Insider's Guide to Kitchen Design











WELCOME

Hello there!

I am so happy you've purchased An Insider's Guide to Kitchen Design. This guide is born out of my love for kitchen design and my experience as both an interior designer, kitchen designer and homeowner (we've restored and renovated our 1940s Chicago Bungalow). My design education also included coursework affiliated with the NKBA (National Kitchen & Bath Association), which I highly recommend as a resource to designers and homeowners alike. The majority of imagery in this PDF is of kitchens from our design portfolio (the source is otherwise attributed). I opened my full service design firm, Centered by Design in 2015, and kitchen design has become a passion for our firm.

Designing a kitchen, or the heart of the home as we like to call it, takes a lot of knowledge, organization, a great team and an even better project manager. Whether you are about to embark on your own renovation and have a designer, contractor or cabinet maker, etc. this guide will give you a lot to think about and empower you to make educated design choices!

The guide is broken into four sections: Practical Advice, Design Guidelines, How To Get Started and Sample Drawing Set. Follow it in order and use it like a workbook for maximum efficiency. It's never too early to start planning your dream kitchen, Bon Appetit!

Claire Staszak, Principal, Centered by Design

Claim Strunger



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SECTION I - Practical Advice -

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Kitchen Questionnaire - Part 1

Household Information:

How many people are in your household, and who is/are the primary cook(s)? Do you cook frequently or is the kitchen used more on the weekends / special occasions? Do you enjoy entertaining or have any special hobbies to consider, like baking?

Children:

If you have children, do they like to cook? And what considerations would you like to make for them in the kitchen?

(e.g., step stool, cutting boards, pantry access, microwave or appliance heights)

Pets:

If you have pets, what would you like us to know about them and their use of the kitchen? (e.g., pet food storage, bowls, water access, etc.)

Research:

What DO you like and what do you NOT like about your current kitchen?

Do you consider your kitchen as just another room in your home, or is it more of a living space/heart-of-the-home where you and your family spend a majority of time?

What improvements are you looking for in a new kitchen? (e.g., Easier to clean; Upgraded appliances; More efficient traffic pattern; More storage; Better lighting; Additional workspace; Other)

Do you prefer small appliances out and accessible or hidden away for clear counters? What key small appliances do you use daily?

Are there entertaining features or technology you would like to see in your kitchen?



KITCHEN QUESTIONNAIRE - PART 2

Are there any new or different appliances you hope to incorporate into the new kitchen design?

Design:

What style would you like your new kitchen space to have? *Formal, Traditional, Transitional, Contemporary, Open and Airy, Modern?* Are there any kitchen designers, magazines or brands you love that you'd like to emulate or incorporate in the kitchen?

What colors do you like/dislike?

Which metal finishes do you prefer? Are there any you really don't like? *Brass, Bronze, Polished Nickel, Chrome - satin or with shine?*

What type of finish would you prefer for new cabinets? *Natural wood, Light wood, Medium wood, Dark wood, Metal/glass, Aged/antique, Painted, High-Gloss, etc.?*

What type of material are you considering for your countertops? What is most important to you in regards to durability, natural materials, cost, aesthetics?

Do you need additional decorative or task lighting? Do you like under cabinet lighting?

What are key areas you'd like to invest in or areas of importance to you? Please refer to our kitchen design checklist.

Anything else you would like us to know or consider as we design your new kitchen!?



KITCHEN REMODEL CHECKLIST

	O/X	CLIENT NOTES	DESIGNER NOTES
Kitchen Floor Plan			most recent revision date:
Cabinet Cabinetry			
cabinet door style			
cabinet hardware			
cabinet accessories			
Countertop			
edge detail			
backsplash/ tile			
grout			
Plumbing			
sink			single/ double basin confirmed sink cabinet size:
drain			
faucet			single / double / high-arc spout / pull-out sprayer / seperate sprayer
garbage disposal			
Appliances			
dishwasher			
refrigerator			water filter / ice maker
freezer			side by side / top / bottom
range			gas / electric
range hood			
ovens			single / double / convection/ microwave & oven combo
cooktop			gas/ induction
microwave			
wine fridge			built in coffee maker
Electrical			
decorative lighting			
reccessed cans			



AVERAGE KITCHEN RENOVATION COST TEMPLATE

Ballpark overall costs to expect, depending on geographic location: \$50K - \$250K

Highest Cost Items:

Contractor Fees: Estimate 30 - 50% of overall project budget

• Designer Fees: Estimate 10-20% of overall project budget

Cabinets: \$10K - 50KAppliances: \$6K - 100KCountertops: \$5K - 25K

Median Cost Items:

Backsplash: \$1K+

Hood/Exhaust Fan: \$2500 +
Cabinet Hardware: \$500 +
Light Fixtures: \$2000 +

Furniture: TBD

Lower Cost Items:

Faucet: \$650 +Sink: \$800 +

• Flooring: \$5 - \$10/ sqft

Inspection/Permit Cost: TBD

Total \$_____

Thoughts on How to Value Engineer:

Everyone has costs top of mind when undertaking a large renovation. Our advice is to decide what is most important to you and put your money there. If this is your "forever home", invest in cabinets that will stand the test of time, appliances and countertops are easier to swap out over the years. If this is an investment property, higher end appliances and quality countertops will garner more interest. There is a huge range for costs of items like hardware, lighting, sinks and faucets.

