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*Excellence in Custom Home Building and Design*  
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## Key Things You Should Look for When Interviewing Contractors

It's a significant investment, and people worry about making the wrong choice. Here are some key things to focus on while selecting a contractor:

- Experience - How many years have they been in business?
- How many projects have they completed?
- Trust - Do you feel you can trust this person? You get to know your contractor in the initial stages. We, as humans, determine trustworthiness usually after a few meetings.
- Can you view some of their completed projects as well as projects they are currently working on?
- Ask for referrals. Don't settle for a short list of one. See how many they will provide. I usually give 10.
- Check Google reviews.
- Do you get along with the builder and their team? Remember, it's not just the builder you will be liaising with.
- How does the architecture and design process work?
- How do they handle payments? Is it on a monthly basis? How will they verify the work is complete before asking for payment?
- Cost-plus or fixed price - What are the mark-ups on overages for fixed costs?
- How many walkthroughs will be conducted with the builder to keep you informed? For instance, we currently do one every couple of months or sooner, depending on the client's preference. It's crucial to have these walkthroughs to ensure everyone is on the same page, especially when the specifications are bespoke. This keeps our team aligned.
- Does the contractor provide you with a list of featured items included in their estimated cost?
- Warranty - How long is it? What's covered and what isn't? What happens if an issue arises post-warranty that shouldn't?
- Maintaining a clean job site is essential.
- What is the project's expected timeframe? Bear in mind that we're in a challenging period due to material shortages.
- What are their expectations for completion time?
- What about the selections and the timeline for those decisions? Making choices in advance often streamlines the process. However, it's advisable to use the builder's suppliers.
- Do they offer in-house design assistance with selections?

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