

PRICELESS

SEPTEMBER 2011

LAKE NORMAN

Woman

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF WOMEN

LEARN TO LET GO
& delegate!

de-stress
AT WORK



SHE
means

BUSINESS

NO PAIN and NO GAIN:

A *new* FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

HOME
sweet
home



It is extremely important to understand the feeling that a client needs in their home. *What is your inspiration?*

➔ **COLLECTIONS:** What you collect tells me what you value. Is it something from your heritage? Do you collect antiques, and do you love the stories that come with them? I had a client who had many photographs of a storied career of racing. We decided to use a long hallway to make a gallery of these photographs. The key ingredient was to know the story as it would be told. If the photo collage did not read correctly then the driver would not be able to tell the story as it happened. If you collect depression glass, then we must find the best way to highlight it and capture its beauty while not making every surface run over with depression glass.

➔ **LIFESTYLE:** Are you well traveled? Have you seen the best in hotels and accommodations around the globe? A great way to read this into someone's home is through fabrics. Does a fabric take you to a place and time? Does the design of the room remind you of a favorite hotel? Does a molding or ceiling finish hint at European sophistication? You can envelop someone in their passions without hanging up travel posters!



Starr Miller is the president and principal designer at StarrMiller Interior Design, Inc. Contact her at 704.896.3321 or visit www.starrmiller.com.

➔ **COLOR:** Clients tend to be drawn to clear colors or muted (heathered) shades. This is key. A client who states that they only design in pinks and blues could want vibrancy or soft, muted colors. If the client wants vibrant colors, they will be sad when you arrive with a concepts that is subdued. If they wanted subdued, they will be agitated with bright colors. I had one client who was a bit high-strung.

➔ **ARTWORK:** Asking questions about someone's artwork allows me to understand if they have collected it because they loved it, or picked it up to fill a space. If they have collected vibrant abstract folk art and their home does not reflect the same playfulness, it leads me to either let the art live as the pop of vibrancy against a sleek muted pallet or find out if the client wants to live playfully. Both can be beautiful, but they are completely different lifestyles.

I N S P I R A T I O N

I think the most daunting part about design is where to start. It is the way I feel when I sit down to write one of these articles. The "Big Bad Blank Page." *What is my inspiration?*

➔ The design inspiration for a client's home does not come from within me. It comes from the client. It is my job to find it. Clients will sometimes ask about my personal style; or frankly, my personal style has little to do with how I would design for you. Okay that's not completely true. I am going to start from a place of classic design skills taking note of light, pathways and architecture. I am not going to clutter your space with a lot of knick-knacks. But that is where it ends. I am going to walk through your home noticing your collections, the way you put colors together, your artwork, what you read and listen to, and your comments as you describe how you live and how you want to live. All of these are clues to your design puzzle.