With some dilegence, you should be able to find a style you love at a price point that works for you!



TOP 8 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CONTRACTOR

- **1.** Are you licensed and insured in my city?
- 2. Could I have the phone/email of two recent clients who could give you a referral?
- 3. How long have you worked in this industry?
- **4.** If you're newer to the industry, what did you do before? Experience in peripheral fields like architecture or building trades is a good sign.
- **5.** Do you work mostly on commercial, residential, new construction, or renovations? What's your area of expertise?
- **6.** Have you ever collaborated with an interior designer? Good contractors understand the value of an interior designer, or home owner who appreciates and understands design details.
- **7.** Can you create a project budget? An itemized list of expected costs broken down per room or per trade, such as plumbing costs, electrical costs, framing, drywall, tile, etc.
- **8.** Can you explain your process for a "change order?" When changes occur to scope of work, either increasing or decreasing costs what is the procedure?

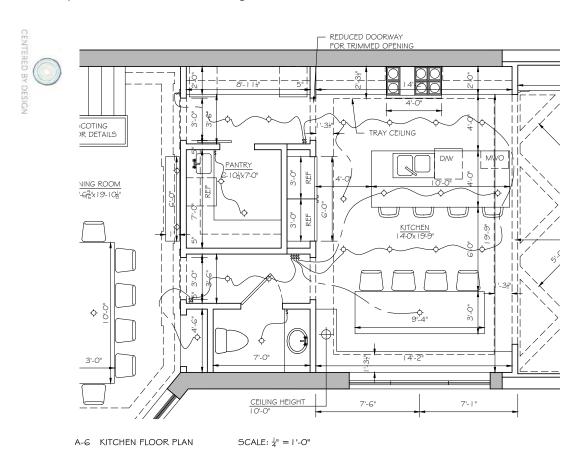
We always suggest printing out inspiration photos to show to a potential contractor. Use your photos as a tool to gauge the contractor's sensitivity to design details. It is a good sign if they are responsive to the vision and even add suggestions / comments on design possibilities (or restrictions) based on their construction knowledge. They likely have a good eye for design and detail which goes a long way during the building process!



WHAT YOUR CONTRACTOR WANTS YOU TO KNOW

The following three suggestions are a good general practice when preparing or meeting with potential contractors or other trades people:

- 1. Create a thorough wish list or scope of items needing to be addressed by area throughout the home.
- 2. Prepare a good inspirational package with images. You can gather these on sites like Pinterest and Houzz. Print these out for your meeting.
- 3. Provide any plans of existing conditions, including plat survey plans from your closing or floor plans from your home or online listing.





KITCHEN DESIGN STEP BY STEP - PART 1: PLANNING, BUDGETING & DESIGN

- 1. **SET REALISTIC GOALS**: Kitchen renovations are known for going over on time and budget. Even the biggest budgets need value engineering. Decide what are the most important elements (i.e. appliance quality, cabinet quality, better lighting plan, etc.) for you and your family, stick to those priority items and let them guide your choices. Living through a renovation is not easy, plan for it accordingly or move out!
- 2. **DO YOUR RESEARCH:** Make sure you talk to friends, family and professionals for guidance on their experience with different brands, designers, showrooms and dealers. You are about to spend a lot of money and time to create function and beauty for your family, do your due diligence and then trust the professionals.
- 3. **CREATE A BUDGET:** A simple Excel spreadsheet will do. We always recommend budgeting, even if at first the numbers feel like a guess. As designs become finalized you can swap numbers for the actual costs. There are a lot of moving parts and this helps keep track of not only costs, but ordering too.
- 4. **HIRE YOUR TEAM:** After steps 1 3 you should be well on your way to find your supporting players for this renovation. Designers and builders can aid in your budgeting process as well. We recommend involving a good team from the start for efficiency. You will save time, money and costly mistakes with professional help. We recommend first reaching out to an interior or kitchen designer, they can often recommend vetted contractors and builders.



KITCHEN DESIGN STEP BY STEP - PART 1: PLANNING, BUDGETING & DESIGN

- 5. **MEASURE YOUR SPACE + IDEATE:** Kitchen design comes down to millimeters! Make sure you or a professional gets very accurate measurements to work from.
- 6. **FLOOR PLANS, ELEVATIONS AND 3D VIEWS:** Now is the time to get creative! Use online space planning tools like SketchUp and more to draw and ideate for your project. If you are working with a professional they should provide multiple floor plan options, elevations and 3D views.

7. SUBMIT FOR PERMITS IF NECESSARY:

Work with your city, architect or builder to submit for your permit once plans are drawn and finalized.

