



10



INTERIORS
REMEMBERED

things to know
before starting your interior design project

ATHENA D. VIGIL
ASID | IFDA



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The Interiors Remembered team



Hello and welcome to Interiors Remembered! First we would like to say congratulations for taking the first step on your design journey. Home design and remodel projects are one of the most rewarding and satisfying things you can do in your life. As the Design Director of Interiors Remembered for almost 30 years, I have worked on some of the most incredible design projects in Arizona. They can be large undertakings that include both interior design, new build, and remodel expertise. There can be many moving parts as well as specialized construction and safety codes to think about. You want to make sure you are prepared from the very beginning. I have seen it all - the good, the bad, and yes, the ugly!

But have no fear - there are ways around these and the other obstacles you'll likely encounter during your project. I've taken my years of experience as a designer and put together a comprehensive list that will help prepare you for starting your interior design project. And of course, my team and I are here for you every step of the way.

So let's take a look at the most important elements that determine the success of design and remodel projects. Here are the 10 things you must know before starting your interior design project.

Athena
and the Interiors Remembered team



“good design affects
your quality of life -
how you
think, feel, & function.”

ATHENA D. VIGIL



ATHENA'S ADVICE

Make sure you or the design firm you choose to work with has the proper qualifications to handle both the design and the construction.

1 DIY OR GET HELP EARLY

DECIDE WHETHER YOU WANT THE EXPERTISE AND HELP OF A PROFESSIONAL DESIGN AND REMODEL FIRM EARLY ON. THESE PROJECTS AREN'T THE KIND YOU WANT TO HAVE SOMEONE BAIL YOU OUT OF. MAKE THE CHOICE TO DO IT YOURSELF OR HIRE A PROFESSIONAL AND THEN DON'T LOOK BACK.





SET YOUR LOCATION

YOUR LOCATION CAN DETERMINE THE SUCCESS OF YOUR PROJECT SIMPLY BASED ON LOGISTICS. IF YOU HIRE A PROFESSIONAL INTERIOR DESIGNER, THEY CAN TRAVEL AND OFTEN WILL BRING THEIR TEAM OF DESIGNERS, CONTRACTORS, AND CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONALS WITH THEM.



ATHENA'S ADVICE

Don't let your location determine what resources you'll have as it's common for designer to travel if your budget allows.



IT'S ALL ABOUT STYLE

MANY AN INSPIRATION COMES FROM HAVING SEEN A SPECTACULAR DESIGN THAT JUST SCREAMS "YOU". BUT TAKE A MOMENT TO MAKE SURE YOU'VE SEEN ALL THERE IS TO SEE. THIS INCLUDES THE OFTEN OVERLOOKED CUTTING EDGE OF INTERIOR DESIGN. WANT SOMETHING THAT NO ONE HAS? YOU CAN HAVE THAT AND AVOID DESIGNER'S REMORSE DOWN THE ROAD.



ATHENA'S ADVICE

Don't forget to check the 'newest of the new' design styles as it can be too late to make big changes down the road.



COLORS & HUES

YOUR COLORS CAN HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON HOW YOUR INTERIOR DESIGN PLAN UNFOLDS. CONSIDER THAT ONCE YOU'VE CHOSEN YOUR DESIRED COLORS, THERE ARE OTHER DESIGN ELEMENTS THAT MAY CONTRAST OR ACCOMPANY THEM. THESE COLORS CAN THEN ALIGN WITH METAL, WOOD, FABRICS, OR OTHER MATERIALS THAT CAN BE USED IN OTHER AREAS OF YOUR DESIGN. FOR EXAMPLE, HOW WILL YOUR COLOR CHOICES INTEGRATE WITH YOUR WALL APPLICATIONS? THEY SHOULD INFLUENCE THE TYPE, STYLE AND MATERIAL.



ATHENA'S ADVICE

Decide on your color choices early as they have a bigger impact than you might think!



ATHENA'S ADVICE

If you can't accomplish something because of budget, find out early as you may be surprised with what comes from considering additional options.



DETERMINE YOUR BUDGET

BEFORE GETTING STARTED, IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE A BUDGET IN MIND AND KNOW HOW MUCH YOUR INTERIOR DESIGN AND REMODEL PROJECT WILL COST. DURING YOUR INITIAL DESIGN CONSULTATION, YOUR DESIGNER SHOULD NOT ONLY ASK YOU WHAT YOUR BUDGET IS, BUT ALSO SHOULD BE ABLE TO TELL YOU IF YOUR BUDGET IS IN LINE WITH YOUR DESIGN PROJECT, TOO LOW OR TOO HIGH. REMEMBER THAT YOUR BUDGET ISN'T A SCARY THING, IT'S A PARAMETER FOR YOUR PROJECT.



