ask the expert

By resident owner
Ruth Axtell

TOUT LE MONDE
INTERIORS

Question: "How does your design process work?"

Answer: I explain that the design process begins with an initial consultation. This is where I meet at the client's home and have an in-depth conversation about their goals. We discuss functionality, design, and budget for the project. Once I have a better understanding of how they want to use their space, I begin to share my ideas of how I visualize it. I like to get them excited about the possibilities. I collaborate with my clients to ensure they are also part of the creative process. It is so important to make sure they are comfortable and engaged in the design decisions to give them a higher level of satisfaction upon completion.

I take measurements and photos at the consultation so that I can create 2D and 3D drawings. This allows the client to "see" what I visualize for the space. This is a fun aspect of the process as clients enjoy seeing the transformation before their eyes without making any commitments. It enables them to see what different colors, furniture, window treatments, and so on will look like in the room. This tool allows them to also make informed decisions in the planning process.

Once decisions have been made, I assist them with all selections of materials, lighting, furnishings, colors, etc. This includes bringing them shopping to stores and showrooms, exploring online options, and even custom-made items. In many instances, I handle all of the ordering and deliveries to ensure that materials are on sight when needed.

In remodeling projects such as kitchens and bathrooms, I typically oversee not only the design and purchasing but also hire and manage the contracted work. This allows me to work closely with my trusted contractors to ensure that the project is being executed to the highest standard. This relieves my client of the burden of managing the project, timelines, and any issues that should arise during construction.

Living through a major design and remodeling project can be very stressful for some clients. Proper planning, communication, and good management help alleviate a lot of that anxiety. I wear a lot of hats throughout the process and really enjoy seeing a project from start to finish. The most gratifying part of my job is knowing my client is thrilled with the end result.

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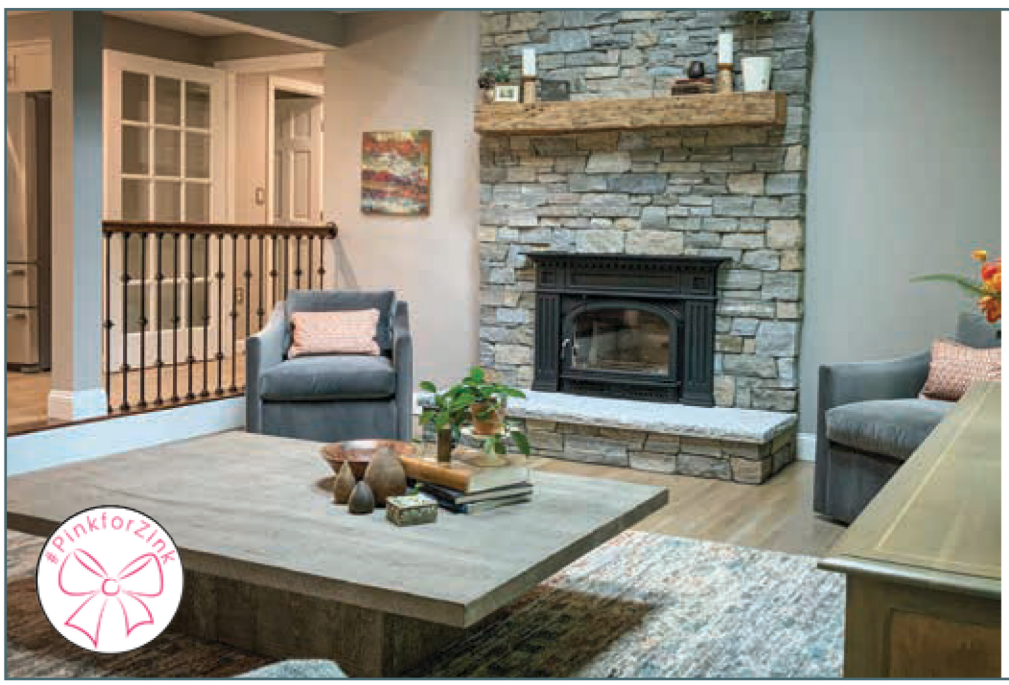

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