- 8. **CREATE PROJECT TIMELINE:** Ask your contractor or builder for a timeline and contingency time.
- 9. **FINISH SELECTIONS:** With your drawings approved, now is the fun part! Choose your cabinet door style, color/s, metal finishes for plumbing, lighting, countertops, hardware, etc. If you are struggling, this is another good stopping point to involve a designer.
- 10. **PREPARE FOR CONSTRUCTION:** Setting up a makeshift kitchen in the basement or elsewhere really helps if you are living through a renovation. We recommend access to a fridge, sink, crockpot and hotplate! Get ready for some dust...we promise once it's all over it will be worth it!



KITCHEN DESIGN STEP BY STEP - PART II: CONSTRUCTION & PROJECT MANAGEMENT

1. DEMOLITION	(~1 WEEK)
2. STRUCTURAL CHANGES: • Framing	(3-5 WEEKS)
Plumbing	
Electrical	
Mechanical	
3. DRYWALL & PAINTING	(~1 WEEK)
4. FLOORING	(2 - 3 DAYS)
5. CABINET INSTALLATION	(3 - 5 DAYS)
6. COUNTERTOPS & BACKSPLASH	(~2 - 3 WEEKS)
 Cabinets must be installed to measure. Fabrication & Installation require multiple site visits. 	
7. APPLIANCES & DECORATIVE LIGHTING	(1 - 5 DAYS)
8. FINISHING DETAILS & HARDWARE	(1 - 2 WEEKS)
9. PUNCH LIST & CLEAN	(2 - 3 DAYS)
10. ENJOY!!!	



Basic Cabinetry Glossary - Part 1

Get familiar with cabinet industry terminology and construction:



Wall CabinetAlso known as upper cabinets, typically 12-13" deep



Crown Molding & Back Band
Detailed woodwork used to finish
the tops of wall cabinets



Base CabinetAlso known as lower cabinets,
typically 24" deep



Toe Kick & Furniture BaseDetailed woodwork used to finish
the bottom of base cabinets



Appliance Box and PanelCabinetry used to house / hide
appliances



Flush End vs. Paneled EndRefers to how the side of cabinet is
finished



Basic Cabinetry Glossary - Part 2

Get familiar with cabinet industry terminology and construction:



Inset vs. Overlay Cabinet

Most popular types of cabinet doors/
styles in the USA



Door StyleDefines the look, construction and type of cabinetry door.



Inset CabinetFeatures doors and drawers that fit inside of the cabinet face frame.



Appliance GarageCustom cabinetry, designed to conceal large appliances.



Overlay CabinetRefers to how much a door overlays the face frame of the cabinet.



Pull out/ Roll out CabinetCabinetry type that rolls or pulls out, f.e. for spice storage, trash can, etc.



Cabinet Knowledge: General FAQ

What are the things you need to consider before you purchase your cabinetry?

- Good quality cabinetry is absolutely beautiful and will add value to your home.
- Invest in the best you can afford. You will use and touch your cabinets everyday.
- Make sure your cabinetry is built out of solid materials. Quality cabinetry should have a minimum
 of plywood box construction with corner braces, full height backs, soft close hinges and joinery
 details (such as dovetail drawer boxes).
- Cabinet face frames and doors should be made of solid wood or (if painted) there may be a
 wooden frame with a composite center panel.
- Talk to your cabinet maker about their finishing process and cabinet interiors. Great cabinets are finished by hand with very high quality painted and hand applied finishes.









SECTION II - DESIGN GUIDELINES -

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•	Kitchen Inspiration Sources:	Start Dreaming & Designing
•	Styles of Kitchen Design:	What's Your Style?
•	10 Ways to Layout Subway Tile:	So Much to Choose From
•	7 Favorite Countertop Edge Profiles:	Details that Matter
•	18 Favorite Light and Dark Cabinet Colors:	Tried and True Colors



KITCHEN INSPIRATION SOURCES

The following are my favorite design accounts/ brands to look at for inspiration!



Corey Damen Jenkins@coreydamenjenkins
coreydamenjenkins.com



Humphrey Munson@humphreymunson
humphreymunson.co.uk



KitchenLab Interiors@kitchenlabinteriors
kitchenlabinteriors.com



Jean Stoffer@jeanstofferdesign
jeanstofferdesign.com



Kate Marker Interiors@katemarkerinteriors
katemarkerinteriors.com



Waterworks@wtrwrks
waterworks.com/us_en/



Styles of Kitchen Design

What's your style? No need to pick just one! The best kitchen designs often result from combining unexpected elements from different design genres.



Traditional@centeredbydesign



Modern@centeredbydesign



French Country
@centeredbydesign



All Wood / Rustic @centeredbydesign



Styles of Kitchen Design

What's your style? No need to pick just one! The best kitchen designs often result from combining unexpected elements from different design genres.



