

Chip Mitchell of Designs for Living, LLC is an accomplished artist, craftsman and master home designer. *He is not an Architect*; but a highly experienced professional custom home designer as well as a former residential design/builder. With his background in home construction, remodeling, and historic restoration, he has an excellent understanding of the union between custom home design and construction, from the most practical aspects to the fine aesthetic details. Chip has been active in custom home design since 1969, interning with a regional Texas Design/Build Architect who did both commercial and residential projects while working his way through the Texas A&M University School of Architecture. He creates designs with the practicality of an experienced builder, the attention to detail of a craftsman, and the vision of an artist. Chip knows how to listen carefully to his clients thereby gaining the insight needed to collaboratively create the custom-tailored design that will best suit their dreams, their tastes, their lifestyles, and especially their budget!

When seeking a professional to provide a new home design, home remodel design or restoration of an existing home, you may choose from contractors, design/builders, residential/home designers, or architects. The following statements are, of course, general ones and there are exceptions to them. It is his opinion that contractors should build, as it is what they are best at, while design/builders know building and have more ability in home design. Chip is a home designer with almost 50 years of experience as a design/builder. The combined profession of builder and designer comes out of the ancient tradition of the master builders, who were/are those who understand and can bring a building from the initial conception on through to the final finishing details. In ancient days, the master builders produced, among lesser buildings, the great cathedrals of Europe. Although no longer responsible for such great buildings, there exist today such masters who specialize in residential design (at that time there were no A.I.A. Architects).

The segregation occurring within the master builder profession has come about, in large part, because of the development of the profession called Architect. Although some architects do design homes, it seems most do so only occasionally; preferring the higher profit, higher profile commercial and industrial building design. There are some however, who mainly design homes. They certainly do not exclusively have the ability to do a fine job of designing and detailing wonderful homes. It is up to the consumer to do a diligent interview to determine who will best serve their needs for home design.

The point we wish to make here is that, in our opinion, those professionals who have the vision of a creative artist, the skills and experience with building and remodeling homes, and the comprehensive knowledge of the master builder or design/builder are generally the best choice for creating that very special custom home or renovation. Whomever one chooses, that person should at least have the ability to listen intently and respond well to the desires of their client, to understand and guide them smoothly through the creative process, and to conceive and deliver delightful and practical environments which will enhance their lives.

....and it is this quality of client care which we provide.

Chip took an early Degree in Building Construction in 1974 to serve his country honorably in the US Army as a Captain and Military Pilot. He has been married for over 37 years, has three sons, one of whom serves as an E-7 Chaplain's Assistant in the US Air Force Florida Guard, one a twelve year Air Force veteran, and one in the Army, three daughter-in-luvs, and two grandsons and one amazing and very beautiful granddaughter. He has been active in the residential industry in NE Florida since 1978 and is very active at First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Florida.