

Make it right before you reno...

Hire a designer



DVIRA OVADIA
Living by Design

It's renovation season and your bathroom is really looking dated! Just like many others, you might be feeling the itch to start updating and bringing your space up to current times. When tackling a bathroom, kitchen or even a larger reno, it's important to consult with experts.

At Dvira Interiors, we've come in to rescue many jobs gone wrong and the costly price of making it right ends up being much greater for the homeowner than having a designer take on the project right from the preliminary stages.

While some clients have a keen eye for design, the designer still plays a vital role in helping the client take the process beyond the initial idea, ensuring all the details, coordination and integrity of the design is maintained throughout the project. Renovations can be a scary territory for many, and there is no doubt that this process is tolling, from sourcing products, making the right selections and following through the execution of the process. By working with a designer, their responsibility is to consider the countless details that must be synchronised to perfectly choreograph that dreamy magazine look. An experienced designer will also prepare you for the process and will introduce you to the right trades for your project. Designers will also have a great bank of resources and a close network of suppliers where they can obtain superior discounts and custom products that are unique.

Our firm provides our clients with all areas of support, small to large scale renovations, from permit drawings, material and finish selections, custom furnishings and cabinetry, to final staging. Sometimes we even pull in

our realtor colleagues to give our clients an understanding for the resale value of their renovated property.

With my years of experience working on HGTV's *Income Property* and my close collaboration with realtors, I have learned what finishes and materials are worthwhile investing in to ensure that your property maintains its value! It's important that your designer is able to give you design advice while recognizing your neighbourhood and your home's potential resale value.

Finally, It is important to stress that your final design is personal, and the plans, finishes and recommendations reflect you and your family. Look for a designer that is listening and truly understands what you need from the space. Good design cannot be successful if only aesthetically pleasing — it must enhance how you live every day.

TIPS:

- Ensure you do research about the designer you wish to hire, Ask all the right questions about their background and experience, ask to look at pictures of previous projects to ensure that it's the right fit in terms of style and expectations.
- Prepare yourself for the process, do your own homework to get acquainted with what you are drawn to, and what you don't like, what's in style now, etc.
- Make a list of questions, concerns and problem areas that you wish to discuss with the designer at your initial meeting or consultation. Ask how they charge for projects and timelines expected to complete your project

Toronto-based celebrity and award-winning designer Dvira Ovadia, principal of Dvira Interiors, is known for her appearances and design work on various HGTV programs. Dvira and her team use their profound understanding of design to create stylishly smart spaces, servicing clientele throughout Ontario & GTA. Visit dvira.com, @DVIRAdesigner

