

Creating the Ideal Kitchen

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- Functionality
- Planning and Schedules



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Introduction

There is little question that the kitchen is one of the most important rooms in anyone's home. Whether it's the social hub where family and friends gather or a work center where homework and other small building projects are completed—the kitchen is the nucleus of the modern family's home. In such an important area of the home, it's often the stimulus and focus of home renovations and new home construction.

Playing such a key role in everyday living, the kitchen should be designed with care and precision. Knowing where to start, however, can be a

daunting task. The name of this report (Creating the Ideal Kitchen) is perhaps a bit problematic. It begs the question: "Ideal for whom?" And that's where the whole kitchen design process should start—with you.

The kitchen should reflect your personality and lifestyle. In order to achieve this, let's look in-depth at three important areas: style, functionality and planning.

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Kitchen Styles

Leaf through any custom home magazine and you'll find a wide variety of styles: Art Deco, Asian, Classical, Contemporary, Country, French Colonial, Lodge, Mission, Modern, Rustic, Shaker, Traditional, Transitional, Tudor, Tuscan, and Victorian—just to name a few.

Some are more classic, others are more contemporary. Some styles will not match your personality while others will make you want to spend more time in the heart of your home. Because there are so many different options, it's important to narrow your choices so that you can choose a design that fits your taste and lifestyle.

So how do you know what style is right for you? The “Kitchen Style Questions” on this page can help get you moving in the right direction. Jot down the answers to these questions to identify what style of kitchen you really want.

Having a kitchen that looks great is nice. But your kitchen also needs to work well. And that means it needs to be designed to fit your personality and lifestyle. The “Kitchen Functionality Questions” on Page 4 will help you consider your kitchen's functionality or usability.



Kitchen Style Questions

- ◆ What is my general sense of style? Do I gravitate toward things that are contemporary? Or do I prefer things that are traditional, country or rustic?
- ◆ What's the style in the rest of my home? If the rest of the house is traditional, do I want to carry

- that style over into the kitchen?
- ◆ Are there things I hate about my current kitchen? (This can easily get into the function or usability area, so try to focus on style issues for now.)
- ◆ Is there an overall theme in the

house that I want to bring into the kitchen?

- ◆ Are there particular colors or color combinations I like?
- ◆ How much natural versus artificial lighting do I want? What kind of fixtures do I like?

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Kitchen Functionality Questions

- ◆ What are the one or two things about my current kitchen that drive me crazy? (Forget about colors and décor for now. Focus on organization, lighting, usability.)
- ◆ How does my family use the kitchen? Is it a place for cooking? Is it a gathering place? Is it a homework haven? Do we do laundry here? Do bills get paid here? Do we need to allow for a computer? Will we be eating some meals in the kitchen?
- ◆ How much storage space will we really need? What about an in-kitchen pantry?
- ◆ What appliances (and what kind) do we really want? Do we want/need any of the following: range, oven, cook-top, microwave, coffee/espresso machine, freezer, dishwasher, trash compactor, washer/dryer? How do these appliances fit with the overall look of the kitchen (a tie-in to style)?
- ◆ What kind of flooring do we want? What kind of traffic do we have in the kitchen? Are there pets or young children to consider?
- ◆ How do I want my workspace organized? Do I want an island? Do I need multiple sinks?
- ◆ What kind of cooking do we normally do? Do we need to accommodate “gourmet” style preparation?
- ◆ Do we entertain a lot? Will we need to make sure we allow room for “observers” in the kitchen?



**How does my family use the kitchen?
Is it a place for cooking? Is it a gathering place?
Is it a homework haven?**

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Planning and Schedules

CONSULTATION AND FEASIBILITY

We want you to feel comfortable with our first steps together. Initially, a consultant will discuss your project scope and investment expectations with you over the phone. If it appears that we are a good fit for each other, we will meet at your home to continue a discussion about the project you have in mind. At this time you will be presented with a Design and Pricing Agreement. There are three phases to this Agreement: Concepts, Schematic, and Final.

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

Once the Design and Pricing Contract is signed, we begin the Concept phase. The Designer analyzes areas of the clients' home that are pertinent to the project, meets with the client to discuss their needs, living patterns and dreams for their home, and translates this information into two to three designs that will be presented in the form of computer generated renderings. Preliminary estimates accompany each design.

SCHEMATIC DESIGN

Upon agreement to move to the Schematic phase, the Designer synthesizes the ideas presented in the Concept phase into a single plan and focuses on design details and product specification. With this defined scope, our team meets to develop a more refined estimate. At this point, if the design and estimates feel good to you, a salesperson often offers a Commitment Contract which secures your place in our production schedule. This allows the design process to continue without setting back the construction date. If there are zoning requirements, our team generally begins the process for approval after the Commitment Contract is signed.

FINAL DESIGN

Upon agreement to move to the Final phase of the design contract, the ABA team will produce a fixed price proposal with associated plans and specifications.



CONSTRUCTION

When the Construction Contract is signed, a detailed construction schedule is generated, our team meets with you to discuss construction logistics and we begin the process of building your dream.

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About Architectural Building Arts

Architectural Building Arts' mission is to deliver excellence through our Design/Build process that embraces environmental integrity, quality construction and efficient timelines. By creating enriching spaces and lasting value we transform the place you live into the home you love.

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