

Better Homes and Gardens Special Interest Publications



Genevieve Gorder
Trading Spaces

**Designer
Secrets
For Your
Home**
page 76

do it YOURSELF

Ideas for Your Home and Garden®

Refresh Any Room

34 Creative Ideas You Can Use Today!

**MAKE THIS
HEADBOARD!**
page 38

WEEKEND PROJECTS

- Quick Built-In Shelves
- Container Water Gardens
- Fun Stepping-Stones

Fall 2005
Display until Oct. 18



www.bhg.com

grand plan

A unified palette and special surface treatments give a once-battered home rich character.

WRITER: LOUISE RITCHHART. PHOTOGRAPHER: GORDON BEALL.
FIELD EDITOR: SANDRA L. MOHLMANN.

T

o-do lists rarely linger on Keith and Beth Keim's refrigerator. Before spending a single night in their new home, the Charlotte, N.C., couple had crossed off every major project they'd planned for the 1920 cottage. Their drive isn't a case of perfectionism, but pragmatism. "Everything is easier if the 'big mess' projects are out of the way before you move in," says Beth, a professional painter.

The same goes for design decisions, Beth says. Long before the moving van pulled up, she had selected a palette of gold, red, orange, and caramel shades to give the home a feeling of warmth, with black, white, and gray tossed in for contrast and drama. "I wanted every room to have the same tones," Beth says. "My goal was to create a flow throughout the house, so I can pick up a pillow in one room and put it down in any other."

Clever homeowners Beth and Keith Keim created the strié paint treatment for their living room. Beth designed the curtains and upholstery, and Keith crafted the mantel and hearth surround.





Beth sewed a red corduroy slipcover for the sofa so her daughters could have a cozy lounging spot. An inexpensive dresser and wall shelf display favorite family photos.



Beth Keim's whole-house design scheme and consistent palette help each room visually flow into the next. She can easily move coordinated furniture and accessories to other rooms for a fresh look.

Committing to a comprehensive plan takes courage, but Beth says the payoff is worth it. "When you stick with a whole-house design scheme, it's not so daunting when you have to make choices in each room," she says. "You've already made the big decisions, so you can pick out furniture, fabrics, and accessories knowing each room will blend into the next."

Beth and Keith are no strangers to remodeling. Their family business, Lucy & Co., offers decorative paint services and custom-crafted furniture. Keith learned general contracting skills while working for his father, and he has since taught himself a variety of art and woodworking techniques. Though Beth modestly calls herself "just a painter," her natural talents keep her in demand as an interior decorator, as well. The Keims frequently bring prospective clients to their home to view decorative finishes in a real-world setting. Here's the tour their guests enjoy:

Living Room

A sophisticated but simple fireplace makeover and comfy, colorful furnishings make the living room equally suited to family lounging and grown-up entertaining. The Keims painted and glazed the living room walls in a strié pattern. Beth used a China hair-bristle brush to apply the glaze. "It's important to use a high-quality brush so you don't end up with breaks and funny lines," she notes.

note it

"The first thing a home buyer should do is check for beat-up wood floors and popcorn ceilings. If they're there, fix them fast!" Beth Keim says.

"Once you've moved in, getting everything out of the way to tackle them becomes a huge deal, and you may never do it."



Homemade Hearth

When Beth and Keith Keim bought their home, the fireplace was an eyesore slathered with black tile. Keith ripped off the tiles and devised a hearth surround that gives the fireplace a sophisticated tone. Wooden picture-frame molding mimics the look of recessed panels. Caramel and white paint adds contrast and depth to the simple, yet effective, treatment. For decoration, Keith cut hourglass-shape onlays from wood with a jigsaw.

To make the fireplace operable, Keith had a local fireplace supplier install gasless logs. The safety logs, which use a pilot light, are essential when a fireplace doesn't vent to the outside.



LEFT: A black stairway and white newel next to warm caramel walls give visitors their first glimpse of the home's colorful character.

BELOW: Broad stripes created with dark walnut stain and a high-gloss finish accent the wood floor. A black border and red blocks typify the geometric motifs that provide design continuity in the home.

