

Ana Engelhorn

# HOME REDESIGN

The lifesaving guide  
to approaching your  
house renovation.





# Welcome.

My name is Ana Engelhorn. Thanks very much for downloading this step-by-step guide on how to create your own perfectly imperfect interior. Renovating or redecorating your home can be daunting. I hope this general guide provides a friendly, helping hand – offering useful advice on how to organise your plans and allowing you to step back and consider it piece by piece. Above all, enjoy the process and, ultimately, do what feels right for you. Should you want any bespoke advice – I am at your service!

Best of luck!

Ana

## Step 1

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# Get your plans down.

Gather together any architectural or floor plans you have of your home so you can organise your ideas and have measurements to hand. If you don't have any plans, you can simply draw some yourself – you don't need to be an artist! The drawings don't have to be precisely to scale; I would recommend sketching each room before drawing an outline of the whole floor.

Draw the shape of the inner wall and then any built-in pieces such as cupboards. Measure each side of the room as well as any fixed pieces – including height – and note the figures down on your plans. Having a rough floor plan with measurements is very useful later on when you want to figure out how much paint you should order, or which sofa will fit!







## Step 2

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# Brainstorming.

Create a folder for the house, either on your computer and/or a physical one, and then create sub-folders for each of the rooms in which you can collate your ideas. Even though you might know what you like or don't like, it is always good to get some examples together and have them in front of you to help with brainstorming.



**Bathroom**



**Kitchen**



**Master Bedroom**



**Dining Room**



**Living Room**

### Step 3

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# Complete a questionnaire.

Write down a list of questions for yourself about your design aims for the house, your budget and the project's timescale and scope (you can download my standard client questionnaire here for free). These are the key points I like to get clarity on at the first client meeting. Forcing yourself to go through the process and answer the questions will make you really think about all the details

involved in your redesign – it's amazing what comes out when you actually have to write it all down and commit yourself to your brief (allowing some flexibility to deviate from your original plans). For example, if you are limited to a one-month timescale, looking at furniture with an eight-week delivery period simply won't work.

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## ANA'S QUESTIONNAIRE

- 1.** What does your day-to-day family lifestyle involve from morning to evening?
- 2.** List your 5 favourite colours as well as 5 colours you dislike
- 3.** Which room is the heart of the home for you?
- 4.** What makes you feel at home?

Stay connected to get the [complete Ana's Questionnaire next month!](#)

## Step 4

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# Design by layering.

Once you know what atmosphere and style you are looking for, it is time to go room-by-room and actually do the design. Before you start, it is also important to remind yourself how you want to use each space and what elements are important to you – it might be useful to note down any key themes or ideas in the Excel spreadsheet. I have found the best order to think through the design for each room is:

1. How you will use the space
2. Flooring
3. Colour or material of the walls
4. Soft furnishings (e.g. Carpets)
5. Furniture
6. Art & decorative elements
7. Lighting
8. Electrical / heating / cooling installations



## Step 4.5

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# In addition...

I'd suggest including these points in the document:

1. Quantity
2. Description of item
3. Dimensions (if necessary)
4. Purchase cost
5. Shipping cost
6. Delivery time
7. Order date (when you should be ordering the product)

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## EXTRA TIPS

- I would suggest using an Excel spreadsheet to keep all of the information in one place and to help organise your interior design by room.
- Remember to always keep an eye on your budget and don't forget delivery and installation costs!



## Step 5

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# Sketching ideas.

When all of your design ideas are in place, it can be really helpful to have a sketch artist or illustrator bring it all to life visually. Having a picture in front of you will help you see if the atmosphere you were trying to achieve has been conveyed. If not, you can rethink it slightly or go ahead and put all of your proposed furniture in your

floorplan to see how the pieces will fit before making any alterations. Remember, unless you are going to be there directing your tradespeople step by step, it is very helpful to have some kind of visual to show when you are explaining to a handyman or electrician exactly where you want something.







## Step 6

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# Bringing it all together.

If you are happy with your design and have made sure you are within budget, it is time to go ahead and order all of your work – the Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment or, as it's known in the trade: FF&E. Most importantly, organise the work to be done first and the furniture to be delivered after.

If you are away or working when the furniture is supposed to arrive, remember to organise someone to receive and check everything. Trying to organise things to come within the same time frame can be beneficial if you are busy or don't want to be stuck at home waiting on many different days.

## Step 7

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# The final touch.

Once all the work has been completed, the FF&E have arrived and your paintings and decorations have gone up, remember that the small details are what make a house a home. It's important to have the things you really need or love in the right

places. Take care, however, that those smaller details or things aren't cluttering your home unnecessarily. If you're moving home, it's a perfect opportunity to give away unwanted things and reduce clutter.

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## EXTRA TIPS

- Ordering more from one store might mean you can get a discount. Always ask – you have nothing to lose!
- Manage your time and money. Think of extra costs, quality and durability, as well as installation and delivery costs.
- Create a folder to hold all of the instruction manuals for furniture, electronics and utilities.



# Thank you!

I'd love to discuss your projects or get to know what you would like to learn in the new Guide

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