Tips and helpful information on building your custom home

Selecting The Right Builder

When searching for the best builder, look for these criteria to ensure the builder you use builds the home you're dreaming of.

A portfolio that matches your inspiration
- Use websites such as Houzz.com and Pinterest.com to catalog design styles that appeal to you.
- Review builder websites for photos of previous projects to ensure your styles align.
- Print inspirational mood boards and bring them to your builder interview meeting.

The perfect price in the right area
- Find out where potential builders are located so you can best prepare for on-site meetings and site visits.
- Research the average cost of a builder's previous projects to be sure their services are within your budget.

Options to take tours and read reviews
- Ask builders to take you on a tour of previous builds.
- Read online reviews to gain a sense of how the builder works.
- Follow up with all of the references a builder provides.

Pay attention to structural details
- From upgrades in flooring and cabinets to what's behind the walls, ask your builder to include the upgrades you desire.
- Be sure to emphasize your desire for finished performance — like floors that don't squeak and energy efficient exteriors that reduce air leaks.
- Pay attention to their reaction when asked about building materials — your builder should be excited to tell you about the materials you can't see when the home is complete. If not, keep researching until you find one that is.