

# Home is where most would like to remain

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ENVISION DESIGN

Many older homes in the Houston area are in need of some modifications.

Many are not energy efficient. They have too many hallways; the kitchens are inefficient and separated from the family rooms. The bathrooms are small and outdated. There are not enough closets or storage areas. The ceilings are low and windows are small — making for a dark interior. Many homes have rooms that are not used, and outdoor areas are often not utilized as living spaces.

Did you know walls can be relocated or removed completely and ceiling heights can be changed fairly easily? Lighting can be added throughout the home. Mud rooms and closets can be added to reduce clutter. Larger, energy-efficient windows can be added to create more light in the home. These new windows will make your living spaces appear much larger, brighter and more comfortable. Exterior doors can be added

to transform outdoor spaces into extra entertainment areas.

Kitchens can be enlarged and redesigned so they open into family areas. Upgrades to your newly designed kitchen can include efficient pantries, appliance storage areas, solid-surface countertops, new cabinets and appliances. Bathrooms can be remodeled to include larger countertops, curbless glass showers, free-standing bathtubs, larger closets and linen storage. Full-length mirrors, the right lighting and a TV space will make your bathroom more functional.

It's a known fact remodeling areas in your home such as those listed above are good investments and will make your home more livable and energy efficient.

The right design will not only enable you to enjoy your

home more now. It will enable you to remain in your home longer.

As an increasing number of people approach retirement age, they want to stay in their existing homes longer. An increasing number of homeowners are opting to modify their homes in preparation for aging in place. Renovations of this nature can be more economical than relocating.

Properly designed and remodeled homes will result in living spaces that are accessible and safe, not to mention easy on the eyes.

Following are some steps to help you get started:

- » Decide which areas of your home need updating.
- » Determine your budget.
- » Contact a building designer who has remodeling experience.

Your building designer will be able to help you formulate a master plan, using your budget to create your vision.

This article was provided by a member of the Remodelers Council of the Greater Houston Builders Association. The Remodelers Council is dedicated to promoting professionalism and public awareness through education, certification and service to the community. To find a professional remodeler in your area, please visit [www.ghba.org/consumers](http://www.ghba.org/consumers).



Photos courtesy of GHBA Remodelers Council

**The lower ceiling and small window make for a dark, unwelcoming kitchen.**



**Raising the ceiling height and adding new windows brightens the interior, helping homeowners remain in their homes longer.**