Bohemian/Eclectic@annaburkeinteriors



Transitional@katemarkerinteriors



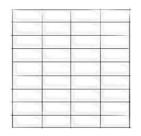
Scandinavian @pinterest (source unattributed)



European Modern@formandfield



Our 10 Favorite Subway Tile Layouts

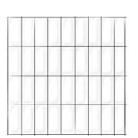


Ι

STACK BOND



by. Ann Sacks

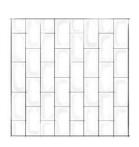


2

VERTICAL STACK BOND



by. Fireclay Tile



3

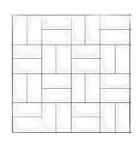
RUNNING BOND



by. Ann Sacks

Designer Tip:

For more modern spaces, try Stack Bond and Vertical Stack Bond patterns.



4

Crosshatch



by. Claybrook



5

4X4 SQUARE TILE



by. Entrance

Designer Tip:

For a more vintage aesthetic, try 4×4 Square and Offset patterns.



Our 10 Favorite Subway Tile Layouts

Designer Tip:

Shower niches are a great place for contrasting mosaic tiles.



Offset



by. Centered by Design



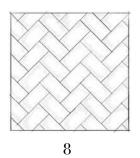
DIAGONAL OFFSET



by. Home Designing

Designer Tip:

Don't forget to choose your grout color! Decide if you want grout to match or contrast with your tile selection.



Traditional Herringbone



by. Erin Hanrahan

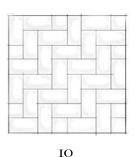


DIAGONAL HERRINGBONE



by. Centered by Design





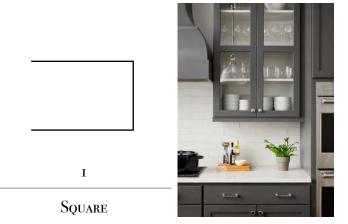
STRAIGHT HERRINGBONE



by. Bedrosians Tile & Stone



Our 7 Favorite Countertop Edge Profiles



by. Centered by Design



by. Centered by Design

Designer Tips:

Countertops are typically priced by a stone fabricator. This is the person who installs the stone in your home. You visit stone yards to chose your slab and they can connect you with a stone fabricator.

Fabricators will visit your site and laser measure for accuracy of the installation. Make sure you have chosen or installed a sink prior to measure.

Make sure to think about your backsplash and edge profile when considering your kitchen design.

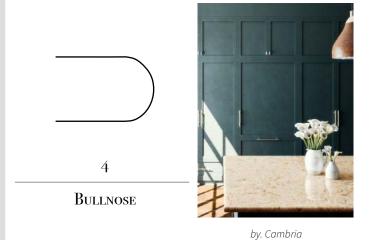
Styles 1-4 are great in more modern kitchens and style 5-7 work well in more traditional settings.

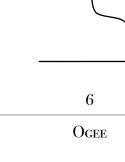


by. Centered by Design



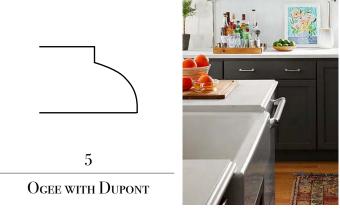
Our 7 Favorite Countertop Edge Profiles







by. Centered by Design







by. Cambria



Our Top 9 White Paint Colors

CHANTILLY LACE by Benjamin Moore OC-65 SIMPLY WHITE by Benjamin Moore OC-117 MOUNTAIN PEAK WHITE by Benjamin Moore OC-121 WHITE DOVE by Benjamin Moore OC-17 Intense White by Benjamin Moore OC-51 W_{EVET} by Farrow & Ball No. 273 Ammonite by Farrow & Ball No. 274 CORNFORTH WHITE by Farrow & Ball No. 228 SKIMMING STONE by Farrow & Ball No. 241



Our Top 9 Dark Paint Colors





SECTION III - How To Get Started -

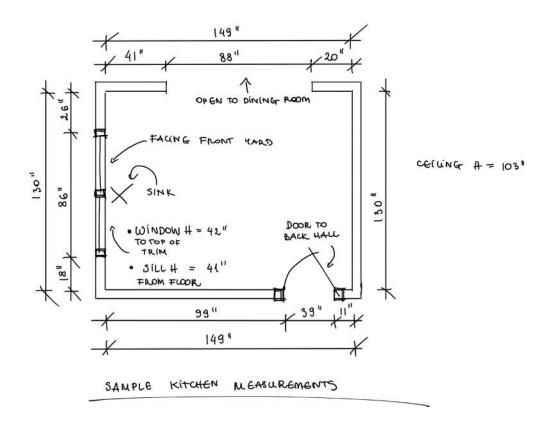
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•	Sample Floor Plan:	Designing starts here!	
•	Sample Electrical Plan:	Get lit!	
•	Designer Tips: Mixing Metals:	Don't fear the mix	
•	Designer Tips: Kitchen Sinks:	Get the look you want	
•	Designer Tips: Hanging Lighting:	Play with Scale	
•	Designer Tips: Bar & Counter Stools:	Check your Measurements	
•	Designer Tips: Hardware Count & Placement:	Count & Re-count	



