

## **Your Home Remodeling Project: What Comes *Before* the Beginning**

Making a change, adding a room, updating a bathroom, remodeling a kitchen – any of these projects may be something you and your family are talking about. However, unless you are an architect, you may find it quite difficult to transform your dreamy desires into a decisive design.

Before the project can start you will need to be as clear as possible on what you want. To save time, money and stress that comes from misunderstandings, you must be able to articulate what you want before meeting with an architect who then will create a master plan for your home improvements.

We have found there are at least three ways which help you clarify and communicate your ideas:

- 1) Purchase remodeling, home design and architecture magazines. The Home Depot or major book stores will have a good selection. As you look through them pay attention to what you are attracted to, even if it doesn't fit with the current project you have in mind. Put a post-it note on pages you like and pass the magazine around to each family member for input. Remembering 'a picture is worth a thousand words' can save a lot of time getting your ideas across to others in the family, to your architect, contractor or interior designer.
- 2) Ask your contractor to come over and look at your home with you. Keep in mind that the remodeling specialists at Morgan Services have worked with hundreds of homeowners to help plan the best design solutions and cost-effective strategies. You will need an informal cost-estimate early in the process so you can decide what improvements will be included and budget adequately for your project.
- 3) In addition to perusing magazines and getting professional opinions, you will need to take a block of time without interruption to sit down and think things through, and you may need to do this several times. See the 'Think It Through' checklist if you need a guide for thinking beyond new cabinets or colors.

Once you are confident you and others involved in your project have the same picture in mind, or close, you are ready to review the final estimate, sign your contract and get started. You will still have plenty of opportunities to fine-tune most aspects as the project is underway.

# Think It Through Checklist <sup>TM</sup>

## A Guide to Pre-Planning Your Remodeling Projects

Check items you are considering and then rate the importance 1-5 with 1 = 'High Priority' and 5 = 'Not Very Important at this Time'. Use space under the item to note what area you have in mind.

- Change the function of a room. \_\_\_\_\_
- Enlarge a major family center with an addition. \_\_\_\_\_
- Combine small rooms to form larger space. \_\_\_\_\_
- Increase ceiling height. \_\_\_\_\_
- Enlarge windows, add windows or skylight. \_\_\_\_\_
- Add another bedroom or bathroom. \_\_\_\_\_
- Change access into home from driveway or garage. \_\_\_\_\_
- Change access between kitchen and dining room. \_\_\_\_\_
- Improve access between bedroom and bathroom. \_\_\_\_\_
- Widen doorways or remove interior doors. \_\_\_\_\_
- Improve area lighting thru natural light or wiring/outlets. \_\_\_\_\_
- Change positioning of light switches. \_\_\_\_\_
- Enlarge closets and build in shelving. \_\_\_\_\_

## Think It Through Checklist™ continued

- Repair or replace flooring. \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - Change condition or texture of walls or ceilings. \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - Update bathroom appliances and fixtures. \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - Replace kitchen appliances, counters and/or cabinets. \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - Build-in entertainment center. \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - Other changes
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