

After spending over 30 years helping homeowners get through the struggle with their decision to remodel (or not) and then help them through the struggle of making design decisions....and then helping them live through the process of a totally deconstructed and then revitalized home, I have some observations about why remodeling is so hard on one's soul.

1. Remodeling is very, very personal

One person's artistic choice can be another person's most despised selection. While seemingly endless options to choose from may initially feel like "true freedom," so many choices can make your job of personal expression through design even more overwhelming. What one homeowner treasures, another person would pay to NOT have in their home.

Deconstruction of your very personal space is hard to see happen. Yet it must be deconstructed to be redone with the new plan in mind. Surprisingly though, I have observed homeowners who think having the room peeled back to the bare studs looks better and functions better than what was originally there! I suggest you find a safe and comfortable getaway during the demolition.

2. Decision fatigue

Your choices and final product become a reflection of you and can make decisions even more daunting. There are an overwhelming number of decisions for you to make and after making 50 decisions, here come the next 50. I suggest you have a very talented and organized designer with project



Boldly Go?

Why Remodeling is So Hard on One's Soul

By Iris Harrell, Founder/CEO of Harrell Remodeling, Inc.

management skills to help you make good and timeless decisions in an effective manner without becoming overwhelmed.

3. Fear of failure

Every remodeling decision you make affects how each family member and visitor functions in your home after this project is completed. Remodeling decisions are final and if you change your mind, changes after construction are very costly. (Very few modifications are as simple as choosing the paint color on the wall). Again, having a good designer who has listened and asked you the right questions through numerous discussions and design option decisions can make you more comfortable with the decisions you are making.



Iris Harrell

4. Pushing the envelope

You may be unsure of your own preferred aesthetics... or you may be merging styles eclectically, which can be tricky, but, success is possible. Your particular combination may have not been done before. Is it going to work? I remember waking up from a nightmare two decades ago about a stone floor I had chosen for my first Design Center. All of the other finish colors and selections had been chosen around this one item. I got up at sunrise and charged into the Design Center's front door and saw the beautiful floor tile installation 75% completed. I breathed a sigh of relief. It was beautiful. Why had I doubted my decision? This self doubt happens with professionals from time to time but certainly not as often as with homeowners who don't do this every day. Having a professional help you with these decisions will create a more successful outcome and help you overcome your moments of doubt.

And just like in Star Trek, you must choose to "boldly go where no one has gone before." And then reap the benefits for decades to come. If it is done really thoughtfully and skillfully, your financial return for the investment you make will happen, if and when you finally sell the home and move on to your next adventure.

Is this your moment to "boldly go"?

To learn more about Harrell Remodeling, visit www.harrell-remodeling.com. Or Call 650.230.2900.