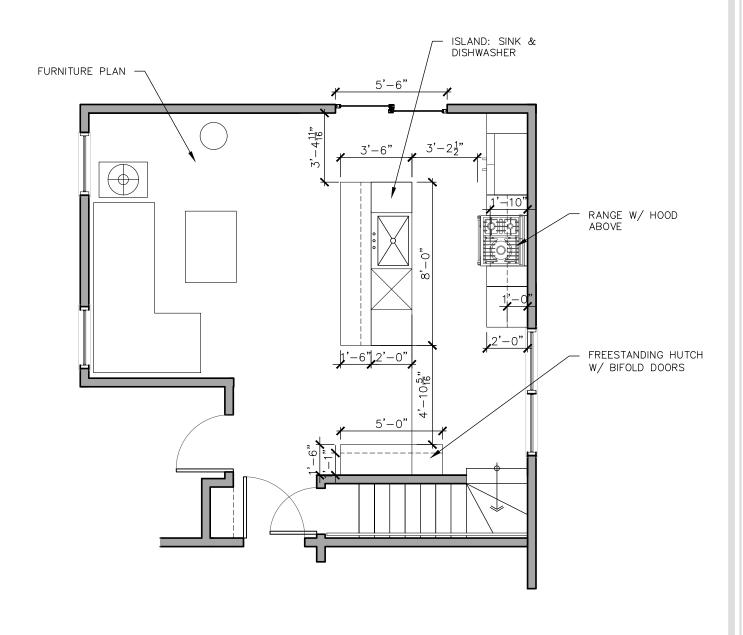
How To Measure Your Kitchen

- 1. Prepare a piece of paper, pencil and a good measuring tape.
- 2. Try to draw the shape of the room, based on where you stand.
- 3. Begin with measuring the ceiling height, and write it down on the site as folllows: Ceiling H= xx"
- 4. Next, measure every wall's length and write them down next to each of them.
- 5. If there's an opening (window or door), make sure to mark it on the plan.
- 6. Measure each opening from outside to outside, including the trim that goes around it. Do the same for height & width. For window, make sure you also measure from floor to the top of the sill.
- 7. Write down which room the door leads to this will influence the design process.
- 8. Next, measure the space between wall and window/ door on each side, and write those down.
- 9. Lastly, note any of the existing mechanical locations, like sink plumbing, radiators, or can lighting.



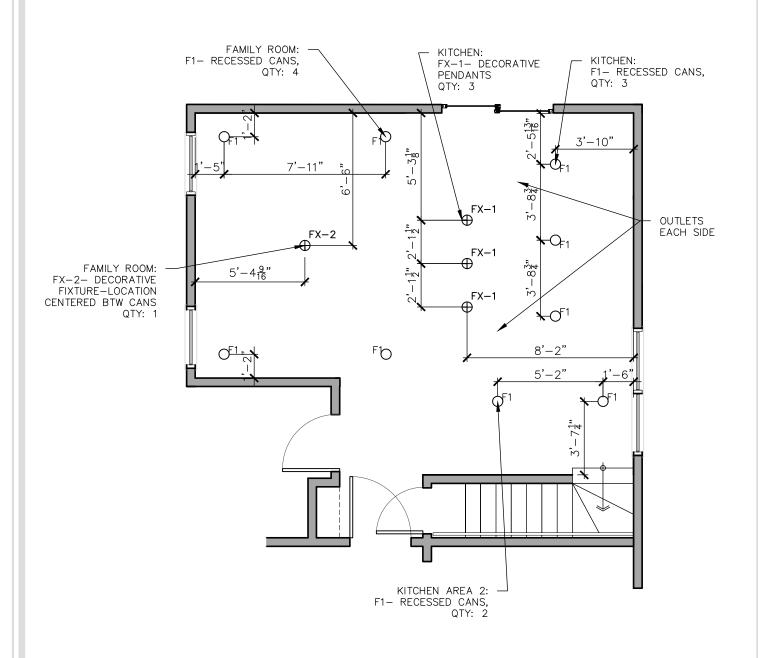


SAMPLE FLOOR PLAN





Sample Electrical Plan





DESIGNER TIPS: MIXING METALS



Aged Brass, Silver, Stainless Steel & Polished



Satin Brass, Polished Nickel & Stainless Steel

Designer Tips:

- General:

Don't be afraid to mix metals. It is a good way to add some character to your kitchen and make it more YOU!

- Mixing yes's:

- Mix brass and dark bronze
- Mix brass and chrome
- Mix brass and nickel

- Mixing no's:

- Don't mix nickel and chrome
- Select 1 main finish and accentuate it with up to 2 others, including appliance finish.



Satin Brass & Stainless Steel



DESIGNER TIPS: KITCHEN SINKS



Top Mount Sink



Undermount Sink

Designer Tips:

- Top Mount Sink:

Otherwise know as "drop-in sink". It is relatively easy and inexpensive to install. It also doesn't require an internal support system under the counter, making it a good choice for DIY people on a tighter budget.

- Undermount Sink:

Mounted underneath the counter, providing a clean, modern look. Edge of the counter drops off directly into the sink basin. They typically require more work to install because the sink must be glued to the underside of the counter. For most sinks of that type you need to have holes cut into your counter top to install your faucet.

