

6

TIPS FROM A

SEASONED ARCHITECT



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EVERY GREAT SPACE HAS A GREAT STORY.

The married couple who converts a crumbling family barn into a modern family home. The burned-out lawyer who exits the rat race, buys a few hilly acres and builds a luxurious artists' retreat. The soon-to-retire teacher who finally saves enough to remodel her small bungalow in a booming city.

Maybe you have a great space of your own in mind. Maybe it's a built-from-scratch home that looks great, feels better, keeps you cool in the summer, has a stupendous kitchen, room for your family to grow or a yard to die for. Maybe it has all those things.

The question, of course, is how to begin?

The story of your great space might just start with this primer on how to get moving in the right direction, regardless of what you know (or don't know) about real estate, architecture and homebuilding.





TIP 1

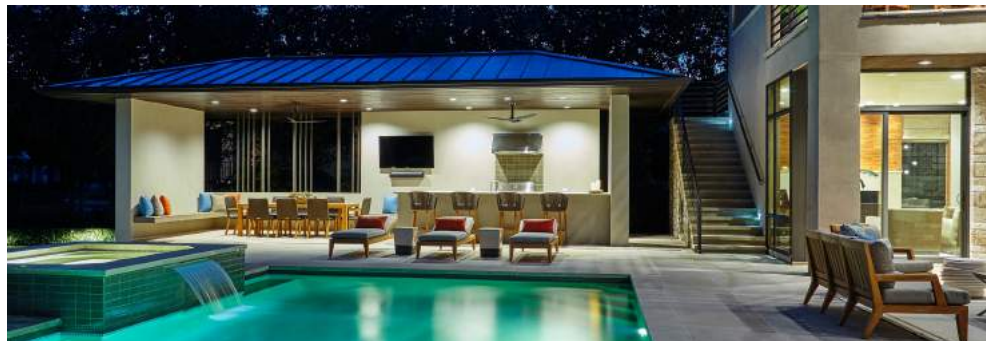
DEFINE YOUR VISION

Before you actually build the physical foundations of your own great space, you'll need to develop a clear vision of what you want. Think about the general location. what neighborhood is it in? What's the view like? What sort of budget are you imagining? How many bedrooms? At this stage, everything should be on the table, and it's helpful to write down these details. Try using Taskboard or another whiteboard app. Be loose and free with this exercise; have fun, be creative and think BIG.

TIP 2

DEFINE YOUR AESTHETIC PREFERENCES

Begin exploring how your ideal space will look. What colors, materials and textures do you want your home to have? Are you drawn to a certain feeling or design style? Are you thinking high-end contemporary, rustic mountain home or Tuscan-inspired villa? When you walk into a room, what makes you happy? Start a Pinterest board or take a look at Houzz for inspiration. The point here is to dream a little.



TIP 3

SELECT YOUR ARCHITECT

Find an architect that will work with you to turn your vision into a thoughtful and beautiful design. It should be someone who will really listen to you, and be willing to collaborate. You want an architect who will communicate your vision through their drawings rather than one who forces their agenda on you. Choosing the right architect can save months or even years of headaches and disappointments. Be sure to do your research and select someone with a proven record of success in your area.

TIP 4

EMBRACE AND ENGAGE IN THE DESIGN PROCESS

Like any creative endeavor, home design is a fluid process that both the architect and client must embrace together. Be flexible, expect challenges, enjoy the process and go with the flow. Good communication between you and your architect is the key to a successful design process. Share everything you have gathered and documented, and be prepared to discuss it in detail. Listen to your architect's advice and input, but make sure it aligns with your wish list and goals. Clients who get the best results are always the ones who engage fully and openly throughout the entire process.



TIP 5

UNDERSTAND THE VALUE

Equity and the financial value of your home are always important considerations, but never forget the intrinsic value of owning a home you adore. A place where you can relax in peace, gather friends and family, watch your children grow...a place that makes you happy to come home.

TIP 6

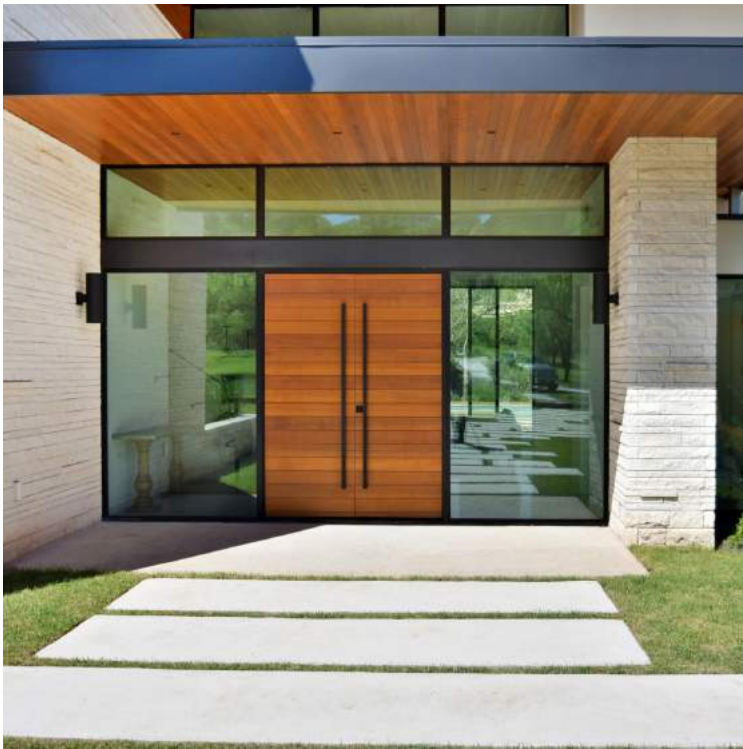
KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE PRIZE

Keep your mind focused on the end result and don't rush the process. Understand that sometimes adjustments need to be made and external factors like the weather or seasons can delay build times or add on extra costs. A little patience will be rewarded with long-term satisfaction when everything is done exactly how you imagined.

EVERY GREAT SPACE HAS A GREAT STORY.

Following these tips is the first chapter in a tale that ends with you and a very happy place to call your own.

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