



July 12, 2016  
Summer Edition

*Dream, Design, Peace Of Mind*

## *Six Tips For Designing Your Next Deck*

**Planning Ahead Pays Off in the Long Run!**

Designing a deck for your home can be a very personal thing. There are lots of options and ideas available to you. This article presents you with some deck design tips to help get your creative juices flowing. You will want to think about and research the deck design details involving your lifestyle, use of the space, the dimensions, the look and feel, the materials and colors you desire. Make notes about your likes and then get input from an experienced designer and deck builder to help you build the deck of your dreams.



### *Your Lifestyle*



First, think about how you live. How would you actually use your deck? Are you into container gardening or outdoor cooking? Do you really enjoy large family gatherings or entertaining big groups of people? Maybe your preferences are more toward a quiet evening soaking in a hot tub or relaxing in the morning sunshine with a good book.

### *Using Your Deck*

Next, you want to visualize yourself actually using the deck in the lifestyle you prefer. How would you move around in that space? Where should each of the areas of use be located? For example, if you love outdoor cooking, how would you separate the grilling space from the conversation area? Think of your deck space in the same way as you would the inside of your home. Your deck space should have different areas for different purposes. You will want to lay out the deck according to those uses. Custom Built can assist you with a proper layout for how you use the deck.



### *How Big is BIG?*

The size of a deck should be relative to the size of





your house. Some designers say the deck should be no larger than a certain percentage of the size of your house. However, the reality is there is no hard and fast rule. It is all relative and the house and deck need to work together visually. It would look out of place to have a deck with a larger footprint than your house. Bottom line: large houses can accommodate large decks and

smaller houses may need smaller decks. You get the picture. With good advice from an experienced designer, you will be able to land on a deck size that balances nicely with your house size.

### ***The Look, Feel And Views***

The look and feel of a great deck are hard variables to define, but should be considered. What type of "feeling" do you want to create--both as you transition from the inside to the outside of your home and when you stand back and look at your home and deck from the outside? Do you want the deck to blend with the house or stand out? Do you like the look of vertical lines or horizontal? What is the terrain like around your home? Is there a slope where you can accommodate a deck with varying levels? Is there a particular view that you want to emphasize? The design of the deck, especially with regards to the railings and balusters that you choose, can easily affect your views from the deck itself as well as the views from inside the house. Take the time to put careful thought into these factors.



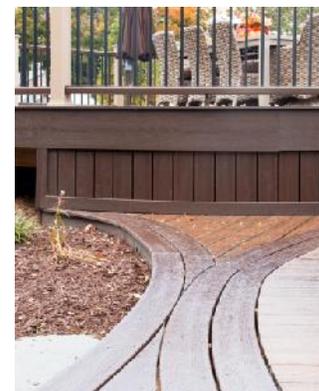
### ***Wood Or Composite***

When it comes to deck materials, the two most popular categories are wood and man-made composites. The differences between the two are easy to understand. Wood is beautiful and natural looking, but will require cleaning and staining on a regular basis- usually every 1 to 3 years depending on the weather and other factors.

Composite materials, on the other hand, are extremely rot resistant and may hold up better to the outside elements. The choices of colors in composites are numerous and often imitate the look of natural wood. Composites require less maintenance than wood but the initial cost is more- roughly double. The Custom Built team can help you evaluate the materials that will work best for your pocketbook and your tolerance for on-going maintenance.

### ***Transition To The Yard***

A final consideration relates to the landscaping and area surrounding the deck. You will want to have a nice looking transition from the deck to the yard. You will need to think about the area where the steps from the deck meet the ground. It is often a good idea to dress up this landing zone. You may want paver stones or bricks that create a nice walkway into the yard. Or perhaps your ideal landing zone is a concrete patio. Perhaps the walkway or patio leads to the pool or a garden or a Japanese tea house. This transition doesn't have to be



elaborate but it does help finish off a beautiful deck project. Have a conversation with a Custom Built deck designer about this final transition area. Custom Built can also address your desire for additional exterior accessories like pergolas, outdoor lighting, fire pits and more.



### ***Want Some Advice?***

Custom Built deck designers Mike and Chris are ready to help. We have designed and built hundreds of decks. We are experienced, easy to work with and guarantee what we do. Give us a call at (517) 881-9871 or send us an email to [info@callcustombuilt.com](mailto:info@callcustombuilt.com).

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**Custom Built Design & Remodeling**  
2037 W Grand River, Suite C  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517-881-9871



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