

CAROLINAS

# LUXE

## LIFESTYLE

July/August 2018

**PLUS...**

Society  
Sightings

The World Events  
at Tryon

The Wells Fargo  
Championship

Dreamy Destination

....and more

ENGLISH  
*Elegance*  
MEETS  
*Island*  
EASE

*a moment  
with designer  
India Hicks*

THESE  
GIRLS  
ARE  
ON FIRE

*creating your own empire*

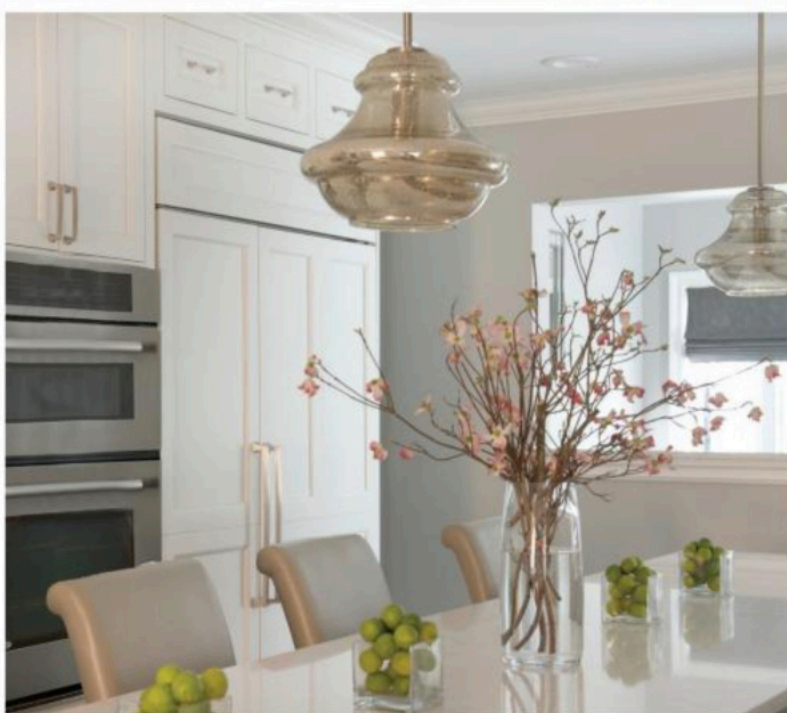




*interior design*

# KEEPING YOUR HOME TIMELESS

by Claudia Ricciardone of  
*ClaudiaJosephinedesign.com*



*Designer: Jody Myers-Fierz, Photographer: Jane Beiles Photography*

I've recently collaborated with multiple clients who hired me to update high-end (but dated) homes. Even though I enjoy guiding homeowners through their new builds, many homeowners reach out when they are preparing to sell or attempting to make a new home more personalized and livable. These are two very different processes, but they do share similarities. Unfortunately, without proper knowledge, homeowners who are preparing to list a home, remodeling a home, or even redecorating a home can encounter pitfalls. If you fall into one of these categories, read on to find out how to successfully navigate the process of updating your space while avoiding expensive mistakes!





