

lake norman

WOMAN

CELEBRATING THE OF WOMEN



featuring
Dr. Naomi Simon
& the Eterna
Aesthetics team

GRACE, GRATITUDE, & PIE:

A FAMILY'S SECRET TO COPING
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**THANKSGIVING
COCKTAILS**
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TOASTS
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**LEARNING
TO love THE
PAUSE**
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gratitude
WITH *attitude*



escape ROOM

OFTEN WHEN WE WANT TO GET AWAY from the world we hunker in at home and hide out for a few days. Boy have times changed! Now we are looking for our getaway within our getaway. Whether a place to escape to do work or homework, read a book, play an instrument or just happily watch a Real Housewives of NY without someone heckling your choice; we all need a place to call our own.

In recent years, the open floorplan has been all the rage. But more and more I am getting calls to discuss opportunities to enclose the dining room, build out the bonus room or close off the TV room. When everything, or in this case, everyone has their place you just feel better. No one wants to “camp out” at the dining room table. It feels like you are not settled, and anyone can run in during your zoom call.

Since this is November and one of the few times you are likely to use your dining room I am not going to suggest you blow it up right now. Setting up for an intimate, beautiful family Thanksgiving dinner may be just what the doctor ordered.

I am, however, going to suggest some ways to lighten the load and use your spaces differently.

THE DINING ROOM –

Consider adding French doors so when you do want to work on the Dining Room table, you can close off any distracting nearby chatter.

THE FORMAL LIVING

ROOM – Consider adding French Doors or if you are up for a renovation, pocket doors, to allow this room to become a quiet reading, music or TV room.

BONUS ROOM –

Consider adding room dividers to give yourself space for an office or a gym area.

THE GUEST ROOM –

Never has there been a better time to add a Murphy Bed. Why should all this space be kept intact for the two times a year you have guests. The guest room could make a great office, classroom, yoga room, craft room or ancillary den. Take your home back!

While contemplating these spaces I have been working through some other things to do around the house to shake off the doldrums:


PAINT! I cannot believe I am going to say this, but after an entire lifetime painting white walls a color, I am working on a plan to add some white walls back into my home. Why? I think it will just help me take a breath. I deal with color all day and I need some white space. You may need something else – blue, yellow, green. I do not suggest grey paint as it is now aging interiors (“oh, how so 2010”) and frankly who wants a grey day.

NEW DRAPERIES –

There is nothing like a beautiful panel of fabric to add some magic to a room. Never close up the room with too much fabric or too much stuff covering the windows, however, why not soften the space and frame the view?

LIGHTING – Brighten up your interior lighting. Keep the Kelvin between 2400 and 3000, but increase the Lumens (brightness). Those in Seattle know that brightening the light brightens the day.

PLAN – This is the time to plan your renovations for future months. If you don’t want to do your renovations when everyone is at home, now is the best time to begin planning for future months. Your prep now will pay off with a quicker renovation when you are ready.

My best suggestion is to love your home. Don’t wait until the next home, or someday. The time is now. Embrace this time at home as your opportunity to nest, but simultaneously plan your escape room. Sanity is important. 

Starr Miller
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Allied ASID, IDS, CAPS



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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