

Summer 2005

Altitude

A Mountain Living Magazine

**Lover of Music &
Mountains**

Maron Buice

**Col. James Walker
Fannin, Jr.**

Martyr of Goliad

Promise Quartet

Billy Wayne Chastain

Focusing on people, places, and events in and around Fannin County

bags of groceries? How close to the master suite is the main living area? Is there enough storage for all your belongings, including seasonal items, etc.? How do you separate the “public” spaces from the “private spaces?” Do you have spaces to accommodate all your hobbies and tasks? What are the views and how do you want to enjoy them? Does the home flow easily and are all the critical spaces close enough and accessible in the event you are disabled and in a wheelchair? Do you have the light switches where you need and want them? These examples of lifestyle questions you need to think about before building.

Hiring an architect or home designer will be the best investment you make to ensure your home matches your needs and lifestyle. The cost is well worth it up front to ensure your money is spent where it should be and your home is designed to meet your needs. For some, reading floor plans can be difficult, but not as difficult as relating your lifestyle to the plans.

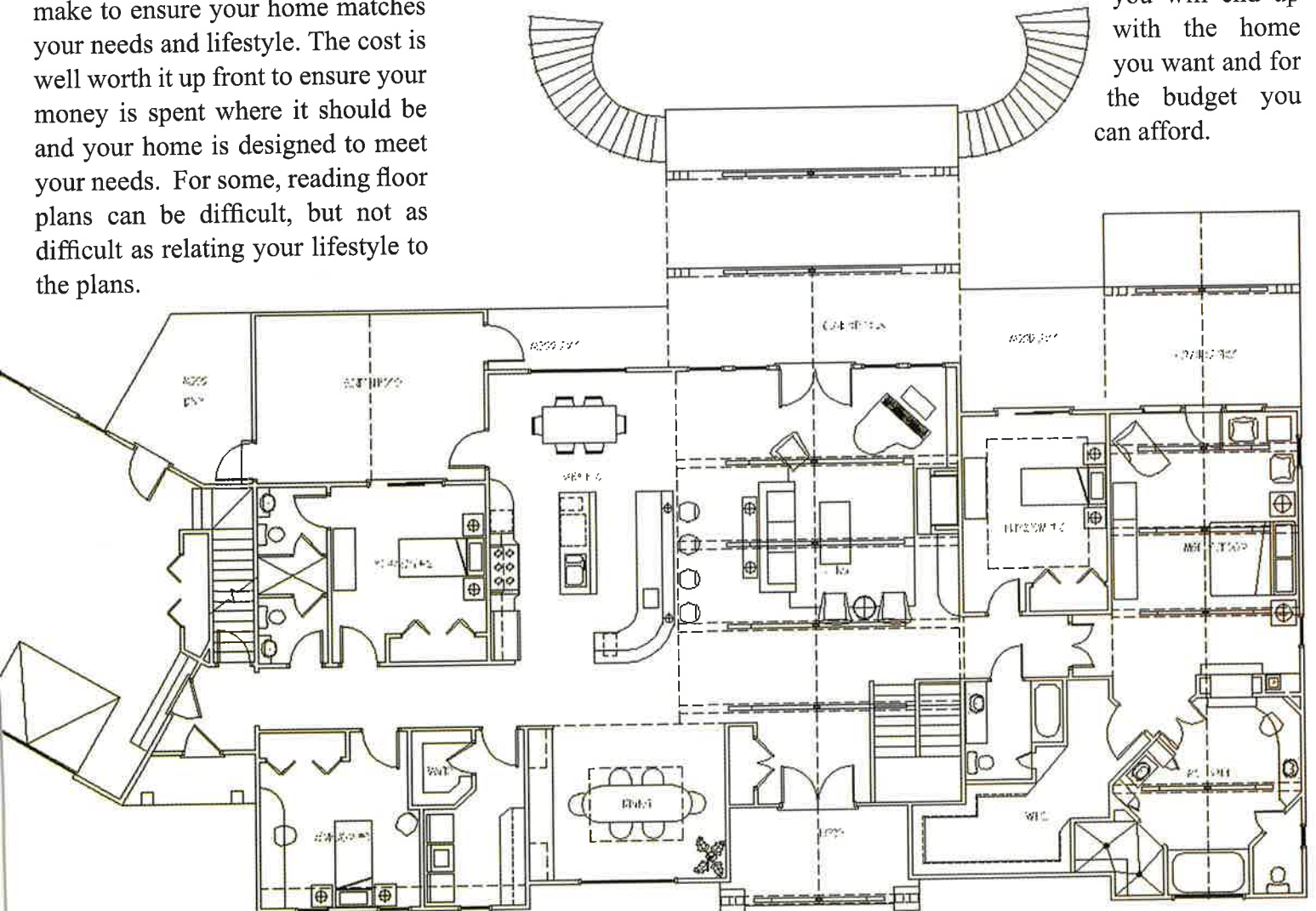
This takes work and it can be a difficult process. Architects are trained to ask the right questions and draw the key information from you that describes what you want. This information will be put into a program, which becomes the designers directions to design your home.

Another issue to consider is that men and women tend use a home differently. With this in mind, it is important that all parties who will be living in the space take the time to review and comment on the plans. For example, men typically like showers and women typically like tubs. How do both of these work with the other fixtures and functions in the bathroom? Should the tub

have a window over it? Do you need to have the toilet in a separate room or can it be tucked behind a wall? What are the ages of people using the house? Is anyone challenged with stairs? This can drive how the spaces are arranged, the height of countertops, etc.

Don't believe that hiring an architect or designer is expensive. The cost you will save in the construction process can be well worth your time spent up front. Once you develop the overall design documents for your home and have it priced, if cost is an issue your architect can help you develop a phasing plan. This plan will schedule out the work over a time that can be implemented as your budget allows. In the end,

you will end up with the home you want and for the budget you can afford.



In a previous article, I outlined the first steps to put your dream home scrapbook together. You need to collect and arrange images that visually describe everything you want in your home so that when your home is finished, it reflects and supports your needs. Additionally,

you need detailed drawings that go with your scrapbook that clearly tell your builder what he is building. With adequate plans, you can get a guaranteed maximum price so that your home is designed to your budget. This is the most important step in the home design process. If

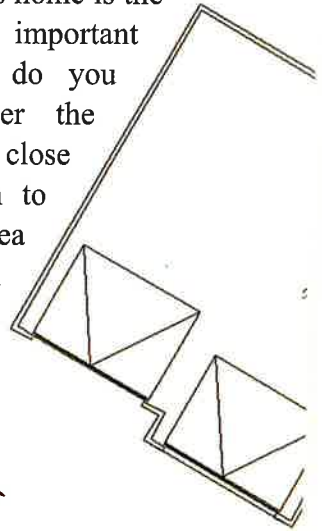
you skip this step, you may end up spending much more money than you have planned and end up with a home that does not meet your needs.

By Cindy Trimble Kelly, ASID



A good set of floor plans can describe and detail your lifestyle and design taste. It is so easy to change the shape, layout and overall design of your home on paper. Once construction starts and nails start hitting the wood the cost of changes grows considerably. Many builders have stock homes they have built over and over that may fit your needs perfectly. You may want some changes to their home that they describe to you verbally, but it is much better and more effective to have the plans on paper. You need time to review the layout, think about how you will live in the house and make notes on the plans as to your personal activities, who will use what spaces, how will the spaces be used, etc.

Your lifestyle, or the way you will live in this home is the single most important aspect. How do you want to enter the home? How close is the kitchen to the parking area where you will be bringing in heavy



*Collect Your Life Style and
Put it on Paper First*