*Designer: Claire Jefford, Photographer: Stephani Buchman Photography*

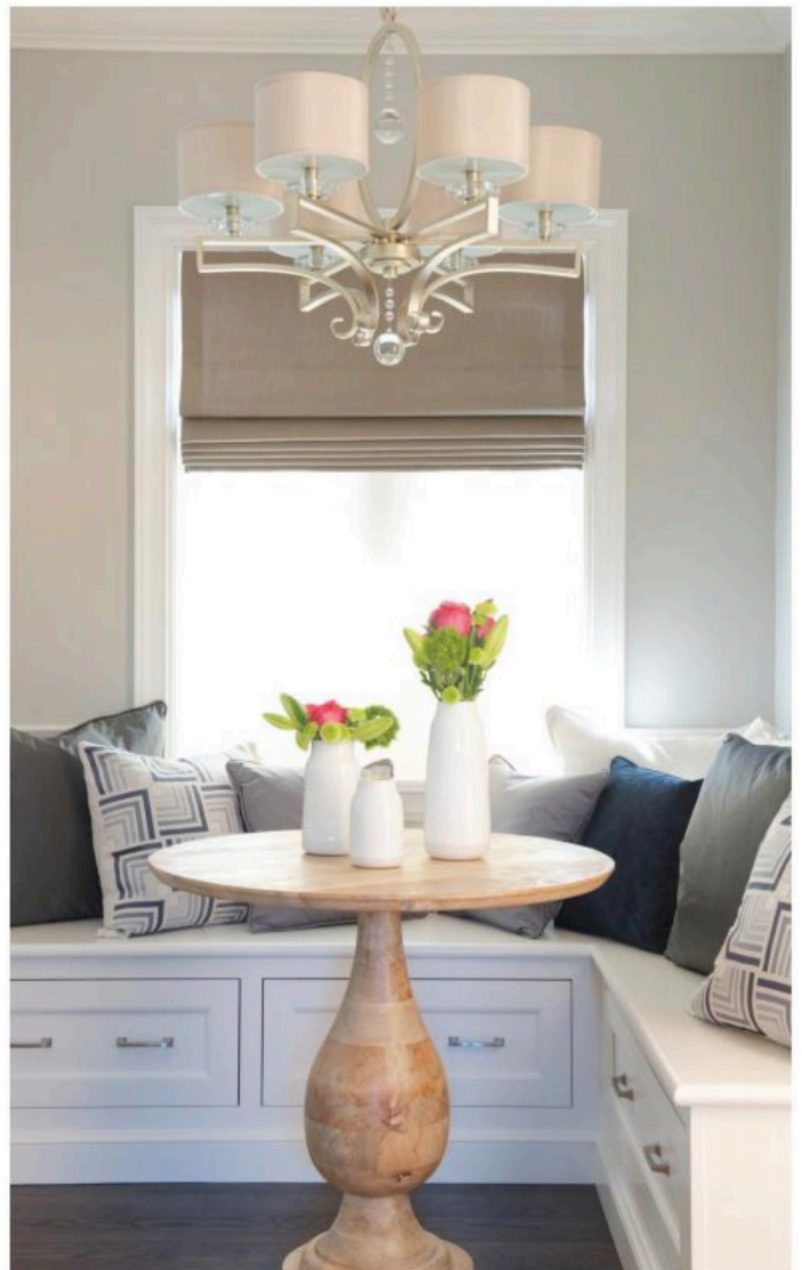
When selling your home, the goal is to depersonalize. We've all heard the obvious tips, but in case you need a refresher, do pack away those family photos, declutter, and neutralize. Think easy on the eyes but generic enough to appeal to many buyers.

Even though paint seems to be an easy fix, many potential buyers can't see past minor, cosmetic issues. If you have screaming-red walls or espresso-brown everything, buyers may feel deflated and ignore your home's beautiful architecture or stunning landscaping.

Here is where you should pay attention because sellers and home buyers get a lot of bad advice about choosing the right paint color. If there is one piece of advice I'd like to share it is:

*Painting everything grey does NOT automatically update your home.*

In fact, if your hard finishes (like granite countertops and tile) were installed during the brown trend, grey walls will most likely make your home look lifeless and dreary! One recent client was advised, both by a realtor and her previous designer, to paint her walls grey—when grey clearly did not work with her home. Had she not trusted her gut, she would have made a very costly mistake because as you know, paint is expensive! She subsequently hired me for a paint consultation, and we determined what DID work—creamy whites and pale, green-under-tone beiges. Instead of looking drab and dreary, her space became light and inviting. Staged correctly, her house will sell in a snap!



*Designer: Jody Myers-Fierz, Photographer: Jane Beiles Photography*



## TOP 5 TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR HARD FINISHES CLASSIC

1. For hardwood floors, a medium brown finish works well for most homes. Pale wood works nicely in coastal homes and contemporary abodes. Avoid greys and espresso browns as the former will date and the latter is difficult to maintain (and screams early 2000's).
2. A white kitchen is always classic. Painting or staining the island and/or lower cabinets in a coordinating color is a nice way to add contrast and interest without going whole hog on a color you may later regret.  
Even though black cabinets are currently trending, limiting this classic color to lower cabinets is a low-risk way to add personality.
3. White or cream subway tile makes a great neutral backsplash! Avoid trendy charcoals, busy patterns, or multicolored mosaics as they will quickly become

dated.

4. White or cream subway tiles also work wonderfully in a bathroom. Carrara marble and the Carrara marble-look porcelain tiles that are now available also work well. Do avoid the busy brown, beige, and grey tiles that seem to be so ubiquitous in homes built in the past decade. The browns are already dated and the greys will be dated soon enough.
5. For kitchen and bathroom countertops, Carrara marble, Calacatta marble, and solid (or marble-patterned) quartz are great choices. A butcher-block island countertop can also bring warmth to an all-white kitchen.

**Bonus Tip: A talented designer can determine when breaking the rules will work but the average homeowner cannot. Sticking to the rules will help ensure a design you will love for years to come.**



*Designer: Jody Myers-Fierz, Photographer: Jane Beiles Photography*



*Designer: Claire Jefford, Photographer: Stephani Buchman Photography*