

# How to Avoid the Remodel Hangovers

BY TERRI PENTZ

**H**ome remodel shows have been steadily growing in popularity. In fact, HGTV was one of only three cable networks in the top 10 to experience a ratings growth in 2015.

However, the truth behind these shows is sometimes lost amidst the importance of selling "good TV".

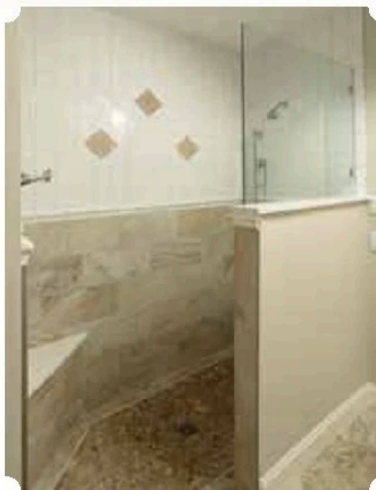
The truth is that a home renovation project approached with common sense and realistic expectations can bring absolute joy into the life of the homeowners. Here are some of the most important things to consider when planning that dream makeover of your own.

## A REALISTIC BUDGET – WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

There are very few people who can ignore the importance of staying within realistic budget constraints. One way to stay on budget during your renovation project is to decide what is truly most important to you. Of course you will want all aspects of the project to meet your expectations, but what are those specific details that absolutely must be met? Are you a home-chef enthusiast? Maybe a tradeoff in flooring costs in exchange for high-end kitchen appliances makes sense. Maybe environmentally friendly, or American Made products are a must. A simple, but effective, practice is to make an itemized list of each item. Make this list easily accessible and visible so as to keep it fresh in your mind. This will make the overall budget a real number vs. a perceived value.

## HIRING A PROFESSIONAL – WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

Everyone dreams of owning their own home so an emotional attachment is only natural. But it may be this attachment that is not allowing you to approach a renovation project with objectivity. Hiring a professional will help you with the important factors of layout, flow, and space planning. The personal attachment we have to our home may make tough decisions seem impossible. If it is between an emotional choice and the choice that is ultimately better for your living space; a professional will ease the stress.



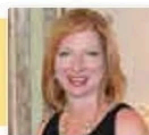
## REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Although your professional designer will do all they can to mitigate the stress of a home renovation, it is best if you approach the project with the realization that things will happen outside of anyone's control. You should expect your team of professionals to work hard for you but a true understanding of scheduling should be a priority before the project even begins.

## ENJOY THE OUTCOME

Studies vary on what makes us happy, but a consistent variable in any study on happiness is our reliance on social interactions. Take the chance to show off your new living space with those closest to you. You will find that watching other people appreciate and enjoy this dream come true will be your ultimate reward.

Joe Flint, HGTV, Fox News Among Only Top Cable Networks to Boost Ratings This Year, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/hgtv-fox-news-among-only-top-cable-networks-to-boost-ratings-this-year-1450466006> (March 2, 2016)



Terri Pentz is an interior designer at Island Paint & Decorating on Merritt Island. She has collaborated with many clients and professionals on all aspects of design projects.

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