

# Develop Your Home Remodeling Plan

for link and support information, go to: [www.LetsRenovate.com](http://www.LetsRenovate.com)

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## Design Objective

let's begin with the design objective. What are you looking to accomplish in your home remodeling?

- newer kitchen
- room addition
- greater size dimension
- working office environment
- other? \_\_\_\_\_

link to our Home Improvement directory for ideas and product trends:

[www.LetRenovate.com/sayimprove/](http://www.LetRenovate.com/sayimprove/)

also link to our directory of design galleries for pictorial views:

link to design gallery: [www.LetRenovate.com/ideas.html](http://www.LetRenovate.com/ideas.html)

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## Sketch Your Plan

Sketch your ideas on piece of paper. Don't get bogged down with details. That will come later when working with an architect or designer.

You may want to view some house plans to get some ideas of what's new in home building and renovation: [www.SearchHousePlans.com](http://www.SearchHousePlans.com)

You can use software to sketch design ideas:

Drawing Software:

[www.smartdraw.com](http://www.smartdraw.com)

Punch! Professional Home Design:

[www.punchsoftware.com](http://www.punchsoftware.com)

Punch! user and support group:

[www.punch-alternatives.com](http://www.punch-alternatives.com)

Other home design recommendations from b4ubuild.com:

[www.b4ubuild.com](http://www.b4ubuild.com)

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## View House Plans

if you are looking for a simple project, you might be able to buy stock remodeling plans from more than 100 leading residential designers for every size-style-budget. Select the size of home plan you would like to view: [www.SearchHousePlans.com](http://www.SearchHousePlans.com)

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## Develop Project Specification Plan

the specification plan defines what you want to accomplish. It will list the size and type of room, the general layout, the plumbing needs, flooring requirements, type of doors and windows, the landscaping layout of the yard, brand, make, model, color, etc.

You will use this plan to discuss your remodeling project with an architect or designer:  
[www.LetsRenovate.com/plan-sheet.html](http://www.LetsRenovate.com/plan-sheet.html)

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## Meet with an Architect

you are now ready to meet with an architect who will use your project specification plan, current home layout, and your design ideas to tailor a plan that can be used to bid for contractors, obtain financing, and begin the project.

### **LetsRenovate has partnered with ServiceMagic**

to bring you the nation's premier network of "customer-rated" architects and design drafters. Get matched with the right pre-screened architect in your area

- FREE Service
- No Obligation
- Service Guaranteed

[www.LetsRenovate.com/contractor.html](http://www.LetsRenovate.com/contractor.html)

Use an online architect:

[www.virtualarchitect.com](http://www.virtualarchitect.com)

Another online directory for architects:

[www.architectsusa.com](http://www.architectsusa.com)

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## Traffic Patterns

traffic should flow to one side of the room rather than through its center

more traffic information:

[http://www.andyshowto.com/room\\_design.htm](http://www.andyshowto.com/room_design.htm)

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## Kitchen Considerations

location of the kitchen should have direct access to the dining area and garage where grocery items can be unloaded conveniently

traffic should not flow through the kitchen working area

larger kitchens have a greater resale value than smaller kitchens — you will want to design the working area with appliances in a triangular position for easy working

more information on kitchen layout:

[www.andyshowto.com](http://www.andyshowto.com)

see kitchen design basics:

[www.kitchen-bath.com](http://www.kitchen-bath.com)

see our kitchen design directory:

home improvement center: [www.LetsRenovate.com/sayimprove/](http://www.LetsRenovate.com/sayimprove/)

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## About Private Areas

bedrooms and bathrooms should be separated visually from the working areas of the house

you should have at least one bathroom near working and relaxation areas and with easy access from the outside

never situate bathrooms where you must pass through one room to get to the facilities

it is almost a necessity (particularly in a resale) that the master bedroom has an attached master bathroom

the master bathroom should be large, with full size bath, shower, his/her vanity sinks and exhaust fans that vent to the outside

see bathroom design basics:

<http://www.kitchen-bath.com>

see our bathroom design directory:

home improvement center: [www.LetsRenovate.com/sayimprove/](http://www.LetsRenovate.com/sayimprove/)

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## Living Areas

living areas include the dining room, living/family room, and den

designs may vary with rooms segmented by walls or merged into a larger, multi-purpose room with boundaries such as pillars segmenting one room from the other

see our main-floor design directory:

home improvement center: [www.LetsRenovate.com/sayimprove/](http://www.LetsRenovate.com/sayimprove/)

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## Energy Efficiency

there are some energy efficient products on the market that can reduce your energy costs and keep you more comfortable.

the government has published materials on energy efficient homes:

- elements of an energy efficient home
- home energy advisor
- energy information for your home

see our energy design directory:

home improvement center: [www.LetsRenovate.com/sayimprove/](http://www.LetsRenovate.com/sayimprove/)

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## Foundations:

poured concrete is the most expensive foundation and best choice for full basements because of its strength and resistance to leaks

cinder block is a substitute to concrete, but is not as strong and is subject to leakage

monolithic concrete slabs are used with homes without basements bringing the cost and implementation down

more structural information:

[www.andyshowto.com](http://www.andyshowto.com)

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## Plumbing/Electrical:

plumbing information:  
[www.andyshowto.com](http://www.andyshowto.com)

Plumbing Projects:

- plumbing repair page
- plumbing forums
- plumbing doctor

electrical information:  
<http://www.andyshowto.com/electrical.htm>

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## Room Dimensions:

- bedroom: not less than 7 feet in any direction
- closets: depth at 24 inches or more
- hallways: minimum width 3 feet
- dining room: big enough for 8-person dining table
- kitchen: work aisle at least 42 inches wide

more room dimension information:  
[http://www.andyshowto.com/room\\_design.htm](http://www.andyshowto.com/room_design.htm)