

# BUSINESS OF HOME

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## What are your non-negotiables when working with a contractor?

BOH

By [Aidan Taylor](#)

Last week, we asked designers what qualities they look for when hiring team members; this week we asked five industry experts—Oshir Asaban, Matthew Boland, Lorna Gross, Christine Markatos Lowe and Candice Quinn—what traits they view as strengths and weaknesses when assessing contractors.

### TEAM SPIRIT

“I look for a contractor who not only possesses creativity and innovation but also enjoys collaborating with an interior designer. The ability to foster a team dynamic is critical to a successful project—and there are a few red flags that I pay attention to. If a contractor demonstrates any reluctance in working with a designer, it raises concerns about their ability to work in a collaborative environment. Another red flag for me is a contractor who believes their approach is the only possible way to achieve an outcome versus exploring different ideas and working as a team. If they dismiss my ideas outright or lack the willingness to think outside of the box, it suggests that they may be limited in their problem-solving capabilities.” —*Candice Quinn, London Pierce Design, Scottsdale, Arizona*



*Candice Quinn* Courtesy of  
Candice Quinn