*“
have nothing
in your house
that you do not
believe to be beautiful
or know to be useful.”*

WILLIAM MORRIS

FURNISHING CONSIDERATIONS

YOUR FURNISHINGS PLAY A HUGE ROLE IN YOUR DESIGN AS WELL AS YOUR COMFORT. MUCH LIKE COLOR CAN IMPACT YOUR MATERIALS, THE SAME IS TRUE FOR YOUR FURNISHINGS. YOU WANT TO CONSIDER YOUR USAGE AND QUALITY LEVEL OF THE FURNITURE BEING SELECTED. WHETHER IT'S MODERN, TRADITIONAL, OR ANY NUMBER OF DESIGN STYLES IN BETWEEN YOUR FURNISHINGS WILL HELP BRING IT ALL TOGETHER. IT'S BETTER TO FALL IN LOVE WITH FURNISHINGS ONCE YOU'VE NAILED DOWN THE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED ITEMS.



ATHENA'S ADVICE

Don't design around furnishings, especially for a remodel. Get your space dimensions and consider your style and color before choosing furnishings.

CHOOSING ACCESSORIES

IT'S IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER YOUR ACCESSORIES AS THEY'LL FILL IN AND COMPLETE YOUR OVERALL DESIGN. THIS IS WHERE YOU'LL CHOOSE YOUR ARTWORK, PILLOWS, PLANTS, WINDOW COVERS, CANDLES, VASES, GLASSWARE, CHANDELIERS, AND MORE.



ATHENA'S ADVICE

If there's a certain set of accessories you just love, make sure to ask yourself how they fit into your overall design. Take your time to think this through until you're confident in your choices and how they fit as a whole.





CAD DRAWINGS

(computer - aided design)

WHEN IT COMES TO THE REMODEL PORTION OF YOUR PROJECT, YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE ALL MEASUREMENTS ARE PRECISE. IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO SEE YOUR DESIGN OR REMODEL DESIGNED IN A CAD DRAWING SO YOU CAN VERIFY IT'S WHAT YOU'VE ENVISIONED. CAD OR COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN SOFTWARE IS COMMON FOR DESIGN, REMODEL, AND CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONALS.



ATHENA'S ADVICE

Don't design around furnishings, especially when remodel is involved. Get your space dimensions, and consider your style and colors before choosing furnishings.



ATHENA'S ADVICE

Creating a tactile experience will boost your confidence and excitement and it can help you make the proper adjustments early on.

THE MOCK-UP

WELL-MANAGED PROJECTS SHOULD HAVE A PLAN TO SUPPORT THEM. WITH EACH INTERIOR DESIGN AND REMODEL, IT'S BEST TO HAVE A MOCK-UP THAT INCLUDES DRAWINGS, SKETCHES, TIMELINES, AND SAMPLES OF COLORS AND MATERIALS INCLUDING FABRICS.

DOES IT PASS THE EYE TEST?

DOES IT PASS THE FEEL TEST?



HANDS-ON OR ALL-INCLUSIVE?

YOU MADE THE CHOICE EARLY ON TO DO-IT-YOURSELF OR HIRE A PROFESSIONAL DESIGN AND REMODEL FIRM. HOWEVER, IT'S YOUR PROJECT AND YOU CAN CHOOSE TO BE AS HANDS ON AS YOU WANT, OR GO WITH AN ALL-INCLUSIVE DESIGN SERVICE



ATHENA'S ADVICE

Don't be intimidated by the size and scope of the project. There are design and remodel firms that will handle every element on the project and see it through to your satisfaction.



NOW THAT YOU'VE TAKEN THE TIME TO GO THROUGH EACH OF THESE ITEMS ON OUR LIST, YOU KNOW WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR AND WHERE TO FOCUS YOUR ENERGY BEFORE YOUR PROJECT KICKS OFF.

WITH A LITTLE PLANNING AND RESEARCH IN THE BEGINNING, YOU WILL PUT YOURSELF IN THE BEST POSITION POSSIBLE TO ENSURE YOUR INTERIOR DESIGN PROJECT IS A SMASHING SUCCESS!



ATHENA D. VIGIL
Design Director | ASID | IFDA

Athena D. Vigil has been the CEO and Design Director of Interiors Remembered for almost 30 years. Athena graduated with a design degree from Mesa College and soon after pursued her bachelors in communication from ASU.

Athena's portfolio of luxury residential and commercial design extends throughout Arizona and across North America including Newport Beach, Chicago, St.Louis, Canada and Mexico. Most notably, she has partnered with CF Luxury Homes on the design of their exclusive Four Seasons Hawaiian vacation properties. As a special guest

on iHeart Radio's Carol Royce show and featured spotlights on Channel 3 news, Athena's perspective and influence on design is celebrated and admired. She has been featured in *Martha Stewart Living* and *Phoenix Home & Garden* and was named one of 2018's Top Designers to Watch by *So Scottsdale!* and one of Scottsdale's 'Top 10 Interior Designers' by Decorilla.com.



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