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**IF YOU LOOK ONLINE FOR A SIMPLE DEFINITION OF THE WORD "HOME,"** you will find a plethora of meanings. For example: "A place where one lives; a residence. The physical structure within which one lives, such as a house or apartment. A dwelling place together with the family or social unit that occupies it; a household."

Or "An environment offering security and happiness. A valued place regarded as a refuge or place of origin."

# family FIRST.

## AFTER THAT, LAUGH, SMILE, SURPRISE AND CREATE ... ANYTHING ELSE IS JUST CLUTTER!"

Frankly, I prefer the latter group of descriptors. While "home" may have different interpretations, our homes reflect who we are; they are our sanctuaries! Whether a cabin in the woods or the mansion on the hill, how we choose to create our home environment is vital to our overall mental health ... our feeling of comfort and security.

Starr Miller, president and principal designer of StarrMiller Interior Design, Inc., says let your home shine! "We want to help our fabulous clients live more efficiently and comfortably in homes that reflect their values and aesthetics," Starr says. "Home is an important part of who we are ... I am inspired by learning how the clients view their surroundings, and I like to work with them to help them realize their goals and dreams relating to their personal living space (or workplace). When I see someone's eyes light up and they say, 'That's me! You captured my style exactly!' Well, there's just nothing better than that!"

Having grown up in Atlanta, Starr soon found herself heading north when she was accepted to the prestigious Parsons School of Design in New York City. Here she studied under world-renowned designers, architects, and artists. "It was wonderful getting my education in New York," Starr recalls, "and I will value it always; however, I was definitely ready to head back south to find a permanent home. I fell in love with the Lake Norman area; the people in the community surpassed all expectations of friendliness and hospitality, making it a great place to call home."

And home it is. Starr has blossomed here and is appreciative to many people for her success. "My father is a great inspiration to me," she says. "Through his pension and profit-sharing consulting firm, he taught

me to never be afraid, that the key to success is to show up, and that hard work pays off. He also knows how to celebrate success. He is just the best!

"As is my husband," Starr continues. "Because of my husband, I am constantly challenging myself to take the biggest leaps! He is the most supportive man on earth. Before we moved to the new space, my husband and I had dinner among swatches and architectural drawings every night. Often he would come home to people working in every room of our house; but he never complained once! Each day he helps keep my head on straight by reinforcing my life motto—family first. After that, laugh, smile, surprise and create ... anything else is just clutter!"

And "clutter" is not in Starr's vocabulary. With the arrival of 2012, everything is moving along swimmingly. She was just honored by the National Interior Design Society with two 2011 National DotY (Designer of the Year) awards. She won 1st place in the Family/Living Spaces division and 1st place in the Specialty Spaces division for a sunroom design. When the awards were announced in Las Vegas on January 28, 2012, the presenter said "the pictures belonged in *Traditional Home* or *Veranda* magazines."

Over the past two years, the team at StarrMiller has won four Lake Norman Home Builders Association's Best of the Lake 1st Place Awards, a Charlotte Home Builders Association Gold Award, a NARI of Charlotte CotY Team Award for renovations under \$100,000 and several North Mecklenburg Woman's Club, Over the Tabletop Awards for innovation in Tabletop Design. Starr also designed several episodes of "Save My Bath" on HGTV.

"I am truly blessed and so grateful for my life, my family and friends, my work. I want to help people enjoy their lives and families through assisting them with their living and work spaces. It is my passion to discover what my clients' values, goals, and dreams are and then help them to realize those in their surroundings."



#### WOMEN ON THE MOVE



STARR MILLER, president and principal designer of StarrMiller Interior Design, Inc., was just honored by the National Interior Design Society with two 2011 National Doty (Designer of the Year) awards. The first award was for 1st place in the Family/Living Spaces di-

vision and the other was for 1st place in the Specialty Spaces division for a sunroom design for a client.

After five successful years in Denver, **CELESTE DRISCOLL**, studio owner of Merle Norman Cosmetics, is pleased to announce the relocation of her store to 16835

Birkdale Commons Parkway in Huntersville's Birkdale Village.

#### MAURLEEN FINCHER, RN, BSN,

CWON has been named wound care nurse at Lake Norman Regional Medical Center. She will specialize in providing preventative care and treatment for patients with different types of wounds, including pressure sores, surgical incisions, wounds caused by injury or infection, and stomas.



SOPHIE PRATOLA, personal fitness trainer and owner of Personally Trained By Sophie, has relocated her studio to 127 C-1 Promenade Drive in Mooresville to accommodate her growing clientele. In addition to personal, group training and boot camps, Sophie offers Mommy and Me training sessions, and children's birthday parties.



MARY MILLER has opened Charlotte
Shoe Co. located at 16836 Birkdale
Commons Parkway, Suite 65, in
Huntersville's Birkdale Village. The Charlotte
Shoe Co. cobblestones-to-cocktails shoe
styles are an affordable, comfortable and
versatile shoe for the everyday woman.
Grand opening Sat., March 3rd.

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