



DESIGN BRIEF

The Ratliff's are a couple in their mid 50's. They have lived in a series of large houses in suburban Pittsburg as they raised their three children. As they contemplate retirement in the next five years, and with the children out of the house, they have moved into an established, walkable neighborhood closer to downtown. They purchased a 1550 square foot two storey narrow lot home that had been a rental property for most of its life and is now in pretty rough condition. Steve and Gabriella want to transform this house into a great place to live. In this week's design we are going to concentrate on the main floor.

The Ratliffs don't like the front nor the back entry, the enclosed kitchen, or the fact that there is no guest bathroom on the main floor. The front of the house faces southwest and out to a pleasant tree-lined neighborhood street. They want to capitalize on the view and light by having their main outside living space at the front. The rear yard, however, is also quite nice, and they would like to develop it as a secondary outdoor living space.

Dennis is moving up from a condominium that he has lived in for the past five years. He has enough equity after selling to do a fairly major upgrade to this unit.

This is the Project Documentation Package for Part One of this week's *Design Project*. The goal of the *Design Project* exercises is to learn about the design process for making an existing home more Simple, Light, and Open. Review the Design Brief in this documentation package to understand what the client needs and wants for their home. Use the existing floor plan to analyze how Simple, Light and Open the home is in terms of these needs. For background information on what to look for, review the Simple Light Open description on the website.

Draw overtop of the plan as you analyze the house and then write down your observations about the design and your recommendations for change. When you are ready, watch John Brown complete the first part of the Design Project and compare your results. To discuss the exercise further with John, and other participants, add your comments to the blog. In the next segment we will be applying these recommendations to create a concept design.

RESIDENTIAL PROFILE - RATLIFF RESIDENCE

1. Describe your goals for your house

To make a great house in which to retire

2. Describe Each Member of Your Household

| Age | Gender | Interests | Daily Commute Time | Travel Mode (walk, train, car) |
|-----|--------|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 57 | F | Golf | 10min | car |
| 56 | M | Cooking | 10min | car |

3. Describe any changes to the composition of your household that you anticipate over the next five years:

None

4. List three words that best describe the way you currently live:

Big empty house

5. List three words that best describe the way you would like to live:

Small nice home

6. Do you rent or own your house?

Rent

Own

7. How long do you plan to live in your current house?

Less than 3 years

More than 3 years

8. How much of your household budget would you like to devote to your house?

Less

About the same as I do now

Much more

1. Describe your current neighborhood:

City:

Pittsburg

State/Province:

Pennsylvania

2. Why did you select this location:

Close to downtown and in a walkable neighbourhood

3. Describe your current home:

Size: 1550

Year Built: 1970's

Type: Narrow lot house

(single family detached, townhouse/rowhouse, low-rise condo, high-rise condo, other)

4. Why did you select this home?

Size, Location

5. What do you like most about it?

Potential

6. What do you like least about it?

Closed in kitchen, entry, no guest bath

7. Rank the following uses in order of importance from 1 - 8 (1 being most important):

1 Living

4 Dining

6 Study / Office

3 Kitchen

7 Bedrooms

5 Bathrooms

2 Outdoor Living

8 Craft/ Hobby

8. What is the light score for your house?

Critical

Poor

Fair

Good

9. What is the open score for your house?

Poor

Fair

Good

10. What is the simple score for your house?

Poor

Fair

Good

THE SLOW HOME TEST - RATLIFF RESIDENCE

SIMPLE (Score: Fair)

SIZE

1. My home is too big for my needs.

True False

USE

2. The bathrooms in my home are inefficient or too small

True False

3. _____ rooms in my house are difficult to furnish

Most Some Few/None

4. My home has a well defined interior entry space

True False

5. The bedrooms in my house are quiet and peaceful

True False

6. My house has a table at which everyone can eat

True False

7. My living room can accommodate most of my needs

True False

8. My television is unobtrusive and well integrated into my living space

True/ Don't have a TV False

9. My home has a convenient and quiet place to read or work

True False

10. My home has _____ closet and storage space

Too Much
The right amount
Not Enough

LIGHT (Score: Fair)

AFFORDABILITY

1. I live in a home that I cannot really afford

True False

PROXIMITY

2. I spend more than 45 min. each day commuting in my car

True False

3. I can walk, cycle or take a bus or train to go to work

True False

4. I can walk or cycle to buy groceries

True False

EMBODIED ENERGY

5. I live in a _____

Low/Hi Rise Condo
Attached Townhouse/Rowhouse
Detached single family home

6. My neighborhood is

< 5 years old 6-25 years old > 25 years old

7. My home is

< 1800 sqft 1800-2800 sqft > 2800sqft

OPERATING FOOTPRINT

8. My house can be kept warm or cool without mechanical means

Most of the time Some of the time Never

9. My home has _____ of the following:

energy smart appliances, low flow plumbing fixtures, a programmable thermostat, e and compact fluorescent bulbs
All Four Three Two One None

10. Most of the energy used by home comes from

Oil/Coal/I Don't Know
Natural Gas / Electricity
Renewable Sources (solar, wind, etc.)

OPEN (Score: Fair)

PRIVATE SPACE

1. My home has enough bedrooms for my needs

True False

ORGANIZATION

2. My living, dining and kitchen spaces are located in separate rooms

True False

3. The kitchen in my home is inefficient and hard to work in

True False

4. The layout of my home is poorly organized

True False

5. My home has _____ wasted space.

A Lot Some Very little

6. _____ rooms feel cramped and cluttered

Most Some Few/None

CONNECTION TO NATURE

7. My home has a good amount of natural light and ventilation

In all rooms In some rooms In few/no rooms

8. I feel connected to the outdoors from inside my home

True False

9. I have large windows/ doors in my main living spaces

True False

10. I have an outdoor space that connects to my main living space.

True & it is often used
True & it is seldom used
False