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With new constructions on the decline and people choosing to remodel than to move, the need for general contractors is on the rise. But why is it that people spend more time choosing their cars than they spend choosing a general contractor to remodel their house? Thereâ€™s nothing worse than a remodeling experience gone wrong. There can be a hundred things that can go wrong; floorings can warp, gutters may not drain properly, doors may not seal wellâ€¦in short your life can become hell! Here are a few things to know before you hire a general contractor for your business:

- There are some who debate on the need to hire a contractor? In fact, you can act as a general contractor for your own projects. This helps you save expenses, especially when you are designing an architect backed remodeling project. But this isnâ€™t a job recommended for everyone. First and foremost is the problem of finding an architect who agrees to work with you. More often than not, architects arenâ€™t too keen on working with their clients as they neither have the experience, nor the skill to work on projects. There are a hundred other concerns, including finding workmen, sourcing materials, arranging construction insurance, and above all, finding the time and energy to assemble everything in place.

- A general contractor is primarily a coordinator who arranges for everything including specified materials, finding workmen, supervising their work, arranging for construction insurance, etc. In short, it is his job to ensure that the architectâ€™s ideas are carried seamlessly.

- The age old word of mouth reference always holds best when looking for a contractor. Architects and contractors often work in close association; hence seeking advice from one another. There are several online referral sites that can help you find these professionals. While some are free, others like Angieâ€™s List charge a membership fee.

- Now that references are sought, the next step would be to ascertain the quality of their work through past performances. But thereâ€™s a lot hidden behind the photos that one might view of their work? How do you determine the genuineness of their claims? You can ask the contractor to take you through completed projects. If he is confident of the job, the contractor would be more than happy to ask former customers if he can walk-through his prospective clients. If your contractor agrees for a walk-through, take time to speak to the person to get a sense of how happy they were with the contractorâ€™s job.

- When you pay peanuts, you will only get monkeys to work for you. Do not choose a contractor because he comes cheap. You might have a thousand problems that could have been easily avoided.

You can follow all of these instructions, do all the right things, and yet face problems. But as they say, prevention is always better than cure.

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