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Secrets to success



Elvis Mardini

Mardini Constructions,
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Elvis Mardini is a multi award-winning Master Builder with more than 18 years' experience. Mardini Constructions takes on mid to high-end new-home builds, renovations, additions and heritage projects across Sydney.

Elvis Mardini of Sydney-based Mardini Constructions explains how to get the best out of your builder:

1 Communication is crucial, sometimes we end up spending 12 to 18 months on a house, so we get to know our clients well. I think you have to have a good relationship for the build to go as smoothly as possible.

2 Honesty is vital, too. I tell it like it is, only because I want the best outcome for the job. For most people, building a home is one of the most significant things they'll ever do. That's why builders need to be respectful of the owner's wishes and to approach their work with integrity.

3 Weekly meetings are a good way to stay on top of what's going on. I hold a meeting on-site once a week. This ensures that if any issues crop up they're immediately resolved before they become a big problem.

4 It's so much better if homeowners begin a project knowing what they want. There is usually room to vary your plans but the more you do this, the higher the risk of blowing your budget. A little bit of planning will go a long way.

5 Being on top of your budget is fundamental. A lot of people decide on a \$20,000 kitchen and then see a \$50,000 one and suddenly have to have it – but you need to be realistic. If you can't afford it, don't do it – better to not go there than to end your marriage. ➤