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# They've Led The Way

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## OFF the CLOCK

### Lexus LS 500:

CarPlay and Amazon Alexa join the technology features stable. A 24-inch head-up display and an upscale wheel design are new as stand-alone options.

Power front seat belts and reclining and heated rear seats? Perfect. Power side-window sunshades? It's a luxury car, right?

But while revered as hand-cut Japanese glassware, the Kiriko door trim, which debuted in 2018 models, looks like afterthought chunks of costume jewelry. The hand-pleated interior door panels resemble corrugated cardboard.

A few other options, a Mark Levinson audio system with 23 speakers (\$1,940), a panoramic glass roof (\$1,000), panoramic view monitor (\$800) and 20-inch forged alloy wheels (\$2,450) are justifiable extravagances.

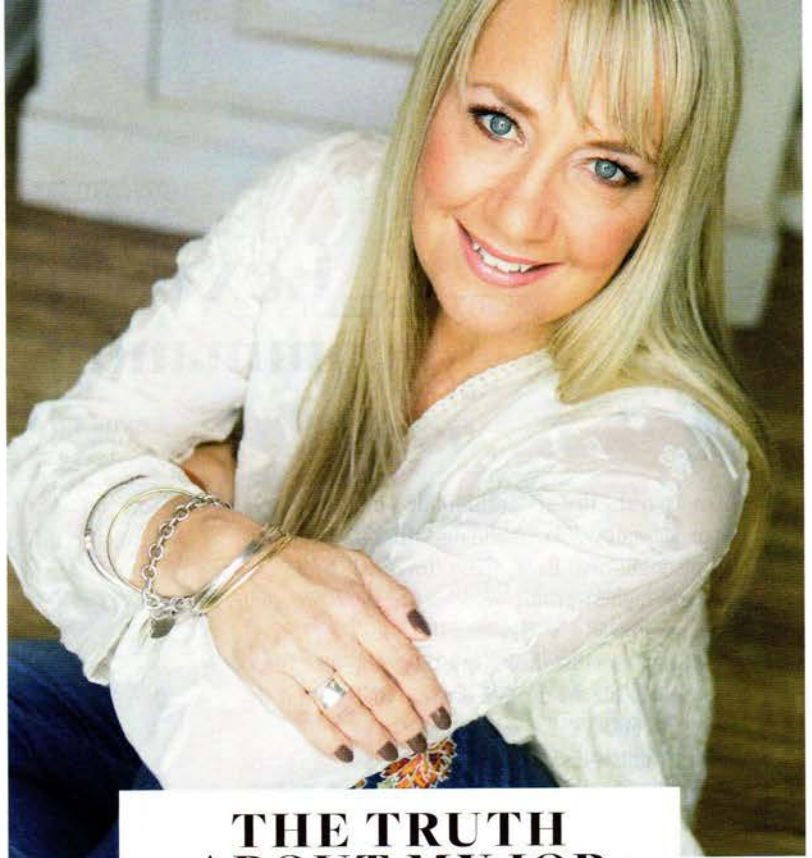
The 2019 Lexus LS 500 no doubt defines flagship. It's beautiful and proud and provides driving therapy during long freeway hauls. It's a modernized version of the traditional big sedans of yesteryear.



A 24-inch head-up display and an upscale wheel design are new as stand-alone options.

But it's most worthy with a few well-chosen options. It doesn't need overt embellishment to rule an automotive fleet.

—James Raia, a syndicated automotive columnist in Sacramento, publishes the website [theweeklydriver.com](http://theweeklydriver.com) and its corresponding podcast. Contact him at [james@jamesraia.com](mailto:james@jamesraia.com).



## THE TRUTH ABOUT MY JOB

IT'S EASY TO JUDGE another industry from the outside, with ideas formed by what we see on TV, hear on the news or experience through our friends. But not all stories and stereotypes are true. The best way to debunk myths about an industry? Turning to those who know it best.

## Interior Designers

**THE MYTH:** Interior design is a fun, constantly creative career. If Lisa Kahn of Lisa Kahn Designs had a dollar for every time someone told her they would become an interior designer if they could redo their career, she might no longer need to work as one.

"I think it is because most people perceive interior design as an extremely creative job," the Naples-based designer says.

**THE TRUTH:** There's much more that goes into this profession than shopping for cute couches. "You have to understand ergonomics, how a space functions, how people fit into and move through a space, and the way fabrics and colors work together," Kahn says.

There's also lots of budgeting, time management and technical teamwork involved. Interior designers, especially those working with new construction, may consult with architects, builders and other tradespeople to discuss the client's personal tastes and get a complete understanding of the home they are working with.

That's in addition to obtaining specific qualifications and establishing a personal style, or "finding your niche," as Kahn says, in order to stand out from others who have pursued this path.

—Melanie Pagan