



Questions To Ask Before Beginning Building

MA PETERSON
DESIGNBUILD

For our 2020 Spring/Summer Resource Guide we asked experts in their fields about trends they are seeing and to offer some advice on how to hire. For the Remodeling, Building and Architecture section, MA Peterson Designbuild offered these ideas:

Q: Why are experiences and lifestyle within the home important factors to consider when approaching a remodel or building a new home?

Understanding the key elements you desire from a lifestyle perspective translates

into the experiences you want to have in your home. It is a representation of who you are, how you live and what you wish to share with others. It's foundational to loving your home. Are you focused on creating a more tight-knit and cozy experience with your family? Do you plan to entertain large groups often? How will your home operate as you age and what elements will be of greater importance? Do you enjoy having several cooks in the kitchen, or would you prefer to have room for an audience? These overall experiences drive the details that make it all possible.

Q: What trends are you seeing?

Today, homeowners are looking more for

the home to reflect their life as opposed to fitting their life into an existing home. Homes are becoming sanctuaries and they want to customize them to reflect that.

Q: What are three questions every homeowner should ask themselves prior to starting the remodeling or new home process?

There are many things to consider prior to remodeling or building new, but three main questions we recommend answering before starting the process include: Do you love where you live? How long do you intend to stay? Do you have a realistic idea of scope and budget? Not only will answering these questions make it easier to



communicate your goals and parameters to the individuals you are working with, but it will also allow you time to self-reflect and clearly analyze what the realistic options are and how you can accomplish your objectives.

Q: Why is it important to have an overall vision for a home?

If you are looking to complete your project in phases, an overall vision allows you to think thoughtfully and strategically rather than sporadically. Planning for certain projects in advance will save you from larger costs later and will help you avoid tearing out portions of recently completed work to accommodate new projects.

Q: What is a strategic approach to financing a remodel or new home?

Start early. Having open dialogue with home mortgage and finance professionals about the current value of your home, the future value based on preliminary designs and the financing options available will educate you throughout the process and help ensure your project runs smoothly. There is nothing worse for a homeowner than having to delay excitement and construction over something that could've easily been avoided.

Q: What are ways homeowners can ensure their projects stay on schedule and on budget?

Staying involved with frequent communi-

cation throughout the course of the project is important. Other things that can be helpful are making key material selections prior to the start of construction, working with a complete set of plans and specifications and making decisions well in advance of products being needed on-site. If decision making is difficult for you, let your designer, builder or remodeler know so that they can adjust accordingly to accommodate any delays that may come from slower decision making.

Since 1979, MA Peterson Designbuild has been an industry leading resource in the Twin Cities for residential design, high quality custom homes, remodeling and smaller home projects. Find more at mapeterson.com.