

Your Home

50 checklist questions before you start!

The image shows a modern interior space. On the left, there is a built-in display cabinet with glass shelves and a granite countertop. The shelves hold various decorative items, including vases and a blue bowl. The countertop has a blue plate, a small orange sculpture, and a red bowl. Below the counter are wooden cabinets. To the right, a glass door with a wooden frame is open, leading to a patio area with a brown rug and lush green plants. The floor is made of light-colored tiles. The overall atmosphere is bright and airy.

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50 QUESTIONS BEFORE YOU START

1. Describe your current home. What do you like about it? What's missing? What don't you like? Do you want to change the space you have?
2. Do you want to build a new home?
3. Why do you want to build a house or add to or renovate your current home?
4. What is your lifestyle? Are you at home a great deal? Do you work at home?
5. Do you entertain often?
6. How much time do you spend in the living areas, bedroom, kitchen, utility space etc.?
7. How much time and energy are you willing to invest to maintain your home?

8. If you are thinking of extending, what functions or activities will be housed in the new space?
9. Do you anticipate any future expansion of the house (i.e., beyond the present planned expansion)?
10. What kind of spaces do you need, e.g bedrooms, bigger kitchen, family room, bathrooms, etc?
11. How soon would you like to be settled into your new home or extension? Are there rigid time restraints?
12. If you are thinking of building a home, do you have a site selected?
13. Do you have strong ideas about design? What are your design preferences?
14. Is there anything particular that you have seen in a house design or in someone else's house that you like?

15. Who will be the primary contact with the architect, contractor, and others involved in designing and building your project? (It is good to have one point of contact to prevent confusion and mixed messages)

16. What qualities are you looking for in an architect?

17. Is there anyone in the family with a disability staying in the house for a long time, mobility problems of aging may need to be addressed?

18. Do you want to pursue options, and establish the additional inputs required, to optimize your buildings performance to achieve zero energy inputs, healthy materials, or other sustainability goal?

19. How much disruption in your life can you tolerate to extend or renovate your home?

20. What are the most valuable things that your site offers? Views? Privacy? Proximity?

21. Is there any danger of erosion or flooding?

22. What direction does the prevailing wind come from?

23. Do you have pets or expect to have pets?

24. List the items which you presently own which you would like to have incorporated into the design:

25. Are there any special indoor or outdoor activities that should be planned for?

26. Has a topographic survey been made of your property?

27. Have soil borings been made on your property?

28. Are there any easement or covenants on the property?

29. How many bedrooms do you currently have?

30. How many bedrooms do you need?

31. Should all bedrooms be on the second floor in a two-story arrangement?

32.Do you want built-in storage, such as drawers and shelves built into the wall?

33.How many bathrooms do you need?

34.Do any of the bedrooms need their own bathrooms? If so, describe.

35.Do you want any special bathroom fixtures in any of the bathrooms?

36.Do you want a powder room (water-closet and lavatory) on the first floor of the house?

37.Do you want the laundry room on the same floor as the bedrooms?

38.Do you want a linen chute to the laundry room?

39.Do you have a preference for kitchen layout? U-shape, Corridor, L-Shape, Island, Other combination?

40. Would you use your present appliances in the kitchen, or, if not, are there any particular appliances for which space must be provided in the kitchen?

41. Should provision be made for eating in the kitchen?

42. Do you want a breakfast room or informal dining room off of the kitchen (in addition to the main dining room)?

43. Do you like the island concept of kitchen planning where a preparation center is placed in the center of the space?

44. Should a serving bar be provided for in the kitchen, dining room, or family room for liquor storage, wine storage, and serving. Should it have its own refrigerator, ice maker, and sink?

45. Do you want a multimedia room?

46. Do you want to let competitive bids to obtain a general contractor, or negotiate with one whom you know does good work?

47.Should landscaping be included in the contract?

48.Should there be a garage? If so how large: 1, 2, 3 car, etc.

49.How do you prefer that the garage be connected to the house?

50.How much can you realistically afford to spend?

Further helpful information moving forward:

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO PLANNING YOUR NEW HOME

AND

STEP BY STEP, A SIMPLE GUIDE THROUGH THE DESIGN PROCESS

