



Marcia Sherrill and Robyn Spizman at Pricci. Photographed by Mali Azima on November 3, 2004. Hair and makeup by Donna Stazzone.

Lunch with...

## Robyn Spizman

The woman who revolutionized gift giving and the author of more than 70 books,

Robyn Spizman was amid a publicity swirl for her latest tome, *Make It Memorable:*

*An A-to-Z Guide to Making Any Event, Gift or Occasion...Dazzling!*, when Marcia Sherrill

snagged her for lunch. Hot off the

Hartsfield tarmac after another appearance on *The Today Show*, Robyn was, as usual,

a vortex of activity and surprisingly good fun. Begging her for help in

making our homes and dinner parties Robyn-tastic, she let fall

an avalanche of advice.

**Oh my gosh, you've got a truckload of books. I've only done two and am working on number three.** Ideas just come to me, and the difference, I guess, is that I act on them. I like to think through a thought and then make it happen. I plant them in the ground, get some roots and let them grow.

**You're a one-woman cyclone!** I love to inspire. I was always a teacher, and I am so touched by kind deeds myself that I love to share them.

**Well, at Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles, we're naturally as curious as apes over how to make our home designs memorable. Any quick fixes? We loathe that I-live-in-a-showroom look (not that we wouldn't mind moving right into one).** I love decorator showrooms and showhouses. I'm inspired by all the talent in Atlanta. The designers inspire me, but the final touch should always be a

signature touch. There must be a little piece of you in every room, in everything you do. If a home is all about the designer's style, then you wonder who lives there. So, in my opinion, that's what a designer does: help you to express yourself.

**At Casa Robyn, how do you reveal your inner self?** My designer, Bill Stewart, and I become a team. Great designers help you express your own style. I'm crazy in love with contemporary photography and I'm a former art teacher, so I live vicariously through the art we collect. I marvel at it. So, Bill and the galleries let me place the art where it reveals that art appreciator in me. It's not only where the art lives in my house, but also in my mind. Art makes me think and gives me pause, and I believe that it makes a statement. It might even be, Hey, let's go have a party.

**Speaking of parties.** When I throw a party, I plan days, even weeks, in advance. I have a ball. Every detail matters to me. I don't cook, but my husband Willy is a modest master in the kitchen, so that allows me to create a magnificent table and focus on party planning. I want everyone to have a blast and leave with goodies and, most importantly, memories.

**That's what I need, some memory makers. My parties leave you dazed and perhaps a bit nauseous. But my guests want memories?** That is my mantra. If you can't make it memorable, don't bother.

**What it is with this grabbing of centerpieces? Is this a Southern phenomenon?** In the North, it's hard to lug a centerpiece home on the subway or cab. In the South, we've got the cars, the trunks...and it's not a social gaffe. We encourage it. It's a sign of hospitality, 95>