



Are you a Skydiver or a Power Walker When it comes to Renovating?

By Tina McMillan C.I.D

To plan or not to plan, is that the question? Are you a **skydiver** or a **power walker** when it is time to renovate? What is a skydiver? What is a power walker? They are terms that I use to describe the personality types at the opposite ends of the “renovation spectrum”. I have actually played both of these roles myself throughout my life to date and can speak from experience.

A **skydiver** will impulsively buy anything on sale regardless of the right colour or right quantity needed. They will “make it work” somehow. The “bottom line” is the driving force behind this person. These people live in the moment and do not think of any possible future ramifications.

A **power walker** will have a file folder or box overflowing with magazine pictures, fabric swatches and paint samples that they have been collecting for the past decade. These people are afraid of making a costly mistake. They feel completely paralyzed and overwhelmed by all the possible choices that they do not know which way to turn.

As a professional interior designer, I have encountered both of the above mentioned extreme examples. Thankfully, the majority of my clients fall somewhere in between, but still has difficulty in knowing where to start. Remember, even if you have no idea what you like, you do know what you don't like and use this as your jumping off point. Through this process of elimination, you can narrow down your options.

I recommend choosing characteristics from each personality type:

From the **skydiver** – don't be afraid of change. Be inspired and act on those feelings.

From the **power walker** – take the time to decide on what and why you want to change and then actually do it.

Plan, plan, plan and plan some more!

Here are 3 tips to begin the planning process:

1. Create your “wish list”

This includes anything and everything you want if you had all the time and money needed at your disposal. (If no one laughs, it’s not big enough!)

2. Devise your timeline

What stage or room do you want or need to work on first? This will eventually denote what your budget will be based upon.

3. Information gathering

Look at pictures that best represent your lifestyle. Do you have an item of inspiration? (Artwork, heirloom, favorite sweater?)

Where are you on the planning spectrum? Unsure? Send in your decorating dilemmas to www.mcmillaninteriors.ca for advice on everything from paint colors to flooring selection.



Tina McMillan is a Certified Interior Designer and owner of McMillan Interiors Inc.

The services she provides include interior decorating, colour consulting, space planning, home redesign and staging, window treatments, furniture selection, and curb appeal.

**Please forward any comments or questions to:
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