

# Your Iconic Home

**PRE-PLANNING  
CLARITY**

**WHAT YOU NEED TO FIGURE  
OUT BEFORE YOU START  
TRANSFORMING YOUR HOME**





## Being nearly 20 years in design and architecture...

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... I know what it needs to create a home that reflects the inhabitant's character and respects all their needs.

And working with my clients shows me, that the first step in design process is the hardest. As you may feel now, they often feel insecure and helpless at the beginning due to a big lack of clarity. But where to start and what to figure out before you begin the design process?

I created a checklist with important things you need to figure out before you start to transform your home to give you exactly the clarity that brings you from insecure to anticipation!

I am Kristin Engel, architect and interior designer from Berlin. I create spaces that are understated luxury and I love to work with my happy clients from all around the world.

You want to be one of the them?

Just send a mail to [hello@studiokristinengel.com](mailto:hello@studiokristinengel.com)



## Pre-planning clarity

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What you need to figure out  
before you start transforming  
your home



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**BERLIN**

1

## Clarity about your functions and needs

Investigate what you really need!

Examine exactly which functions your rooms have to fulfill, which activities occur and what you really need. Who will use the space and how? Dive into details as much as possible.

Example: Instead of just "home office", note all activities you'll do here, all functions that have to be accommodated. How should the room be equipped to perfectly support you in your activities? Use this analyses to develop the different zones of the space.



## 2

### Clarity about your demands

What demands do you have on your home and how should it react to them?

Be confident enough to list all of your requirements and preferences and those of all other inhabitants.

What quality should your interior, furniture and materials be?

What standard or style do you prefer? What technical equipments do you want to have?

Our needs change over time, because we grow and change. Does your home reflect who you are today, or have you long since outgrown it? In order to really feel comfortable and valued, your home should meet your aesthetic, spatial and technical requirements.



# 3

## Know your spatial conditions to use the full potential

Examine your rooms carefully before you start structuring them.

As an architect, my aim is to unfold the full potential of a room.

There is often so much that is unimagined slumbering in them that laypeople mostly can't see. A quick analysis of the conditions and I start developing surprising ideas and solutions for space organization and utilization. (BTW, if you want that too, my online consultation could be a great way to work with me!)

What's the best way to react to the spatial geometry and how can the area be designed aesthetically AND practically? What are the proportions and dimensions of the room how does it make you feel? What are the internal lines of sight and how's the view to the outside? What's the natural light situation in the room, what size are the window openings? How's the area connected to adjacent rooms and how do they interact with each other?

Check this conditions to get clarity!



# 4

## Respond to the spatial character

It may sound strange to you, but all buildings and rooms have their own character. A very specific aura that defines this place, architects call it often "genius loci".

This should always be taken into account in order to achieve a balanced design.

The genius loci is determined not only by the structural context and environment, but also by the individual appearance of the place, the historical context, associations and spatial interpretations, even by memories. A good, intelligent design should always respect and include that spirit. This can happen, for example, as a harmonious reaction to the location or as the creation of a conscious contrast to create excitement.



# 5

## Clarity about the atmosphere you want

A great home is not just a beautiful environment, it is a very special feeling! Exactly that's what I want to design all my clients. How would you like to feel as soon as you enter your home?

What atmosphere do you want to create that supports you? You should definitely clarify this before you start the design process.

Ambience is influenced by hundreds of different factors. Colours, materials, light, acoustics, scents, haptics... But so much also plays into it subliminally. So before you remodel your home, you should know exactly what atmosphere you want to create, how you want to feel at home in the future. I know creating that specific atmosphere is a challenging job for most people. But with my architectural experience I am an expert in being on point, so don't hesitate to ask me for support.



# 6

## Clarity about your personal style

If you want to feel "at home", free and safe, you have to be able to identify with the place. It doesn't feel good to live in rooms that don't reflect you. Spaces that feel steril and uncomfortable, with no personality at all, have a negative impact on your feelings.

But it also doesn't feel great to live in a super stylish house that doesn't fit your personality at all. That would be like a piece of clothing that doesn't support you! That's why you should know your personal style, because you need to bring in authenticity to feel really understood.

From the daily work with my clients I know that very many of them don't even know how to create a home in which they really find themselves. But that's no problem because I'm also a little bit of a psychologist. I listen to them, read between the lines, feel their dreams and fears and develop their own personal design out of it. That's why I always say, I design a home that embraces you like your favourite cashmere sweater!



# 7

## Clarity about your goals, time schedule and budget

Define your exact goal and start thinking and planning the implementation. Create a (realistic) time frame that also takes into account external factors such as the market situation and season.

Above all, good design is created before the actual execution phase starts, not only on the construction site, but mainly in the mind of the designer and on paper.

Well thought-through planning takes time, but it is well invested. Because it avoids unnecessary costs and errors in execution! Know your budget, plan buffers and be realistic about the costs.

Invest in quality instead of quantity. Professional support in the development of ideas, planning and execution is money well invested that pays off quickly. Because well thought-through design is long-lasting!



I'm the one who creates a home that embraces you like your favourite cashmere sweater - understated luxury!

If you love to have me as an expert next to you, designing a home that nurtures you, send me a mail and let's check out how we can make your adorable home reality. No matter where you're in the world!

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