

DREAM INSPIRE DESIGN

What a Residential Architect Wants to Tell
You about the Custom Home Process

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Introduction

So, you must be considering building a custom home. You may be one of those people who has always dreamed of designing, building and living in a custom home with everything just the way you want it and unique to your family.

However, most of my clients come to me because they are ready to move but just can't find the right house for them. Once you get to a certain place in your life, you don't want to compromise on the things you want. There are a couple of houses that come close in your price range, but let's face it, if you're spending that much money, shouldn't it have everything you are dreaming of?

Building a custom home comes to mind and sounds kind of exciting. But there's a catch – it's scary! You may have heard horror stories from family, friends and colleagues. You're busy. It's a lot of money. And what if, after all of that work, you end up with a house that's just okay anyway? That would be terrible.

I understand that you've never done this before and you just want to get it right. I can help you do that.

After nearly 20 years as a residential architect I have seen most of the pitfalls. This book is intended as a resource for you before you begin your project. There is so much to learn. These are all the things I wish I had time to tell every one of my clients in our initial meeting.

Custom home building is different than simply buying a newly constructed home. You or someone you know may have purchased a home in a new subdivision based on the tour of a model. You can customize your home to a certain degree but you are still purchasing from a production builder. Today, many builders are not really builders in the sense of old world craftsmanship. Instead, they are construction managers who coordinate subcontractors.

There is a big difference between a truly custom home and a production built new home. I have seen beautiful production homes. They have been built many times and all the details have been worked out over those construction jobs. A custom home is only built once and fine-tuned to exactly how your family lives. All the details of structure, aesthetics and personality are unique.

As a residential architect, my overall purpose is to educate and guide my clients through the custom home process. The information in this book is broad, and I hope helpful, but a custom home project is personal and specific.

I truly believe that if you start strong on a solid foundation, the process can be positive, rewarding and enjoyable. With the right guidance, building your custom home will result in the perfect house that meets your needs and dreams. This is where your life happens; it should support your best life. When you finish this book, my hope is that you will know where to start.



