



**TEN THINGS YOU NEED
TO GET RIGHT FOR YOUR NEW HOME**



BEFORE YOU START THE PROCESS

Think about your goals and expectations. Know your budget. Know what you can't do without. Consider all aspects from pre-design, design, and building to picking your property. Realize that the more information you can give your architect about your hopes, dreams, and goals, the easier it will be for them to visualize the ideal home for you.



"When approaching the design process, know the things you absolutely cannot live without so that your architect can plan around it."

KNOW YOUR BUDGET

An important part of our job when working with clients is to manage expectations. This can be tough for both sides. As your architect, we want to dream along with you and design the perfect home for you. The right architect will help guide you so that your ideal design works within your budget. It can be much harder to trim down later than to begin with a realistic sense of what is possible for us to achieve together on your new home.

COMMUNICATE YOUR TIME FRAME

Designing and building your home can involve a lot of moving parts, and knowing your time frame up front can save headaches down the road. Your architect should assist you in knowing how long it takes to build your house, from the beginning of the design phase to the completion of construction. By knowing and communicating your time frame with the team about your project, the process becomes less stressful and more exciting.

PICK THE RIGHT BUILDER

Some people spend more time choosing their architect than finding the right builder for them. We encourage our clients to get references. It's really helpful to talk with people who worked with the builder you're considering and talk through how it went. Things to consider include: financial stability, pricing, and that you feel comfortable with him/her. Do they communicate when an issue comes up while building? The right builder and architect working together can help you save money and time in the long run.

"Keep in mind the lifetime cost of the house versus your initial cost."

DON'T DESIGN AROUND AUNT BETTY'S CHINA CABINET

Suddenly, the design of your house is evolving in order to accommodate the plates you may never use (sorry, Aunt Betty!). Often, this means your architect might have to cut elsewhere in the house so that they can still meet the targeted square footage and budget. When approaching the design process, know the things you absolutely cannot live without so that your architect can plan around it. We often guide our clients to make a "must have" list.

MAKE IT YOUR OWN

We encourage our clients to be authentic, be true to yourself, and know what you simply can't go without in your new house. Maybe it's hardwood floors, a patio or a kitchen you've always dreamed of having. And hey, if it is Aunt Betty's china, so be it. The right architect will make it happen. Don't lower your dreams so that the resulting house fits just anybody. Make it special for you and unique to what you want in your house.

BE READY TO COMPROMISE ALONG THE WAY

Compromise is an important part of the design and building process. The most common issue we help clients avoid is a house that ends up outside of your budget. Communication between all sides is key. If it is important to you, tell your architect. Otherwise it's like asking your doctor for help without telling them all of your symptoms. Whether it's the size of the house, the quality of materials, or the number of rooms, inevitably decisions must be made. Open communication will lead to your ideal home design.



THINK LONG TERM

Keep in mind the lifetime cost versus your initial cost. Splurging in one area of your home might also mean cutting your budget elsewhere. We've seen homes with high-quality materials in the kitchen and low-quality insulation, which can lead to higher utility costs over time. It's also easier and more probable you will want to renovate your kitchen down the road. Also, consider the long-term needs of your family. Will you need an extra bedroom in the future? Maybe you'd like to build a guest house over your garage to rent out or for when family comes to visit. We can also help design your house so that you won't feel the need to move as you age and your needs change.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE OUTSIDE

Creating ways to incorporate indoor/outdoor living in your house can expand how your living spaces feel. Our designs emphasize this with the use of shady porches, patios, decks, and lots of light, bright windows. These features add a touch of character and increase the livability of your home. Natural light expands your living space and can make a room feel bigger. While a patio connecting to the living room provides a great avenue to entertain guests and to grill with friends and family.

PICK THE RIGHT ARCHITECT

If you've read this far, by now your head might be swimming with everything involved in getting to your new house. It's a lot to consider. But that's why picking the right architect and team is so important. We are here to help you every step of the way. We take great pride in dreaming along with our clients, and making sure the end result is ideal for you and your family. A house that is only great on paper can't be lived in. Ultimately, we want your house to be just right for you and your lifestyle, budget, and to be perfect for the rest of your life.

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT A NEW HOME?

We would love to chat with you. Contact us today by sending an email to info@allisonramseyarchitect.com.

