

How to Jumpstart a Remodeling Project

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HOW TO

Anxious to remodel your kitchen or bathroom but feel like you need help seeing new possibilities for the space? Albertsson Hansen Architecture's **Christine Albertsson** has developed a streamlined, three-part consultation service that can get homeowners off and running in as little as two hours.



1. Listen and see

The first thing we do is actively listen to the homeowners, to understand their goals for the project. Then we tour the house and the backyard to see how the different rooms relate to each other and to outdoor living spaces. We ask about the types and sizes of the appliances they need, and whether an island or a table is a goal. Often a banquette has a major impact on the usability of a dining space—or the living room and dining room work better flipped. Is there an opportunity to open the dining room up to the kitchen via a wide cased opening?



2. Measure and draw

Next, we measure the space—noting the location of doors and windows—and create a scaled graph-paper drawing over which we can sketch ideas on trace paper. Often this phase centers on finding a new home for the refrigerator, experimenting with opening the kitchen up to an adjacent living space, or seeing if it is wide enough to accommodate an island. With a rigorous understanding of dimensional functioning and clearances, we can quickly develop two or three basic strategies for the remodel.



3. Review and tweak

Last, we meet with the owners to review the ideas and discuss the benefits of each. Often, something very special happens in the first 10 minutes: The clients begin to see new possibilities for an efficient, spatially satisfying home. Together, we work out which idea they like best and make some tweaks to the sketch. After cleaning it up back at the office, we scan and email a copy to the owners. Sometimes they can work directly with a builder to implement the design from this simple sketch. Other times, it makes sense for us to provide more thorough documentation to build the project.

Christine Albertsson in one of her recent projects—her own kitchen.