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How do you go about making a long-range plan for extra living space in your basement?

No matter how enthralled you might become with ideas from books or magazines, you should plan your basement to suit yourself and your family. That sounds obvious, perhaps, but you'd be surprised how many people go ahead and build a recreation room, for example, without stopping to think that some other sort of room would be more useful to them.

You should start by jotting down a list of the activities that you and your family would most want to carry on in your finished basement. Don't include a recreation room, for instance, if a poll of your family shows that you entertain seldom and could use the space to greater benefit by building a day room for junior, a sewing room for mother or sister, and perhaps

Whatever you decide, make sure your decisions are based on your own family's needs and habits—and not those of some theoretical family pictured in some magazine. Your next step is to incorporate these ideas into a master floor plan of your

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