

home design guide

Make Room a guide to great room design

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If you are designing floor plans for a new custom home or remodel, analyze each room to make sure that your furniture will fit and there is comfortable circulation space for walking. Also, consider the following design tips to enhance each room:

Room Proportions

A room feels most comfortable when it's designed with the correct proportions. The floor area of the room (length multiplied by width) should be in the right proportion with the height of the ceiling. The room's volume, or cubic area, is just as important as the floor area itself. If a ceiling height is not in the correct proportion with the floor area, then a tall ceiling in a small powder room or laundry room can make one feel uncomfortable. Conversely, a large room with a low ceiling can make it feel small and cramped, even though its length and width dimensions are generous.

Ceiling Heights

According to the Italian Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio, well known for his mastery of pleasing proportions in design, an appropriate ceiling height for significant sized rooms is found by adding the length of the longest wall of a room to its width, then dividing the result by two. For example, in a room that measures 12 feet by 13 feet, the ideal ceiling height would be 12.5 feet. In a small room that measures eight feet by ten feet, the ideal ceiling height would be nine feet.

Daylighting

A room illuminated with natural light is pleasant and cheerful, and can even lift our spirits. A small room lit with plenty of daylight can make it feel larger. Equally, a dim room with few or small windows can make it feel small. In cases where the need for privacy does not allow large or numerous



windows, consider other options like obscured glass, clerestory windows (high windows) or skylights. Work with your home design professional on proper window placement to maximize glazing and daylight in each room while being sensitive to potential heat gain from the sun. Placing the window heads higher on a wall will allow daylight to beam deeper into the room.

In order to receive the best design value for the rooms in your new home or remodel project, consider that you are purchasing new space by the square foot and make every square foot count! Be sure that your home design professional provides you with good, comfortable, bright rooms that live well and are designed with appropriate sizes to accommodate your furnishings.

Do you have questions about home design or remodeling?



Contact Tony at twereameichik@canin.com or visit his company's website at www.canin.com.

Years of research in custom home design, remodeling and home building has led Tony Weremeichik, Principal of Canin Associates' Architectural Design Studio, to be a strong advocate for home buyers and home owners to get the best design and construction value for their money. He leads clients and builders through a well-orchestrated design process that provides his clients with the utmost attention and creative design solutions.