



MUSE DESIGN STUDIO

presents

MY KITCHEN DESIGN WORKBOOK

A Complete DIY Guide for Homeowners

Vision	Measure	Layout
Appliances	Cabinets	Lighting
Finishes	Budget	Pre-Build

MY PROJECT DETAILS

Homeowner Name: _____

Address: _____

Project Start Date: _____

Target Completion: _____

HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

- Work through each section in order.
- Fill every field before calling a contractor.
- Revisit your budget every 2 weeks.
- Attach swatches and clippings to each page.

SECTION 1 | PROJECT VISION & GOALS

MY KITCHEN STYLE - CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Modern / Minimalist | <input type="checkbox"/> Farmhouse / Rustic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traditional / Classic | <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial / Loft | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal / Cottage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scandinavian | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

PRIMARY GOALS - CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> More counter / prep space | <input type="checkbox"/> Better organization & storage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improved lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> Updated appliances |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open-concept flow | <input type="checkbox"/> Accessibility / ADA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy efficiency | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase home value |

INSPIRATION & MUST-HAVES

Describe your dream kitchen in 2-3 sentences:

3 things you MUST have:

3 things to AVOID:

PROJECT TIMELINE

Demo / start date: _____

Cabinet delivery: _____

Appliance delivery: _____

SECTION 2 | ROOM MEASUREMENTS

Measure in inches. Double-check before ordering anything.

ROOM DIMENSIONS

Wall A (length): _____ inches

Wall B (opposite A): _____ inches

Wall C (width): _____ inches

Wall D (opposite C): _____ inches

Ceiling height: _____ inches

Soffit / bulkhead height: _____ inches

Soffit / bulkhead depth: _____ inches

WINDOW & DOOR OPENINGS

Opening	Width (in)	Height (in)	Dist. from corner
Window 1			
Window 2			
Door 1			
Door 2			
Other			

UTILITY ROUGH-IN LOCATIONS

Gas line (wall / distance): _____

Electrical panel (wall): _____

Plumbing center (sink): _____

Exhaust vent location: _____

SKETCH AREA (1 SQUARE = 1 FT)

SECTION 3 | LAYOUT PLANNING

CHOOSE YOUR KITCHEN LAYOUT



Single Wall

All cabinets & appliances on one wall. Best for small spaces.



Galley

Two parallel runs. Highly efficient for cooking.



L-Shape

Two adjoining walls. Works well with an island.



U-Shape

Three walls of cabinetry - maximum storage.



Island

Open L or U with freestanding center island.



Peninsula

Island attached to one wall; no walk-around needed.

WORK TRIANGLE MEASUREMENT

Sink -> Fridge -> Range. Ideal total = 13-26 ft. Each leg = 4-9 ft.

Sink -> Fridge: _____ ft

Fridge -> Range: _____ ft

Range -> Sink: _____ ft

TOTAL: _____ ft

CLEARANCE & AISLE GUIDE

Main aisle minimum: **42 in** Actual: _____

Two-cook aisle: **48 in** Actual: _____

Appliance door swing: **36 in** Actual: _____

SECTION 4 | APPLIANCE PLANNING

Record model, dimensions & utility needs *BEFORE* ordering.

REFRIGERATOR

Width (in): _____ Depth (in): _____
Height (in): _____ Handle clearance: _____
Brand / Model #: _____ Finish / color: _____

RANGE / COOKTOP

Width (in): _____ Gas or Electric: _____
Depth (in): _____ Height (in): _____
Brand / Model #: _____ Finish: _____

WALL OVEN

Width (in): _____ Cutout depth: _____
Single / Double: _____ Height (in): _____
Brand / Model #: _____ Finish: _____

DISHWASHER

Width (in): _____ Depth (in): _____
Height (in): _____ Panel-ready? Y/N: _____
Brand / Model #: _____ Finish: _____

MICROWAVE / OTR

Width (in): _____ Type: OTR/Built-in: _____
Depth (in): _____ CFM (if OTR): _____
Brand / Model #: _____ Finish: _____

SECTION 4 | APPLIANCE PLANNING (cont.)

