

lake norman

# WOMAN

CELEBRATING THE BEST OF WOMEN



WHEN  
THE  
STARS  
ALIGN

WHAT ENERGY IS IN  
STORE FOR 2023?  
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featuring  
STACY SWEENEY  
OF BRAINWISE  
SOLUTIONS

KEEPING IT  
TIDY

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GREAT  
*expectations*





# OPPOSITES → attract ←

**THE "MEET CUTE"** idea for couples that are the exact opposites can be applied to design as well. Contrast is a very important tenet of the design process and leads to the most sophisticated of spaces.

If everything in a room is shiny, where do you look? If all elements are white, where do you look? Contrast in color, scale, proportion, and texture can determine where the eye lands first. The visible difference helps focus the eye and defines the hierarchy of a space. Contrast is also one of the key elements in adding drama to a space. Consider the following:



## ↔ COLOR

- Painting all the walls a dark color and then adding light, bright furnishings will help light up the room.
- Painting a high ceiling a dark color will bring the ceiling lower in the mind's eye.
- Having one element that is vastly different in color than the others in the room will immediately focus the eye on that element.
- When painting connecting rooms, use a lighter color for the first one and a darker for the other so your eye is drawn toward the vista ahead.

## ↔ PATTERN

- If every pattern in a room is the same size and they are all florals, you have a mess. However, if one pattern is a large floral, one is a solid, and one is a small/medium geometric, the difference in these helps bring importance and focus to the grouping.

## ↔ FURNITURE

- Variety adds interest, so mix wood frames with pure upholstery and skirted pieces with leggy pieces.
- A room needs a bit of history thrown in the mix, and a patina in a piece, an accessory, or a painting adds the perfect juxtaposition of character.

## ↔ WHITE SPACE

- Designers tend not to crowd every space with interesting elements. Now, I will point out that some are showing chaotic mixes in editorials that are quite interesting, but the question is would you want to live in them? Just like in fashion magazines, editorials are not always what we want for ourselves. Most designers allow for white space or uncluttered moments in a room for the eye to rest. If you flip through this magazine, you will see that the designer has arranged the layouts to allow you to not be overwhelmed with images and writing. She lets your eye rest here and there.

## ↔ TEXTURE

- A room full of velvets with a polished tile fireplace will add not only drama, but it will make you focus on the fireplace. This is why women wear sparkling gem-covered necklaces and earrings. The jewelry brings focus to the face.

→ I encourage you to consider contrast in your design. Just as a spend thrift needs to marry a saver, the light needs dark to make it stand out. How is this year going to contrast with last year? ←

## Starr Miller

Founder and Principal,  
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Our resident home-design expert, Starr Miller, has garnered local and national acclaim with more than 30 industry honors. An alumnus of the prestigious Parsons School of Design in New York, Starr has built a strong following as the principal of her sought-after design firm, located in Cornelius, NC.

She feels the composition of a space must originate with the client's unique perspective. Along with that perspective she brings together her team's collaboration, design skills and refined processes in a way which results in truly captivating homes for her clients.

StarrMiller Interior Design specializes in full-service interior design projects.

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