

# Building a Home on Your Lot - Tips From a Custom Home Builder

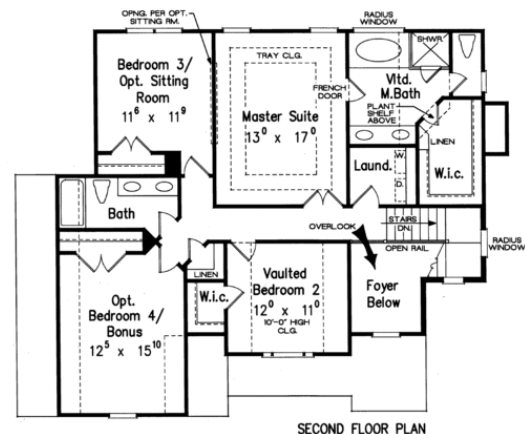
## Finding a Home Plan

### Decide on the Look and Feel of Your New Custom Home

- Start looking at floor plans as soon as you start thinking about building a home.
- Browse through online floor plan catalogs for free, or buy a few home plan books (Lowe's Hardware has an extensive selection).
- Determine your needs, and your budget.
- Decide on a style. Colonial, contemporary, cottage, and country are just a few of the choices.

### Some Things You'll Want to Consider

- A main floor master floor plan will have a higher per square foot cost than a two story home. A one story home will have a higher cost per square foot than a main floor master suite plan.
- The type of exterior finish will contribute to the total cost of the home. Vinyl siding is the least expensive (and today's siding is very high quality, with accent shakes and other details available). Next is fiber cement, or Hardiboard. Third is brick, and fourth is stone. Homes can also be accented with brick or stone.
- Once you've narrowed your choices down to two or three home plans, go over the details of the exterior and interior of the home with your builder. Homes can often be changed just slightly to reduce costs, or accented further to increase appeal.
- A simpler home with more square feet can occasionally be built at a lower cost than a smaller home with more costly details or less efficient square footage.
- You won't need to purchase a plan until you make a final decision.



### Where to Start Looking –

There are many excellent architects and online catalogs. Here are a few we'd recommend browsing through.

<http://www.stantonhomes.com/> - Browse through some of our favorite floor plans.

<http://www.frankbetz.com/> - Frank Betz is known for interior details and exterior appeal.

<http://www.houseplans.com/> - Lots of search options and many different architects.

<http://jimwellsplans.com> – Atlanta designer with great details and layouts.

Stanton Homes will work with almost any floor plan. Simply send us a link to the floor plan you're considering, and we'll provide a free building cost estimate, as well as a free consultation to discuss any changes you'd like to consider.

