



## DESIGN BRIEF

The clients are a professional couple with three young children. They recently purchased a 2700 square foot two story house in Victoria British Columbia that was built in 1912. They had been waiting a few years for a house to come available on this street. It is a lovely lot close to work, school, and the beach. The backyard is beautiful and they intend to spend most of their time in the back. This week's design project is to develop a concept plan for the on the 1400 square foot main floor. The wish list includes: an ensuite bathroom upstairs, a kitchen that is more open and flows better, with connected living and dining areas, an office main floor, and a powder room on the main floor.

Since the family spends most of their time in the kitchen/family/eating rooms they would like to have them facing the yard, so that they can keep an eye on the kids. They will be putting a deck on the back. There is an option to remove the sunroom and turn it back into a porch, or turn it into some sort of mudroom as there is no entry closet space. The house is in near original condition and the clients plan to do an extensive upgrade. This will also likely include a rearrangement of the ducting and the removal of the fireplace.

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 - VICTORIA RESIDENCE

## 1. Describe your goals for your house

To improve the flow between rooms on the main floor. To have increased connection between the house and the back yard.

The wish list includes eating, kitchen, and/or family rooms connected to the rear of the house, a powder on the main (if a shower can be added, so much the better) a mud-room or at least improved entrance, and an office/guest bedroom. For the upstairs, we would like an improvement in closet space and an ensuite washroom.

## 2. Describe Each Member of Your Household

Age	Gender	Interests	Daily Commute Time	Travel Mode (walk, train, car)
38	Male		10-30 min	car/bike
39	Female		15 minutes	car
5	Female		15 minutes	walk
3	Male		45 minutes	walk
1	Female		N/A	

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

None anticipated, barring illness to family

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

Commuting, Suburban, Hectic

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

Walkability, community, beach

## 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:

Victoria

State/Province:

British Columbia

## 2. Why did you select this location:

Close to the schools, close to work, close to beach, close to kids activities, closer to friends

## 3. Describe your current home:

Size: 2700

Year Built:

1912

Type: Single Family Detached

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

## 4. Why did you select this home?

Location, size

## 5. What do you like most about it?

Location, size

## 6. What do you like least about it?

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

1 Living

2 Dining

7 Study / Office

3 Kitchen

4 Bedrooms

6 Bathrooms

5 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 - VICTORIA RESIDENCE

## SIMPLE (Score: Poor)

### 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: Poor)

### 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