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TIPS FOR CHOOSING A REFRIGERATOR FROM CANADIAN APPLIANCE SOURCE

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Choosing the right expert

In the face of the Canadian housing supply crunch, many homeowners are choosing to renovate their current home to create their dream living space rather than move into something new. R+D caught up with Joy Chao, lead interior designer at luxury architectural and interior design firm JHA, to get her top tips on how to choose the right architect and interior designer for your needs.

1 Start with an objective

Before speaking with a professional, determine your project goals and the desired outcome from the renovation. Put together a wish list of what you hope to achieve, and establish a comfortable budget. This will help a design professional quickly gauge whether the project is realistic.

2 Proper planning

The key to a successful project is to find a professional who understands every aspect of a renovation and will take charge of all the necessary planning from beginning to end. There are various elements to consider other than materials and finishes, such as the city's approval and permits. Finding a professional with experience and knowledge who prioritizes planning is essential. Check reviews and portfolios of the professionals you are considering, take the time to meet with short-list candidates, and make sure to check all references. Trust your gut regarding who you believe best understands your vision and maintain an open line of communication.

3 Collaboration is key

Look for professionals who encourage collaboration. Design is not an exact science; major home transformations may take longer than anticipated, so it's vital to have a good three-way collaborative relationship between you, your design professional and the project's general contractor. Often, site conditions will dictate if adjustments are needed to achieve the desired results. A design professional can help you select a reputable contractor who will contribute to a successful partnership involving active communication, mutual trust, and a willingness to incorporate your ideas while providing expert advice.

4 Start to finish

The architect and interior designer need to be there from the beginning stages of your renovation to the end, with a holistic view of the project and knowing how much to be involved in various stages, with open communication. You're going to want a professional who regularly discusses progress and provides feedback to ensure the project stays on track.

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