure, measure, measure and don’t be afraid to make things in pieces. Often people have large rooms and high ceilings, however, elevators, doorways and hallways are usually never as large and aren’t as forgiving.”
— LINDSEY CORAL HARPER —
LCH INTERIORS

12
“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



13
“Know when to edit. Sometimes great design ideas get lost when there are too many of them fighting for attention. Choose the one you like best and execute it to the best of your ability. Save all of those other great ideas for the next room, where they, in turn, can be noticed and appreciated.”
— RON SPERRY —

14
“Good upholstery is worth its price tag - if necessary put a less expensive fabric on a higher end frame and you’ll be able to reupholster it for years to come. Cheap upholstery not only looks bad, it becomes uncomfortable very quickly.”
— AMY VERMILLION —
AMY VERMILLION INTERIORS

15
“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

16
“Always buy a chandelier that is bigger than you think you need and more expensive than you think you can afford.”
— JONATHAN ADLER —

17
“When selecting linens for your Master Bedroom, go with white or ivory linens. Mix up the textures, but keep the bed neutral and add color with pillows, lamps and art. I’ve had an all white bed for years and still love how fresh it looks!”
— ERIN DOUGHERTY —
ISABELLA

18
“You should spend the money first on the rooms that you live in the most.”
— RODNEY HINES —
HIGH COTTON HOME

19
“DON’T USE STANDARD DUST RUFFLES. MOST READY-MADE DUST RUFFLES ARE 15” TO 16” LONG, UNLINED, AND SKIMPY LOOKING. I THINK IT IS WELL WORTH THE MONEY TO HAVE ONE CUSTOM MADE AND PROPERLY FITTED FOR YOUR BED. I USUALLY MAKE DUST RUFFLES 18” TO 21” LONG, DEPENDING ON THE THICKNESS OF THE MATTRESS AND THE OVERALL HEIGHT OF THE BED.”
— PHOEBE HOWARD —
MRS. HOWARD

20
“I tell my clients to buy the absolute best they can afford. It is much better to spend wisely on fewer pieces than try and fill a room up with poor quality furnishings that they will have to soon replace.”
— AMY VERMILLION —
AMY VERMILLION INTERIORS

21
“Think outside the box! Dining rooms don’t have to be dining rooms, but can instead double as libraries or home offices. Buffets are a great choice for storage in living rooms. There’s no reason to use a “baby” dresser in a nursery. What matters the most is how your home works for, and grows with, your family.”
— TRACI ZELLER —
TRACI ZELLER DESIGNS

22
“A QUICK WAY TO UPDATE ANY ROOM IS BY CHANGING OUT TIRED LIGHTING. BUY A NEW PAIR OF LAMPS AND REPLACE EXISTING CEILING FIXTURES FOR SOMETHING MORE MODERN!”
— ERIN DOUGHERTY —
ISABELLA

23
“Substitute texture for color. Nothing adds more warmth and authenticity to a home than a variety of textures. Adding high contrasting textures such as polished nickel, linen, velvet, stone and salvaged wood can create depth and appeal to the sense of touch as well as sight.”
— RON SPERRY —

24
“For hot summer nights, use crisp cool Egyptian cotton percale sheets. Make sure the cotton is the best — 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 than that is probably an inferior product or an imposture!”
— TANDA JAREST —
OPULENCE AND DUXIANA

25
“Create ambiance. Make use of colored light bulbs. One of my favorites is a pink bulb. It adds a soft glow that is more flattering in a very subtle way.”
— PHOEBE HOWARD —
MRS. HOWARD