

6 Reasons to Hire an Architect

How a Licensed Architect can Benefit Your Remodeling Project

by Jim Pitzen, ALA, Owner of Pitzen Design, Ltd.

Regardless of what your dream entails, many remodeling projects can benefit from the expert guidance of a licensed architect. Architects are true professionals with the education, training and vision to streamline the remodeling process and can be well worth the extra cost on large or complex jobs. Here's why:

1. An architect will create a detailed design that takes into consideration your budget, lifestyle, aesthetics and needs. The design will be sensitive to the architecture of your home and in the proper proportions.
2. An architect can guide the process, after defining the scope, purpose, features and functionality of your project with you.
3. An architect can provide 3-D drawings or models to better help contractors and the homeowner visualize the design—helping to eliminate any design or cost issues before work is begun
4. An architect will make sure your project satisfies permits, municipal zoning, building codes and meets structural demands. No one understands the design of your project more than your architect.
5. Don't be fooled by the term "architectural design." Be sure you are working with a licensed architect, who most likely carries professional liability insurance that offers an added level of protection for the client.
6. The architect can coordinate a team of suppliers, consultants, tradesmen and help procure a qualified contractor or work with the homeowner's builder—taking the burden off the homeowner and streamlining the process.

Owned and operated by Jim Pitzen since 1999, Pitzen Design specializes in complex residential remodels and custom homes, as well as whole house remodels. A Licensed Architect and Certified Remodeler, Pitzen works with a collaboration of trade professionals; his expertise includes architectural design for every space in the home. For more information on Pitzen Design, call (262) 373-1103 or visit www.pitzendesign.com.