

The Six Pathways To A Home That Feels Right



Most of us will remodel or build infrequently. As a result, it is far too common to wish we had done something differently. Responding to this, I created the *Designed by L.I.F.E.* process. With this process, you will address the six pathways of your home: View, People, Light, Sound, Smell, and Touch. Using proven techniques, these aspects can be balanced and harmonized.

First, consider the *View* pathways. Orienting windows to reveal views should be obvious. That said, looking at the bathroom below, one wonders what the owner was thinking when they oriented their vanity to block their view! A Victoria & Albert tub now invites you to recline.

Next, consider *People* pathways. What happens as you enter your home? Your kitchen begins there! As you come in with arms loaded, will you have a place to set it all down? Plus, in “no shoes” homes, will you have a pile to stumble over?

I recommend you take your floor plan and shade out all the areas where people will be walking. Rooms can shrink to where furniture placement is awkward at best when usable floor space is revealed.



What about *Light* pathways? We are light-sensitive people. Homes have long been designed with the tops of windows and doors at a “standard” height that robs rooms of light. Soffits are another common element from the past. They not only cut down on total storage, they can block light and make a kitchen feel confined. The 1st-place Open Plan Kitchen above solved this.

Light, however, can also bring glare. Polished stone counters in west-facing kitchens are especially susceptible to this. Plus, the intense light from the diodes in undercabinet LED lighting can bounce off the counter and cause uncomfortable glare.

Sound affects our ability to enjoy our home. Dishes clatter in some sinks. Hollow doors may sound cheap to you. Noise too often “leaks” between rooms. New 3mm-thick material developed by NASA can reduce sound transmission between rooms by 26 dB!

What about *Smell*? While it is sometimes pleasant when cooking smells permeate your home, having the acrid smell of a pie crust burning on the oven floor is not at the top of most wish lists! Extracting odors is an important part of good planning.

Finally, consider *Touch*. Put quality in the things you touch. We think “quality” as we experience turning on a faucet or opening a door. Stone can be quite cold on elbows when sitting at an eating bar. Consider using wood there. Modern sealants make wood virtually impervious to staining.

Please, visit spaceplanner.com for more about the *Designed by L.I.F.E.* process. You can also call Richard Landon Design at (425) 957-0451. Balance the six pathways and you will have a home that looks great, works well and, most important, feels right to you!

