

lake norman

# WOMAN

CELEBRATING THE BEST OF WOMEN

CARING FOR

*Yourself*

COLD-WEATHER  
FASHION

*do's*

PUTTING  
FIRST

*Things*

FIRST







HOME  
sweet  
home

# 2014 RENOVATION RESOLUTIONS

**DESIGNERS ARE HERE** to help you make great long-term design choices that maximize your budget and your investment. In this New Year, I want you to consider the following renovation resolutions. **BY: STARR MILLER**

## FOR A HOME RENOVATION:

① **I will consider the following questions carefully:** *Why do I want this change? How long do I plan to stay in my home? What is my budget? What are my specific needs for this project? What do I really not want?* Answering these questions will help you determine the scope of your project and prioritize your requirements.

job. A trained interior designer knows how to work with you to determine your budget and how to plan space to ensure the changes work with your overall home. She will also define the finishes, fixtures, and equipment to be used. Often, she also brings in a contractor during this phase to test assumptions and determine alternatives.

② **I will determine the design before I bid out with a contractor.** So often designers and architects are brought into a project after the contractor or builder has quoted the job, only to find that they quoted a base-price job with builder-grade finishes. Everyone in the renovation process has an important

③ **I will ask for builder/contractor bids once I know what I really want.** After determining the design, the contractor will truly know what you want and will be able to provide you with a strong bid based on reality and not just a price to start a job. This will avoid change orders later in the job.

## FOR NEW BUILDS:

**I will bring in a designer before I sign on the dotted line with a builder.** Determining desired finishes prior to obtaining your mortgage will ensure the cost of the project—and your mortgage—will include what you really want. If you wait until after the contract is signed and the mortgage is determined, you may have to pay out of pocket for any changes that increase the cost from builder-grade materials to desired custom finishes.

**I will consider smart electronics for my new home.** Consider items such as remote switches that are now the norm in your car. You may estimate a minimum of \$10 a square foot for this upgrade. Choose a company that supports your choices and will not allow them to become obsolete. A good designer can help with these decisions.

## FOR INTERIOR-PAINT PLANS:

**I will not determine paint choices before I know what I am doing with the space.** Often, folks want to choose paint first, and then determine fabrics, carpeting, rugs, and furnishings, which is the exact opposite of what you should do. What if you fall in love with a rug or fabric but it's the wrong color with your freshly painted walls? As the room's biggest statement, paint has the most options, is costly to change, and should be selected after you've determined everything else.

maximize your  
budget & your  
investment



Starr Miller is the president and principal designer at StarrMiller Interior Design, Inc. Contact her at 704.896.3321 or visit [www.starrmiller.com](http://www.starrmiller.com).