



DESIGN BRIEF

The clients for this project are the Swanson family. Eric and Julie are in their early 40's. They have two children, aged 8 and 10. Three months ago they sold the large suburban home they had been living in over the past 5 years and moved into a more established community closer to downtown Calgary. They wanted to be closer to work, after school care, as well as the various organized sports activities that their children are beginning to get involved in. They found this 1960's split level house in one of their ideal neighborhoods and although it was quite a bit smaller than their previous house, they are prepared to make this home work because of its location. The Swansons want a real family home with a large informal living area that combines kitchen, dining, and various living activities into one big space. Beside a now outdated kitchen renovation sometime in the 1980's the main floor is in original condition. The upstairs bedrooms and bathrooms are also in need of an upgrade but for budgetary reasons, this work is a lower priority for the time being.

To learn more about the client, review their Residential Profile and Slow Home Test Results.

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 - SWANSON RESIDENCE

1. Describe your goals for your house

To live closer to everything so that we don't have to spend so much time driving.

2. Describe Each Member of Your Household

Age	Gender	Interests	Daily Commute Time	Travel Mode (walk, train, car)
41	F	piano, reading	10 min.	Car
44	M	golf, cooking	10 mins.	Car
8	M	hockey	10 min.	Walk
10	M	hockey	10 min.	Walk

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:

Always Always Driving

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

Close, easy, open

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

We bought a fixer upper so we would have some money to upgrade.

1. Describe your current neighborhood:

City:

State/Province:

Calgary

Alberta

1960's established neighborhood

2. Why did you select this location:

Close to work, after school care and the kids sports activities

3. Describe your current home:

Size: 2000 sqft. Year Built: 1963

Type: single-family detached split level

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

4. Why did you select this home?

Location, potential

5. What do you like most about it?

Location

6. What do you like least about it?

The chopped up main floor

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

1 Living

3 Dining

5 Study / Office

2 Kitchen

7 Bedrooms

8 Bathrooms

4 Outdoor Living

6 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 - SWANSON 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