



## 14 Questions to Ask Yourself Before You Get Started

1. Think about your current home.
  - What do you like about it?
  - What's missing?
  - What don't you like?
  
2. How do you use your home?
  - Are you there a lot?
  - Do you work at home?
  - Do you entertain often?
  - Do you have any specialized hobbies?
  - How much time do you spend in the living areas, bedrooms, kitchen, office, etc.?
  - Do you use your yard?
  
3. Why do you want a change?
  - Do you need more room?
  - Are children grown and moving on?
  - Do you have new interests or needs?
  - What do you want that you don't have now?
  
4. How will you use your new or improved home?
  - What functions and activities need space (e.g. cooking, sleeping, studying, playing)?
  - How much space will you need for each function?
  
5. Are there specific features, fixtures, or products that you want to include?
  
6. What do you think the addition/renovation/new home should look like?
  - What should it look like inside?
  - What should it look like outside?
  
7. What are your preferred design styles? Do you have pictures of what you like?
  
8. How much disruption can you tolerate during the design and construction process?
  
9. How much time do you have to be involved in the process?
  
10. Do you plan to do any of the construction work yourself?
  
11. Who will be the primary contact with the architect, contractor, and others involved in designing and building your project? (It is good to have one point of contact to prevent confusion and mixed messages.)
  
12. How soon would you like to be settled into the new place? Are there rigid time constraints?
  
13. How much can you realistically afford to spend on this project?  
(No, this is *not* the bottom line.)
  
14. What qualities are you looking for in an architect? (*This is!*)

Once you have answered these questions, you will be better able to talk with an architect. The more detailed information you give, the easier it will be for the architect to address your needs.