

The Restoration Process : Where to Start?

This is a list of proposed steps to get from start to finish on a restoration project.

1. THE VISION: Be very clear about what you want to do!

- this will help you identify the approach, and save everyone including yourself a lot of time and frustration
- do a little research to see what is an appropriate renovation approach for your particular project. Library, Historic Associations, Online
- come up with a rough sketch and some picture of your building and renovation area

2. HISTORICAL PRESERVATION OFFICE: Review your ideas with the historical experts

- present pictures of the building and the areas of renovation
- in some cases, they will be able to tell you right away if what you are proposing is permissible
- get certificate of appropriateness where applicable, fill out, and submit for approval

3. INSPECTION: Have any damaged area inspected!

- termites, dry rot, water damage, corrosion substandard conditions
- if scope of inspection is beyond your level of skill, call in a professional
- be prepared to have these types of inspections through the actual build process

4. PLANS: Draft a rendering of your Restoration Project

- make a detailed layout of what you are planning on doing
- consult a professional in the area of expertise
- in some cases you may need to speak with a structural engineer

5. SHOP YOUR JOB: The right person for the job

- if you don't plan on doing the work yourself, be sure you get an experienced professional to do the work
- Research through Historic networks and neighbors to find a good fit

6. GET A PERMIT FOR WORK: PLANING AND BUILDING

- Bring Plans to Planning and Building Department (Long Beach Development Services)
- Apply for a Permit, fill out and submit for review and payment
- Prepare for multiple inspections through scope of work

A very valuable resource for your project:

<http://www.ci.long-beach.ca.us/>

Shortcut to find the dept you are looking for:

<http://www.ci.long-beach.ca.us/azindex/>

Mike LaPoint's Fun, Helpful Home Improvement Tips

Tip #1 Don't fall in love with your General Contractor-----You'll probably end up a bitter divorce.

Tip #2 If you have any workers working in a high dangerous place. Inform them that if they slip and fall that they should consider themselves unemployed before they hit the ground.

Tip#3 If a worker says it will take him a 1/2 hour,figure an hour. If a contactor says it will take him a day,figure a couple days. If a General Contractor says it will be done by Friday,figure a week from this coming Thursday.

Tip#4 DON'T ASSUME THE OBVIOUS

Tip#5 If the odds are it won't happen,IT WILL!!!!

On a More Serious Note...

Prior to starting your home improvements you should all ways take pictures for a variety of reasons. Also check with the City of Long Beach on home improvement rebates. There is a State of California--U.S.Department of the Interior---National Park Service Historic Preservation Tax incentives {20%-10%} tax credit you can receive for any work that would be good for layers or greater in durability. The contact for our Historic Area is Jeanette Schulz---Office of Historic Preservation---Department of Parks and Recreation--P.O. Box 94296-0001 Sacramento Ca. 94296-0001 Phone #916-653-2691