

**Our homes are** often our personal haven, our oasis from the stresses of the world, as well as a collection of our memories and our passions. Starr Miller has found a professional and personal niche combining her own passion for her family with her incredible talent as a designer into a career that touches the day to day space and goals of her clients. "I am excited to see things through my client's eyes. It is like in a book club, when a member reads the same book and sees it from a completely different point of view. I like that. I am inspired by learning how the client views their surroundings and I like to work with them to help them realize their goals and dreams relating to their personal and professional workspace," said Starr.

And while Starr is fresh from designing rooms for multiple episodes of HGTV's "Save My Bath," her company, Starr Miller Interior Design, is now offering design expertise to clients throughout the Lake Norman area. Starr was chosen for the HGTV show through an extensive selection process that included interviews and the submission of outstanding original design concepts. From preliminary concepts to knocking out walls and selecting final fixtures and accessories, Starr brought new life into ordinary spaces.

"Planning spaces that truly change, for the better, how the homeowners live each day is such a rewarding experience," says Starr. "It's not an overnight process like you see on the HGTV shows. Those shows can take six to nine months of planning, specifying and building. But it is worth it if it improves the client's life!"

Starr, who grew up in Atlanta, got her start in the design business by attending the prestigious Parson's School of Design in New York City where she had the opportunity to study under world-renowned designers, architects and artists. She missed living in the South, though, and fell in love with the folks of the Lake Norman area while searching for a southern home: "The people of the community here surpassed all expectations of friendliness and hospitality!"

## **Starr's motto? "Family first. After that laugh, smile, surprise and create. Anything else is just clutter!"**


Starr's professional philosophy is based on a collaborative process with her clients. She feels that it is critical for her as a designer to listen attentively and help clients set realistic expectations. "If I ask the correct questions and listen carefully to my clients' responses they will tell me who they are or what they want to say about their business through their surroundings," Starr explained.

For Starr the most rewarding part of her career is when she brings a design plan to a client and they say, "That's me! You captured my style exactly!"

Starr enjoys using design to simplify life. "I am not fond of the word 'decorate.' I find it to be very limiting, since it only refers to accessorizing the surface. My job is to first insure that the space plan is correct for how the client wishes to use it. The rooms must be fresh and timeless, allowing the client to rejuvenate their own creativity and desire."

Starr believes that space planning is key. She explains, "Don't think you need to move because you have small rooms or the closet or bath is too small. Walls can be moved! If you really need a different space, but you love the rest of your home, we can accomplish that together." Starr takes great satisfaction in finding perfect options for clients' spaces, reveling in the hugs she receives when they're happy with her work.

The hugs that Starr cherishes the most, though, are those from her husband of 25 years: "Because of my husband, I am constantly challenging myself to take the biggest leaps! He is the most supportive man on earth," she said. "Each day he helps keep my head on straight by reinforcing my life motto—family first. After that laugh, smile, surprise and create. Anything else is just clutter!"

And Starr does a great job of keeping that clutter to a minimum. Just take a look at her idea of an ideal day: no alarm clock wake up, lunch with friends, an afternoon movie, all culminating with a glass of wine in front of the fire with her love. "That's perfection," she says. Indeed! 

# Capturing Style

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