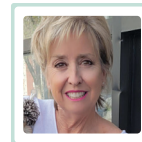




WRITTEN BY TANOAN RESIDENT
PATTI HARRELL HOECH
LICENSED INTERIOR DESIGNER



A complete gutting of this bathroom resulted in a sensational transformation.



DESIGN - ANY DESIGN, is a process. In stages of development, good design decisions emerge. It takes patience. Whether you are designing branding packages, graphics, architectural structures, fashion, exterior or interiors design, the process is the same. It's about layering.

Quick hasty decisions might bring instant gratification but run the risk of not being well thought-out and lack staying power. Pace yourself. Relax and proceed with an end game knowing that it will take various steps to get there.

Our homes are our oases. They are a refuge from the stress of the outside world. To design these personal sanctuaries takes patience. Design decisions are profoundly important and affect many facets of our lives beyond comfort and joy. Sleep habits, study focus and effectiveness, stress management, reprieve, and conversely stimulation, positive energy and more...

If you have patience, the design process can be fun. It reveals opportunities. It's about layers of details.

Clients either want to be first-hand participants with how projects start and progress or be presented with ideas and options along the way. A combination is ideal. Being invested in and involved with the project/process provides a unique appreciation for the process.

It's like creating a large painting. You begin with a format - maybe use pencil or charcoal to plot your scheme...then tighten up the layout. Adjust until it feels functional, balanced, and pleasing. This involves forms, placements, colors, texture, - all layers of detail.

Then come the finishes. Whether built into the architecture or fabrics on furniture, along with functional and decorative accessories, this layering process has limitless permutations - so be prepared



This busy executive created a handsome home office, with custom cabinetry, in his new condo.



New construction is less hassle than a kitchen remodel but requires patience nonetheless.

that time those limitless permutations are there for you - like a kid in a candy store. As you make your decisions, the field of limitless choices diminishes and commitments hold fast.

Change orders, cancellations, re-stocking charges, and scheduling delays are some of the penalties for changes later in the process. That negative reinforcement can put a damper on the fun and excitement of your design process! Yet if they result in a better finished product, the cost and inconvenience must be weighed - it's your decision.

There is a fine line between indecision and a thoughtful process of decision-making. Indecision can stall the process. It can cause an interruption in the flow of creativity. Methodical considerations are responsible, while vacillation, hesitation and indecision can ruin the successful progression of the design process. If this occurs, it is best to pause and consider your options, priorities, and any peripheral issues like contractor availability, lifestyle demands, material availability that might play a significant role in the process.

Lifestyle demands might insert time-sensitive activities such as a pending graduation, wedding, family reunion, pre-planned surgeries - something that places a desired (if not imperative) deadline on your project. Without such lifestyle demands, you have the gift of time to better enjoy and experience the process.



Several iterations of backsplash were explored before deciding on neutral to compliment the rich brown tones of the new custom knotty alder cabinets.

for thoughtful consideration as the materials contrast and complement each other while you gather and compare your options.

I was once told that a powerful hurdle in the decision-making process is that once you commit to a decision, you remove the opportunity for choices. Up until



A total gut of this property resulted in a seaside Airbnb. Coral images triggered the complimentary turquoise wall punctuated by lobster red. An owner in Pacific Beach wanted a lobster theme to reflect her New England heritage.

room face-lift, kitchen make-over, room addition, or a needed update - scheduling, lifestyle and availability of materials you want to use, all impact the process. It might be a seamstress or a framing contractor, electrician or upholsterer, scheduling can fluctuate and cause ripple effects. As deadlines loom or patience wanes, the process can also be impacted

The most well-organized, spreadsheet-planned schedules can be derailed. It's life. Take it in stride and look forward to the dream you have envisioned. It will arrive. Patience is a virtue.

Your Neighbor,


Patti Harrell Hoech

Licensed Interior Designer


To ask Patti a question please scan the QR code!



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