

**What's REALLY important:**

One sentence for each of you...

What is the **very essence** of the home you can see in your mind and **feel in your heart**?

Who are the people who will live in the house, names and ages:

In a few words, describe yourselves

If you build it, who will come?

**Sense of place:**

Houses can inhabit a piece of land in many ways, perhaps looking like a spaceship that has landed, or looking like a rock that's always been there. Which do you lean toward?

What are your feelings toward the area and surroundings of your future home?

The front of the house should face where?

And project what image?

Houses of happy circumstance usually are friendly to their land, and peaceably co-exist with the natural and man-made qualities of the place, being oriented to the sun, good views, breezes, etc.

What are your feelings toward this design approach, and your thoughts specifically about your own house site?

**Places loved:**

Please relate any recollection of a memorable house, a place that made you feel good, and why ( if you know )

**Sense of Style:**

If there is any one Architectural style, which most closely approximates how you would like your own house to look, which one is it? (Attach photos if you have them)

**The Outdoors:**

Do you enjoy outdoor living spaces, such as terraces, decks, or the like?

Should outdoor and indoor spaces relate and flow together, or do you prefer strong separation of outside/inside?

Is there a gardener in the family?

Do you like formal or informal grounds, and who will maintain the grounds?

Would you like a swimming pool now or in the future?

**The Indoors:**

Do you prefer large, open interior space or discreet, separate rooms?

Do you become somewhat depressed about the prospect of a long winter and staying indoors much of the time? Would many South windows or a sunroom brighten your days?

What rooms, spaces or combination thereof do you require?

Room: \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Kitchen

Dining area

Family room

Laundry room

Bathroom

Pantry

Utility room

Others:

**The Master bedroom or suite:**

Will this be a major space?

Are you early risers?

Location: On ground floor or upstairs or . . . ?

Private bath?      Sitting area?      Fireplace?      Terrace/balcony?      Mirrors?

Thoughts on privacy, time spent in suite, flooring and other materials, lighting, TV, phone, etc.

**Master bath:**

Materials - floor:

Sinks:      How many sinks?

Countertops:

Walls:

Whirlpool?

Tub/shower?

View of enclosed sunning garden or grounds?

Sauna?

Bidet?

Toilet nook?

Fireplace?

Colors - muted, earthy, bold?

Thoughts:

**Kitchen:**

Who cooks?

What are your views on cooking, entertaining, etc.

What expense level do you feel is appropriate for your kitchen? ( 0 - 100 )

Type of countertops?

Cabinets:

Flooring: Wood, tile, other?

**Equipment:**

Range/oven:

Gas or electric?

Microwave:

Grill:

Dishwasher:

Compactor:

Pantry closet:

Disposal:

Type/number of sinks:

Oversize fridge:

Freezer:

Pot storage:

Wine storage:

Kitchen office:

Lighting:

Other:

Comments:

**Dining:**

What is the normal pattern of everyday dining, and where are meals usually eaten?

What sort of meals (elaborate, simple, lengthy, short) are guests usually invited to?

Do you serve drinks and appetizers?

Is a separate, formal "dining room" required?

**Family space:**

Where will the family spend most of the waking hours?

Doing what?

List any special interests or hobbies, activities.

Is a "great room" (kitchen, family, dining) appropriate?

Comments:

**Living room:**

Is a separate, formal living room required?

What size, what furnishings?

**Bedrooms:**

Will the children's rooms and guestrooms be used strictly as sleeping and clothing spaces, or will they be used for homework, hobbies, TV, crafts, or other?

Might these rooms share one common bath, or perhaps one bath per two adjoining bedrooms?

Balconies or terraces?

Solar orientation - East for early risers?

**Library, study:**

Would you like to have a study?

What part of the house should the study be located in?

What is needed in the way of shelving?

Cabinetry?

Special electronics?

**Special pieces:**

Do you have any special or large pieces of furniture or equipment that might require nooks or alcoves in the floor plan?

**Artwork or collections:**

Do you have any artwork or collections you would like to display in a special place specifically designed for such?

**Home office or business:**

Will anyone conduct business or do work at home?

Will this require separate entry and other privacy considerations?

Special electrical?

**Help:**

Do you expect to have domestic help live in?

If so, what sort of accommodations will you provide?

**Laundry:**

What part of the house will laundry be done in?

Do you want a laundry sink, built-in ironing board?

Laundry chute or cart?

Winter clothes storage?

Where?

**Storage:**

Would you typify yourselves as packrats, ordinary savers, or severe thrower-outers?

What are your primary storage concerns?

Yard/garden/sports equipment: Is it all right with you to pile this up in the garage, or would you prefer a special space provided?

Barn or shed?

**Workshop:**

Is there a handyman in the family that needs a workshop or workbench?

Tools: Anything large or extensive?

Special power requirements?

Storage of materials, wood, paint, etc.?

**Other storage concerns:**



**Mechanical:**

What type of heating system do you favor, hot air, hot water, or other?

Is passive or active solar heat important to you?

If important, are you willing to perform the small daily tasks necessary for optimum solar performance? ("trimming the sails")

What further thoughts do you have about solar or mechanical heating do you have?

Do you want a woodstove? Fireplace? . Material:

Air filtering system? Air conditioning?

How many heating zones, and where?

Heat in the garage? Heat in the cellar?

Remarks:

**Electrical:**

Describe the general type of lighting you envision in any specific place, with dimmers, low-level spots, or whatever you may have in mind.

Do you favor a low general lighting level with task lighting, or a high overall level of lighting?

Natural light? Automatic lighting?

Cable TV locations?

Telephones?

Computer outlets?

Alarm systems?

"Smart house" or energy maintenance systems?

Audio/video systems?

Other?

Do you want a sprinkler system for fire protection?

Fire extinguishers?

Alarms?

**Exterior materials:**

What exterior materials would you like your house to be constructed from?

- Walls:
- Roof:
- Patios or decks:
- Doors and windows:
- Driveway paving:
- Garden walks, retaining walls:

**Interior materials:**

As you think about the various interior spaces of your house, consider what types of materials and finishes you would like to have.

Do you envision hardwood floors with Orientals, or wall-to-wall carpet? Painted trim, or natural wood? Drywall ceilings, or perhaps wood ceilings in some spaces.

List below:

<u>Room</u>	<u>Walls</u>	<u>Floor</u>	<u>Ceiling</u>
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- Living:
- Dining:
- Kitchen:
- Bedrooms:
- Bathrooms
- Decks
- Garage:
- Pantry:
- Laundry room:
- Utility room:
- Other:

**Financial:**

How much money do you expect to spend on :

- Land?
- House?
- Furnishings?
- Other?

Will there be any phasing of construction due to financial considerations?

Do you foresee a typical competitive bidding, select bid list, friendly builder, or owner/contractor type of construction scenario?

Remember, this is only a beginning, but we have gotten started.

You may want to change your mind later about much of the above, which is both reasonable and expected. No one house will ever fulfill all of everyone's hopes and expectations, but the task at hand is to satisfy those that loom most important given the resources at hand.

Creating a good house is a long, exasperating, fun, fulfilling, enlightening, and demanding process for all those involved - it's well worth the effort.

JBW