



**5. SYNC EXPECTATIONS.** First, be sure you have clearly conveyed your expectations of the quality you expect and, importantly, are willing to pay for. An experienced custom builder can give you a ballpark idea of prices for various finishes. Secondly, as you compare proposals, look closely at the spec sheet supporting each builder's pricing. Shortcuts or lower-quality finishes may help one bid look more attractive than another but may leave you surprised and dissatisfied with the end product.

**6. LOOK FOR A PARTNER, NOT A BUILDER.** Ultimately, when choosing a builder, you are choosing a business partner who is responsible for perhaps one of the biggest investments in your lifetime. Seek out someone you trust, someone you enjoy being around, someone you respect. In the end, you'll have not only that beautiful dream home but also a great friend.



Sue and Keith Durio own JKD Builder in Lakeway. They've been building custom homes the Lakeway area since 2001. JKD Builder currently is building in The Hills of Lakeway. Connect on Facebook or visit JKDBuilder.com.

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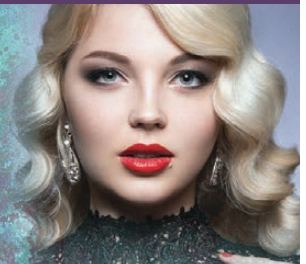
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