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5 RENOVATIONS WORTH RE-THINKING



Renovations can transform your home, but not all upgrades are created equal. From open-concept layouts to material selection, this guide breaks down five key design decisions to rethink, ensuring your space balances style, functionality and long-term value.

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A home renovation is as much about strategy as it is about creativity. It's an opportunity to reimagine your space, redefine its purpose and elevate its aesthetic. But with every sledgehammer-ready wall comes decisions that can shape the success of your project. While some upgrades are obvious wins, others demand careful consideration to avoid regret or unnecessary costs. Here's a savvy breakdown of five renovation ideas worth pausing before committing.

1. REMOVING WALLS

Open-concept layouts are prized for their airy feel and seamless social flow, but they're not without challenges. While they maximize natural light and connectivity, they can compromise privacy, noise control and structural integrity. Removing load-bearing walls requires professional reinforcement, adding complexity and cost. Consider partial walls, glass partitions or strategic openings for a balanced approach. These options preserve openness while creating functional zones, offering the best of both worlds without sacrificing the home's character or stability.



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2. MATERIAL SELECTIONS

Selecting the perfect materials for a project is crucial to achieve the intended look, durability and eco-conscious goals. Yet, with countless options available, making the right choice can be overwhelming, especially as quality varies widely. For instance, hardwood floors bring timeless charm and natural warmth but require consistent care and are prone to water damage. Alternatively, luxury vinyl planks replicate hardwood's appeal at a lower cost while offering durability and easy maintenance. Similarly, natural stone countertops like marble or quartzite showcase unmatched beauty but demand higher investment and regular sealing to resist stains. By contrast, quartz surfaces deliver similar elegance with better stain resistance and effortless upkeep. Assessing key factors such as budget, lifestyle needs and environmental impact will help you select materials that complement your priorities and future aspirations.



3. BUILT-INS

As a designer, I appreciate the functionality and aesthetic benefits of custom built-ins. They provide tailored storage solutions and streamline organization but are not always the most cost-effective option. Built-ins are inherently permanent, limiting flexibility in furniture arrangement and future renovations. A creative built-in will maximize your storage in smaller spaces where every inch counts. We believe a clutter-free space with custom built-ins and hidden storage makes small spaces feel larger. If budget is a concern, opting for freestanding furniture pieces offers versatility and mobility while allowing for easy reconfiguration as needs evolve.



PHOTO: MIKE CHAJECKI

4. OVER-THE-TOP TRENDS

Trends can bring fresh energy to a space, but their appeal often fades quickly. Bold wallpapers, vibrant feature walls and statement fixtures inject character but risk feeling dated before long. Assess your comfort with change – prioritize enduring design elements if frequent updates aren't in your plans. Neutral colour schemes, iconic furniture styles and adaptable décor create a foundation that evolves effortlessly. This approach balances personal expression with lasting appeal, ensuring your home stays current and sophisticated for years to come.

5. PUTTING AESTHETICS OVER FUNCTIONALITY

A beautiful home captures attention, but form without function can quickly lead to frustrations. Eye-catching furniture that lacks comfort, awkward layouts that hinder flow or décor that disrupts usability can compromise the experience. Prioritizing a harmony of style and practicality ensures your space is visually striking and seamlessly supports your daily life. By carefully considering how each element will enhance a room's look and feel, you can create a home that is not only visually impressive but also a pleasure to live in. Think ergonomically designed furniture that invites relaxation, intuitive layouts that make daily routines effortless and décor that complements rather than complicates your lifestyle.

Home renovations unlock and bring a world of potential, but thoughtful planning is key to avoiding missteps and ensuring lasting satisfaction. Approach every choice focusing on style, functionality and budget while anticipating your future needs. This intentional strategy guarantees your space embodies your vision and retains its timeless charm. **OH**