



The Evolution of Design

Create custom spaces that reflect who you are today

By Candice Adler

As we evolve, our homes should too. My job as a designer is to incorporate my designs and resources and marry them to my clients' particular needs and taste. My passion for design has allowed me to assist clients in creating beautiful homes that inspire them to love the space where their daily life takes place. It's critical to understand one's lifestyle first, and then add the ingredients necessary to make their home work for them. Whether you decide to hire a professional to expedite your design needs, or enjoy the process on your own, make sure you are clear on what it is that defines your ultimate style goals.

You may be reimagining an existing home, building a new home, or just transitioning into a new phase of life. Either way, you will need to surround yourself with skilled and talented professionals to ensure you receive the quality you should expect on all levels of the process.

What one may consider a blissful home will be determined quite differently for each of us. Style and function are subjective so it's always a good idea to make a list of your goals. Think about how you live. How will each of your rooms be used and by whom. I act as if I am an investigating a client's lifestyle when meeting for the first time. Some want a cozy home to entertain guests. Others want their homes to a showplace for the things they have collected over the years. To surround themselves with memories daily is their peace. Something resonates with each of us so, prior to taking on a project, take the time to be sure you are clear on what you are trying to achieve. You have decided to make a change so you might as well be confident your decisions



will serve your purpose.

As my clients know, prioritizing is a key element one must focus on first. This will include everything from function of the space, to perhaps a certain piece of furniture that is meaningful and must be worked into the final phase of design.

It is all in the details. It is a process to work through many elements and specifics to allow a project to run smoothly. It is imperative to have a clear and realistic budget. As important is to insist on accurate timelines, with expectations that are agreed upon in advance, making sure all involved are on same page. Surprises during a project can be very stressful and can increase costs. At first, you may think you don't care about how many lights are in your home or how wide are your interior hallways are. How many windows will there be allowing for natural light? Will furniture placement be an issue? But I promise you, if these elements, among others, are not planned for, it is very disappointing when you look back and feel regret when a completed project is unsatisfying.

Be in touch and understand your dreams so you can reimagine an existing space, or create a new one, using all the possibilities and

resources available to you. The potential of your project is up to you, so make each decision count. Your home, as I have said before, is a reflection of you and your personality so I believe if you take the time, you will reap all the pleasures from it that you desire. Keep your mind open, as the possibilities are endless.

A home is a portrait of you, your family and friends, and, most importantly, the memories created within.

It's a sensory experience on all levels. People think about a home generally from a visual aspect alone. I, on the other hand, consider how it makes you feel when you are in it. From the conversations of your guests, to your children growing up in your home, how we feel depends on the sounds we experience in it. Memories may be from how it may smell from baking on a special holiday celebrating wonderful times, or maybe from a sound system that plays comforting music throughout. Either way it can be a magical experience if you think about awakening your senses when planning your project. The feel of your home is embodied in the warmth you create.

The textiles and colors, along with lighting will all take part in setting the tone. It's up to you to be in touch with how you want to feel — as well as how you want others to feel — when visiting your home. This will be the driving force behind how and what you choose when making selections. Get the bones of your home right and it will work specifically for you, creating a one-of-a-kind environment for you and your loved ones. ■

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