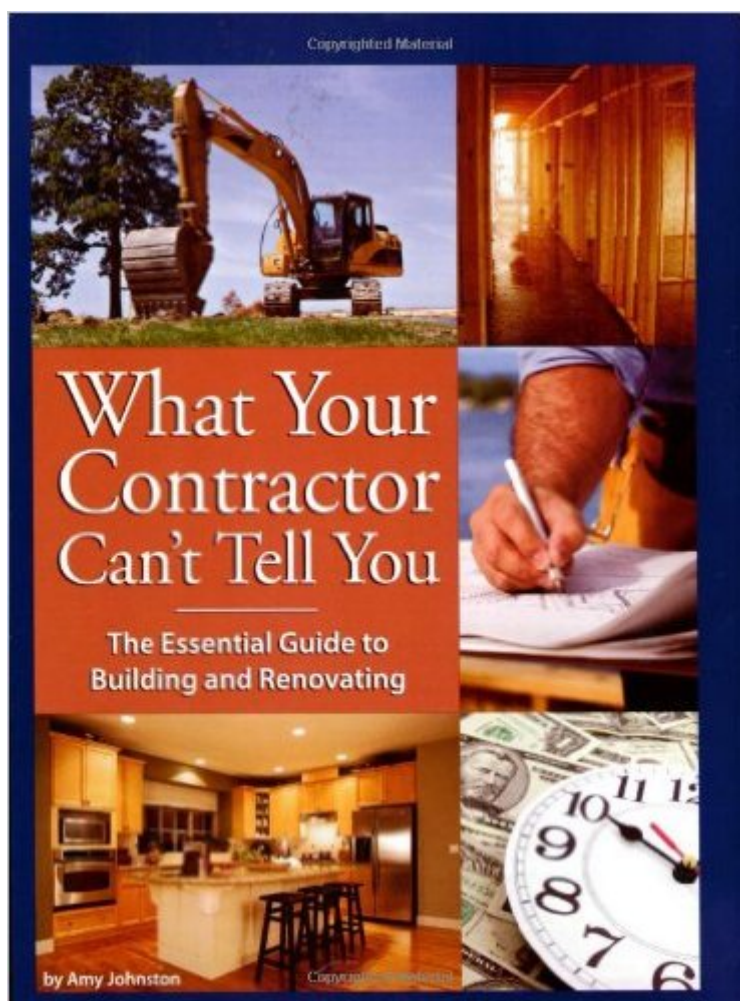


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# What Your Contractor Can't Tell You: The Essential Guide To Building And Renovating



## Synopsis

This book equips owners with the information and strategies needed to turn their vision into a home or renovation project that can be executed on time and within budget. Chapters give detailed coverage of critical topics: design options, selecting and supervising the architect and contractor, cost estimates, budgets, plan specifications, contracts, dealing with town officials and keeping track of everything along the way. For each stage of the project there is detailed information on common pitfalls and how to avoid them, as well as insiders' tips which reveal what most contractors can't tell you. This book was previously published by Warner Books (2004) and titled What the "Experts" May Not Tell You About Building or Renovating Your Home.

## Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Shube Publishing (January 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0979983800

ISBN-13: 978-0979983801

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.5 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (154 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #12,863 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Design & Construction](#)  
#4099 in [Books > Reference](#)

## Customer Reviews

Designing and building a new home is intimidating for three reasons (1) It is something with which you are not familiar; (2) you are not likely to have many friends who have done it; and (3) it is VERY expensive. Worse, you feel responsible for every mistake made, and you know that each mistakes cost you money and time. Buying this book is NOT one of those mistakes. Instead, it is the "ounce of prevention" that will pay for itself many hundreds of times over. Amy Johnston is a professional construction manager and owner's representative. Her wisdom focuses with framing the entire construction project in terms of a tradeoff between time, quality, and money - you can only have two of the three. We're only part way through our new house, and that rings very, very true. We clearly opted for taking a longer time - will we keep that focus as construction progresses? In any case, she gives the insights into each part of the triangle. Better yet, she is fair - she makes sure that neither

you, nor anyone else, is getting cheated. Contractors, architects, bankers, inspectors, and everyone else are clearly defined in their roles - though the most important role is the home owner's, which she describes in great detail. Every chapter is focused on another phase of the project, and her clear writing opens up the mysteries along the way. She describes who is doing what (or should be doing it), and describes what choices need to be made - and what the alternatives are - before saying what her choice is. Her points are illustrated with good references, pertinent anecdotes, and points that she labels "Insider's tips" and "pitfalls".

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