

## UpRight Worksheet: 10 Ways to Prepare for Your New House Renovation

### 1. LIST ALL ROOMS NEEDING RENOVATION

- In order of importance
- Include all items you want to change or add to each room.

### 2. DECIDE WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR EACH ROOM

- Budget
- Style
- Function

### 3. RESEARCH DESIGN IDEAS

Inspiration can come from many different places.

- Magazines
- Internet image search
- houzz.com, bhg.com, thisoldhouse.com, etc
- HGTV- renovation t.v. shows

### 4. GO SHOPPING

It is helpful to see materials and designs in person

- Home Depot, Lowes, Lumberyards, etc.
- Tile and Bath showrooms
- Kitchen Cabinet showrooms
- Furniture Stores
- Home Remodeling events

### 5. CREATE A DESIGN FOR EACH PROJECT

- Sketch your ideas on graph paper
- Write every detail down in a notebook including materials, pictures from magazines, etc.
- Decorating tools - BHG.com, etc. for visuals on the computer
- Design tools - ChiefArchitect.com, etc. for the tech savvy

### 6. HIRE A DESIGNER OR ARCHITECT

- Professional designers can cater the design to fit your personality
- Architects are needed when altering the structure of the house

### 7. DECIDE IF YOU WANT TO BE THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Finding the right contractor(s) can be challenging. Weigh the pros and cons of becoming the general contractor.

#### PROS

- Potential to save money
- Control over every detail of the job

#### CONS

- Interview multiple contractors and get estimates for each trade
- No certainty your contractors will be quality
- Coordinating schedules of multiple contractors
- You are responsible for ensuring that the job is done properly, safely, and legally
- You apply for all permits required by your town

### 8. DECIDE ON A BUDGET

Renovation is a big financial commitment. Keep in mind there are numerous ways to make the cost manageable.

- Ask your mortgage lender if you can bundle your renovation into the total of your loan
- Research bank loans
- Home Depot project loan
- 0% or low interest credit card offers

### 9. SET A BASIC TIMELINE

- Renovation is always most efficient and cost effective when the house is empty. It's also a great way to avoid living in the dirty clutter of a job site. List what needs to happen in order of importance and any defining parameters.
- Do you have a move-in deadline?
- Get the big jobs involving structural change, kitchen, and bathrooms done first
- Order everything else according to importance
- Keep in mind what you can afford

### 10. HIRE A CONTRACTOR

- The most important thing is to find someone you can trust.