

lake norman

WOMAN

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF WOMEN

Just
DO
it!

featuring
KELLEY IRELAND
OF VILLAGE
REAL ESTATE

DELAYED, BUT
NOT DENIED!
An LKN Story
Of Perseverance

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WANT
TO CHANGE
YOUR *life*?
Three Things
That Can Make
It Happen

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WHAT TO DO
WHEN A
winter WINTER
CONVENTION
IS NEEDED

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“A man who is his own lawyer has a fool for a client.”

WRITER STARR MILLER

This can be said for designers as well. We can easily see through the maze of choices for our clients as we are trained to listen to them and draw out what makes them special and how that will manifest itself in their surroundings. The problem is, when we try and do it for ourselves, we hit the same roadblocks as our clients in dealing with the multitude of options and decisions. In the past few years, I have been called in to work for other designers on their own homes for just this reason. The possibilities are endless, and we love it ALL!

Now for the confession. My husband has been asking for two years that I renovate our master bath. I have been putting it off but as I get closer to taking the plunge and starting my own home project, I am compelled to share some helpful thoughts with you.

➔ How can a professional designer help?

A professional designer learns who you are, how you need to function, and based on in-depth inquiry can make wise and proper decisions for you. The next level is understanding your budget and the levers to pull to achieve the look you want while keeping the project within your boundaries. This is one reason designers ask up front what your budget will be for the project. If it is low, we want to make sure you understand that your plan will be a “do it yourself project” and paying for outside advice will not be the best use of your funds. If your budget is medium or high, the designer will know what materials and renovation options to suggest.

➔ How long will that master bath renovation take?

planning | Be prepared. The planning will take two to five months depending on the complexity and the number of changes. It is important at this stage for your design team to have every decision made prior to handing the plan to a contractor for their build budget. This is how the final numbers you receive are real numbers and not just guesstimates.

contractor budgeting | This part will take a minimum of two weeks and more likely three to four weeks. Different trades need to come to the project to understand the scope of their estimates. Scheduling busy trades is often difficult and then they will need time to work up their quotes.

renovation | With proper planning, construction begins with materials in hand. Construction will take a minimum of six weeks. Demolition, structural changes, plumbing, electrical, drywall, tilework, cabinetry, countertops, etc.—all these elements must work within the trades’ schedules. There is a scarcity of trades in the U.S. and they are in hot demand. Inspections in between each part of the renovation happen when the inspector can schedule it, so there may be days without someone on site.

➔ What am I going to do about my bath?

Luckily, I have a team of designers who work with me. Once I acknowledge that I need to get out of my own way (sometimes they must slap me), the process moves much faster and truly ends up better. Goal: *Just do it and get a new bathroom for 2019!* 🍷



LKNeexpert



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