- Apron Front:

Features a large forward-facing section that replaces a portion of the counter. Typically used in farmhouse style or more traditional projects.



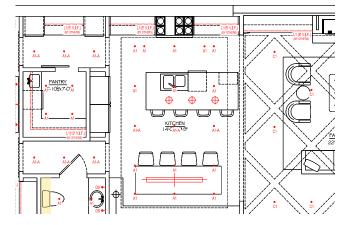
Apron Front Sink



Designer Tips: Hanging Lighting



Pendant above Kitchen Island



Sample Kitchen Electrical Plan

Designer Tips:

- Island Pendants:

For best visual and functional effect we recommend installing ceiling fixtures 30"-36" from the surface of your kitchen island. If there are multiple pendants being installed, the widest part of the fixtures should be spaced a minimum of 30" apart.

- Linear Pendants:

Best choice to light extra long surfaces. Selecting a fixture that's about 2/3 the size of the kitchen island or a dining table is the key to achieve a perfectly lit surface.

- Lighting at Round Dining Table:

Choose a fixture that measures between 1/2 and 3/4 of the table diameter. We recommend its installation at 32"-36" from the surface of your dining table.



Pendant above Dining Table

*Play with scale! Lighing can make more impact when it's oversized, or it can be more subtle if petite.



DESIGNER TIPS: BAR & COUNTER STOOLS

Counter Stool Dining Chair Standard Height Stool Counter Stool 18" Counter Height Stool 18" Chair

Dining Chair vs. Counter Stool vs. Bar Stool; source: furniture.com



Counter Stools with Back

Designer Tips:

- Counter Stools:

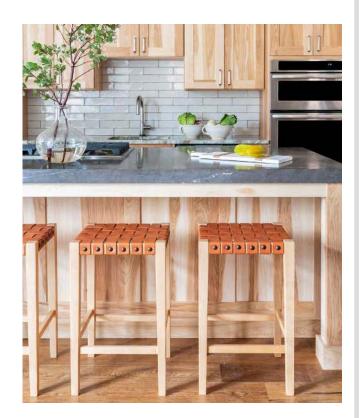
A typical counter stool seat height should fit between 23" - 28" off the floor to the top of the seat. These will work perfectly with a counter height of 35" - 37". These are most commonly used in kitchens.

- Bar Stools:

A typical bar stool seat height should fit between 29" - 32" off the floor to the top of the seat. These will work perfectly with a counter height of 41" - 43". These are most commonly used in bar areas, or raised island counters.

- Spacing:

Measure your overall island size and divide it by 24 to determine the optimal number of seats.



Counter Stools with no Back



DESIGNER TIPS: HARDWARE COUNT & PLACEMENT



Cabinet Knobs on Top Cabinets



Cabinet Pulls placed horizontally & vertically

Designer Tips:

- General:

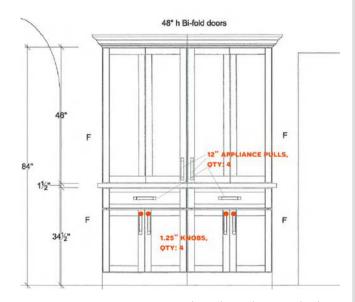
Sketch your hardware on a cabinetry shop drawing or a photo and make sure to count it twice before you place an order! Don't be afraid to mix hardware finishes and styles.

- Cabinet Knobs:

Very commonly used for top cabinets. Typically more traditional in style, most used sizes are 1.25" & 1.5".

- Cabinet Pulls:

Can be installed horizontaly or vertically, depending on a cabinet type. Install handle pulls on all drawers for easier use, especially if any of them will hold heavy items. A good rule of thumb for pull sizing is 1/3 of the cabinet size. Ex: 24" cabinet = 8" pull.



Sample Hardware Placement Sketch

Sketch out hardware to help with accurate count, ex: here we have:

