

LAKE NORMAN

CURRENTS

Cici Jansen might just be the next Taylor Swift

Gummy bear implants...for real

Five ways to make life easier

LNHBA's Best of the Lake Design Winners

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

Ready, get set,
2010 is here!

VOL. 3 NUMBER 1
JANUARY 2010
WWW.LNCURRENTS.COM

NEW ONCE AGAIN

Starr Miller brought new life to a dated NorthStone home



After

When Deanna and Doug Lindquist built their home in Huntersville's NorthStone development in 1998, it seemed like the perfect place to start their life together and raise a family. But after 11 years the house began to feel dated and stale to Deanna, and she felt it didn't reflect her family, which now includes 8-year-old daughter, Emma.

To liven up the space and give it a new

look, Deanna enlisted the services of interior designer Starr Miller. Together they worked on a renovation, which they wrapped up this summer. "It feels like a new house," says Deanna. "It's much more organized and comfortable and better suited to who we are."

WORKING TOGETHER

Miller is the president and principal designer at Starr Miller Interior Design, Inc.,

a boutique interior design studio that caters to residential and small businesses in Lake Norman.

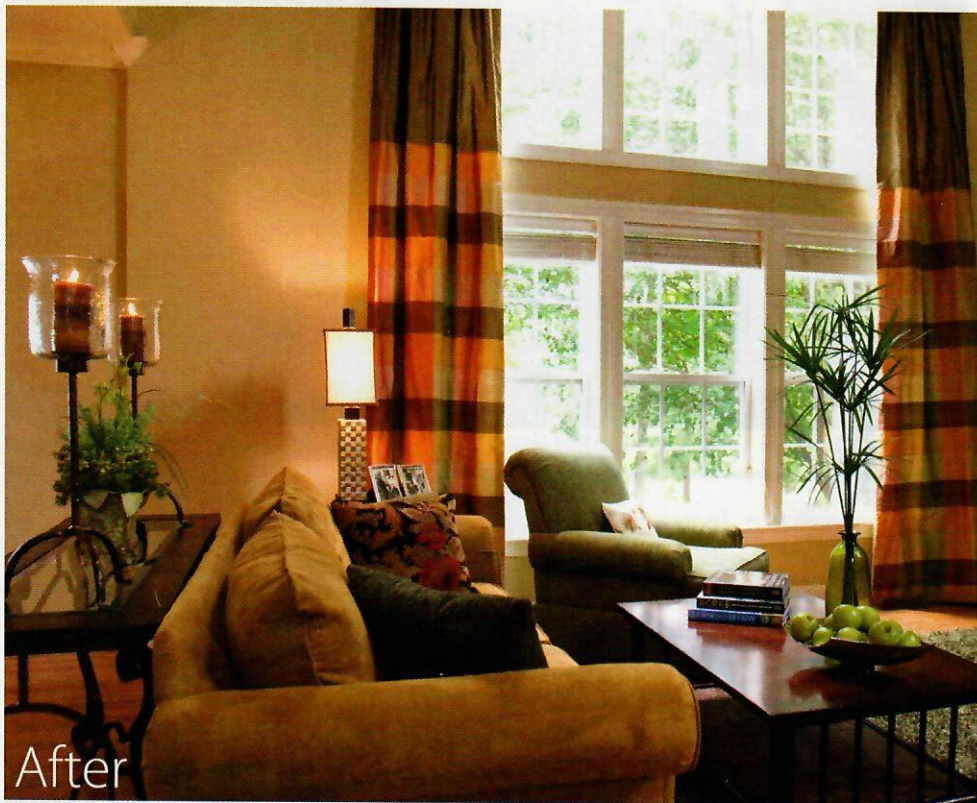
Miller expressed a flair for interior design from a young age, dating back to the seventh grade when her mother let her decorate her own room. When she decided to pursue her passion as a career, she moved from Florida to Manhattan, where she studied at the renowned Parsons School of Design. Over the years Miller has designed multiple projects for HGTV's *Save My Bath*, plus residential projects in Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, California and throughout North Carolina.

"My job is to make the homeowner's home theirs. While it's a definite collaboration, I still have to drive the process," says Starr Miller.



Before

The Lindquist's dining area got an effective makeover, which included replacing the dated wallpaper with a Kravet grasscloth and adding a new chandelier as well as replacing the heavy, burgundy drapes with sheer embroidered new ones.



After



Before

Hardwood floors replaced stale-looking carpet in the family room. A new coffee table, chair and rug, along with accent pillows, helped to better tie the room together, as well as give the area an updated yet comfortable feel.

