

LAKE NORMAN

Woman

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF WOMEN

*family*MEALS:

BETTER FOR CHILDREN,
EASIER FOR YOU!

END *the clutter:*

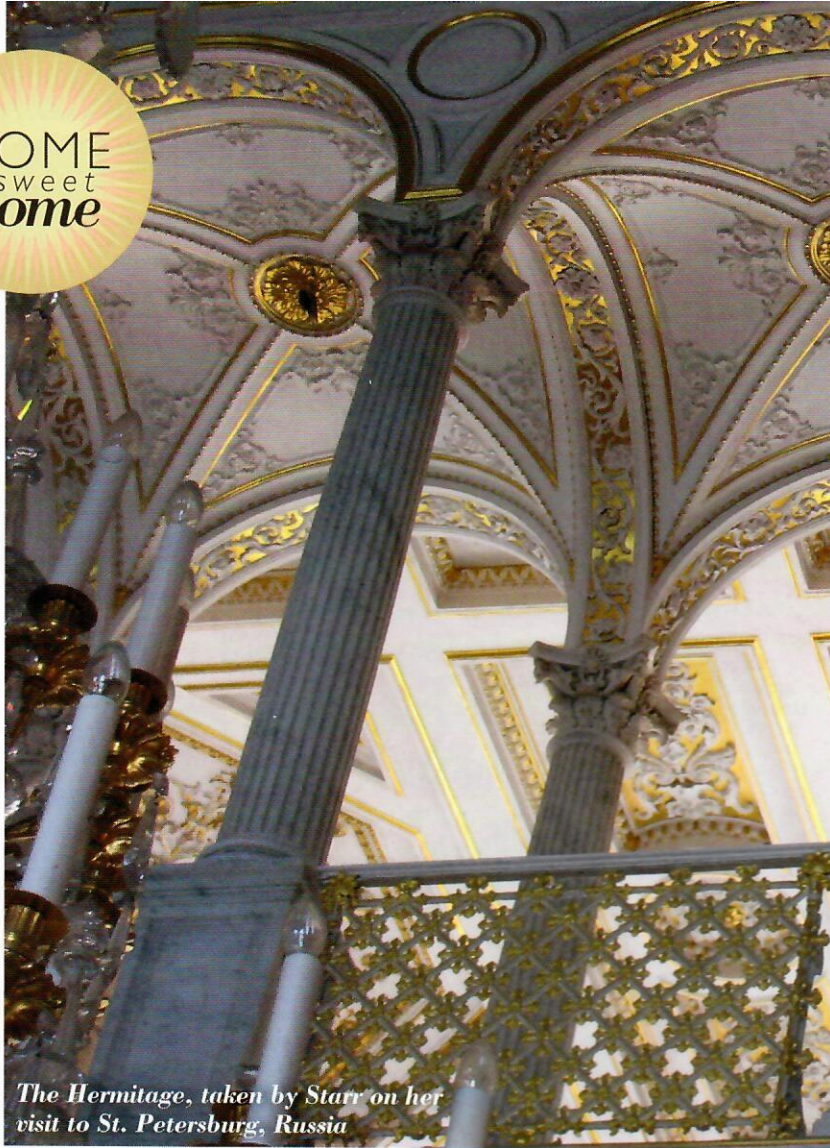
CREATE A FAMILY
LANDING ZONE

DON'T MISS :
THE 2012 LKN
women's
CONFERENCE
sept. 13th

**SARAH
WELDY**

*empowering
families &
strengthening
her own*

All
IN THE family



The Hermitage, taken by Starr on her visit to St. Petersburg, Russia

ARCHITECTURE: *the bones of a home*

These past few weeks I was fortunate to have the opportunity to go through some of the great palaces of Germany, Russia, and Sweden. I always take time on these trips to study the furnishings and artwork. However, on this trip many of those items had been removed in some of these beautiful estates. So what was it that made these rooms beautiful?

It was the architecture! In any great design, the framework and architecture of the rooms are the key to establishing a luxurious feel. Classic crown mouldings, heavy baseboards, beautiful coffered ceilings, window casements, and door casements can all add depth and interest to your room. If you have a strictly modern style, the lack of these items

sets the clean feel. However, considering the external architecture of most of the homes in our area, some enhanced details on the interior architecture would serve these homes well.

So now I ask you, what would your home look like with all of the furniture removed? I am certainly not saying that we all need to have the heavy gilded hand of a Russian tsar, though a light hand of design consideration is highly encouraged! 🏠



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ENHANCED DETAILS
on the interior architecture can do more than any piece of furniture or accessory.



The following are some of those details to think about:

THE FOUNDATION

So often we move into our homes and want pretty furnishings; but without a strong architectural foundation, these furnishings tend to look staged or a bit naked. As a designer, I am often asked how to achieve that "designer" look. It comes down to solid, well-planned architecture, lighting, and flooring. These can then be enhanced with carefully chosen furnishings, artwork, window treatments, and rugs. By adding the solid structure first, you not only increase your home's value, you allow your home to be a part of the overall feel, not just the shell.

TRANSITIONS

The one thing that is most often missed is a well-planned transition between materials or consideration of how materials connect from one to another. This is often found with flooring. You may choose to have different flooring finishes between rooms, but without consideration how these two come together the project just comes across as disjointed and poorly finished. I saw this firsthand recently in a commercial renovation in which a new flooring material was installed next to a well-worn flooring material with a piece of metal bridging the two. The bottom line is that if it doesn't match, it doesn't match. If the spaces are coming together, they should have a common element to bind the design.

CEILINGS

The ceiling is considered the fifth wall in design. Easy, though; it is not necessary to get busy painting your ceilings something other than white—sometimes white works. However, consideration of the ceiling is as important as consideration of the floor. It is as large and makes as big a statement