

CHARLOTTE URBAN

# HOME

FALL 2009

Designs | Lifestyles | Investments | Improvements

## ONE WITH NATURE

Mid-Century Style

## Purple REIGN

## Decorating AU NATURAL

Jim Schmid Photography

# Transforming Old World Into URBAN CHIC



**Elif Gros walked into** Front Door Fabrics in Charlotte recently expecting to find fabrics to re-upholster her dining room chairs. To her surprise, she walked out with a new interior design team and a plan to transform her décor from Old World Italian to uptown urban chic.

“I just needed a few fabrics to update my antique furniture,” says Elif. “But when I met Karen Wagener and the other designers there, I knew they were the right people to help me decorate my new uptown condo.”

More a design center than a traditional fabric store, Front Door Fabrics is celebrating its second year in business. Its owners, the “Material Girls”, are veterans in the design industry. Karen Dixon, Karen Wagener and Sandy Fulginiti are known for their ability to transform interiors through a variety of home decorating resources.

“We are a unique place to shop because we offer so many options in fabrics, wallpapers, trims, accessories, even furniture,” says Sandy Fulginiti. “There is an atmosphere of creativity here, as we help customers pull their rooms together, offering new ideas and custom solutions for their homes.”



For Elif, who was preparing to move into a new condo uptown, finding the ladies was a timely discover. She wanted to take her handmade Italian antiques (a china cabinet and a dining room table and chairs) with her. At the same time, she was ready to leave her Old World style, with its greens and neutrals, behind.

The designers began helping Elif select fabrics, paint colors and furniture from their store. A light pearlized gray was chosen for the living room walls. The hall was painted a dark taupe gray with a lacquered finish. Window treatments in iridescent blue silk accented the condo’s curved windows. Two pearl white leather chairs with wood frames were chosen from the furniture selection at Front Door Fabrics to highlight Elif’s sofa, which was recovered in dark blue velvet.

“What it really comes down to is the ladies understanding my vision,” says Elif. “I had the best experience and they exceeded all my expectations.”❖

Front Door Fabrics is located at 9517 Monroe Road, Suite D in Charlotte. Call them at 704-844-6330 or visit them online at [frontdoorfabrics.com](http://frontdoorfabrics.com).