

Expert Advice – Ten Tips

Whether you're renovating an old treasure or starting with a blank slate, designing and building a new kitchen has the potential to be a joyful and creative experience. Kitchen Views has designers who are committed to making the experience as easy and timely as possible. A new kitchen involves much more than choosing a cabinet style. Our experts recommend the following:

- 1 **Find an experienced kitchen designer with whom you feel comfortable** sharing your ideas, practical needs, and construction concerns. Ask for pictures of the designer's work and request references.
- 2 Offer as much information as possible about your lifestyle and budget so they can help you to make good decisions about the design and selection of products. For example:
 - a. Types of meals you serve
 - home cooked or take-out?
 - gluten-free or vegan?
 - other dietary restrictions?
 - b. Entertainment style
 - casseroles or caterer?
 - frequent or occasional?
 - c. Storage and display needs
 - Tupperware and lunchboxes?
 - Wedgewood and Waterford?
 - d. What do you love and hate in your current kitchen?
- 3 **Stay organized.** Use a large binder with folders to keep track of paperwork, floor plans, product specifications, etc. In one section collect photos and clippings illustrating your ideas and taste. In another keep samples, color chips, etc.
- 4 **Determine what you need versus what you want.** Make a "must have" and a "wish list" to determine what is essential to those spending the most time in your new kitchen. Make convenience a focus.
- 5 **Create a realistic time frame** for the project. Many skilled professionals are required. As part of their written estimates, be aware of the expected lead times.
- 6 **Project yourself into the future and plan accordingly.** If you plan to have this kitchen a long time, go wild and personalize the space. If you plan to sell in the near future, remain consistent with the values in the neighborhood and select a style with broad appeal.
- 7 **Plan display space** in your kitchen for your favorite objects, as well as some artwork.
- 8 **Bring home all samples** and view them in the space. Be aware of differences during day and night because sunlight and artificial light dramatically change color and texture.
- 9 **Use your senses.** See, touch, feel and smell everything prior to purchasing. Do not choose solely from a catalog or the internet because you may feel differently when you actually see the item.
- 10 **Give yourself enough time to enjoy the experience.** Become an educated consumer and allow time to make mindful decisions. This will enable you to work within a comfortable budget. Late changes are likely to escalate the cost.