Efficiencies in project planning. In Hingham, Mass., technology has come to the rescue of a young family planning a renovation. Architect Jesse Harrison, a Los Angeles couple is planning a $2 million renovation to expand their home in the Pacific Palisades. Harrison, Design, an architectural and interior design firm, created renderings for Zoom video calls with the clients.

A technician from PointKnown uses a portable scanner to photograph and measure the exterior of a home.

Architect John Day used a laser scanner at a home last month to gather measurements. In New York, Owen Ryan was in the middle of giving his client the Manhattan apartment when the shutdowns were announced. Now he worries that the economic toll on the construction industry will be higher than what he expected to face if he had to stop his projects. "The next battle is going to be with subcontractors," he says. "It's going to be a long battle."