



CALLIDUS
ARCHITECTS

The Renovation Planning Process

+ **Brief Guide**

*How to write a design brief
before engaging an architect*

Start Here

Create a design brief before engaging an architect.

Renovating a house can and should be really exciting. However too often we hear stories of clients not having their needs heard, misunderstandings between the contractor, the client and the architect on what was the agreed scope, and how much was allowed for in the contract. I have decided to do something about it.

It all comes down to the brief..

If the brief is not clear, the architect and the follow on through to the contractor and all his associated trades people will be compromised. They will struggle to understand what it is they need to allow for in the pricing of your project.

Really think about your brief and consider all aspects of it.

Right then, lets get started...

The 10 Why's

Emotional Conversation

“I want to put an extension on my house.”

Why?

We have three kids and too little room,
I cannot get away from them.

Why?

The lounge is right next to their bedrooms and
whenever I come home late at night I always seem
to wake them up because I turn on the tv.

Why?

I want to be able to enjoy myself too, I work hard
and should be allowed to drink a beer and watch the
sports in peace.

Why?

Well because I am a man and I need a man cave, to
be able to do some manly stuff, such as watching
sport. In actual fact I would like to have room to do
something fun with the kids too, like a rumpus room
or something, but it would have to be flexible.

Why?

My wife works from home so when the kids are in
school it could be a great office space for her, and
for later on when the kids have left home.

*The above conversation is one I recently
had with a client of mine. Note how we
slowly started out talking about the
extension and how the client started to
elaborate more and more on what the
brief should include.*

We went from an extension to a separate
lounge away from the kids bedrooms, new entry
area, a rumpus room which alternates as a home
office, somewhere where the father could sit in
peace and enjoy his favourite mode of relaxation
(watching sport), a place for his wife to allocate
for her work and the most overriding need in
my opinion: to be able to enter your own home
without causing a disturbance.

Think about how that added feeling of
apprehension would affect the fathers life, he
is coming home from a long day at work and he
cannot even get inside without having to be on

high alert just when all he wants is to wind down and relax and drop his bag where it falls and give his wife a hug.

The additional stress caused by him waking up the kids when entering the house resulted in a grumpy wife, resulting in grizzly kids resulting in resentment towards the kids ultimately stopped them from enjoying family time together (despite him later stating that that was actually what he wanted more of) It all started with the badly designed entry of the house.

Think your house does not impact on how you live your life? How much do you think the family mentioned in the conversation would be prepared to pay for achieving better quality time together? I would imagine quite a lot.

Have a conversation with yourself and keep asking why you want what it is you say you want. That way you are slowly elaborating your brief into more detail. Include the emotional aspects as this is the overriding deeper reasoning behind what you want to change about your house.

I want to renovate my house, why?

- 1**
- 2**
- 3**
- 4**
- 5**
- 6**
- 7**
- 8**
- 9**
- 10**

The Nuts & Bolts

Right, we have dealt to the big elephant in the room. Now it is time to dwell on the nuts and bolts. The following is a series of questions which will further elaborate on your emotional brief.

Who will live in your home now and in the future?

What different new activities will you need to accommodate?

How do you want your home to fit with the existing environment?

Are there any health and safety issues you need to take account of?

What would you really like to live in?

What do you want your home interior to look like?

What colours will it have?

What facilities for cooling and heating do you want?

Do you want to install or upgrade existing security and or audio systems?

Are you wanting a total make-over or a staged process?

What is your budget?

Does your budget allow for consent and consultant fees and GST?

What level of involvement do you want in the management of your renovation?



CALLIDUS
ARCHITECTS

04 526 4305 www.callidusarchitects.co.nz

8 Princes St, PO Box 40410, Upper Hutt 5018
Wellington, New Zealand

© 2018 Callidus Publishing