

lake norman

WOMAN

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DR. ANNA CLAUGUS, DR. LAUREN JOHNSON,
& SUZANNE ELLER AT LANGTREE LAKE NORMAN

**HOLIDAY
TRADITIONS**
from around the globe

heighten your awareness,
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

our
FAVORITE
side dishes



Time to Reconsider *those tired* Style Elements

By: Starr Miller

WROUGHT-IRON ACCESSORIES

Stop it now! Do not buy one more piece of curly cue wrought iron for your home. Enough is enough!

THE KITCHEN DESK

This once was a great place for a landline phone and a place to put your bills. As everything is moving to wireless, this area is better used for more storage and countertop space.

TILED COUNTERTOPS AND TUB SURROUNDS

Grout cleaning—need I say more?

CHEAP MIRRORED FURNITURE

Just don't buy any more. It was great for a pop of glamour, but a little goes a very long way.

FAUX FINISHES

The Italian-like faux wall finishes are out. Simple, clean paint is refreshing. For a few years, everyone had gone gray, but the tide has turned toward color, pastels, and white. Make sure you're not designing for trend as it doesn't last, and it dates your home. Consider a well-planned overall design that will stand the test of time.

T TYPOGRAPHY AS ART

We do not need "EAT" as the focal art of the kitchen. We know what to do!

FURNITURE SUITES

Designer rooms do not have suites of furniture that all match. A designer room has individual pieces selected to complement the overall design. Suites are unimaginative. If you already own a suite, consider mixing into other rooms of the house, painting some pieces, or making sure that the lighting, art, upholstery, or bedding become the focal point rather than the furniture.

OVERDRESSED OR UNDERDRESSED WINDOWS

Naked windows can be great; however, the choice of an unadorned window should be based on design choices, not because you just don't want to finish the room. Overly embellished windows are just as bad. Swags and heavy tassels tend to be awful in any room that isn't an historical monument. Remember: too many sequins can ruin the dress. I prefer a window that is framed, not covered.

ALSO

These need no explanation: Wallpaper borders, vertical blinds, mirrored closet doors, massive wall-sized mirrors clipped to bathroom walls, and shiny gold builder-grade cabinet knobs and chandeliers.

MODEL-HOME/DESIGNER ACCESSORIES

Time to lose the faux deer heads. Your home's accessories need to be at least 80 percent specific to you, your passions, and your collections. They should tell your story. There's nothing worse than walking into a home that looks like a furniture store or Pottery Barn catalog staged it for mass appeal.

THE GARDEN JACUZZI TUB

Replace with an oversized shower that you will actually use or a sculptural tub that is a piece of art.



First of all, I do not judge anyone or their current home. We all have priorities and values and make updating or remodeling decisions at our own pace. Frankly, I have spots in my own home that need updating but haven't made the short list. If you come by, those areas are behind closed doors!

That being said, in honor of Thanksgiving, my team and I sat around our table and listed what design elements we'd be thankful to never see again. Here is our "not" list:



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As I mentioned, we all have priorities—though if you find yourself saying, "Oops," to more than five of these, you may want to update...soon!