

— LIFESTYLE CHECK —

This is perhaps the most important part of the process. You need to analyze how all your family members live in your home and their particular needs – from the youngest to the oldest. Consider how every member of your family uses the room(s) in question.

What activities will take place in this space? How many people will be using it?

We will be most successful if we match the design to the way you actually live.

INTRODUCTION

The renovation of your home can be a wonderful experience of creativity, designing and fulfilling your dream for a comfortable and welcoming living space.

Renovation, on the other hand can be somewhat disruptive, not only of your physical building, but of your lifestyle. With good planning, the right contractor and a positive attitude, the disruptions can be significantly minimized and the experience can be memorable. It's like anything else, with lots of planning, and careful work, the results will be very rewarding.

This guide can help you to decide whether or not renovation is the way for you to go. It will also help you to understand how, with Menno S. Martin as your renovation partner, you can make the experience a wonderful fulfillment of your dream.

GATHERING IDEAS

Your ideas will often be formed by your experience of other spaces. Some of those spaces will be ones that you visit:

- Other people's homes
- Home Shows
- Room settings in furniture and appliance store

Some of the space experiences will be from magazines or television. There are lots of home decor and renovation magazines available at the bookstands. You may also want to tune in to HGTV – the Home and Garden channel. Many of the shows feature wonderfully designed rooms and decor.

Some of those spaces will be very attractive, but not necessarily something that you can live with.

You will need to ask yourself questions:

- Do I feel cozy with a huge stone fireplace, or is a more formal mantel and fireplace make me feel better?
- Do I prefer lots of sunlight or do I want a more subdued lighting during the day?
- What colours make me feel comfortable?

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