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Interior Investments

Hiring a Qualified Interior Designer

By Dana W. Todd



Bryan J. Pulte

When his father opened Pulte Homes in 1950, now one of the nation's largest homebuilders, Bryan Pulte was just a twinkle in his dad's eye. "Growing up," Pulte says, "I took my family's homebuilding business for granted. I didn't realize how much knowledge I was absorbing. Every summer, I had a different job from carpenter laborer to brick mason laborer.

"I had plenty of opportunity after school to walk the subdivisions in which my father was building, planning how I could change the interior spaces of the homes under construction," he continues.

Pulte's background has equipped him in a unique way to handle the residential interior design needs of his clients through Bryan Pulte Interiors. "Some designers may produce impractical plans if they have little knowledge of the location of plumbing, electrical, and structural supports," Pulte says. "Having a thorough understanding of residential building practices, as well as a working knowledge of current

building costs, enables an interior designer to provide the best final outcome to fit a client's needs."

Especially in today's renovation atmosphere, homebuilding knowledge ensures a plan is practical in addressing needs and guarantees structural supports remain intact as walls are moved and rooms are added or combined. "The golden age of homebuilding is over," Pulte says. "Remodeling and renovation have replaced a large percentage of new home construction, and homeowners' needs have changed."

Pulte provides recommendations to homeowners about choosing a qualified interior designer:

Interview three or four designers. Ask for portfolios; a good designer will have one. Through an interview process, a homeowner can



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Interiors





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ascertain if a designer is shy or bold about using color, says Pulte. Ask about education. A qualified, professional designer needs to be able to read cross sections, floor plans, and legends and understand scale, perspective, and balance. Ask a potential designer, “Who have you studied under?” and “Where did you obtain a degree?” A professional designer not only decorates through creative placement of accessories, but creates something new via lighting, space planning, and materials.

Check chemistry. Does the designer’s personality complement yours? Does he suggest potential solutions to address your needs? A good designer knows how to parlay the architectural integrity of the outside of your home into the appropriate style on the inside. Be realistic about budget. It’s a designer’s job to assist homeowners in setting a realistic budget up front so there are no surprises on the back end.❖

Contact Bryan Pulte Interiors at (303) 399-8866 to schedule an appointment.

