

COMMON MISTAKES

People Make Regarding Their Project

& BEST STEPS TO TAKE

to Increase Its Success



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COMMON MISTAKES

People Make Regarding Their Project

Starting Before They're Ready

Getting started before you're actually ready can slow the process and bring confusion.

Not Understanding Their Property Value

Take a renovation, for example. What potential does the current home have and what can be do to increase its value for the owners.

Only Thinking Short Term

Trying to save money on every aspect of your home may benefit you now, but may not in the long run.

Undervaluing the Importance of Quality Design

People often think design is a good place to save money.

Not Asking or Trusting Your Team to Save You Money

Whether the residential or interior designer or builder, we all have ways of saving you on the cost of your project.

Waiting Too Long to Request Construction Costs

Understanding the numbers up front will give you a more accurate picture of total project costs.

Being Impatient

It's important to realize that quality design and building take time, and that often, municipalities require more time than anticipated.

Not Hiring the Required Specialists

Your project's success depends on finding the right team of professionals, including residential designers, interior designers, and builders.

Not Being Fortright About Your Project's Budget

Your project will have design fees, consultant and municipal fees, and construction costs. Being forthright about your budget ensures a clear experience for everyone involved.

Not Understanding Where to Invest & Where to Save

If you expect to save from the design of your home, then expect a mediocre result. Save in your selections along the way and postpone some of the portions of your project to complete when funds are available.

Not Selecting a Builder Soon Enough

Starting with a builder early in the process can give you more accurate estimates and helps the project go smoothly.

Wanting Your Design Professions to Determine Your Project's Direction

This is your home or project. You need to know the direction you want it to go and make sure your home team is on board.

Putting Off Interior Design Decisions Too Close to Construction

This makes it impossible for your builder to provide you with an accurate cost breakdown as some of the cost of your home/project is determined by your selections.

Selecting Your Team Based on Who Is The Lowest Cost

This typically results in a mediocre end result you can't change.

Lacking a Clear Vision

This can make the design process much less enjoyable and you may feel under pressure to make decisions.

Not Thinking About Your Family's Needs & Lifestyle

Neglecting this can result in a home that's beautiful but doesn't support daily routines and unique needs—the point of custom home design.





BEST STEPS TO TAKE

to Increase Your Project's Success

1. Establish Your Visions & Goals for Your Project

- Think short and long term.
- Create an inspiration board.
- Understand your family's lifestyle so you can be confident in the end design.
- Prioritize your needs. Make a list of “must haves” and “nice to haves”.

2. Establish a Budget for Your Project

- Areas to include: Design, consultants, build costs, and furnishing.
- Do not use HGTV or some online resources as they often do not reflect local construction costs.
- Be prepared to share this information with a builder you trust and plan to have build your project.

3. Determine Your Core Team Members (In This Order)

- Residential Designer
 - We are responsible to find:
 - Engineers (structural/civil)
 - Surveyors
 - Estimators
- Interior Designer
- Builder
- Realtors (for some development projects)

4. Have a Well Thought Out Idea of Your Design Aesthetic

- Start to source pictures that reflect what “home” means to you:
- Exterior and interior styles
- Colours
- Open spaces or more defined?
- Material palette

5. Write Down How Your Home Needs to Meet Your Current & Future Needs

- Your lifestyle
- Do you entertain alot?
- Do you need a home office or a space to meet clients?
- Your family
- How do you want your family to interact?
- Do you or your kids have any current or future special needs?
- Your hobbies
- Your pets

6. Prepare to Work with Your Team of Professionals in a Collaborative & Engaging Process

- Communicate openly and honestly. Be clear and direct about your preferences, concerns, and feedback. Don't be afraid to ask questions or express when something doesn't feel right.
- Be prepared to make decisions in a timely manner to keep the process on time.

7. Select Professionals You Can Trust & Ultimately Put the Success of Your Project in Their Hands

- Understand their contracts and ensure you understand what is included and what is not.



ABOUT ELLERGODT DESIGN

Ellergodt Design is a client-centred residential design firm in Calgary. Established in 2003, while numerous things have changed over the years, our philosophy has remained the same:

Everything revolves around the client.

What else we bring to the table:

- Creative, collaborative team
- Flexible design thinking
- End-to-end guidance
- Calgary & area zoning expertise

Want to find out if we're the right fit?

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