

Charlotte

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A MODERN TRANSFORMATION

BY BETH CONANT-KEIM

MOST OLDER BUILDS THAT I COME ACROSS HAVE A FAMILY ROOM FIREPLACE WITH A MANTLE AND FLANKING BUILT-IN SHELVES.

That's not necessarily a bad thing, just a common thing. If you, like this client, prefer clean lines and a more modern aesthetic and want something a little different, consider removing the mantle and shelves and starting over with a blank slate. It's not as scary as you think!

In this home, we replaced the original wood mantle with a modern custom option and applied a subtle stucco finish on the fireplace wall. We took out the built-in bookcases on either side and replaced them with sized-to-fit freestanding cabinets featuring curved sides and brass detail.

The back wall was painted charcoal, which gives the room more depth, especially when paired with light furniture and pale walls. It's a very different and dramatic look. Four swivel chairs and a deep comfortable sofa were





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added to promote great conversation and relaxation. We incorporated touches of blue to coordinate with the kitchen and the foyer, both of which are visible from this space.

With the addition of a fun snakeskin-patterned wallcovering in shades of bold blue, the adjoining breakfast area really pops. The blinds combined with the long custom banquette covered in geometric fabric add yet another layer of pattern. Always

consider incorporating a banquette—they save space and are an ideal and cozy place to have a quick meal and do a little laptop work.

Our goal for this project was to create an overall neutral wallspace mixed with pops of drama here and there. Unique pieces add to the complete visual aesthetic and provide interesting conversation starters.

Goal achieved. ♦