

DESIGN AND REMODELING *trends*



a tale of 3 kitchens

How to transform your kitchen with any budget

Have you ever noticed that friends and family always tend to congregate in the kitchen? This phenomenon dates back to old world values when families, neighbors and weary travelers gathered around the hearth for food, warmth and social interaction. This kitchen community fell out of style during the 1800s with grand formal dining rooms, but over the decades kitchen design has returned to functional, family-friendly spaces. Today, kitchens tend to be a hub of activity, often flowing into open family rooms. Here are three things to consider when planning your dream kitchen.

Be honest about your budget.

There are many elements to consider in a kitchen, and your budget will determine what you can do. A kitchen remodel can range from \$20,000 to over \$100,000. Be honest about your budget; keeping it a secret or not being realistic will only complicate the process. That doesn't mean you can't look at high end fixtures and finishes. With the right planning and design, you can achieve your vision whether it's right now or over the years.

The Bottom Line: If budget is an issue, spend the money on cabinets. If you need to, save on fixtures and countertops as both can be easily upgraded when the budget allows.

Hire a professional.

It's easy to get excited when you see the three-day renovations on home TV shows. The reality is that a kitchen remodel is likely to be the longest project you undertake. We've seen do-it-yourself kitchen remodels that resulted in a half-torn out kitchen sitting around for months. And how will you prepare and store your family's food in the interim?

The Bottom Line: A professional remodeler knows how to plan a kitchen remodel with minimal disturbance to your daily routine. Not only will your project be completed faster, but they can also advise on the best design and products to achieve your vision.

Do your research.

Start by looking at magazines, going to open houses or talking to professionals. Walk through your existing kitchen to find out what you like, dislike and dream about. This will help you have a clear vision of what you want.

The Bottom Line: A good kitchen design should fit not just your style, but also your daily life. A professional remodeler can merge these two needs to fit your family.

Get started with 3 of our recent kitchen remodels 

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Blue Ridge
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three recipes for a dream kitchen



Upgraded Materials + Lighting

Many homeowners are looking to simply update their kitchens without changing the actual footprint of the space. We call these pull and put projects, where we take out the old and replace it with higher quality materials. In this kitchen, we started with the cabinetry, installing maple cabinets with soft close features, so drawers and doors close quietly and smoothly. We also extended the countertop space by creating a U-shaped layout that will allow for more workspace and places to congregate. Lighting was also critical in this design, with under cabinet lighting throughout. New appliances and hardwood flooring, a custom tile backsplash and a fresh coat of paint completed the update.

To see more of this kitchen visit: www.blueridgehi.com/kitchen-design.

A Place for Everything

Kitchens are a hub of activity - a place to cook, eat, socialize, work and store keepsakes and day-to-day items. This kitchen is a perfect example of designing a space for multiple uses. The overall layout accommodates enough space for multiple cooks and hosting large dinner parties. We used high end custom cabinetry to create functional cook and prep areas, as well as to display the homeowner's china collection. The quartz countertop created a low maintenance kitchen as well. The bar area allows for eating and gathering, while an office nook beside the double oven serves as a place for paying bills and family communication. You truly must check out the photos to see all the surprises in this design by visiting the link below.

To see more of this kitchen visit: www.blueridgehi.com/kitchen-design.



The Difference 18 Square Feet Makes

Sometimes a kitchen just doesn't work, which means we need to either add space or rearrange the layout. In this kitchen, we did both. However, adding space doesn't necessarily mean huge expansions. We can "steal" a little space from other under-used parts of the home to create a more functional floorplan. In the end, we only added nine square feet, but combined with the new layout we were able to completely transform this space. We also integrated the floorplan with the existing family room and outdoor deck to increase flow among the living spaces. Custom wood cabinetry, soapstone countertops, a glass tile backsplash, stainless steel appliances and new hardwood flooring completed the design.

To see more of this kitchen visit: www.blueridgehi.com/kitchen-design.

employee SPOTLIGHT



Solving problems is not something Cassidy Jones shies away from, especially when it comes to kitchen and bathroom design.



With a bachelor's from William and Mary and a master's in housing studies from Virginia Tech, Cassidy brings six years of experience in finding ways to make spaces more efficient and functional, while also improving the aesthetics. She shares this philosophy with kitchen design students as an adjunct

professor at Virginia Tech. During her first year with BRHI, Cassidy has enjoyed the people, the variety of projects and the focus on customer relationships.

"They're doing it 'right' if you know what I mean," she said. "It's great to be a part of a company with the right priorities."

This Illinois native and her husband, Ryan, have also recently welcomed their first child, Jacoby, this past March. When she's not with her family or working with the BRHI team, Cassidy can be found coaching something - somewhere. She coaches two teams at Christiansburg High School, as well as at Crossfit Blacksburg. And if all that isn't enough, she still leaves time for her own strength training and will be competing at strong woman contests this year. Go Cassidy!

seasonal HOME IMPROVEMENT tips

In between trying to squeeze in that last beach trip and planning the first tailgate of the season, be sure to find some time to do a little check of your home. Trust us, you'll regret putting off these home improvement to-do's when the harsh chill of winter hits.

CLEAN THE GUTTERS

Winter is not the time to be messing around on the roof. Plus, you'll want a clean area for snow and ice to run off. Be sure to do all cleaning from an extension ladder and have someone spot you. Use a garden hoe to scrape the debris toward you and drop into a trash can below. When you're done, use a hose to spray down the gutters and check the downspouts to clear any debris.

CHECK THE WINDOWS

If you've opened and closed your windows this summer, chances are the seals are filthy, which will prevent them from creating a tight seal to keep out the cold. Inspect and clean each window, and replace any weather stripping.

CHECK THE DECK

After storing all your patio furniture, rent a pressure washer and give your deck a good bath. Let it dry at least three hours and then apply a sealer/protectant to make it last until next summer.

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The ugly BATHROOM MAKEOVER



no more pink prison!



See how the Ugly Bathroom Makeover turned out at www.facebook.com/blueridgehomeimprovement



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PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS



PROJECT FILES

problem

The client wanted a solid surface for their shower - no cleaning tile and grout for these folks! However, they were looking for a product that wouldn't look sterile like fiber-glass surrounds.

solution

We found a new product at the national Kitchen & Bath Industry Show (KBIS) called Lustrolite®, which is a high gloss decorative panel for shower and bathroom walls. This new option for solid surface walls will not scratch, crack, warp, stain or discolor. And it's easy to clean using warm water and a soft micro fiber cloth. The non-stick surface will not harbor mold, soap or calcium build up.

What's so great about Lustrolite® is that it's a new option for solid surface shower and bathroom walls, so clients have choices other than traditional options. The high gloss surface will transform and add color to any bathroom.



Photo courtesy of Lustrolite®