

: Designed Happy

A free printable

Stay or Go

When The Clash wrote the song, they must have been talking about real estate, right? I'm guessing you've asked yourself this more than once. Based on the number of TV shows dedicated to the topic, I'm guessing almost everyone has. In speaking with potential clients, it comes up constantly. In a vacuum, it's a nearly impossible question to answer. There are just too many variables – especially because it is such a personal (and if you're like me, emotional) decision. Let's try to break it down to help decide if you're going to renovate or move.

Circle the number that is the best answer and please pay close attention to the scale for each question.

1. I have equity in the home that I need to use for something other than a remodel/rebuild.

Not at all Absolutely
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

2. My feelings about my neighbors are:

I LOVE them The worst people I know
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

3. My feelings about my neighborhood are:

It's literally perfect Pretty terrible
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

4. I'm a person who loves BIG change.

Not so much Bring it on
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

5. I have design/construction/remodeling professionals that I trust.

Yes they're awesome Not a soul
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

6. *** I have a good understanding of what my project might cost (see the next page for details on answering this question).

Yes, down to the penny No clue
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

7. I want this home to stay in my family for generations.

Strongly agree Strongly disagree
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

8. Moving would negatively impact the family (school change, commute change, etc.).

Strongly agree Strongly disagree
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

9. There are aspects to this house that would make remodeling more expensive than typical (e.g. terracotta foundation).

None that I know of A lot - yikes
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

10. Design is fun.

LOVE it No interest at all
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11. I'm comfortable with uncertainty.

Definitely not Absolutely
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

12. I have strong emotional ties to the house.

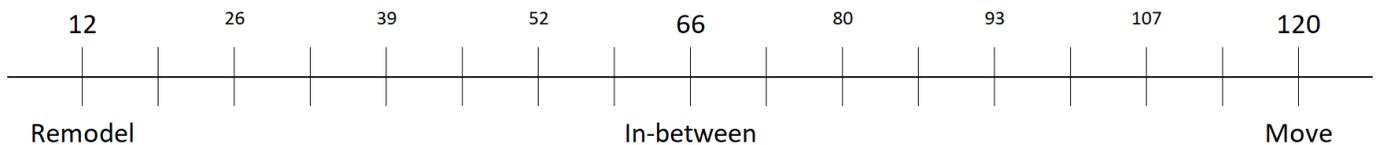
I'd write it a love letter Nope
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

*** To have “a good understanding” of what a project might cost, you will need to have done at least these few things (there are additional details in Chapter 3 of the book):

1. Worked with a design professional to come up with a space plan that accomplishes your goals.
2. Made some of the big-ticket selections for your project (in our kitchen example, cabinets and appliances are typically the most costly, so I would focus on those at the beginning). And I don't mean that you need to pick every detail of the cabinets or appliances, but you should know if you're looking for a 4-burner Whirlpool electric range from the scratch-and-dent section, or a 6-burner dual fuel Wolf.
3. Reviewed your plan and selections with a construction professional that you trust could perform the work. You should give them enough detail so they feel comfortable giving you a budget range with a 10%-15% swing.

Go back through your answers and add up the value of each. The lowest total score is 12 (if you answered 1 to each question) and the highest is 120 (if you answered 10 to each). Do you have your number?

Great, now just place your number on the scale below:



The higher the number, the more likely it is you should move. The lower the number, the more likely it is that you should stay and remodel. And no matter what your number is, you should learn something from the exercise.

Maybe your number is 92, which would lead me to think that you should more strongly consider moving. When you saw your 92 on the scale, how did you feel? Did you feel relieved that your suspicions about moving have been confirmed? Or did you feel that OMG sinking feeling of dread in the pit of your stomach. Either way, you know something you didn't know before taking the quiz.

It's also important to recognize that your house will likely mean different things to you at different times in your life. If you take this quiz again in two years, your answers might be totally different.

One last note on this topic relates to question 11 about uncertainty. In either scenario, staying and remodeling or selling, you don't know what is going to happen. However, it is easier to predict the type of remodeling experience you will have based on whom you decide to hire. Spending a few extra dollars on the company with proven systems and a track record of happy clients will give you a higher chance of having a better experience. If you choose to sell and move though, you aren't necessarily going to know what comes next. You could find your dream home in your dream neighborhood, or, you could find a nice house in a nice neighborhood, but still need to remodel or rebuild. This is why I'm suggesting that moving entails having a high degree of comfort with uncertainty.

:D

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