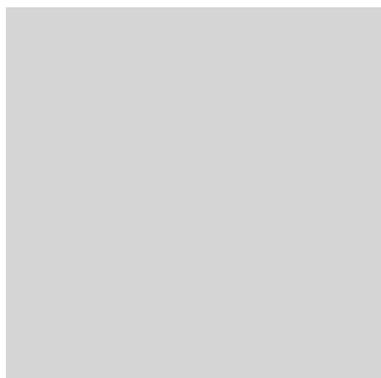
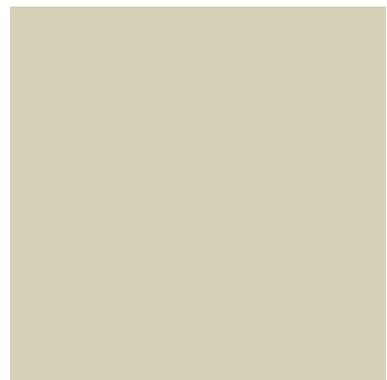
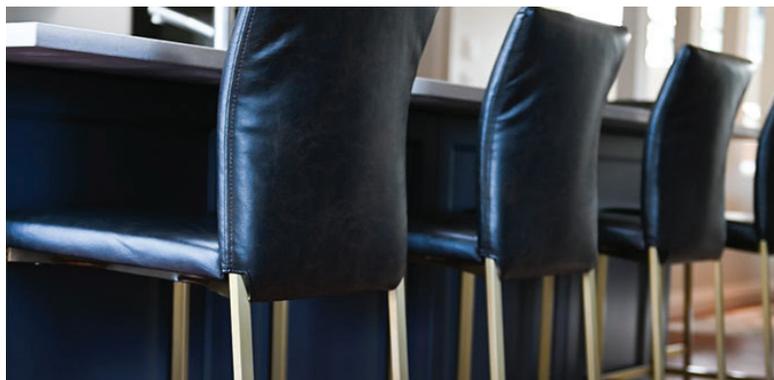


YOUR GUIDE TO A SUCCESSFUL HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



By Barbara Aylesworth,
A Stroke of Genius Interiors



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Have you ever tried to sketch something from memory, only to find that it looks nothing like you had imagined it, or had a great idea and found once implemented wasn't such a great idea after all?

Turning your house into a dream home is a lot like that, especially if you don't have experience with interior design or construction.

Whether you are looking for a major change or just something to tweak your space, identifying what works best for you can be challenging. Once you start thinking about all the unknowns and take a look at what you are working with, it's easy to get overwhelmed.

However, with an expert at the helm you can achieve harmony and functionality in your home.

The first step in any successful home remodelling or renovation project is getting expert advice.

When you take the step of consulting with an Interior Designer, you are working with a professional who can guide you through the process and come up with ideas and solutions to make the most of your space. They help you maneuver through the obstacles of space planning, storage challenges, lighting inadequacies, visual harmony, material functionality, and a variety of other technical aspects that might not seem obvious.

Your Interior Designer helps you make the most of your space to ensure you enjoy your home for many years to come. This is why a consultation is vital before you begin any design, renovation or home improvement project.

Consultations will set up a focused vision, give you exciting new ideas, and save you both time and money.

Here is a guide to prepare you for your Design Consultation for a successful home improvement project.



1

DETERMINE YOUR GOALS

What areas of your home do you want to address and why? Is this your forever home where you want to invest for the future, or are you getting ready to sell? If you are planning on doing your project in stages, the decisions you make now will affect future work down the road. The Designer can help you plan your project so it evolves smoothly.

2

BE HONEST (AND REALISTIC) ABOUT THE BUDGET

You may not be able to have everything on your wish list right away. Having a figure in mind for the project will help the Designer determine the scope of work and create a plan to make the most of your budget.

3

THINK ABOUT HOW YOU USE THE SPACE

Take a close look around and be objective about what you are working with. What are the challenges you face now and what do you need to make it more functional?

4

GATHER IMAGES OF ROOMS YOU LIKE

It helps to provide the Designer with images of rooms you like so they can see what style(s) you gravitate to. Clip out pictures from magazines, visit Houzz, Pinterest, and other sites online to gather inspiration. Make notes about what exactly you like about each image.

5

DETERMINE WHAT EXISTING FURNITURE PIECES YOU WANT TO KEEP AND WHAT YOU CAN LET GO OF

Maybe now is the time for a fresh start. Look at everything you currently have and ask yourself if it actually fits with your vision. Often times we hang onto items only because they fill a space.

If it is something you truly cherish and must keep, the Designer can suggest the best way to incorporate it into the new scheme.

6

HAVE AN OPEN MIND

The Designer will come up with ideas you never thought (or heard) of. That is why you hired them! Some things may seem challenging, but they might just be the boost you need to come up with something you didn't consider before. Keep your mind open for new opportunities and alternate ways to approach things.

7

ELIMINATE DISTRACTIONS

The consultation is the first step to realizing your home's full potential. Schedule the consultation when you and the Designer can discuss your plans without the distraction of children, pets, and ringing telephones. This is especially true for people who need calm and silence to concentrate.

You want to set up the meeting to be a success, to make the most of your time with the Designer.

Have you been thinking about making changes in your home?

CALL TODAY to discuss the plans you have to make your dream renovation a reality.

Ideas are exciting, options are endless.



Barbara Aylesworth is the owner of A Stroke of Genius Interiors. She believes Interior Design is about creating functional beauty. Barbara strives to create spaces that are warm and inviting, while addressing the functions demanded from everyday life. Her style is to create spaces that feel collected, not decorated, drawing inspiration from her clients' personality and surroundings.

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