

# Let's Nest

Banish the wintertime "blahs" with seven cozy rooms high on style and inspiration

BY LAUREN EBERLE



PHOTO: PHILIP BEAURLINE / DESIGN: JUDY PICKETT



PHOTO: RAY BARBOUR / DESIGN: JUDY PICKETT

**A case for color** This time of year homes can appear a bit bare, Judy Pickett, FASID, says. Don't be afraid to change up your accessories, rearrange furniture, or add a new paint color. Even ceramic blooms, such as magnolias, can offer the promise of spring when displayed as wall art. "Of course," she adds, "don't hesitate to call a designer and buy a few hours of time. Sometimes the smallest tweaks can make the most difference in your home."



PHOTO: RAY BARBOUR / DESIGN: JUDY PICKETT (LEFT) PHOTO: DESIGN LINES LTD. / DESIGN: BRITTANY RUCH



For quite some time, Pickett didn't think she had a signature style. That was before one of her clients had a friend comment of her new space, "you must have had Judy."

Truly, this 32-year industry veteran has a reputation not only for her clean-line design or eye for accessories, but also for the touch of elegance she adds to each project.

Her rooms have common threads — neutral walls, cozy fabrics, functional flow. And yet, each is catered to the homeowner.

"Everything we do is done with the goal of pleasing the client," she promises, "from

offering them a bottle of water when they come to the office, to creating a finished product that's truly remarkable."

Pickett launched her firm, Design Lines Ltd., in 1979. Today, the Raleigh-based company boasts six accomplished designers, each with his or her own specialty.

A majority of the group's work is for North Carolina residences, but Design Lines has reached as far North as New Hampshire and as far South as Key Largo.

Each project, Pickett says, "begins with nature — its colors, its patterns, its shapes." From there, the designer consults

her desk — and the piles of magazines and books, swatches and fabrics, catalogues and cutouts, awaiting the perfect client.

Some favorite endeavors are kitchen remodels — "for someone who truly enjoys cooking, this can make such a difference in their world" — as well as teenage bedrooms — "I love seeing the faces of young people when they get their first sophisticated space."

"If I were to write a summary of my career, I'd be able to tell about all my happy clients," Pickett concludes. "To me, that's what's important."



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