- 12" Appliance Pulls, Qty: 4
- 1.25" Cabinet Knobs, Qty: 4



SECTION IV - Sample Kitchen Drawings Set -

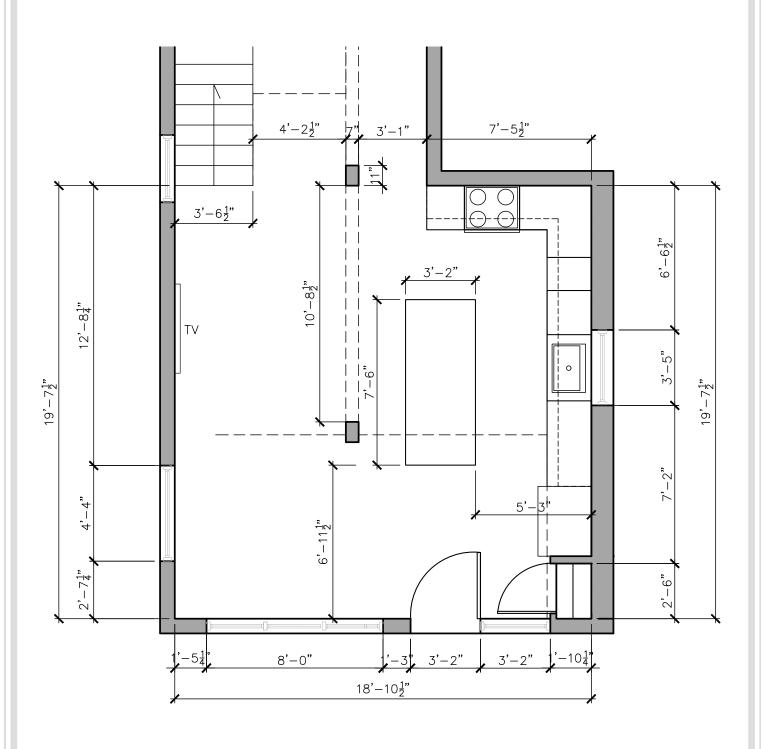
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- New Floor Plan
- North Elevation
- South Elevation
- East Elevation
- Island East Elevation
- Island North Elevation

