

SPRING 2025

KITCHENS BEDROOMS & BATHROOMS

ULTIMATE KITCHEN PLANNING

THE MAGAZINE FOR INSPIRATIONAL AND PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR YOUR 2025 KITCHEN RENOVATION



Ideal LAYOUTS

FROM L-SHAPE TO U-SHAPE, FIND
OUT WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU



Kitchen ZONES

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO CONSIDER FOR
THE MAIN AREAS OF YOUR DESIGN

PLUS

- HOW TO CHOOSE A KITCHEN COLOUR
- BE INSPIRED BY THESE REAL PROJECTS
- KITCHEN DESIGN QUESTIONS YOU NEED TO ASK



EXCLUSIVE



QUESTION time

After a new kitchen? Laurie Davidson explores what you should be asking yourself before taking the plunge...

The decision has been made: you'd like a new kitchen and can't wait to start poring over paint charts and picking out tiles. Before you begin, however, there's some very important questions you should be asking both yourself and your kitchen designer. From where to start to what you should include, to how long it takes and what the price will cover, we've uncovered the key queries you should be concerned with – and why. →



BEFORE YOU BEGIN: WHAT TO ASK YOURSELF

What do I want from my new kitchen?

Before you start planning a new design, ask yourself what the function of the new area will be. That might seem obvious being it's a kitchen, but how you use the space will determine not only the layout, but also whether you need an extension or could simply reconfigure the space, and what type of layout and fittings you include. "So often, people pursue what they think looks like a great idea or what others are doing, without considering if it will work and cater to the needs and requirements that they have," says Nathan of Nathan Kingsbury Design. "It's much more fruitful and so important to carefully consider what exactly it is that you need. Ask yourself how you'll use the space, what must you be able to do in the kitchen, how many people will be in the space at any given time and what are the constraints with the current kitchen that you've lived with or noticed you need to overcome."

What's my budget?

Having a good idea of exactly what budget you have will help you determine your non-negotiables. "This is a vital starting point when deciding on a new kitchen as it determines to the designer where to begin when discussing materials, appliances and more," says Alex Main, director at The Main Company. "If you haven't decided on a budget, it's worth sitting down and planning this ahead of speaking to a designer as changing the budget constantly throughout the design process can be lengthy, meaning potential delays to your kitchen refurbishment."

What do I like about my current kitchen?

Learning from the parts of your existing kitchen that work for you (*and, likewise, don't work so well*) can give us greater insight into what we want to include going forward. "If you've moved into a new home and want to replace your kitchen, spend time (before you spend money) working out how you intend to use it," says Grace King of Studio Rey. "This decision making will ensure you don't spend money on a space that looks great but doesn't work efficiently for you. For example, ask yourself if you often fill your full-size dishwasher or double fridge-freezer, or if you could downsize and allow for more storage space. Do you have lots of bulky items that are





above *Ladbury Studio* created a light and spacious kitchen-diner in a north London basement.

left *Patagonia*, from *Laminam's* porcelain-surface I Naturali Series, is a great way to create impact in your kitchen. Prices start from £450 per sq m.

right *Loch Anna* Handmade Lifford range in White Oak, Pearl & Midnight from £11,510.



THE QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD BE ASKING YOUR DESIGNER

Can you show me previous projects?

Asking to see your designer's portfolio prior to you bringing them on board is key, so you can see previous projects they've completed and get an understanding of whether they're the right person for the job. "By doing this you'll gain a clear idea of their design style and capabilities," says Charlie Smallbone, founder of Ledbury Studio. "Ask about any challenges they faced during those projects and how they overcame them. This can give you a sense of their problem-solving skills and whether they can handle any potential obstacles that might come up during your kitchen renovation."

What would you recommend for my kitchen?

Once you have a clear idea of your budget and some of the factors you want to include, it's wise to talk to your kitchen designer so you can bat ideas around and benefit from their experience. They'll likely know about the latest technology in appliances or whether there's a better way you could save space or add storage. They should also be able to tell you more about the materials and surfaces you're choosing, with advice on the pros and cons, from countertops to cabinetry. "Ask designers which surfaces they prefer and why," suggests Oliver Webb, director at Cullifords. "If it's a big kitchen design chain, be careful not to be pushed into products that head office wants the designers to push – instead, make sure you are given all the options available to allow you to find the right material and style for you."

Are you able to coordinate and oversee the project from design to installation?

It's important to know what your designer can and cannot undertake for you, and what you as the client will be responsible for. "If you don't feel entirely confident, then commissioning the services of a local architect or interior designer would be wise," says Clare. "While these services will be an extra cost, chances are your experienced specialist will guide you seamlessly through the process past many (potentially far more costly) pitfalls along the way. Plus, designers are often able to negotiate preferential rates from kitchen suppliers – so you may just get both kitchen and specialist for the same budget!"



Design featuring
Crown's Easyclean[®]
Kitchen in Matt
Emulsion, Grey
Putty, Spice Rack,
Powdered Clay and
Emerald Vision.

