

DELTA DISASTER!

WHAT'S wrong with Delta Burke's face? The 58-year-old star is unrecognizable as the actress who played Suzanne Sugarbaker on the hit TV sitcom *Designing Women* from 1986 to 1991.

Her bloated appearance stunned shoppers as she and actor hubby Gerald McRaney, 67, left a Studio City, Calif., deli following lunch a few days ago. "I haven't seen her in a while and I was shocked at her appearance," says an eyewitness. "She was barely recognizable."

Now, speculation is running rampant the former beauty queen is the victim of a plastic surgery disaster



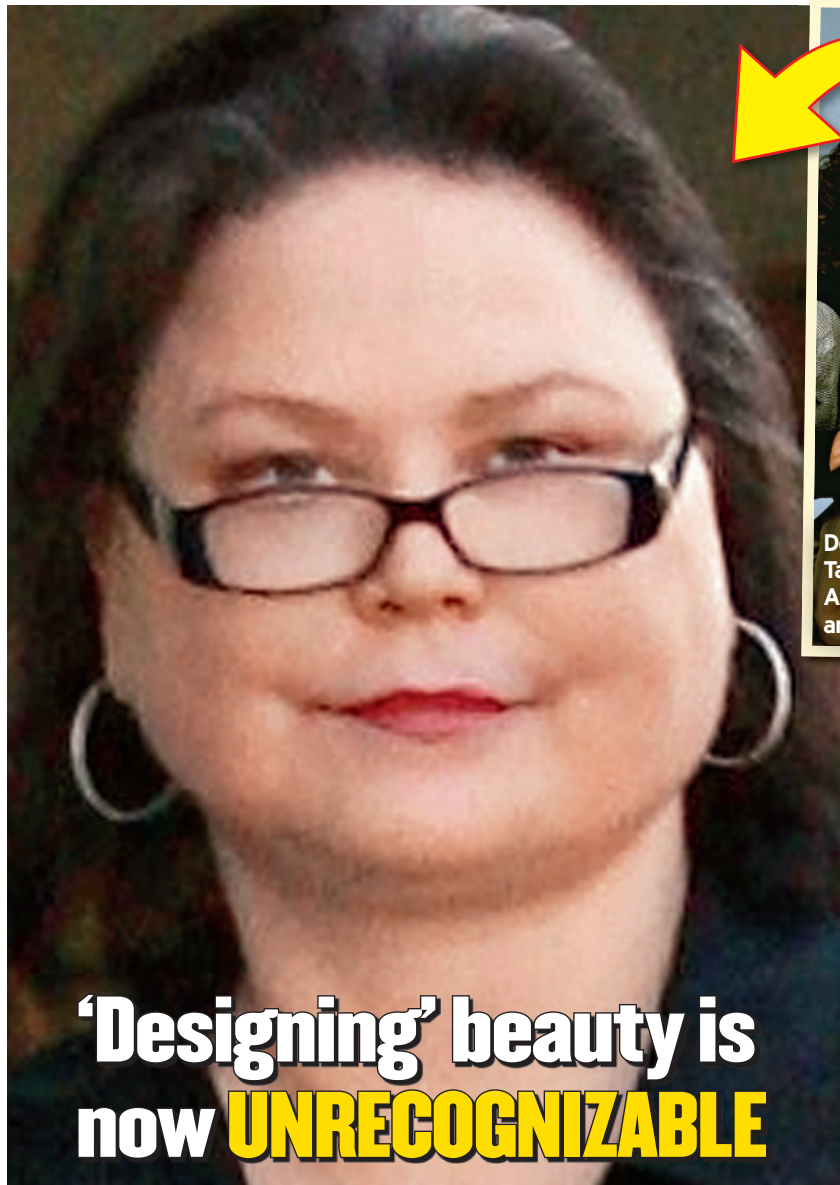
Delta strolls with hubby Gerald McRaney

— or bloating from prescription medication.

Dr. Steve Fallek, a Big Apple cosmetic surgeon, tells *GLOBE*, "There is no way her face is the result of fat injections or implants.

"It's more likely caused by steroid medication — just like Ashley Judd's bloated face a while ago. When a doctor prescribes steroids...the face gets bloated, the patient gains weight and then they often become depressed when they look like this."

Philadelphia plastic surgeon Dr. Lyle M. Back calls Delta's swollen face "alarming, and highly suggestive of the all-too-common side effects of certain prescription medi-



'Designing' beauty is now UNRECOGNIZABLE

cations. Steroids, antidepressants and some other drugs can create this very puffy look, sometimes described as a "moon face," he says.

But Dr. Dennis Hurwitz, director of Pittsburgh's Hurwitz Center for Plastic Surgery, believes "she's had cosmetic surgery, most likely a face-

lift that included her neck and fat augmentation of her cheeks."

And Boston plastic surgeon Dr. Jeffrey Spiegel thinks "she's had 'fat grafting' from the stomach, hips or thighs to the face."

Ironically, Delta was a slender Miss Florida at age 18 and competed



Delta gets hands on with the late Meshach Taylor, surrounded by (clockwise) the late Alice Ghostley, Jean Smart, Annie Potts and Dixie Carter who died in 2010

for the Miss America crown.

Since then, the 5-foot-5 actress has battled the bulge, Type 2 diabetes, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder and hoarding. She checked into a clinic for depression in 2008 when her compulsion to hoard possessions exploded out of control.

Support from hubby

And after ballooning to nearly 200 pounds, she had eight inches of fat sucked off her tummy with liposuction.

But despite her changed appearance, Delta gets strong support from her hubby.

"Mac loves me no matter what," she says. "He loved me when I got as big as a house. He loved me when I was a blonde. He didn't tell me he hated it until I went back to brunette."

"He still thinks my body looks great — and I can certainly tell you it does not!"

— LYNN ALLISON
lynnallison@globefl.com

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