



Designing your new Home – What to consider!

Layout

The following will help you consider the pragmatic design aspects of your home. The proposed sizes of rooms, their function and the needs and activities of the occupants will determine the layout and dimensions of your home. The answers you give to the questions

below will help to determine your design priorities.

1. List the expected occupants (family members, relatives, etc).
2. List your pets inside and outside of the home
3. Estimate the time the occupants will be in your new home (life, to 21 years, seasonal, etc.)
4. What vehicles, equipment, farm machinery, etc, do you need to store, and what kind of shelter is required for these?
5. Have you thought about the total square meters of living areas you would like to have? Make a list of the rooms/spaces required. How did you arrive at the size (existing furniture, family size, future needs, furniture arrangements, etc.)?
6. List any circumstances particular to you and your family that may affect the design (ie. handicapped people, noise considerations, natural lighting, air quality, temperature control, etc).
7. Should expansion flexibility be a consideration? Do you know what rooms will need to be added and how large they might be?



8. List activities and amount of time to be spent in rooms/spaces below, and approximate space required. Reference to and measurement of the spaces in which you now live may be helpful. Keep in mind furniture, equipment, storage requirements, etc.

Living	Utility/Laundry	Guest Room
Family	Pantry/Storage	Study/Library/Retreat
Kitchen	Bedroom 1	Music/Home Theatre
Dining	Bedroom 2	Cellar
Sunroom	Bedroom 3	Garage/Shop
Bath rooms	Bedroom 4	Other

The following suggests other possible rooms and spaces to consider:

Walk-In-Robe	Linen Cupboard	Spa
Greenhouse	Laundry Shoot	Sauna
Airlock	Interior Wood Storage	Pool
Mudroom	Games Room	Exterior Wood Storage
Dark Room	Breakfast Nook	Courtyard
Separate Toilet	Porch	Barn
Broom Cupboard	Patio/verandah/Deck	Stables

Specified Use of Living Spaces

This group of questions is intended to help you pinpoint how you would like your life and your living space to interact. Try to consider how things feel as well as how they look. Try to work out when and where people will move. How are things and food taken from one space to another? Indicate the things that you find disturbing and the things that have a relaxing effect.

Bedroom

1. Do you like to wake up in a bright and/or sunlit room?
2. Do you like to be able to look outside while lying in bed?
3. Do you prefer the bed to be a particular height off the floor?
4. Do you prefer windows, a fan or an air-conditioner for ventilation?
5. What are the privacy requirements of the bedroom from the outside and from the rest of the house?
6. What are your storage requirements? Give size and general description of items.
7. Do you like a separate dressing area?

*Modern Efficiency
Timeless Tradition*



8. Does the bedroom also need to function as a study, TV room, sitting room etc?
9. What sleeping accommodation will be necessary for other family members or in the future? (Use the first 8 questions as guidelines)?
10. Would you feel comfortable if the bedroom had a cathedral area or would you prefer a flat ceiling?

Bathroom

1. What are the special qualities you like in a bathroom? Does it need to be especially bright or roomy?
2. Should there be a bathroom attached to one or more bedrooms?
3. How private should the bathroom be from the rest of the house and from the outside?
4. Do you need a bathroom easily accessible from the outside?
5. Do you prefer fans or windows for ventilation:
6. Do you like to be able to see out a window while showering, washing or using the toilet?
7. So you use the bathroom in a hurried or a leisurely manner?
8. Do you prefer showers or baths?
9. Do you bathe with others?
10. When you take a shower or bath, do you use the bathroom to dress or undress?
11. Do you have a preference for a particular brand of fixtures?
12. What requirements do you have for mirrors?
13. What are your storage requirements?
14. What sort of bathing accommodation is necessary for other family members now and in the future? (Use the first 13 questions as a guide).

Kitchen

1. What times of the day and to what extent do you use the kitchen?
2. How many people should be able to use the kitchen at the same time?
3. Will the kitchen be used for eating as well as for food preparation?
4. What appliances are necessary?
5. Is there a particular appliance/fixture arrangement that suits you best?
6. Do you like to be able to look out of the window while working in the kitchen? If so, from what areas and where to?
7. Do you like a bright or unlit kitchen?
8. Is it important to have an exhaust fan in the kitchen?
9. How do you prefer to deal with waste and rubbish?
10. Where and how would you like to store your food?
11. How much cupboard and drawer space do you need?



12. Do you like pots and pans, dishes, utensils and food to be visible or hidden?
13. Would you use timbers to hang pots and pans?
14. What non-food items do you store in the kitchen?
15. What other items (such as desk, TV, fireplace etc) would you like in the kitchen?
16. Should the kitchen be separate from the rest of the house or linked to other areas?

Dining

1. What sort of feeling should the dining area have?
2. Is the dining place a single or multipurpose area?
3. Is there a need for a guest dining area separate from the normal family dining area?
4. How many people should the dining area accommodate?
5. Is natural or artificial light, or both, appropriate?
6. What is the best way to get food and dishes to and from the dining area?

Living

1. How do you want the living area to feel?
2. Should it be separate or integrated into other living areas?
3. What activities go on in the living area?
4. How many people should it accommodate?
5. Should it have partitions and doors?
6. Should it be bright during the day?
7. What sort of artificial light is compatible with your image of the living space?
8. Is a fireplace desirable?
9. List any equipment you think should be in the living space (hi-fi, books, video, etc).
10. How do phones and TV figure into your life?

Miscellaneous

1. What should the predominant feeling of the house be (rustic, informal, elegant, etc)?
2. How would you describe the style that makes you feel most comfortable (modern, colonial, etc)?
3. What are the attributes of the timber frame that would help to achieve the above requirements?
4. What other rooms or activity areas are necessary (study, playroom, darkroom, shop, etc)?



5. What guest accommodation is necessary?
6. Is additional storage space necessary?
7. How much interaction between the indoors and the outdoors is desirable?
8. Do you like transitional spaces (porches, decks etc)?
9. Do you see the exterior landscape as formal, casual or natural?
10. What requirements do you have for outdoor activities and accessory buildings (pool, tennis, gardens, horses, basketball etc)?
11. What is your attitude towards dirt? Where do you mind it and where is it ok? How do you clean it up and how often?
12. How many vehicles do you have and how do they fit into your life?
13. Do you have pets? How many and what kind?
14. Plants, how many? Special requirements?
15. What sort of textures do you like?
16. What colours do you like?
17. List the things you can't do in your present environment that you would like to do in your new environment?
18. Do you wish to use environmentally friendly building materials throughout the building?
19. Do you intend to install active solar equipment (eg photovoltaic panels etc)?
20. Which type of heating system would make you feel most comfortable?
21. Are you keen to have passive solar design principals used in the design of your home?

