

Priceless

June 2009

LAKE NORMAN

Woman

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF WOMEN

Recipe Of Success

STACEY SIMMS

CO-HOST OF CHARLOTTE'S MORNING
NEWS ON WBT RADIO



Summer Guests Are Coming!

ARE YOU READY?

By: Starr Miller

My father, ol' salt that he is, will never visit anyone for more than three days at a time. He is a firm believer in the expression "Fish and guests get old after three days." However, when he does come for a visit I always want him to feel welcome, comfortable and very special, because he is!

One thing I learned from him was how to make a guest feel as if they just checked into a luxury hotel such as a Ritz-Carlton or Four Seasons. You can never visit him without finding every comfort and luxury available and he always insists everyone stays longer than his own three-day rule.

As summer gets underway you can take the concepts of the ultra luxurious resort hotels and put your own spin and budget on them to make a wonderful guest experience. Whether you have a guest room or a guest house for your family and friends there are some very

simple design techniques you can use to create a warm and inviting guest space.

First, set the tone of the room. The design of your home and the surrounding environment will help you in selecting your color palate. If your home is in the woods, mountains or in a golf course community you will probably want to have a warm, soft color palate. If your home is on a lake or beach, you may go the other direction with light and bright colors.

The furniture should be comfortable and meet several basic needs. In a single guest room you really only need a writing desk (Internet connection is a real plus) and desk chair along with an additional comfortable reading chair. Don't forget a nice quality television with operating directions and station guide. And the bed and bedding accessories are key! A high-quality bed makes for a well-rested guest. This is where

your guests will be spending most of their private time, so make sure they are treated to a wonderful experience. The headboard should be appropriate for someone who might read in bed. High thread count sheets and pillow cases are a luxury that any guest will appreciate. An assortment of pillows ranging from soft to firm and synthetic to goose down will accommodate all individual preferences.

Don't forget the extras! Take the room from "guest room" to "luxury suite" by experiencing it yourself. Spend a night in the room and see if you have everything you need. There are many small extras you can include in the room to create that special feel.

INCLUDE TYPICAL LUXURY HOTEL ITEMS SUCH AS:

- A BIG/SOFT ROBE
- SLIPPERS / FLIP FLOPS
- SUITCASE RACK
- LAUNDRY BASKET
- FULL COMPLEMENT OF TOILETRIES
- HAIR DRYER
- SMALL MICROWAVE AND/OR COFFEE MAKER
- BASKET OF SMALL SNACKS/FRUIT/NUTS

Go to www.starrmiller.com/blog for a complete checklist that I use in my own home when preparing for guests.

You can recreate those experiences for your guests so they feel special and your space looks stunning! 🛏



Starr Miller Interior Design, Inc. has been featured on HGTV's show "Save My Bath." Starr may be reached at 704-896-3321 or through her website at www.starrmiller.com.