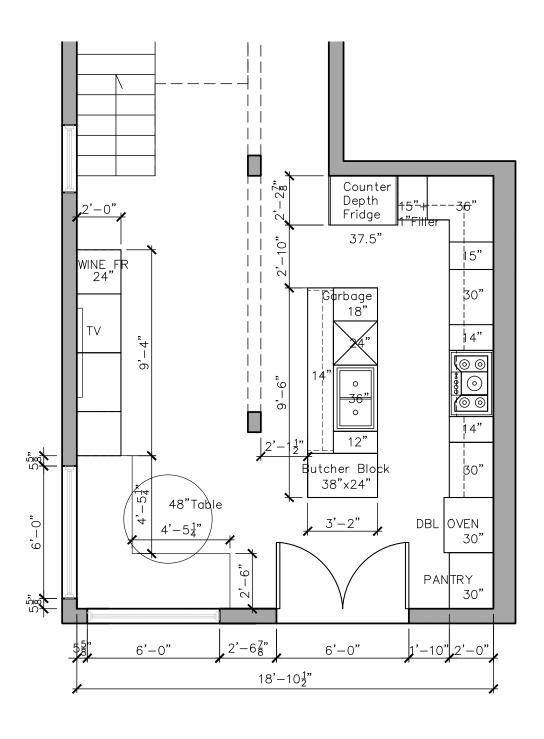


Existing Floor Plan



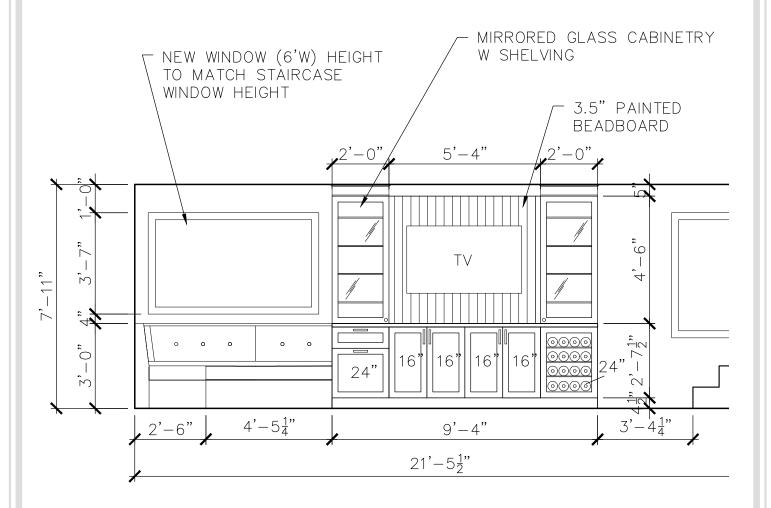


New Floor Plan



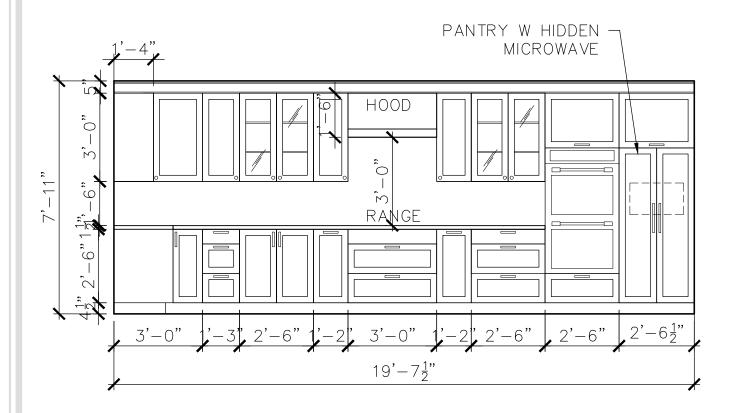


NORTH ELEVATION



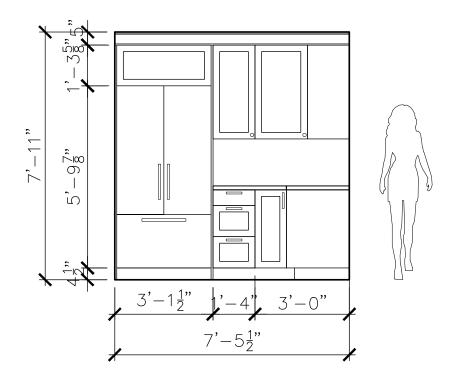


South Elevation



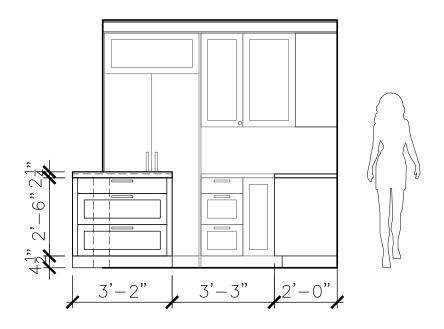


East Elevation



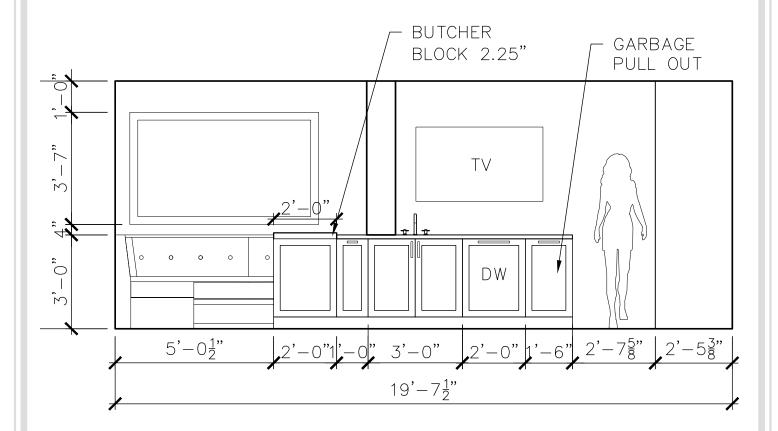


Island - East Elevation





Island - North Elevation





SECTION V - Completed Kitchen Project -

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- Before Photos
- 3D Rendering
- After Photos



Before Photos









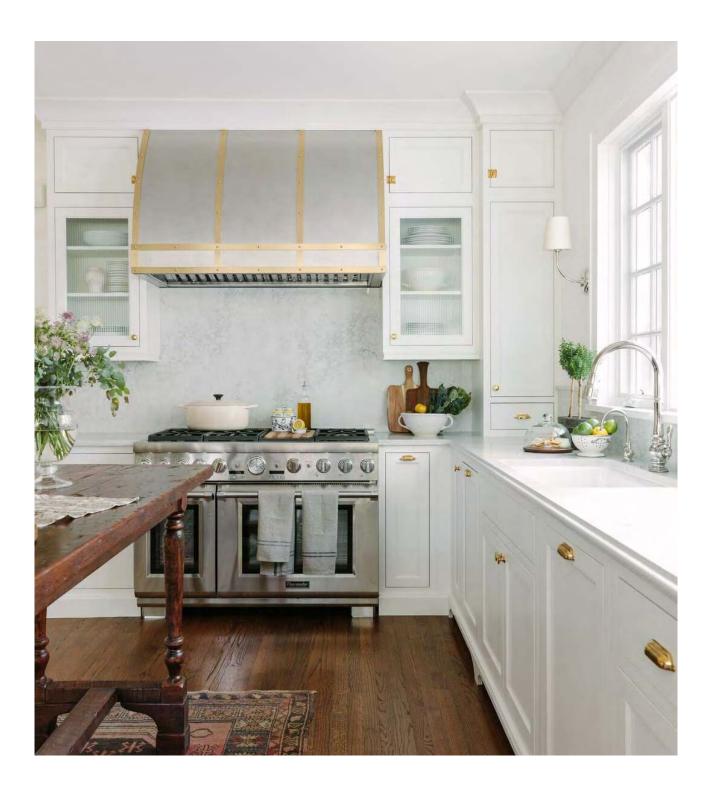


3D Rendering





AFTER PHOTOS





AFTER PHOTOS











For more information about our services, and to purchase our range of PDF's for sale, please visit: www.centeredbydesign.com

Additional Resources:

Centered by Design Online Shop

https://centeredbydesign.com/shop/homeowners/

National Kitchen & Bath Association

https://nkba.org/

National Association of the Remodeling Industry

https://www.nari.org/

Unique Kitchens and Baths

https://www.uniquekitchensandbaths.net/

Stoffer Home Cabinetry

https://stofferhome.com/pages/cabinetry

Circa Lighting

https://www.circalighting.com/

Top Knobs

https://www.topknobs.com/

Rejuvenation

https://www.rejuvenation.com/

Waterworks

https://www.waterworks.com/us_en/

This Old House

https://www.thisoldhouse.com/kitchens/21015310/the-don-t-get-burned-kitchen-remodeling-guide

