

S H I R A C H A R L E S

My Pre-Designer Checklist

Make Sure You Have A Budget

Be sure you have a reasonable budget to redo the space, in a way that you would be satisfied. If you're going to pay a professional, do it right!

Create Your Inspiration Board

Create a Dream Board or Inspiration Board. This can include any clippings from magazines that make you feel happy, photographs that spark your attention, furniture wish list images, colors, quotes, anything. This list gives your designer a boost start on what you like and will help him | her with your initial design direction.

List the Items that Need to Stay

Identify what you absolutely refuse to part with. If there are items in your home or space that must stay, make a list. Be sure to point them out to your designer right at the beginning. If they are pointed out later, they may not match with the new design scheme.

Research

Do your research. Don't rush into anything. Hiring a designer is a big deal and redoing space can be emotional, especially if it is your home! Take the time to scout out different designers styles, ask for references and compare pricing. Try to go with a designer that closest matches the style direction you think you want. Not the designer your friends neighbors aunt used.

List Your Questions

Make a list of QUESTIONS. Yes. If you've been taking your time and completing these steps, it is very possible you'll find yourself eager with questions for your designer. If you don't make a list, you'll likely forget and only end up asking later. What's more, your questions will likely be informative for your designer, so it's a win win.

Let Go

Most importantly, ask yourself if you're ready to let go of the reigns. All too often, people think they want a professional, and maybe they do, but that doesn't mean they are ready for one. Be honest with yourself. And, if you're not ready, figure out what you need to get complete with, before bringing a designer in. If not, you'll end up with a potentially tense and stressfull situation for both you and your designer, who is just trying to do what you've asked them to.