

Making your house a home

Submitted to the Tribune

Working with an interior designer is fun — or at least it should be!

To ensure an enjoyable experience, there are some standard questions you should ask your designer before starting your project. By asking these questions, you will have a better understanding of how your designer works and what to expect. This will also establish a smooth, positive working relationship with your designer, resulting in the beautiful room you're hoping for. Below is a list of questions to get you started:

WHAT IS YOUR FEE STRUCTURE?

It is important to know how your designer charges and bills his or her clients. Are services hourly or is there a flat fee? Does it include a mark-up on purchased goods? Be sure to inquire if there are any other fees for services.

ARE MY BUDGET AND TIMELINE FEASIBLE?

This is imperative. Make sure your expectations on costs and timing are realistic and that your designer is aware of these parameters. Also, confirm that your designer is able to dedicate the necessary time and effort to your project.

WHAT CHALLENGES MAY I NEED TO OVERCOME ON THIS PROJECT?

Murphy's Law is just as active in interior design, and sometimes even more. It's best to know any concerns your designer has ahead of time. Inevitably, a different, unforeseen challenge may arise, but you

should be as prepared as possible.

DO YOU HIRE PERSONNEL FOR THE JOB OR DO I?

Find out whether you will be responsible for hiring painters, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, etc. or if your designer will bring in his or her own vendors.

HOW WILL YOU SHARE INFORMATION WITH ME?

Will it be through plans, design boards or computer imaging? Will we work with you or someone else? Verify your point of contact and establish how much of the lead designer's time will be devoted to your project versus a junior designer or team member.

On the flip side, your interior designer should have some questions for you. When starting a project, designers need to know you — your tastes and needs. This is a great opportunity to share your interests and preferences, and will ultimately result in a finished design that reflects you. Below is a list of questions your designer may ask:

WHAT IS THE OVERALL STYLE YOU'D LIKE TO CREATE?

You may not know exactly what style you're looking to achieve — and that's okay. Images from design magazines, Pinterest and Houzz offer myriad home pictures. Pick out some you like and others you don't. Share these with your designer. A designer has access to a plethora

JANE, 23



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STATE OF EMERGENCY

29

>>> Percent of Americans with no emergency savings whatsoever, a 5-year high and up from 26 percent a year ago <<<

Source: Bankrate.com



GETTY IMAGES / ISTOCKPHOTO

JANE

From page 19

of furniture and textiles to help you achieve your vision.

HOW DO YOU USE THIS SPACE?

Most rooms serve multiple functions — TV viewing, entertaining, studying

and reading among others. Make certain your designer accounts for all uses.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE OR HATE ABOUT THIS ROOM?

Both are equally important. Share colors you love and gravitate toward and others you'd prefer to stay away from. Be sure to

include what is and isn't working in your room.

ARE THERE ANY SPECIAL NEEDS TO CONSIDER?

Designers need to account for your lifestyle and how you live within your home. If you have frequent guests, dogs, children, work from home or entertain regularly, your

designer can suggest specific design functionalities to reflect these needs.

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU HAVE OR HAVE SEEN THAT INSPIRES YOU?

This gives your designer a little more insight into you — and it may trigger a design idea. After all, you should surround yourself with things you find inspirational.

Talie Jane is the owner and principal designer of Talie Jane Interiors. Call 855.TALIEJANE (855-825-4352) or visit www.taliejaneinteriors.com with questions about your next interior design project.

Q&A

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generally not recognized by the legal system. In the absence of documents stating otherwise, your partner may have no rights vis-à-vis your property or in making an important medical decision on your behalf."

Third, while the term "mortgage" does not appear in Justice Kennedy's majority opinion, Obergefell resolves an important financing issue for same-sex couples. As the Huffington Post explains, prior to Obergefell "veterans in same-sex marriages who live in states that don't honor their marriage receive smaller monthly disability payments and aren't eligible to qualify for a [Veterans Administration] home loan with their spouse."

Now, post-Obergefell, all states must recognize same-sex marriages, so all VA-qualified borrowers will get the same benefits for their service.



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