A UNIQUE VISION

First up, the kitchen was gutted, as the plain, bland white cabinets were torn out and replaced with a rich, antique cream variety. They also reconfigured the cabinet layout, varying the cabinet heights, and creating convenient nooks and crannies with under-counter lighting and outlets throughout.

The kitchen's dated looking linoleum tile floor was replaced with warm-looking hardwoods and area rugs. Other touches include new granite countertops, tile backsplash, modern pendant lighting and new appliances.

The adjoining family room also got hardwood floors, which replaced stale-looking carpet. A new coffee table, chair and rug, along with accent pillows, helped to better tie the room together, as well as give the area an updated yet comfortable feel. The dining area got a small but effective makeover as well, which included replacing the dated

As with many of her projects, Miller worked in a collaborative fashion with the Lindquists. "My job is to make the homeowner's home theirs. While it's a definite collaboration, I still have to drive the process," explains Miller. "I bring a small number of choices. If I bring everything that's available, it will put people over the edge."

Deanna indicated to Miller that their two-story, 2,650-square-foot house was too traditional and stuffy. She was especially bothered by the kitchen and adjoining family room, where they spent most of their time. "She was almost itching to get out of there," Miller recalls. "But she decided to try to make it more youthful and modern, yet still warm and homey."

Five Things to Consider when Renovating

Starr Miller breaks it down

1. Customization

To determine how much to customize to your own personal tastes depends on how long you plan to stay in the home.

Plan to move within three years — I suggest keeping the "over the top" custom features to a minimum. While that customized floral backsplash may just be perfect for you, potential buyers may not feel the same.

Plan to move within three to five years — I suggest indulging in one or two features that will make your home just what you want.

Plan to stay for at least seven to 10 years — I suggest doing what you want as long as it is not destructive to the view or general sensibilities of good design. Paint can be changed.

Aging in place — With many baby boomers deciding to stay in their homes long into their twilight years, have you considered items such as elevators, accessible baths, comfort height toilets and other things that will make your home comfortable for years to come?

2. Space Planning and Electrical Elements

Make sure that you have spaced out the furniture to size in the blueprints prior to the electrical planning. Just because it is in the middle of the room does not mean that that is where you will want to place the chandelier. You do not want to change the electrical after you have painted and finished a room and find out it doesn't work with the furnishings and planned use of the space. Do you need floor outlets? The early planning stages and construction documents must include a complete understanding of the use and design of the finished spaces.

3. Lighting

Understand what types of light bulbs you are going to use prior to choosing fabrics. Each type of light bulb enhances color in its own unique way.

4. Sustainability and Energy Efficiencies

The more you know, the more you can save money in the future. Plan for recycling in your home, maximize natural lighting. Those two-story great rooms are not always easy to heat or air condition, and the echo will take some great rugs and draperies to tame.

5. Investment

Any renovation is an investment in your home. Do not invest more into your home than your neighborhood can bear. You never want to be the highest-priced home in the comps.

wallpaper with a Kravet grasscloth, and adding a new chandelier, as well as replacing the heavy, burgundy drapes with sheer embroidered new ones.

According to Deanna, the three-month

The kitchen was gutted, as the plain, bland white cabinets were torn out and replaced with a rich, antique cream variety. The cabinet layout was also reconfigured, varying the cabinet heights, and creating convenient nooks and crannies with under-counter lighting and outlets throughout.




"I bring a small number of choices. If I bring everything that's available, it will put people over the edge," says Miller.


renovation, which they finished in August, came off without a hitch, thanks in large part to Miller's cooperative style. "I've used designers in the past that, when they finished, it ended up reflecting their style and not mine," Deanna says. "With Starr, it was great to have someone take my ideas and create a unique vision and look that matched exactly what I wanted." □

Sam Boykin is an award-winning journalist and free-lance writer in Mooresville. He also has written for *Scientific American*, *Entrepreneur*, *US Airways*, *Consumer's Digest*, *Our State*, *Business North Carolina* and *Charlotte Business Journal*. When he's not writing Boykin is often embarrassing himself on the tennis courts or working on his 107-year-old house.







of LAKE NORMAN




**Come see Harris FloteBote and Sea Ray
at the Mid-Atlantic Boat Show
February 11th to 14th**

grand mariner

Pontoon Perfection. To change the rules of the game, you first have to master them. Harris FloteBote has been a leader in the pontoon industry for more than 50 years, and has put those years to use in honing its boat designs to create the best pontoons on the water. The pursuit of perfection is hard work, but it's much more fun when you're always in the lead.



**WESTMORELAND RD.
CORNELIUS, NC
704-892-9676**

