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Home Design Guide

One of the first questions people ask an architect is how do I get started? How do I begin to articulate what I want in my project? The process of designing a new home or addition can be overwhelming. There are so many decisions to make that it may be hard to know where to begin. At Chris Doehrmann Architect we start at the beginning. We first get to know who you are and what is important to you. To assist in that process we have developed our Home Design Guide. The Home Design Guide is a series of questions aimed at helping you communicate your hopes and dreams for your project. Step by step, space by space, room by room you will be able to start communicating the styles you like, the features you want, and how you see yourself living in your new home.

We also encourage you to collect inspiration photos of the different features you like. As we go through the Home Design Guide with you and see the things that you like, we begin to formulate a vision of your style and priorities. The guide helps us to ask the right questions so we can design a home that compliments your lifestyle and reflects your personal tastes. Use the Home Design Guide with our compliments to start the process off right. Contact us when you are ready to make your hopes and dreams for home come true.

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A. About the Owners

1. Family members/ages : _____
2. Any special needs? : _____
3. Where does your family spend the most time together? : _____
4. Where does your family eat most meals? _____
5. Does your family usually watch TV together, or do you prefer separate TV-watching areas for parents and children? _____
6. How do you entertain? _____
7. How important are formal living areas to you? _____
8. How do you plan to use your yard? _____

Notes: _____

B. Lot

1. Dimensions _____
2. Topography _____
3. Special features (views, water, trees, adjacent property, other) _____

4. Owner requirements (views, driveway access, other) _____

Notes: _____

C. House - General Requirements

1. Type of project (new home, cabin, addition, renovation) _____
2. Anticipated square footage (heated / cooled) _____
3. Estimated construction budget _____
4. Preferred architectural style _____

5. How many levels _____
6. If two-story, how many staircases and where? _____
7. Basement? _____
8. Preferred exterior materials / colors _____
9. Window style preferences _____
10. Door style preferences _____
11. How many garages? _____
12. Special garage requirements (location, storage, hobby area, other) _____
13. Number / location of bedrooms _____
14. Number / location of baths _____
15. Special room requirements _____
16. In which rooms do you want fireplaces? _____
17. Preferred laundry location _____

Notes: _____

D. Rooms - Specific Requirements

1. Entry

-Size _____

-Style _____

-Ceiling height _____

Notes: _____

2. Living Room

-Location _____

-Formal or informal _____

-How will it be used? _____

-What furniture must it accommodate? _____

-Special features _____

-Ceiling height _____

Notes: _____

3. Dining room

- Location _____
- Formal or informal? _____
- How will it be used? _____
- What furniture must it accomodate? _____
- Special features _____
- Ceiling height _____
- Notes: _____

4. Kitchen

- Will the kitchen typically be used for serious meal preparation, or for quick, convenient meals? _____

- Will you eat most family meals here? _____
- Do you want a breakfast counter with stools? _____
- Which type of work area do you prefer - island or peninsula? _____
- Describe the types of appliance you want and where they should be located _____

- Counter material _____
- Floor material _____
- Cabinet style, color, and configuration _____
- Do you want a desk in or near the kitchen? _____
- Will your family use an outdoor eating area off the kitchen? _____
- Do you want a walk-in pantry? _____
- Ceiling height _____
- Other kitchen requirements _____
- Notes: _____

5. Family room

- Should family room be open to kitchen? _____
- Will family's main TV be located here? _____

-Where should fireplace be located in relation to TV? _____

-What furniture must it accomodate? _____

-Wet bar _____

-Ceiling height _____

Notes: _____

6. Study or home office

-Needed? _____

-Where should it be located? _____

-How will it be used? _____

-What built-ins will you need? _____

-What special electrical or wiring needs? _____

Notes: _____

7. Owners' suite

-First or second floor? _____

-Patio or desk access? _____

-Fireplace? _____

-Sitting or retreat area? _____

-What furniture must it accommodate? _____

-Adjacent areas (exercise, hobby, office, or nursery) _____

-Ceiling height _____

-Closet requirements _____

-Preferred closet access from bath, bedroom, or dressing area? _____

-Preferred sink / counter layout _____

-One or two person shower _____

-Tub style _____

-Other bath requirements _____

Notes: _____

8. Secondary bedrooms

-How many? _____

-Size _____

-Preferred bath arrangement _____

-Shared space (play, study, living) _____

Notes: _____

9. Porch

-Open, screen, or three-season? _____

-Size _____

-Location in relation to other spaces _____

Notes: _____

10. Miscellaneous notes: _____
