



By: Kim Gibson Photography By: Chelsea Bren

Designing A LIFE SHE LOVES

LINDA THUNBERG seems to have been moving to a design career ever since childhood. She remembers coloring and painting were her favorite activities when she was young. As she moved into her teenage years she loved rearranging her room and sewing; two pastimes she continued on into young adulthood. A 12-year career in banking couldn't keep her creative side down as she was constantly coordinating themed bedrooms for her children, or wallpapering, painting or redesigning spaces for herself and her friends. Then she decided to make a change.

"In my 30s, I decided to truly do what I loved and went back to school for interior design," Linda said. "Fourteen years later, I am still doing what I love to do."

Linda graduated from Virginia Marti College of Fashion and Art in Lakewood, Ohio. While there she interned at a residential interior design firm. She climbed the ladder to become one of the firm's top designers. It was then she decided to go out on her own.

She went home to Berea, Ohio, where she had grown up. Her mother told her she was coming full circle by returning to open a business in her hometown. Sadly, Linda's mother died before she opened her

firm. Fittingly, Linda named her firm Full Circle Interior Design, Ltd., in tribute to her mother. That was in 2001. Two years later Linda had an assistant, two interior designers and several interns working for her. Linda had never thought about owning her own business in her younger years. Now she thrives on it. She points to her passion for design when asked about her firm's progress.

"I have noticed that successful people always seem to be passionate about what they do," Linda explains. "When I worked in banking and investments, I watched the clock to know when my day would be over; now I watch the clock to hopefully get more time in my day, because I truly enjoy designing."

Linda also enjoys teaching design. What sets Full Circle apart from other design firms are the private design classes and seminars Linda conducts for the public.

"It is so exhilarating to see women (and men) learn design techniques that they always thought were impossible for them," Linda said.

Linda has three grown children from her first marriage. She now enjoys life with her

best friend, Gary, a man she met in Ohio more than 10 years ago. It was Gary who brought Linda to the Lake Norman area.

"I have always loved the South and the sunshine, and had vacationed here for years. We live in Denver—in a home on the water—where our children, grandchildren and family love to visit and we love to live," Linda said. "I love the water, the nature and the people."

Linda explains that the biggest trend in interior design right now is that homeowners are remodeling their existing homes rather than selling. Regardless of the project though, Linda relishes in the creative process.



"DO WHAT YOU LOVE AND THE REST WILL FOLLOW" — I THINK THAT IS WHAT LIES BEHIND ANY SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS..."

"I think the most exciting part of a project is watching a home transform into what I create in my mind about that space..." Linda said. "To me, they are all unusual and exciting because it's the relationship with the homeowner, the house and my creativity that brings it all together." 🌿