

MIDWEST Home[®] Spring Style

FRESH IDEAS FOR LANDSCAPING, DESIGN & DÉCOR

MN'S BEST ARCHITECTS

Stunning Spaces

GARDEN GEAR

Get Growing

SPRING CLEANING

Made Simple

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FROM the Expert

OUR EXPERTS CAN ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS on any home woes.
Submit your questions to our industry experts at MidwestHomeMag.com/expert



TOM HALEK
GENERAL MANAGER
Painterati

Q. I have existing oak kitchen cabinets that are finished in a Golden Oak. I want to update my kitchen, but I've been told that you shouldn't apply paint over an existing finish on kitchen cabinets. Is this true?

A. This is false. Replacing your existing kitchen cabinets is a costly and time-consuming way to achieve the kitchen of your dreams. Refinishing your existing kitchen cabinets at a fraction of the cost can achieve a stunning transformation. We offer 11 stylish finishes for your kitchen cabinets or can create a custom finish. Be wary of the contractor that wants to refinish your cabinets all on-site. To achieve a durable, high-quality finish, you should always work with a contractor that has the capability of removing your existing cabinet drawer and door fronts and refinishing them in a controlled Finishing Shop environment. This may cost a little extra, but the end result will be well worth it.

**EXPERT
NOTE**

"DETERMINING THE TYPE OF PRODUCT TO USE ON YOUR RE-FINISHING PROJECT SHOULD BE LEFT UP TO PROFESSIONAL PAINTING CONTRACTORS. THEY KNOW WHICH PRODUCTS WILL PROVIDE THE MOST DURABLE FINISH."

Q. Besides a portfolio of work that resonates with me, what should I be looking for when I select my designer?

A. Remember, you don't hire an architect or designer just to sell you a product, but to provide you a service. The outcome of that service is a project that will exceed your expectations. Good designers offer a service that takes a client step-by-step through the process of defining program and budget goals, transforming these goals into viable options to choose from, and finally translating the best option into the information a contractor needs to build a successful project.



DAVID HEIDE
ALLIED ASID, ASSOCIATE AIA
David Heide Design Studio

**EXPERT
NOTE**

GREAT DESIGN CAN PROFOUNDLY CHANGE YOUR LIFESTYLE AT HOME. CHOOSE SOMEONE WITH WHOM YOU ARE COMFORTABLE HAVING CANDID AND OPEN CONVERSATIONS ABOUT EVERYTHING FROM BUDGET TO BATHROOM PRIVACY TO PARENTING PHILOSOPHIES. MAKE SURE THEY HAVE THE CAPACITY TO REALLY LISTEN, AND TO TRANSFORM WHAT THEY'RE HEARING INTO THE REALITY YOU DESIRE.



LAURA RAMSEY
DESIGN PRINCIPAL
Ramsey Engler Ltd.

Q. It seems like I have access to almost any product on the market these days through websites, open designer showrooms, and retailers offering complimentary interior design. Why should I consider hiring a professional interior designer?

A. First of all, because design isn't only about buying things. It starts with assessing needs, solving problems, and possibly reusing items you didn't realize you could use. When it is time to make purchases, it takes professional education and training to understand differences in quality, comparative scale of different items to be used, suitability of fabrics for the conditions in which they'll be used, compatibility of stylistic detailing, etc. Many designers are happy to help you make some selections from a variety of sources, but their trained eye will pull it all together into a cohesive space. There are a lot of individuals who call themselves designers yet have no training. Unfortunately, we've seen a lot of money wasted on ill-conceived "design" work by amateurs.

**EXPERT
NOTE**

EVEN A SIMPLE "REDECORATING" PROJECT OFTEN REQUIRES PROFESSIONAL DRAWINGS OF CUSTOM CABINETRY, A LIGHTING PLAN, NEW FINISHES, AND PERHAPS CUSTOM WINDOW TREATMENTS.