VENTILATION HOOD

Width (in): _____ Depth (in): _____

CFM rating: _____ Duct size (in): _____

Brand / Model #: _____ Style: _____

UTILITY REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

- 220V / 240V outlet for range or oven
- Dedicated 20A circuit for refrigerator
- Dedicated 20A circuit for dishwasher
- Dedicated 15-20A circuit for microwave
- Gas shutoff valve within 6 ft of range
- Water supply line for fridge ice maker
- Dedicated circuit for garbage disposal
- Vent duct route confirmed for hood
- Proper BTU gas line size for range

SECTION 5 | CABINETS & STORAGE

CABINET CONSTRUCTION TYPE

- Framed (traditional face frame)
- Frameless (full-access / Euro)
- Inset doors (flush with frame)
- Partial overlay
- Full overlay

DOOR STYLE

- Shaker
- Raised panel
- Glass front
- Flat / Slab
- Beadboard
- Open shelving

CABINET FINISH

- Painted (solid color)
- Thermofoil / wrapped
- Natural / raw wood
- Stained wood
- Two-tone (uppers/lowers)

Cabinet color / stain: _____

CABINET INVENTORY WORKSHEET

Location	Type (Base/Upper/Tall)	W	H	D	Qty
Upper - Left wall					
Upper - Right wall					
Upper - Back wall					
Base - Left wall					
Base - Right wall					
Base - Back wall					
Pantry / Tall					

SECTION 5 | SMART STORAGE CHECKLIST

- Pull-out trash & recycling drawer
- Lazy Susan or blind corner pull-out
- Deep pot & pan drawer base
- Spice pull-out / spice drawer insert
- Utensil divider inserts
- Knife block drawer
- Under-sink organizer / pull-outs
- Pull-out pantry / pantry tower
- Drawer peg system for dishes
- Appliance garage / hideaway
- Open shelving section
- Corner solution (type: _____)
- Toe-kick drawer
- Wine / bottle storage
- Built-in charging station drawer

Storage notes:

Total upper cab linear ft:

Total base cab linear ft:

Countertop sq ft needed:

Island size (W x D):

LIGHTING LAYER PLAN

AMBIENT / GENERAL

Recessed cans, flush mount, or pendant array that evenly illuminates the whole room.

TASK LIGHTING

Under-cabinet LED strips, above-sink fixture, and island pendants over work areas.

ACCENT / DECORATIVE

Display lighting, toe-kick strips, and in-cabinet lighting for glass-front uppers.

NATURAL LIGHT

Window sizes, skylight, or glass door to maximize daylight throughout the day.

FIXTURE LOCATION NOTES

Recessed can spacing (ft):

No. of cans planned:

Pendant ht above island (in):

Under-cabinet strip? Y/N:

DIMMER & SWITCH PLANNING

Dimmer on ambient / recessed circuits

Dimmer on pendant / island circuits

Under-cabinet on separate switch

3-way switch (multi-entry kitchen)

Smart / programmable switches

SECTION 6 | ELECTRICAL OUTLETS (NEC 2023)

- GFCI outlets within 6 ft of sink (required)
- Counter outlets every 4 ft (NEC required)
- Island: min 2 receptacles required
- Dedicated 20A small appliance circuit x2
- USB / smart outlets at coffee station
- Under-cabinet outlet strip planned
- Outdoor / patio pass-through (if any)
- In-island or under-island outlets

Outlet sketch / location notes:

Questions for your electrician:

ELECTRICAL PANEL NOTES

Panel location: _____

Available breaker spaces: _____

Panel amperage (total): _____

Electrician name & phone: _____

SECTION 7 | MATERIALS & FINISHES

COUNTERTOP SELECTION

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quartz (engineered) | <input type="checkbox"/> Granite | <input type="checkbox"/> Marble |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quartzite | <input type="checkbox"/> Butcher block / wood | <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laminate | <input type="checkbox"/> Soapstone | <input type="checkbox"/> Porcelain slab |

Color / pattern: _____

Edge profile: _____

Supplier: _____

Price / sq ft: \$ _____

BACKSPLASH SELECTION

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Subway tile | <input type="checkbox"/> Mosaic / penny tile | <input type="checkbox"/> Large-format tile |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural stone | <input type="checkbox"/> Glass tile | <input type="checkbox"/> Shiplap / wood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Metal / stainless | <input type="checkbox"/> Quartz slab | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Color / grout color: _____

FLOORING

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hardwood | <input type="checkbox"/> LVP / LVT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Porcelain tile | <input type="checkbox"/> Ceramic tile |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cork | <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineered wood | |

Color / style: _____

HARDWARE & FIXTURE FINISH

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brushed nickel | <input type="checkbox"/> Matte black |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Polished chrome | <input type="checkbox"/> Warm brass / gold |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oil-rubbed bronze | <input type="checkbox"/> Satin brass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mitered glass | |

SECTION 7 | PAINT & SAMPLE TRACKER

Wall color (name + code):



swatch

Trim color:



swatch

Cabinet paint color:



swatch

Island accent color:



swatch

SAMPLE & MATERIAL TRACKER

Material	Brand / Source	Color / Style	Price/Unit	Ordered?
Countertop				
Backsplash				
Floor tile				
Grout				
Cabinet hardware				
Sink				
Faucet				
Hood / vent				
Lighting				
Paint				

Finish coordination notes:

SECTION 8 | BUDGET WORKSHEETS

National average: \$27K-\$75K+. Stock-cabinet kitchens start near \$15K.