Entry Foyer

Knowing the value of a great first impression, Keith and Beth wanted their foyer to be memorable. They achieved this with an unusual floor design. First, they created wide horizontal stripes on the floor by staining sections of the existing pine. Beth painted a black border around the foyer's perimeter to help separate the area from adjacent rooms. She then painted red blocks for decorative flair.

Dining Room

Beth considered the Keims' black-and-white wedding china when choosing colors for the dining room. Keith constructed wainscoting, then painted the walls above it charcoal gray. Caramel tones come from a pine sideboard and table and a seagrass rug. Keeping future dinner parties in mind, Beth purchased coordinating armchairs and side chairs for the dining room and kitchen. "Who wants to drag out mismatched chairs for company?" she says.



do it: striped floor

Here's how to get a similar look for your wood floor:

1. Sand the floor to remove the old finish. Remove dust by vacuuming the surface and wiping it down with a tack cloth.
2. Measure the length of the area. Divide that measurement by the desired number of stripes to determine the width of each stripe. For example, if your floor is 160 inches long, and you want eight stripes, each stripe will be 20 inches wide.

3. Use a metal tape measure and a long, metal straightedge to mark the stripes with a pencil.
4. With the straightedge and a utility knife, score along the dividing lines. This creates a narrow channel that will prevent the dark stain from bleeding into the other stripes. (Do not use tape to mask off the stripes—stain seeps under it.)
5. Use a wide China hair-bristle brush to sparingly apply the dark stain.

6. After the stain dries, use a T-square and a pencil to mark the block motifs. Fill in the outlines with an oil-base paint.
7. Decide how wide a band you would like around the perimeter of your entry. Measure and mark the area with a pencil, then use black oil-base paint to fill in the band. Allow to dry overnight.
8. Seal the floor with a glossy polyurethane varnish, using an applicator made for large areas.

Wood wainscoting, crafted by Keith and painted bright white, accents the lower 5 feet of the dining room walls and emphasizes the furnishings.







LEFT: A dresser, modified with a large wood top, creates an island with space for two barstools. Keith installed 3x3-inch ceramic tiles in earth tones to create a backsplash that complements the pale marble countertop.

BELOW: A farm-style table and black chairs create casual, eat-in comfort.



Kitchen

In the kitchen, Keith ripped out the old linoleum flooring and replaced it with 12x12-inch gray slate tiles. After installation, he sealed the tiles with a high-gloss spar varnish to make cleaning easier. Dark gray paint gave new character to the existing cabinets. Beth loved the color so much the Keirns used it on every interior door in the house. "The deep tone gives the doors weight," she says.

A vintage hutch that Beth found at a flea market provided additional storage. She painted it red and distressed it. "I like to mix finishes in a kitchen," Beth says. "It draws attention to your featured items so much better than when everything matches."

Master Bedroom

The serene master bedroom departs from the bold, high-contrast palette in the rest of the house. "With our hectic life, Keith and I realized we really wanted a soothing, grown-up bedroom," Beth says. She found luscious silk fabrics at a nearby discount fabric store. An upholsterer made the headboard and turned a flea-market chair into a leather-clad beauty.

Bath

Because both family and guests use the upstairs bathroom, Beth thought extra whimsy was in order. She painted the walls bright red with wide, irregular orange stripes. Keith retiled the shower, scattering orange and red tiles in a field of white. The octagonal, white floor tile is original. A funky chicken lamp, cheerful accessories, and colorful artwork help make the bath one of the family's favorite rooms.

Keith and Beth are deeply satisfied with their house and have no need to create another extensive project list. But they're still up to their elbows in paint and stain, giving clients the same blend of spirited design and attention to detail that makes the Keim home a showplace. ■

FOR RESOURCES, SEE PAGE 98.



ABOVE: A white shelf unit coordinates with the beaded board below and provides the perfect place for extra towels and pieces from Beth's collections.

TOP: A vintage pine chest, converted to hold a sink bowl and plumbing, makes the vanity a focal point.

LEFT: The calm tone-on-tone colors and rich fabrics of the master bedroom create a peaceful retreat.

Keith replaced dated shower tiles with eye-popping red, orange, and white ones. Red paint with chunky, orange stripes on the walls enlivens the small space.



