Creating the Ideal Kitchen

TKS DESIGN GROUP

What's Inside?

Kitchen Styles
Functionality
Planning and Schedules







The kitchen is the nucleus of the modern family's home.

Whether it's the social hub where everyone gathers or a work center where homework and other small projects get done—the kitchen is the one space that impacts daily life in the biggest way.

It's a natural focus for home renovation or new construction and should be designed with care and precision. **Knowing where to begin, 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 perfectly reflect your personality and lifestyle. Achieving this requires an in-depth look at three areas: **Style, functionality, and planning.**

Kitchen Styles

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

Some are more classic, others are more traditional. Some will grab your eye and make you long to spend time there, while others will do nothing for you. Because there are so many different styles, it's important to narrow your choices so that you can choose a design that fits your preferences and lifestyle.

So how do you know what style is right for you? The "Kitchen Style Questions" on this page will help get you moving in the right direction. **Jot down the answers to these questions to begin to identify what style of**



Kitchen Functionality

Having a kitchen that looks great is nice—but your kitchen also needs to work *really* 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 transitional, eclectic, or classic?
- **Are there particular colors** or color combinations I like?
- **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?
- **How much natural vs. artificial lighting do I want?** What kind of fixtures do I like?
- **Do I gravitate toward natural materials** that feel more luxe and timeless—like marble and quartzite?
- **Are there things I hate about my current kitchen?** (This can easily get into function so focus on style for now.)

Kitchen Functionality Questions

- **What are the one or two things about my current kitchen that drive me crazy?** (Focus on organization, lighting, and day-to-day 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 want?** Do we want to integrate smart appliances? Paneled or hidden appliances? Clean countertops with a hidden toaster, espresso machine, etc.?
- **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?** How many burners do we require? 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? All of the above and more?

Kitchen Planning

Believe it or not, the actual plan—creating the blueprint—is relatively easy once you know what you want. That's not to discount the importance of having a good blueprint. But figuring out the exact dimensions and how everything fits together really can't happen until you've defined the overall vision of what you want to see in your new kitchen.

Once you have the general concept in place, you should sit down with your kitchen designer and begin talking about plans—relying on the pros to steer you away from both structural and financial pitfalls. Your key objectives and initial thoughts will be clearly established at this point and those ideas can be turned into a workable design and accurate drawings.

Your contractor will be able to provide you with an outline and specific expectations.

Once you've seen a draft of your blue print, you'll likely ask what every homeowner wants to know (after "How much is this going to cost?): *"How long will this take?"*

The answer? "It all depends." No project is exactly the same, and there can be many variables—but this is when your contractor will be able to provide you with an outline and specific expectations so that you'll have an accurate idea of the timeline.

Creating the kitchen of you dreams can be a daunting but exciting adventure—and the team you choose will have a direct impact on both the experience and the outcome.
We hope this information helps as you start the process. We also understand that information like this can actually raise as many questions as it answers!

Want to dive into the specifics of your project? Give us a call at (630) 858-4848.



About TKS Design Group

TKS Design Group is an award-winning family-owned business with over two decades in the design and build game. We design, remodel and furnish kitchens, bathrooms and other residential spaces—specializing in bespoke custom cabinetry, personalization, and an eye for quality. Our experienced designers and contractors work with you from design to installation, ensuring that each element flawlessly functions and fits your lifestyle. **Because, as Thomas Edison would say, "Vision without execution is hallucination."**

We provide premier full-home interior design services across Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, Naperville, Hinsdale, Elmhurst, Chicago and Naples, Florida, creating functional living spaces where our clients can truly live in comfort and style. Our services are client-focused and driven by the individuality of each project. **We are committed to creating spaces that delight you and your family.**



Visit Us Online
View our Portfolio!

Call
(630) 858-4848

Get Started!
Tell Us About Your Project

Get Social | Follow Us Online





