

If You Knew This...



Raised window and door headers

Most of us will remodel or build infrequently. As a result, it is far too common to wish we had done something differently. As a response to this, the *Designed by L.I.F.E.* process was created. With this process, you can 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. With that said, in the bathroom photo, the builder had placed a vanity with an eight-foot-wide mirror, completely blocking the view!

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

It is recommended to take the floor plan and shade out all the areas where people will be walking. Living rooms can shrink to where furniture placement is awkward at best when usable floor space is revealed.



Bathroom—with view unblocked

What about *Light* pathways? We can be light sensitive, here in the Northwest. Industry practice is to place the top of windows and doors at about 80-inches. For two-story homes, consider raising up the window headers into the cavity of the second floor, thereby replacing the rim joist. On north-facing kitchens, the sense of connection to light and the outdoors is dramatically increased when windows and doors run to the ceiling.

Light can also bring glare. Polished counters in west-facing kitchens may enjoy great views, but require sunglasses when cooking dinner on a summer day! Plus, with LED lighting becoming more and more common, the glare off polished countertops from the intense light of LEDs can be painful for some.

Sound affects our ability to enjoy our home. Many dishwashers are now as quiet as a whisper. Yet, some hoods make so much noise, you cannot have a comfortable conversation. Counters can be hard and noisy. Dishes can clatter in many sinks.

There are other sounds that either say, “quality” or “cheap.” When you shut a door, does it sound hollow? When you walk across the floor, do your footfalls sound solidly placed or spongy? Choose materials for more than aesthetic reasons. Consider how they sound, as well.

What about *Smell*? In some homes, we can smell what’s cooking at the front door! That may be pleasant for some, yet having the smell of fish permeating your home is not at the top of most wish lists! Dealing with odors is an important part of good planning.

Finally, consider *Touch*. Some counters are not only hard, noisy and cause glare, they can be quite cold on elbows when sitting at them. Consider using wood for eating bars. Modern sealants can make wood virtually impervious to staining.

You can visit www.spaceplanner.com for more about the *Designed by L.I.F.E.* process. You can also call Richard Landon Design at (425) 957-0451 for more information. Balance the six pathways and you will have a home that not only will look great and work well, your home will ultimately feel right to you!