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# CREATING YOUR DREAM KITCHEN

**I**t is no coincidence that family and friends naturally gravitate towards the kitchen; it is the focal point and heart of the home. Today, this multi-functional space has evolved into much more than just a place to cook. The kitchen is where we come to dine, entertain, lounge and even work, which makes it one of the toughest remodeling projects. So before you dive in to build your dream kitchen, here is a little expert advice.

## CONSIDER FUNCTIONALITY FIRST

No matter what shape your kitchen is, plan for the sink, fridge and stovetop to form

a triangle with no more than six feet between each for ease of movement. Additionally, consider your storage needs. Use every nook and cranny, and place cabinets right up to the ceiling. Think about including deep drawers for pots and pans, drawers designed specifically for garbage and recycling bins, and appliance garages to optimize counter space.

When it comes to light, overhead lighting is not enough – you do not want shadows cast on work surfaces. Add various lights to the space; perhaps under the cabinet so that they shine directly on work surfaces and pendant lights over islands that double as task lighting.

Consider materials that are very durable like quartz – a man-made stone great for work surfaces in the kitchen. It looks high-end, but is only a fraction of the cost of granite and is virtually maintenance free. Unlike granite that needs to be sealed regularly,





quartex is extremely firm and nonporous. Therefore, it does not require sealing or reconditioning. Granite also has a higher potential for staining and bacterial growth. With quartex all you will need is mild soap and water for cleanups.



### SPLURGE ON PROFESSIONAL APPLIANCES

Forget about using your old appliances; they will stick out like a sore thumb. Plan to splurge on professional appliances — you can save money in other areas. Invest in a high quality dishwasher or dishwasher drawers. A single dish drawer is ideal for smaller kitchens with less demanding dishwashing needs. For a standard-sized kitchen, consider purchasing double dishwasher drawers. Most importantly, besides the functionality of your kitchen, is to purchase a high quality sink like those made by BLANCO. They offer a vast array of durable finishes and style options that will truly enhance your day-to-day kitchen experience.

### BREAK UP NEUTRALS WITH A SPLASH OF COLOUR

Add a splash of colour into the design by breaking up the white cabinetry with mod-

ern shades of grey and blue. Play with cabinetry styles as well; mix and match hardware. Bold designs and unique finishes make a statement and transform a dated kitchen into a space with personality.

### SAVE MONEY AND TIME BY HIRING AND WORKING WITH A DESIGNER

Good design must be more than just style – it must enhance how you live everyday! Choosing the right materials, planning your storage needs and trying to figure out how you will manage all of the day-to-day clutter that accumulates in the kitchen can be overwhelming. A designer like me can cut through the confusion and hone into your needs, helping you choose finishes and materials that work perfectly and allow you to get more from your kitchen space.

DVIRA OVADIA

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