

SEPTEMBER 2013 | PRICELESS

lake norman

# WOMAN

CELEBRAT

OF WOMEN

*including:*  
CLAUDIA KEPNER

*&*  
LKNW ADOPTION SPECIAL:  
"NOT WITHOUT MY DAUGHTER!"

## All in the family

families that  
**WORK** together

ADVICE FOR  
*stepparents*

TIPS FOR CONSIDERING  
*a family pet*



# Who Are You?

## Your Family Room Knows

A family room is the place where you may plop to watch TV, meet your planning committee for a fundraiser, enjoy a celebration, or just share a story at the end of the day.

To that end, it should be comfortable, inviting and above all, reflect your family's values and design aesthetic.

The other day, I had a client say they wanted their room to help guests get to know them as a family. This is the best way anyone can approach the design of a family room, the one space that defines your family as a whole. Really ask yourself what defines your family before you start redecorating your family room. **BY: STARR MILLER**



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THE PIECE	MAKE IT YOURS
<i>PATINA</i>	Add at least one item with a bit of vintage patina. One designer describes this as "a pleasing edge of decay," which will add a bit of provenance to the room.
<i>FOCAL POINT</i>	Avoid competing focal points in the room—and a television should never be the focal point. Consider the fireplace, a great built-in, or a fantastic view as the focal point.
<i>WINDOWS</i>	So many times I see over-designed, overwhelming draperies in homes. Windows frame a view and should be enhanced with a drapery for added appeal and structure, not become the focal point itself.
<i>PAINT</i>	Paint is a matter of taste, light source, and how you want the room to feel. To make a soft, soothing room, try a paint color with a touch of gray in it. For a sparkling room, use bright and cheery colors.
<i>FURNITURE</i>	No matchy-matchy! All furniture should have similar scale and be size-appropriate for the room; but never buy a suite or collection to fill a room. You don't live on a showroom floor but in a well-collected and designed home. Mix wood, metal, and full upholstery.
<i>RUGS</i>	If you have hardwood floors, a rug defines your space and adds color, texture, and weight to a seating group. Make sure all furnishings have at least the front feet on the rug; otherwise, the rug will appear disconnected from the arrangement.
<i>ACCESSORIES</i>	Family pictures are a nice touch. A collection of framed-pieces on a tabletop, rather than billboard-size photos, feels more homey. Group your collections rather than scattering photos all over. And I can share through experience: a live plant such as a fern, succulent, or peace lily is always nice and harder to kill!
<i>LIGHTING</i>	Ambient lighting is most often recessed lighting, and these lights are especially nice on dimmers. Add task lighting for reading, writing, or perhaps needlework; table lamps usually result in a more intimate setting. Finally, add a touch of accent lighting with a picture light, a light to illuminate your collectibles in a built-in, or a spotlight on stone work. Accent lighting adds texture and interest to any room.