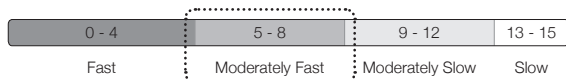


The Slow Home Test



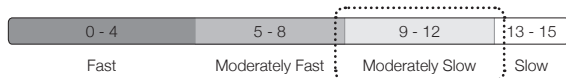
If your house has a score between 0-4

This is a fast house. It has most probably been designed to be sold more than as a place to live. The underlying fundamental structure of the design has so many problems that even a substantial remodeling project will probably not be enough to make the house sufficiently light and simple. If this is a house that is currently for sale, it should probably stay that way and you should look at other options. If this is a house you currently own, you should probably consider moving, when it is prudent to do so in your market, to a house whose design conforms more clearly to the slow home principles of simplicity and lightness.



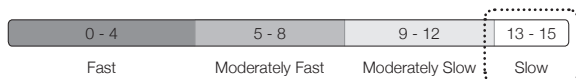
If your house has a score between 5-8

This is a marginally fast house. The design of this house has more poor features than good ones. It is not, at this moment at least, very simple or light. A major remodel may be able to improve the character of the underlying fundamental design to a more acceptable level, although this is by no means guaranteed. A house in this range that is not located in a walkable neighborhood in close proximity to places of work, has problematic neighboring conditions, and has the wrong orientation to the sun should be avoided altogether. If this is not the case, and it a house you are considering to purchase, you should proceed carefully and fully investigate the potential costs and benefits of making the necessary improvements. In the right circumstances these houses can be gems in the rough if you are willing and able to undertake a major project. If this is a house you currently own, you should weigh the option of a substantial remodel with that of moving, when it is prudent to do so in your market, to a house that is already designed according to the principles of simplicity and lightness.



If your house has a score between 9-12

This is a marginally Slow Home. The design is a mixture of both good decisions that reinforce the simple and light design philosophy and other choices that clearly do not. Depending on the specific issues identified in the evaluation, houses with scores in this range can typically benefit a great deal from sort of moderate redesign or remodel. This is particularly true if most of the problems are with the design of the individual rooms. If this is a house that is currently listed for sale, consider the cost and feasibility of the improvements as part of the purchase decision. If it is a house that you already own, and provided it is in a walkable neighborhood close to places of work, undertaking an upgrade should be seriously considered if and when it is feasible to do so. In either case, use the guide to confirm that the changes being proposed will result in a substantially improved design.



If your house has a score between 13-15

This is a Slow Home. Its underlying fundamental design conforms to all or almost all of the criteria for simplicity and lightness. Very little, if anything, probably needs to be done to improve the design of the house. Any improvements that might be suggested from your review are probably relatively minor and easy to complete. They should certainly add to the long term value of the house. Whether this is a house that you already own or one that you may be considering to purchase, a score in this range should give you confidence in the long term quality of its underlying fundamental design structure. The one proviso to this good news is if the house is not located in a walkable neighborhood that is in proximity to places of work or if it does not use clean, renewable energy sources. These two issues may affect long term value and salability depending on future energy costs and climate change initiatives.