



## INVISION DESIGN PARTNERS, LLC

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*In our first visit with you we LISTEN to your needs and wants for the project. Only then, we propose ways to accomplish them. Please call or email, we will respond promptly.*

### **DIY: NOT ALWAYS AS EASY AS IT SEEMS**

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A question reached us by email from one of this newsletter's readers who recently bought a new house. His question relates to the renovation of the master bedroom including a walk-in-closet. After some "Googling" on his own, he found out that the market offers almost an infinite number of choices for bedroom and closet design. "It is mind boggling where to go", he wrote. Could we advise the process of planning and could DIY save money? Our response might be of interest to others who face similar situation.

Merriam-Webster defines Do-It-Yourself (DIY) as "the activity of doing or making something (as in woodworking or home repair) without professional training or assistance."

Also, according to M-W, the term was first coined in 1952. DIY became popular and used more frequently as of late, particularly in reference to the emergence of home improvement trends as creative-recreational and cost-saving undertakings. In the modern context, however, DIY became associated with broader popular cultural needs, and via the internet and the media, in almost every aspect of life including the arts, music and education.

As designers, we believe that some home interior projects could be performed as DIY, but only under certain conditions. They include having:

- Ability to allocate sufficient time for the project
- A flexible deadline for completion
- Some technical ability and skills in the use of traditional and power tools
- Basic understanding of home infrastructure (including, but not limited to plumbing, electrical and construction methods)
- Lots of patience deciphering manufacturer instructions and drawings (that are often confusing, sometime incomplete and address dozens or hundreds of items, depending on the specific product). And of course,
- Enjoying this type of work

We also believe that DIY does not benefit everyone in the same way. While we are blessed with a market that offers many choices to suit all types of needs, aesthetic tastes and cost preferences, selecting a product solution from these choices can be a difficult task, whether the solution desired is ready to use or a DIY package. On a positive note, however, assembling a DIY product can be very rewarding and provide a sense of personal accomplishment.

Whether you DIY, hire someone to assemble product pieces for you (at an additional cost) or purchase a ready to use item, space layout planning should precede any purchase or commitment. It would be a wise choice to hire a qualified designer to draw the space in scale, determine size, location, and orientation of furnishing and storage, and attend to traffic patterns relevant to the needs.

Like with any design activity, in the case for a walk-in closet too, we recommend beginning by assessing your needs, wants and objectives for the project. The needs relate to the necessities and the wants relate to what is desired. Next, prioritize your wish list; often we try to do too many projects at once and budgetary limitations can come into play. Consider the conditions listed above and use them to determine if a DIY system fits your budget.

Another option one might want to consider is custom designed solution. Work with a designer to determine your specific needs and desires for the space and have them produce options for addressing them the best way possible (or call us if you need help).

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