

# — THE CRITIQUE —

In the 'what I like' half, don't forget to include small items, like cabinet hardware, or the feeling of a certain view, or corner chair.

The 'what I dislike' side of the page might seem easier to compile, but don't be too quick to complete it. If our goal is to design a functional room that meets your needs, you must know exactly what needs are not being presently met in the current space.

THE THINGS YOU LIKE ABOUT YOUR CURRENT SPACE

THE THINGS YOU DISLIKE ABOUT YOUR CURRENT SPACE

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# — WISH, WANTS, AND NEEDS —

Give yourself the freedom to imagine and dream in this step. Ignore practical considerations for the moment. The first list is the 'I WISH' list, for those items that you've drooled over in a magazine, or relegated to the 'if I won the lottery, I would get this' file. The second list is the 'I WANT' list – for those items you really want, but don't necessarily need. Don't include any item whose omission from the final design would be devastating; this type of item belongs in the third category – 'I NEED'. The 'I need' list are those items that you could not live without, and are the first source that we turn to during the design of the project. Make these lists comprehensive.

Don't leave out anything, no matter how small or inconsequential it may seem.

I WISH	I WANT	I NEED

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# — THE DREAM BOOK —

Get a scrapbook where you can gather the following:

- Pictures from magazines that show a design, feature, appliance or other item you would like in your new room with notes in the margin detailing exactly what you like in each photo
- Specifications for your project – a listing of how many sinks you want, what type of refrigerator you want, items you need to store in each room, etc.
- Paint chips and swatches of carpeting ,wall coverings, floors etc.
- Your critique
- Your list of wishes, wants, and needs
- Article clippings and thoughts about design ideas you would like to incorporate
- Questions for your contractor
- Samples and literature from manufacturers

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# — 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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# — HOME PROFILE —

Before undertaking the creation or re-creation of new space in your house, you will need to evaluate your current space. List your rooms and list the activities that occur in each room. Prioritize your list – from most used room to least used room. You can use the sample below to create your profile

EXISTING ROOM	ROOM ACTIVITIES	HOW OFTEN ROOM USED	PRIORITY (1=MOST/ 5=LEAST USED)
Living Room	watching TV, Kids Homework, working on Computer, Eating	3-4 Hours every day	1
Downstairs Bath	Downstairs Bath	Only with Guests	5



# — CREATING YOUR WISH LIST —

While creating this list – based on your home-profile, do not worry about costs. You will later to be able to decide what you can or cannot afford to do. Do not fill out the importance column until you are complete. In other words, let your mind be creative, listing all of the improvements and additions that you would love to have.

We have divided this list into two categories. My **“LIKE TO HAVE”** list and my **“NEED TO HAVE”** list. Do the **“LIKE TO HAVE”** first. When you’re done, you can then move some of the “likes” down to the “need to have” list. Perhaps there will be things that you need to have – that are not necessarily part of your “dream” list. (e.g. an entry way so that guests can take off their muddy boots and coats).

## LIKE TO HAVE LIST

DESCRIPTION	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
<p>French doors letting sunlight in the Master Bedroom - what a great way to wake up in the morning!</p>		important	

## NEED TO HAVE LIST

DESCRIPTION	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
<p>View of the living room from the kitchen - watch the kids play while I make dinner</p>	very		



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