

Adapted from the checklist by Mad About the House

# HOW TO PLAN YOUR KITCHEN



## START WITH THE PARAMETERS

Work out what is wrong with the current layout so you know what to put right

Know your budget and its limits - is this just changing cupboards, handles, work surfaces, etc or a full rip out and rebuild?

## VISUALISE HOW YOU USE THE SPACE

Carrying plates from table to sink, making coffee and toast, full scale meal prep, etc

## USE THE WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHY AND HOW METHOD

Get the details right - full text is in the book 101 Interior Design Answers.

## CONSIDER WHAT SORT OF COOK YOU ARE

This (and your budget) will inform your work surface. Do you cook messily and a lot? Or rarely and neatly?

Natural stone is porous and will stain easily, wood is cheaper but hates water and hot pans. Do the research on different types.



# THINK ABOUT THE DETAILS



## DON'T FORGET THE LIGHTING

Use task lights in the work area, but have them on dimmer switches and different circuits so you can light parts of the room instead of the whole. Consider wall and table lamps as well.

## EVERY KITCHEN SHOULD HAVE ONE TREAT

Mine is a boiling hot water tap, yours might be a steam oven or a wine fridge.

## THE KITCHEN IS, ULTIMATELY, ANOTHER ROOM IN THE HOUSE

Make sure it reflects you and your taste. If the rest of your house isn't modern, don't get talked into a sleek contemporary look if that just isn't you.

## CONSIDER YOUR COLOURS

Classic colours are always good in kitchens to avoid being too trend led, but if you love a colour then use it. Or bring in through accessories which can easily be changed.

## ALL SURFACES DO NOT HAVE TO MATCH

Consider having different work surfaces in different areas - i.e. wooden for the bar and composite for the sink.

You can do the same with the flooring - tiles in the food prep area and floorboards in the eating area.

It's not about one size fits all, it's about picking the size that fits you.



## BE CREATIVE WITH SMALL SPACES

When space around the dining table is tight, benches are a great solution.

If you are worried they will look uncomfortable you can always dress them with a sheepskin.

And if you're still worried, add a foam seat cushion covered in fabric of your choice.

Visit [barxonomy.com](http://barxonomy.com) for more tips.

[www.madaboutthehouse.com](http://www.madaboutthehouse.com) for source material, or purchase 101 Interior Design Answers from your chosen book retailer

