PLANNING YOUR PROJECT

Your builder meeting worksheet

The best projects bring the builder in early. Whether you're starting with an idea or a finished set of plans, we'll meet you there and make sure the right people are part of the conversation from day one. A few notes about how you live in your home today will help you get the most out of every meeting.

WHERE ARE YOU STARTING?

☐ With an idea

No drawings yet? That's a great time to call. We'll help you define scope and budget, then bring the right architect, designer and specialists to the table from the start.

☐ With plans in hand

Already working with an architect or designer? We'll partner closely with them, flag cost and constructability questions early, and build the design as it's intended.

Think it through

01 What isn't working well in your home today?

02 How would you like the space to work differently?

03 Where are you short on room?
Storage, parking, a place to gather, a quiet place to work

04 What do you love about your current home that you'd want to keep or carry into a new one?

05 Building new? Do you have a lot yet, or are you still looking?
Lot size, slope, access and any restrictions all shape what you can build.

06 Are there future needs worth planning for now?
A growing family, aging in place, a project you may take on later

07 When the project is finished, what will make it feel like a success?

08 Do you have a budget range or timeline in mind?
A range is plenty. It helps you, your builder and your design team talk honestly about what's realistic.

Have ready if you can

- ☐ Any problems you've noticed, like moisture, drafts or older wiring
- ☐ A survey or plat of your property, if you have one
- ☐ Plans or paperwork from past projects on the home
- ☐ Photos or examples of what you like
- ☐ Current drawings, plus contact info for your architect or designer so we can connect early
- ☐ Anything that could limit the project, like association rules or deed restrictions

WHAT A BUILDER MAY LOOK AT

During the site visit

- Zoning and setback requirements
- Existing electrical, plumbing and HVAC
- Structural conditions
- How an addition will connect to the existing home
- Access to the work area
- Drainage and grading
- Utility locations
- Conditions your design team should know about

A site visit is more than a measuring appointment. It's an early chance to understand your home, flag what will shape the design and budget, and make sure everyone on your team starts with the same information.

Questions to ask

- How do you build a budget before plans are finished?
- How do you work with architects and designers, and can you help us find the right fit?
- Who will be our main point of contact, and how will you keep us informed?
- What do you need from us to take the next step?

> **A tip from Lou:** do a little homework, too. Your local building department and the lumberyards a builder works with can tell you a lot about who you're considering.

Notes from the meeting

Ready when you are.

Whether you're starting with an idea or a finished set of plans, we'd be glad to talk it through and bring the right people to the table. Gathering estimates next? Find our Comparing Estimates worksheet at cheramybuilders.com/resources.

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