

## **BASEMENTS: THE LAST FRONTIER OF THE HOME**

The basement is probably the most underrated area in the house, but if it's refinished it will be like adding another room, or even another floor altogether. There is a lot of different choices as far as the aesthetic layout, but it's been quite popular to add home theaters or wet bars; something that doesn't seem so basement-ish.

### **Some Basement Designs**

Out of all the design ideas you may have in your mind, think warmth first and foremost. This is the leading reason why people avoid the basement -- it's cold and dark making it uncomfortable. So when you formulate the design, try to think about lighting the downstairs with maybe some windows and a heat source.

A fireplace or heated floors are some examples of a heat source. Also if you cannot make windows, or they are out of your budget, try looking into some good artificial lighting with natural color spectrum.

### **QUESTIONS FOR ADAM:**

**WHAT TYPE OF FLOORING IS BEST SUITED FOR A BASEMENT?**

**HOW LONG SHOULD A REMODEL TAKE?**

### **THINGS TO CONSIDER: A WALKOUT? A DAYLIGHT BASEMENT?**

Daylight basement house plans, also referred to as walk out basement house plans, are home plans designed for a sloping lot where typically the rear and/or one or two sides are above grade. Most daylight basement or walk out basement house plans provide access to the rear or side yard from their basement level. Many of the floor plans in this collection of daylight basement house plans offer the daylight or walk out basement as an option. Working with a daylight basement or walk out basement house plan requires a careful establishment of grades so that the driveway pitch is not too steep and the daylight or walk out side is level with the adjoining grade

## Planning Your Basement Remodel

As you may have heard plenty of times before, “planning ahead” is definitely the most crucial step to a remodeling project. Homeowners that go into a home remodeling project ill-prepared and unaware usually end up dealing with higher costs in job quality, later due dates, higher project costs and a major headache. Needless to say, the planning/permitting process, finding the right contractor, finding the right materials, designing a floor-plan and negotiating construction start dates are hard to fit into the same building season unless you plan ahead!

It would be very nice if everything just fell into place, but the truth is that in order to be successful with your remodeling project you need to avoid being rushed so that you can carefully put everything into place yourself. January happens to be the most popular time of the year for new projects, so everyone's time is at a premium. During this time there are many decisions that need to be made just to get your project "permit-ready." After that is handled there comes a whole new line of decisions to be made in order to get construction underway.

Let us take a look at some of the decisions that will need to be made by the homeowner in order to get an idea of how much time needs to be dedicated to preparing for a home remodel.

- How do you want your floor plan design?
- Who will be designing it for you?
- Will you be hiring a professional designer?
- What architectural materials do you want to work with?
- What specific appliances do you want included?
- Are you making changes to any electrical or plumbing fixtures?
- Will you be adding cabinetry, a fireplace, windows, skylights, or new flooring?
- Will you be able to afford the remodel or will a loan need to be taken out?
- If you need a loan, how long will the lender take to review the plan and make a decision?
- Which contractor do you hire? Have you seen his past work? Depending on which state you live in, is he licensed and insured?

By planning ahead, you can slowly integrate your research and shopping into regular daily routines. This takes the pressure off and better decisions are typically made. You'll have time to shop for great sales, review your project with friends and family, research design ideas and also check up on the reference list provided by the designer or contractor that you're considering using. Just keep it in the back of your mind that the decisions you make will be choices that you'll be living with for many years.

Generally, it is said that you should allow three-to-six months (or more) for the planning process to be completed. However, this amount of time does not always include unexpected events that may take place. For example, an accident or illness could occur to any of the involved parties. Such an event could slow or stop the process temporarily. Make sure to allow plenty of time for planning, not just for the expected decision making but for unanticipated events. Bottom line, do your best to stay ahead of all things that surround a project before it even starts.