OVERALL BUDGET TARGETS

Total budget ceiling: \$ _____

Cash / financing split: _____

Contingency reserve (15%): \$ _____

COST ESTIMATOR (ESTIMATE FIRST; FILL ACTUAL AFTER)

Category	Estimate (\$)	Actual (\$)	+/- (\$)
Cabinets (supply)	\$	\$	
Cabinet installation	\$	\$	
Hardware / pulls	\$	\$	
Countertops (supply)	\$	\$	
Countertop installation	\$	\$	
Backsplash (supply)	\$	\$	
Backsplash installation	\$	\$	
Flooring (supply)	\$	\$	
Flooring installation	\$	\$	
Appliances	\$	\$	
Plumbing fixtures (sink/faucet)	\$	\$	
Plumbing labor	\$	\$	
Lighting fixtures	\$	\$	
Electrical labor	\$	\$	
Demo & hauling	\$	\$	

SECTION 8 | BUDGET (cont.)

Category	Estimate (\$)	Actual (\$)	+/- (\$)
Painting / finishing	\$	\$	
General contractor fee	\$	\$	
Permits & inspections	\$	\$	
Contingency (15%)	\$	\$	
TOTAL	\$	\$	\$

SECTION 8 | PAYMENT & CONTRACTOR LOG

PAYMENT SCHEDULE LOG

Trade / Vendor	Total Contract	Deposit Paid	Balance Due
General Contractor	\$	\$	\$
Electrician	\$	\$	\$
Plumber	\$	\$	\$
Cabinet installer	\$	\$	\$
Counter fabricator	\$	\$	\$
Tile / flooring	\$	\$	\$
Painter	\$	\$	\$
Other	\$	\$	\$

CONTRACTOR QUICK REFERENCE

General Contractor:

Electrician:

Plumber:

Cabinet Installer:

Counter Fabricator:

Painter:

SECTION 9 | PRE-CONSTRUCTION CHECKLIST

Complete EVERY item before work begins - this prevents costly surprises.

PERMITS & CODE COMPLIANCE

- Building permit applied for and received
- Electrical permit obtained
- Plumbing permit obtained
- HOA / condo board approval (if required)
- Local zoning restrictions reviewed
- Asbestos / lead paint test done (pre-1980 homes)

DESIGN FINAL SIGN-OFF

- Cabinet layout approved & order placed
- Appliances ordered (lead times confirmed)
- Countertop templating appointment scheduled
- Backsplash tile / material ordered
- Flooring ordered (+ 10% waste overage)
- Lighting fixtures ordered
- Plumbing fixtures ordered
- Pulls & hardware ordered

CONTRACTOR READINESS

- General contractor signed & start date set
- Electrician scheduled (rough-in & finish)
- Plumber scheduled (rough-in & finish)
- Demo crew & dumpster reserved
- Painter scheduled
- Cabinet & counter installers confirmed
- Insurance & licenses verified for all trades
- Lien waivers collected at each payment

HOME LOGISTICS

- Temporary kitchen area set up
- Breakables & valuables moved out
- Pets plan during construction sorted
- Parking / truck access arranged for crews
- Delivery addresses confirmed with all vendors
- Storage space cleared for incoming materials

FINAL PRE-DEMO STEPS

- All measurements triple-checked vs. plans
- Utility shutoffs located & labeled
- Before photos taken of every area
- Emergency contacts list posted on-site
- Start date confirmed with every trade
- First draw / deposit schedule agreed upon

SECTION 9 | BUILD PROGRESS TRACKER

CONSTRUCTION PHASE TRACKER

Phase	Sched.	Done	Notes
Demo & rough-in prep			
Electrical rough-in			
Plumbing rough-in			
Inspections passed			
Drywall & paint			
Cabinet installation			
Countertop template			
Countertop installation			
Backsplash installation			
Appliance installation			
Lighting & electrical finish			
Flooring installation			
Punch list & final walk-through			



MUSE DESIGN STUDIO

Kitchen Design Workbook

You've got this! Need advice? Ask an expert by booking a call 617-869-7116. Go to my website www.musdesignstudio.net

A well-planned kitchen is the heart of a happy home.

The more detail you put in now, the smoother and more enjoyable your remodel will be.

QUICK-REFERENCE TIPS

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Measure: | Always in inches; double-check everything. |
| Budget: | Add 15-20% contingency to every estimate. |
| Cabinets: | Order 8-12 weeks ahead of install date. |
| Outlets: | Plan all circuits before walls are closed. |
| Photos: | Photograph every stage of the build. |
| Contracts: | Get every contractor quote in writing. |
| Receipts: | Keep all receipts - warranties need them. |