

PRICELESS

JANUARY 2011

LAKE NORMAN

Woman

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF WOMEN

WAITING ROOM

LKN's
2011

WEDDING GUIDE!

a marvelous
MAKEOVER
{ ENTER TO WIN! }

**fresh starts!*

LIVE *to* LEARN

AN LKN WOMAN'S SECRET TO SUCCESS

DR. ALISA NANCE - NANCE FAMILY MEDICINE

splish-splash renovations



SHOULD I HIRE AN INTERIOR DESIGNER?

A design professional has been trained on space planning and integrating the practical needs with the aesthetic needs of the space. A poor plan or a plan-as-you-go with the contractor will end up with changes and more money. The result of changes can be:

- Time delays obtaining additional materials.
- Too much or too little materials being purchased.
- Materials not matching due to different die-lots.
- Doors not clearing toilets or vanities due to overcrowding.
- Higher costs due to time over runs and poor planning on materials.

WHEN WORKING WITH A CONTRACTOR:

Have complete construction documents drawn up and look at every scenario of the space. You will then get the best and lowest estimates, as there is no ambiguity in the plan. If ambiguity exists, the contractor must put contingencies in the quote to insure the project costs ultimately come in as promised.



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DO'S & DON'TS OF BATHROOM RENOVATION

do:

- Keep the bathtub. It does not have to be a Jacuzzi foot print, but it does need to stay in some format for your home value.
- Splurge on upgrading your shower. Re-tile and add a frameless glass shower surround to your shower area. This will make your home both beautiful and current.
- To save money, keep the plumbing items in the same spots. However, if the flow really doesn't work before the renovation, make the investment to change the arrangement. There's nothing worse than spending the money and doing the work and ending up with the same bad plan.
- Place artwork over your garden tub.
- Take out that huge mirror and replace it with personal framed mirrors for a more elegant and warm look.
- Replace your current toilet with a comfort-height, elongated bowl, low-flow model. Round bowls are out of style and uncomfortable.
- Replace the old vanity lights. There are many choices today and the traditional lighting is boring.
- Put in dimmers on all lighting switches. This allows you to adjust the lighting to the time of day and the amount of glare you are willing to deal with as you start your day.
- Raise your counters to counter height, not vanity height. Not only is this more comfortable for most adults, but it allows for more storage in the cabinetry.
- Replace the countertop with a beautiful granite, marble, quartz, glass or other solid surface material. Laminates will not last over the years or add value to your home. Also make the corners rounded for your own safety.
- Ventilate adequately. Bath fans should supply at least 1 cubic foot per minute (cfm) of air for every square foot of space. While one 50-cfm fan should be adequate for a bathroom 50 square feet or less, two fans—one for the shower area, one near the toilet—are better for spaces larger than 100 square feet. (*Consumer Reports*)

don't:

- Install a vessel sink in a high traffic bathroom. Often perfect for a powder room, they are hard to clean around and tend to be clumsy in a master bath.
- Go to your local do-it-yourself warehouse and pick out floor tile. Ask a professional. Different tiles are appropriate for different applications. For instance, the floor of a bathroom needs to be slip resistant.
- Buy a 10x magnification mirror if you value your self esteem (personal recommendation.)
- Stick to bathroom-only rugs. If you have enough space, put in a lovely throw rug.



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