

It's time! You are ready to remodel...
now what?



by **Eric Weaver**
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 WWW.PINNACLEPRO.BIZ

Pinnacle Building & Design Inc has been providing high quality remodeling projects for over 15 years. Family owned and operated, Pinnacle has been a reputable leader in the industry early-on. We're both honored and humbled by the many awards we've won as a company, including the BIA Remodeling Awards of Excellence and voted among the Best of Lancaster County by readers of Lancaster County Magazine. We are proud of our accomplishments, but it is our repeat customers and the word of mouth referred customers who speak volumes about our services.

Our focus on space planning with innovative design is what sets Pinnacle apart from others. Our free 3D designs allow customers to practically step into their project before a hammer is lifted. Our designers are with you from concept to completion and often aid in the selections process. We hold our tradesmen and material suppliers to a level of quality we would expect in our own home.

Pinnacle believes in the importance of family and realizes a home remodel will be a reflection of your family's personality and values, so it is with great commitment we put our efforts into developing a space that is comfortable and meets your needs. Visit our website www.Pinnaclepro.biz and like us on Facebook. Contact us at 295-9626 to schedule a free consultation and estimate.

Remember, when you're hiring a remodeler,
 you are buying a service and not a product.



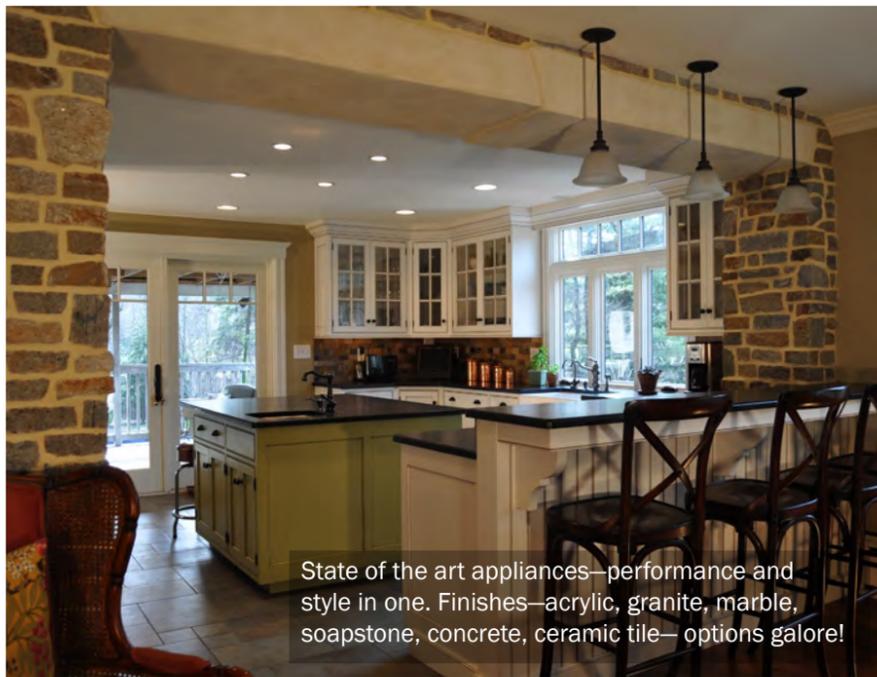
Knowing where to start is the key to a successful remodeling project. Your starting process will usually fall into one of these three categories. For a kitchen or bathroom project, you may start by thinking about cabinets and appliances or vanities and walk-in showers; the big focal items of the room with which you want to make a statement. Some start by collecting photos that resemble an atmosphere or feel they want to experience. Others simply have no idea where to start. Homeowners may find themselves in this exploration stage for a year, or even longer, before they start interviewing designers or general contractors.

Begin to think about your goal for the space and your style. The more information you can give a contractor upfront, the easier and quicker the design stage will take. Magazines, such as R&A, and some online sites are great for getting your style defined and can be helpful in formulating your wish-list items to present to your potential contractor. So you're ready, now what?

