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## Design Questionnaire

Welcome to the design process! I guarantee it will be hard work, fun, and ultimately very rewarding. The first step is talking about who you are and what you have in mind for this project.

Our goal is to make a place for you that fits like a glove, works like a charm, and doesn't cost you more than you want to spend. I wrote about the things we like [here](#). Our cards are on the table—now it's your turn! As we progress through the design process you will learn about different options you have for each area of your home. Your responses to this questionnaire will serve as an initial guide for us in coming up with a design that is right for you.

### I. The Basics

What is the address of the project?

What is your current address?

What is the best way for us to get in touch with you?

### II. The Program

Describe the project at hand simply and specifically, in your own terms. For example: "Bring more light into the kitchen," or "add a second story to our house that includes a master bedroom, two smaller bedrooms, and a shared bath," or "a new compact three-bedroom one and a half bath home for a family of four in the city."

Imagine your ultimate dream home. Describe what you'd like to have in the landscape outside.

Tell us about everything besides the building itself that will be part of this project. What specifically do you have in mind for the site in the project we will do now?

### **III. The Budget**

Please have a look at "[How Much Will It Cost?](#)" on our website.

What dollar amount do you see yourself investing in your place over the time you own it?

What is your total budget for the project at hand now? This should include construction costs, design fees, consultants, permits, everything.

### **IV. The Quality**

What do you like and dislike in a home? Do you have a style you prefer?

Tell us about any passions or interests you have if they will influence our design of your place.

Do you have a favorite house? What do you like about it?

Describe kinds of finishes and materials you would like in your building.

Do you have any specific goals in mind with respect to green building?

### **V. How Can We Help?**

Describe what you have in mind for us to do for you on this project.

Do you have a figure in mind that you would like to spend on design services? You can express that as a percentage of the cost of construction, hourly rates, a lump sum total, or whatever way you like.

Have you worked with a design professional before? What was the project?

If you have worked with a design professional before, what was your experience like? Were there things you really appreciated about the way they worked? Things that you wish had been done differently?

## **VI. Credit where credit is due...**

This document started as a design questionnaire developed by John Connell and others at the Yestermorrow Design/Build School in Vermont. I've used it on projects since 1995, modified and updated along the way based on feedback from our clients.

—Rob Harrison

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