

# Don't wait to renovate



REBECCA HAY  
DESIGN  
PRIORITIES

The temperatures are cooling. Everyone is moving indoors and reminded of all the nagging things on our home "to-do" lists.

It's time to start planning a home renovation! Don't wait to renovate. The time for planning is now. Here is how to successfully plan your home renovation.

You need to start first with a plan and strategy before your start to shop. This will ensure greater success.

Enlist the help of professionals as early as possible to avoid future delays. By hiring a designer first, you can work out your questions and bounce ideas and come up with a solid direction and overall plan for the project.

When you have a good design plan in place, you are more likely to get accurate quotations from contractors and

can better gauge your budget. Most designers will guide you and help you prioritize and get the most from your budget.

It always helps to know what your budget is to begin with. If you have no idea of what you are prepared to spend or what things cost, a simple Google search can help you but a designer can also provide examples from similar past projects.

Find out what you are comfortable spending and always reserve 15% - 20% extra as a contingency for surprises.

There are lots of creative ways to combine high end finishes with more cost effective solutions to achieve the look you desire for the amount you are willing to spend.

As a designer I always try to balance high end finishes with thrifty finds to create a unique and customized space for our clients.

Set your expectations but also be realistic about timelines. I recommend starting to plan a design and renovation

Come meet Rebecca Hay on the Main Stage at the Fall Home Show Saturday, Sept. 29, 2 p.m.

## Rebecca Hay:

### Stay within your reno budget with thrifty finds

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For more information, visit [www.fallhomeshow.com](http://www.fallhomeshow.com)

project at least two to three months before demolition.

This gives everyone time to create the best design, hire the right trades and ensure no products are back-ordered. At my firm, we always place all materials orders before we even schedule demolition.

There is no sense demolishing your space if you will stuck waiting for all your tile on back-order. No one wants to be told by a contractor that work has stopped because a fancy singing, seat warming, toilet is still in transit and the

plumber won't be returning to do anything until it arrives. Renos can be long enough without these delays.

If you plan your reno well, it can be done by the time the snow melts. Remember to plan ahead and be flexible. Happy planning!

— Rebecca Hay is a Toronto-based designer who has worked on several HGTV programs and whose style is based on exceptional designs that infuse the old with the new. Visit [www.rebeccahaydesigns.com](http://www.rebeccahaydesigns.com).



When you have a good design plan in place you are more likely to get accurate quotations from contractors, says Rebecca Hay.

# Don't live in tile denial



SARA BEDERMAN  
LIVING BY  
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Tile has become one of the year's most underrated decorating trends, and it's only picking up speed.

Tile is equally beautiful and practical as a finishing option for floors, walls and even ceilings — and what a striking statement that makes!

But on mention of tile, most people's thoughts turn to the traditional square tiles in kitchens and bathrooms. As a designer, I challenge everyone to think outside the square-shaped box — literally. Here's how tile is playing out in some unexpected ways.

**Look forward ... to throwbacks!** Subway tile has become an interior mainstay in the last decade or two. Inspired by New York transit stations from the early 20th century, the trend is a clean and simple aesthetic ideal for kitchens and bathrooms.

To take this look to a new level, look at subtle variations on the classic rectangle form. The Sfumatura By Quintessenza Ceramiche collection (available at SS Tile & Stone) is an elongated hexagon that creates a trendy honeycomb pat-

tern when laid out. It's different enough to get your attention, but subtle enough to work with your existing finishes.

**Beyond two-dimensional.** For a future-forward aesthetic, three-dimensional tiles are a wonderful option. Versatile Arc 3d Tiles from SS Tile & Stone feature raised patterns with a decidedly modern aesthetic.

Depending on how light and shadows hit their surface, these tiles create an ever-changing, arresting focal point. Short of sculpting your actual walls, these tactile, high-profile tiles will transform any surface into a true work of art.

**Down to the details.** When finishing your home, details count. Don't let the "little things" fall by the wayside. I have two words for you: 'metal inlay.'

This is one of my favourite tile trends, and a great way to up the ante when it comes to luxury. It's sleek; striking, yet subtle. The really beautiful thing about these tiles with metal inlay is their versatility.

Your space benefits from the pattern play of the inlay, without committing to courageous shape or colour that might be played out in a few years. Metal-inlaid tiles are neutral and thus, they have staying power.

As a designer, I use tile at every opportunity. What other

Come meet Sara Bederman at the Fall Home Show next Saturday, Sept. 29 at the RENO AND DECOR booth where she will be answering questions about trends in tiles and other design topics.

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product out there offers this much by way of function and fashion? Add to this the diverse range of styles, materials and price points, and you'll find you really can't go wrong.

Think outside the box, get creative and don't be afraid to try something a little different. If there's a place for it in your heart, then there's a place for it in your home.

## DESIGNER TIP:

When selecting multiple tiles for a single space, combine different scales, shapes and layout patterns to achieve balance and create visual interest. In this kitchen (see photo), I created a feature wall by framing out a section of wall behind this beautiful pot filler, which was then tiled in a sophisticated herringbone pattern, and surrounded by a more neutral selection, such as subway tile.



In this kitchen, a feature wall is created by framing out a section of the wall in a sophisticated herringbone pattern, and surrounded by a more neutral selection such as subway tile.

— Sara Bederman is principal designer for Sara Bederman Design

and is known for creating stylish, thoughtfully curated and livable

interiors. Visit her at [Sarabedermadesign.com](http://Sarabedermadesign.com) or Instagram: sarabstudio