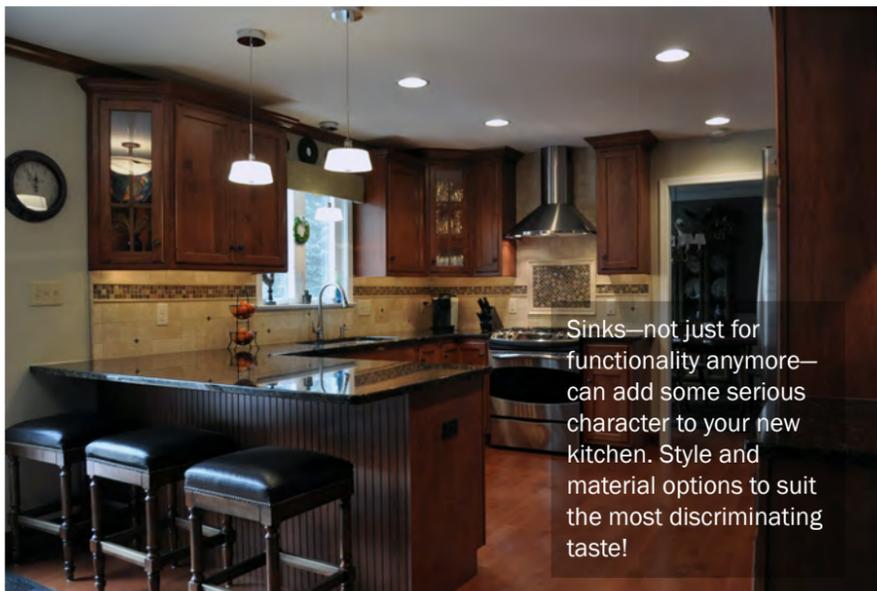
Screen Prospective Contractors and Set a Budget

Where do you find reputable contractors? Many found them right here in R&A Magazine. Another great source is at the local trade shows where you can meet a large group of contractors who have their best work on display— all under one roof! Research on-line, websites and social media, but take it a step further and call your local building industry association and ask them about your potential contractors. Your most valuable advice will come from third party sources, and of course, word of mouth referrals from previous clients. Do your homework and invest some time before you invest your money.

Meet with your professional design/build contractor at your home and review your goals and ideas. Most contractors will do this at no charge. They should be able to provide a budget range on-site before you move forward with designing and pricing. Also at this time, listen to what they have to say.



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Sinks—not just for functionality anymore—can add some serious character to your new kitchen. Style and material options to suit the most discriminating taste!



Pendant lighting—this style light in the kitchen implies self-expression and creates a statement. Have fun with it. Lighting can set the tone for the whole kitchen. One common mistake is to undersize the fixture, so go make a statement!

Are they design driven and flexible to customize or are they simply construction focused, bound to repeat the same cookie-cutter projects? It's imperative that they have the knowledge, ideas and energy that give you confidence. Are they reputable and respectful? Ask how they will protect your home and existing surfaces for the duration. Do you connect and have an easy rapport? They will be in your home for several weeks, you need to feel comfortable you're hiring a company of integrity.

Remember, *you* are interviewing the contractor. Ask for photos of similar projects. Inquire about custom design capabilities. Do they have in-house drafting team or will you need an architect? Do they work with the newest trends and products? Not only are you looking for quality craftsmanship and optimizing the space to meet your needs, but your goal in any remodel project is to renew the space with a fresh look; a new and inviting feel. A newly remodeled project with substandard selections and colors could give you a new area that is one step forward, but two back in time with outdated colors and finishes. Some contractors will offer decorator services for an additional cost, but you'll get more for your money with those design focused contractors that will help you make selections as part of their contract price.

How are change orders processed and what's the payment plan? Ask for referrals and credentials to verify they are licensed and insured. This initial meeting will be very productive for you and your contractor. You will know if your dreams are realistic and the contractor is the right fit.

Selecting your Contractor

So its several weeks later and you had your 2nd meeting with your prospective contractors. Hopefully they have invested a lot of

Rethink your formal dining room and use it for more than just holidays. Consider removing existing walls and use dormant valuable space for everyday functionality. Opening up your home with flow between casual and kitchen spaces gives a new open modern feel so guests can move about and the whole family can be together in the evening. Islands with plenty of seating are ideal for entertaining.

Remodeling?

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Eric



Jason

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To allow room for a spacious shower, more and more homeowners are opting to forgo their bathtubs. Rain-style and multiple showerheads are the clear choice, along with shower bench seats and niches to spare.

time preparing their proposal, presenting their design along with materials to be used, and the cost for your dream to come true. Better yet, they provided some visual samples of flooring, cabinetry and countertop samples. Some contractors even have 3D designs of your new space allowing you to visualize the room instead of deciphering a blue print.

Was the estimate descriptive or vague? Were allowances and options clearly itemized? This is vital when comparing estimates from multiple contractors to know all are bidding the same level of products. A good contractor will invest time in the estimate and define a clear time-frame for construction. If not, there could be many extras added along the way resulting in a much higher cost in the end.

It doesn't stop there. You need to ask yourself these questions: Did they exceed your expectations? Did they answer all your questions? Did they truly listen to your needs and wants? Remember, when you're hiring a remodeler, you are buying a service and not a product. The quality of service will determine the quality of the finished project.

The best renovation projects take on a classic and timeless look driven by great decisions based on a combination of modern trends, personal style, and purchasing the best product lines within your budget.

Choose wisely and enjoy the process in making your house your home.

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