



If you're planning a remodel, you already know that one of the most challenging decisions you have to make is who you'll hire to do the work for you. There are all kinds of contractors out there, each promising a different process and quality craftsmanship.

How do you know which option is best for you and your home?

In our experience, the best way to know that you're making the right choice is to have all the facts. As you search for remodelers in your area, you might see the term "design-build remodeling." If you're new to the term, this guide will give you all the information you need, including:

- What design-build remodeling is
- 5 signs your remodeling project might be a good fit for design-build
- And how to get started with a design-build firm

Let's get started!

What is Design-Build Remodeling?

Design-build remodeling takes all of the work — from designing the plans to managing timelines, scheduling subcontractors, and the actual construction work — and brings it all under one roof. A design-build firm offers a team of experts and a seamless design and build process focused on getting you the remodel you asked for on time and on budget.

Quality design-build firms are known for delivering collaborative, creative remodels that stick to a schedule and take as much of the building process's stress as possible off the homeowner's shoulders.

Perhaps the most significant benefit of design-build remodeling over the traditional remodeling process is that design-build minimizes the homeowner's responsibility to coordinate a remodel and places it squarely back on the design-build team — without losing the homeowner's vision for the project.



5

Signs Your Remodel Project is Suited to Design-Build



The idea of having design and construction teams collaborating throughout every step of your remodeling project is great — but how do you know if your remodeling project is right for the design-build process? Below are 5 key signs your home remodel might benefit from the support of a design-build team.

1 You're looking for support in planning a remodeling project.

Most homeowners know what they want from their remodel. Maybe you're embarrassed about a home's outdated style, maybe you don't have the privacy you want, or maybe you just need more space. No matter what, you know exactly what you want to get rid of with your remodel.

What's more complicated is conveying those wants and needs to a team of professional contractors, managing a timeline, a budget, and all the technical details, on top of making material and finish selections.

Your life is busy as it is. If you're looking for support handling the many technical details of a remodel, a design-build firm can help. Their on-staff design team will help develop the remodel plans you've been dreaming of, and then they'll relay your approved design to the construction crew, ensuring no details are lost in translation.

2 You have a budget but want help staying within that budget

Remodeling projects have a bad reputation for going over budget. That's one key reason many homeowners push off remodels until they truly can't live with their home's problems. Hiring a design-build firm can help you keep your budget in check.

The benefit of working with a design-build team is that they value-engineer your remodel process from start to finish.

A quality design-build firm knows just where they can generate savings, and they have the experience to provide you with a solid, fair quote at the start of your project. While the unexpected can always happen when peeling back the layers of an older home, a design-build firm will be upfront about the potential for those costs and will work hard to stick to your budget.

3 Your remodeling project requires additional care

No two remodeling projects are exactly the same. While some projects are simple — swapping out cabinets, replacing older appliances, or slapping on a coat of paint — others require more care. Let's say you're working with:

- A historical home
- A multi-phase remodel
- A remodel that extends across multiple rooms
- Adding on to a home with an established style

Many of these, and many we missed in that short list, are great candidates for a design-build firm.

With additional resources, a design team and construction crew, and years of experience handling complex projects like these, a design-build team has the resources you need to ensure this remodel is done right.

4 You need help building a team of experts

As we mentioned at the start of this guide — one of the most challenging parts of a remodel is finding the right people to do the work.

In any remodel, you need someone to handle the design for the new project and every step of construction, from demo to framing-in to electrical, plumbing, painting, finishing, and more!

And if you want each element of your remodel completed well, you're looking to put together a team of experts. That alone is no easy feat, not to mention needing to schedule each contractor according to the appropriate timeline of when each component must be completed.

A design-build firm takes all the hassle and headache out of this step. They manage the timeline for you. They also have partnerships with vetted, trusted contractors they know will complete your project with the highest level of craftsmanship.

5 You value honest, straightforward communication

In a traditional remodel project, it's easy for aspects of the project to get lost in translation. Maybe the designer forgot to mention a specific detail to the construction team, or maybe the construction team took a few liberties with the initially proposed design. Generally, it's a reactive process that doesn't allow for much strategic planning.

When you work with a design-build firm, you avoid all this hassle and get clear, transparent communication at every step of your remodeling project and a proactive, streamlined design and building process.

Because design and construction teams are working together, there's always swift, clear internal communication, which makes it easy for them to give you organized, timely updates.



How to Get Started with a Design-Build Firm: A Checklist

If design-build sounds like the best route for your upcoming remodel project, use this checklist to help you find the best contractor for you!

- ☐ **Identify design-build firms near you.**

Search "design-build" on Google, or ask if any of your connections would recommend a design-build firm in your area.

- ☐ **Do your research.**

Once you've identified the design-build firms in your area, start doing a little digging. Look into their reviews, check their websites, and dive into their past projects.

- ☐ **Narrow down the list.**

After some research, start narrowing your list until you've got it down to just two or three.

- ☐ **Get in touch with your top design-build firms.**

Once you have a shortlist, it's time to reach out! Pay attention to who gets back to you first and their communication while you talk to them — this can tell you a lot about a company!

- ☐ **Ask about their process.**

Each design-build firm should have its own process for remodels. Find out about your top few firms' processes, and see which sounds best to you.

- ☐ **Meet with your top design-build firms.**

Because of the nature of design-build, it's important to make sure that you and your design-build firm are the right fit for each other by meeting your top contenders. The right firm will have a great understanding of your style and direction, and will show genuine excitement for your project.

- ☐ **Decide which design-build firm is best for you!**



Building Better Futures
Your Vision, Realized

Get Started with Meadowlark Design+Build

If you're planning a remodel in the Ann Arbor area and decide that design-build is the best option for your project, Meadowlark is here to help. We are a leading design-build firm that specializes in complex and large-scale remodels. We encourage you to learn more about our unique design-build process, and we'd love to get the conversation started about your upcoming project!