

## The Home Designer Wrap It Up

By Brandon Neff



A chevron patterned rug adds happy energy to this 'tween' basement hangout.

Photos courtesy Brandon Neff Design

As we come to the end of yet another year, I thought it would be fun to reflect on the past 12 months and highlight some of the best of what's happened in the design world – so many trends, so many near misses, and a few noteworthy standouts that I think will endure.

Like many designers, I'm always fascinated by innovations in new materials, new silhouettes that seem to show up in every shelter magazine simultaneously and breakout products that shape how we live in our homes. As I'm not influenced much by the "latest" looks, I often look at my own portfolio of work to see if what I imagined for my clients happened to reflect any of the "hot list" ideas that seem to flood the design scene like fashion "must haves" clamoring for attention every season.

I always try to present fresh ideas for my clientele that are grounded in a classic foundation – good design should last a while. Spend a day with me and you'd see the limitless fabrics, furniture and decorative choices available to the trade burgeoning from my vendors from here to Los Angeles. My job is to help filter the ever expanding merchandise and steer clients toward achieving the look they want while building rooms that are both livable and unique.

True to the ever changing tastes of consumers, 2013 marked the official transition from Tangerine Tango to Spring Green as the color of the moment, and soon we'll be ushering in a new hue to grace everything from fabrics to accessories to cars and even toilet paper. Get ready!

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