

How to Plan For a Room Addition

As your life changes throughout the years, you may find that you need to adapt your home to your evolving circumstances. Whether you have a baby on the way, an older child moving back in, an aging parent moving into your home, if you need a home office, or always dreamed of a game / media room / gym – whatever your reasons, a room addition may be the perfect solution.

If you're unsure of where to start, you're not alone.

A room addition is a big project and requires preparation!

For someone who has never gone through the remodeling process before, starting out can be overwhelming, intimidating and confusing. Not to worry! This white paper will break down the remodeling preparation process so you'll be able to:

- » Plan and budget for your room addition
- » Approach remodeling company candidates with some well-prepared ideas and visions
- » Get the most out of the initial consultation
- » Know, with confidence, when you're ready to move forward

Planning and Budgeting

It's tempting to pick up the phone and start calling remodeling companies as soon as you start considering a room addition. Resist this temptation. It's far better to do a little planning on your own first.

You'll get more out of your initial consultation if you already have some ideas and a budget range.

Start by thinking about why you want your room addition and what needs it will fulfill. Ask yourself the following questions:

- » What is the purpose of this room addition, what are my goals for the space?
- » How will this room be used and who will use it, both today and in the future?
- » Where (ideally) do I want it to be located and how will it connect to the existing residence?
- » How big do I need this space to be, will there be exterior access, built-in cabinetry, storage?
- » Am I willing to rework existing space within the house or do I need to add onto the house?
- » What type of furniture / appliances / equipment would I like to have in this room?

Answering these questions will help you begin to define your goals and functionality of your new space. Use this information to create a **room addition wish list** – everything you want in your room addition. In addition, it can be helpful to begin a collection of room addition images / photographs that you like. Magazines and the internet are a good place to begin. Be aware that you do not need to have a perfect vision of your room addition. Rather, if you have a general idea of the available space and the different needs you want your room addition to meet, this info will give the design consultant something to work with as he or she helps you refine your ideas during the initial consultation.



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Depending on your budget, you may not be able to do everything on your room addition wish list. Go through the list and organize the items by priority, putting the things that you absolutely must have at the top and those that you would like to have toward the bottom.

It is in your best interest to think about a budget range before you approach a remodeling company. You don't need to have an exact number in mind – in fact, a range is preferred - but you should have some sense of your level of investment. This will help the design consultant work within your budget during the initial consultation. The size of the space, the options, features, and finishes will affect the total cost significantly. Your design consultant can help you to prioritize your goals to maximize your investment.

Once you have your room addition wish list ready and a budget range in mind, you're ready to call a remodeling company like Marrokal Design & Remodeling to schedule an initial consultation.

The Initial Consultation

Most remodeling companies, including Marrokal Design & Remodeling, offer in-home consultations at no cost. Take advantage of this opportunity. A good design consultant will not only be knowledgeable about zoning, setbacks, and other city or county restrictions (which can be quite complex and vary from neighborhood to neighborhood), but also listen to your ideas, offer input and suggestions to develop your ideas even further, and be open to new ideas and possibilities.

Don't be shy! Make sure you get the most from your remodeling consultation.

In preparing for the initial consultation, we recommend that you have your room addition wish list and an idea of your budget range ready. You may also want to organize and write down some questions before the meeting. We also highly recommend that you include all the people who will be affected by the remodel, if possible. This would likely include a spouse, partner, or other family members who will be involved in the decision making process.

Remember that the remodeling consultation is for your benefit. Ask all of your questions, present your ideas and request feedback. A good design consultant will:

- » Listen carefully to your ideas, concerns and goals
- » Provide knowledgeable, considerate and helpful feedback
- » Point out potential issues or concerns with your wish list
- » Help you refine and develop your ideas even further
- » Provide you with different options to meet your remodel goals
- » Propose cost-saving (value engineering) options
- » Answer your questions thoroughly
- » Perhaps even have some ideas that you had not considered
- » Explain the design / build remodeling process – it is a collaborative process
- » Provide estimated cost ranges for different aspects of the project
- » Be respectful to you, your family (your pets) and your home



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Gathering Design Ideas

A reputable remodeling company usually offers a showroom or design center where homeowners can work with the design consultant as well as experienced ASID interior designers to view examples. Marrokal's Design Center is where we share ideas and possibilities with exist-ing and new clients to help them develop their visions and select materials, styles and colors. There is an infinite array of options, including tile, countertops, appliances, cabinetry, light-ing and plumbing fixtures, flooring, doors and windows, etc. Small vignettes have been created to showcase how different materials can complement each other and work in harmony to create a space that will exceed your expectations, all while keeping your budget in mind. Starting to visualize what your newly remodeled space will soon look like with color renderings, 3D modeling, material samples and palates is very exciting and reward-ing if you are working with the right team.

Now it's time for you to take all of the information you've gathered and decide if a remodel is right for you.

Making the Decision to Do a Room Addition

Only you can decide if a room addition is the right choice. You'll need to weigh the investment with the benefits of expanding (or reworking) your home to incorporate the new room you want or need.

When you decide to move forward, the remodeling company of your choice should take care of you throughout the remodeling process. At Marrokal, we make sure to keep in constant communication with our clients throughout the project. We are committed to ensuring the process is just as reward-ing as the final product.

Now that you know how to prepare for your room addition, it's time to get started with that room addition wish list. We hope that you found this white paper useful and that you'll consider Marrokal when you're ready to get started. Visit www.marrokal.com to learn more about our company and www.marrokal.com/resources/free-consultation to request your complimentary in-home consultation.



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