

# GETTING STARTED ACTION PLAN

The following is an action plan of Helpful Things To Do *Before* You Ever Meet with a Designer, Architect or Contractor

## ★ GET INSPIRED!

Go through books, magazines, websites and showrooms and collect images of things you like AND dislike. Take pictures of friends' remodels. A couple great places to start are Houzz and Pinterest. Even appliance stores often have websites with great inspiration galleries. Grab a screen shot if you can't download the image.

Think in terms of:

- The overall look -- Is it Modern, Traditional or Transitional (in-between)? Craftsman, Farmhouse or Eclectic?  
You don't need to define your style -- the pictures will do it for you.
- Colors
- Cabinet styles
- Hardware
- Fit with the style of your home

## ★ GET REFERRALS AND CHECK REFERENCES!

Ask your friends, neighbors and co-workers for the names of contractors they would recommend (it's also good to find out if there are any to avoid). Then go to the California Contractor's State License Board and check the status of their license, bonding and insurance:

- [www.ChecktheLicenseFirst.com](http://www.ChecktheLicenseFirst.com) or call 1-800-321-CSLB (2752)

If they pass this first test, put them on your "short list". Once you've gotten bids, ask them for three recent referrals and CALL them before you award the job.

## ★ CHECK CITY & NEIGHBORHOOD REVIEW BOARD REQUIREMENTS

- Identify the approval steps/requirements of your HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION as it relates to remodels.
- Determine whether you are in a HISTORIC DISTRICT or whether your property falls into any HISTORIC PRESERVATION classifications.

## ★ ESTABLISH YOUR BUDGET RANGE & HAVE A CONTINGENCY PLAN

- Be Realistic! Remodeling is expensive. Check out [CostvsValue.com](http://CostvsValue.com) for average remodel costs and the value they return in your area.
- Identify financing plans.

