

PRICELESS

MAY 2011

# LAKE NORMAN Woman

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF WOMEN

ON THE *wings*  
OF A  
*dove*

BRENDA DEAL, DOVE HOUSE  
CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

WOMAN *to* WATCH!

LKN *u* RECOGNIZES  
AN AREA TRAIL BLAZER

try our lake norman park  
*workout!*

CELEBRATING  
*friendship*

# LIVING IN color

I HAVE BEEN INTRIGUED  
AND DELIGHTED IN  
MY FIELD TO LISTEN TO  
CLIENTS AS THEY TELL  
ME WHAT COLORS THEY  
LOVE IN THEIR HOME  
AND WHICH COLORS  
THEY LOVE ONLY IN  
SOMEONE ELSE'S  
HOME!

Just the other day I had a fabulous client in a showroom at Market that moved from cool blues in one room to orange and grey in the next. When we entered the orange and grey room, she had an immediate reaction. She was uncomfortable and wanted to move out of the room as soon as possible. I have another client who cannot stand to be in a yellow room and yet another who wants every room to be yellow.

Not only is it the color, but sometimes it is the value of the color. A person may love all colors in their purest form, but when you add grey or "heather" to the color they become bored and tired. This client is inspired by the clear vibrancy of color in its truest form. Others, such as my favorite mathematician client, want a calm, cool environment. To tone down color we add white to lighten toward a pastel or add a touch of grey or heather to mute the color.

Color has power. Not only does the eye see the hue, the body feels it. When you were a child faced with your first box of Crayola® crayons, which one was your favorite go-to color? The one that wore down the fastest? Do you like that color still today? You may not want it everywhere, but would a touch of it calm you and take you back to that simple time?

It is important as a designer not only to look at the space plan and how the family lives, but to understand how the individual responds to color and patterns. As designers we are taught in school about color wheels and color combinations, but it is the subtlety in color changes that often makes the difference. As a fun test, go to Google and look up "FM100 Hue Test by X-Rite." This test demonstrates the small changes in color that can make a difference. Test your color acuity!

Color is not only a result of your eye's acuity in perceiving it, it is also a result of the light in the space. If your room faces north, then the light you are getting is cool. You may want to warm the room with red, yellow, and/or orange. If your room faces south, then the room is lit with warmth and you may want the coolness of blue to balance the warmth.

These are only a few of the ways designers think of color. Just remember that color is personal. Never let anyone force you into a color that makes you feel uncomfortable! 🎨



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