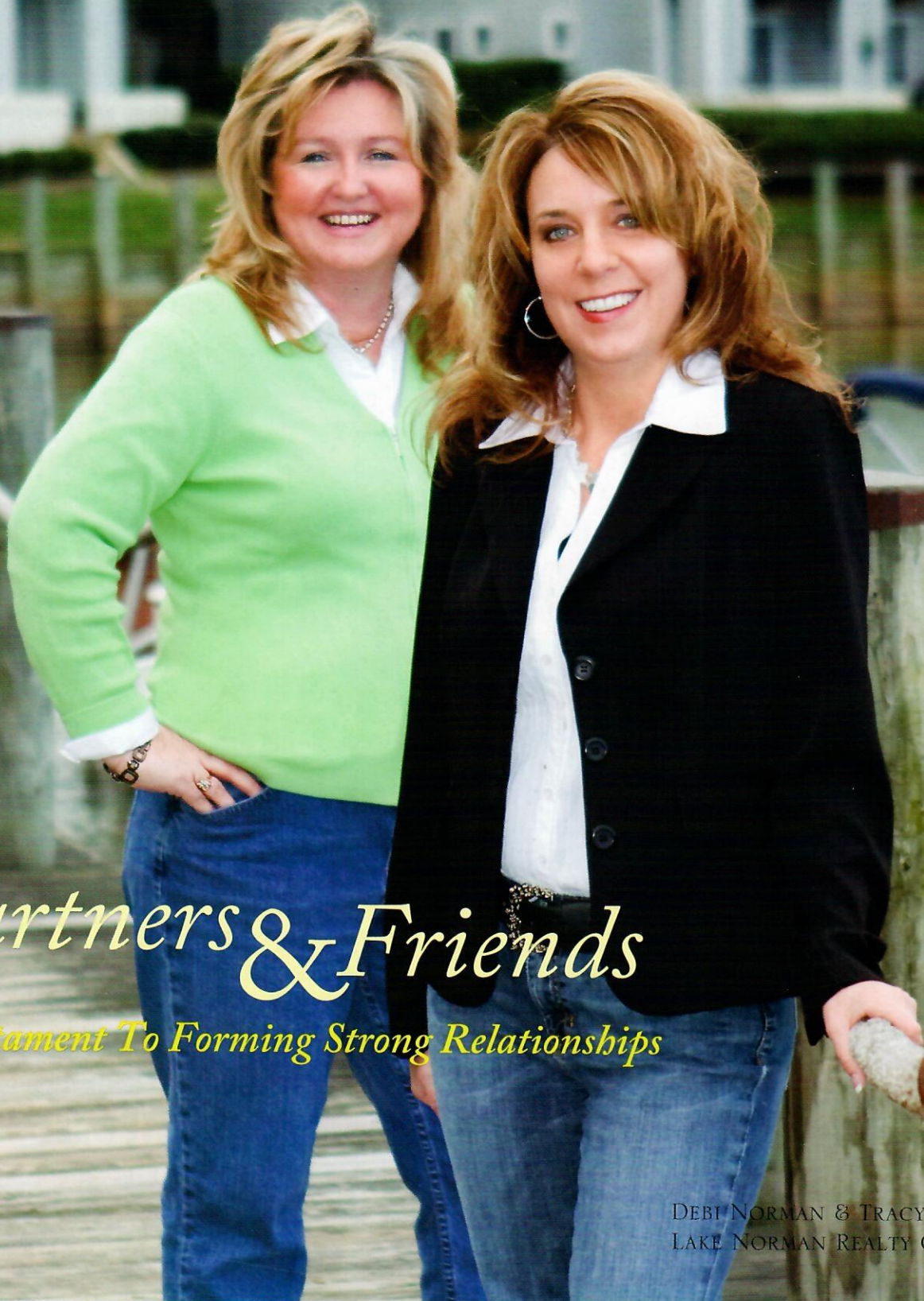


Priceless

February 2009

LAKE NORMAN Woman


CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF WOMEN



Partners & Friends

A Testament To Forming Strong Relationships

DEBI NORMAN & TRACY FRAZIER
LAKE NORMAN REALTY GROUP



Designed To Stay

By: Starr Miller

Remember the moment when you found your home? The anticipation of change for the better, hope for the future and making a beautiful nest for your family was exciting. Now, a few years have passed and your excitement has waned, you want more space, perhaps a better kitchen or a bigger bedroom. But, for a number of reasons, now is not the time for you to buy a new home.

Just as we make new year resolutions to lose weight, get back in shape, add excitement to our lives and spice up our relationships, we can also resolve to bring the passion back to our homes.

Here are some suggestions for bringing the excitement back into your home!

Paint, Paint, Paint!

Paint is the quickest, easiest and most economical way to freshen up your home. Color equals excitement! Color can transform a room to a different place and time. Walk away from plain white unless you chose it as a design choice and not for fear of getting the color wrong.

Look up!

Is that old brass chandelier in the breakfast nook still hanging there from when the house was built? Change the lighting. Freshen up the finishes, change the bulbs, add a dimmer or add levels of lighting. Lighting fixtures are very reasonably priced and can dramatically change the look and feel of a space.

Look down!


Floors take a beating each and every day and need to be rejuvenated every now and again. Floors are the design foundation of a room. Simply changing rugs or floor coverings can provide a new color base for fresh accessories. The great thing about flooring and rugs is the selection is so large that they can fit any budget.

Walls Can Be Moved!

Have you ever been in a 4,000-square-foot home that felt "small" or a 2,000-square-foot home that felt "big?" The difference is the floor plan, or layout, of the home. Amazing transformations can happen by simply eliminating, moving or erecting a few walls within a space. You can literally have a new interior without changing your mailing address! Don't be intimidated. Professional designers have the expertise necessary to make these changes.

The Mother Ship

For busy families, life revolves around the kitchen. The kitchen of 2009 is the family room of the '60s. Updating, renovating or completely changing your kitchen will change the look and feel of your entire home. Cabinetry, appliances, counter tops, lighting and color are all elements that can be mixed and matched to meet your desires.

Don't let the real estate market get you down in 2009. Celebrate your decision to stay in your current home and resolve to bring back the excitement, passion and exhilaration you experienced as a new home owner! 



Starr Miller is the principal designer of Starr

Miller Interior Design, Inc. Her expert eyes have been used to help make HGTV homes stunning! Starr can be contacted at 704.896.3321, and through her website at starrmiller.com.