



GILBERT + BURKE™  
DESIGN / BUILD / REMODEL

# The Complete Checklist For Designing Your Own Home: Kitchen

Professional advice you  
need to know before  
designing and building  
your kitchen

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A modern kitchen scene featuring a stainless steel faucet in the foreground. The faucet is sleek and curved, with a single-lever handle. In the background, there is a microwave oven, a coffee machine, and a stainless steel pot on the stove. The kitchen has dark wood cabinets and a brick backsplash. The lighting is warm and focused on the faucet.

# Introduction



There's no place where a home comes alive more than in the kitchen. Whether first thing in the morning, coming home from a long day, or entertaining on special occasions, the kitchen is where your home comes to life.

A mix of functional space, stylish and useful appliances, as well as attractive design are all sought after in a kitchen space, but what those actually translate to will depend on the homeowner. And the type of home.

Whatever vision you have in mind for your kitchen, whether it's part of a new house built from scratch or a renovation in an existing home, you'll need to prepare accordingly. Only then can you follow a plan through a satisfying result that will afford you cooking enjoyment and the possibility for entertaining family and friends.

# Renovation --- Checklist





Many homeowners have a kitchen that doubles as a museum installation – “Cooking Environments of the Past.” When owners look over these dated surroundings, they’re faced with decisions regarding how complex the renovation will be. In any event, professionals can assess “the bones” of the structure and come up with a new kitchen design that fits its surroundings. And while it’s extremely important to get a qualified professional opinion, we want to put some power in the hands of the homeowner.

Here’s a simple checklist designed to help you look for the primary elements that go into making the decision to renovate your kitchen.

## Section 1:

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# Kitchen Space

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Are you looking to increase the size of your kitchen floor plan?

Yes          No

Will you be using your kitchen as a space for entertaining?

Yes          No

Will you need room for a kitchen table?

Yes          No

Will your kitchen be open-concept (no doors)?

Yes          No

Will you be rearranging cabinet placements?

Yes

No

Are you going to relocate plumbing fixtures or appliances?

Yes

No

Do you need to open up a wall to obtain the space you want?

Yes

No

If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, is this wall is load-bearing?

Yes

No



## Section 2:

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### Check "The Bones"

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Do you need to upgrade your electrical system?

Yes

No

Do you need to install a subpanel?

Yes

No

Do you need to upgrade your plumbing?

Yes

No

Are you replacing an electric stove with a gas one?

Yes

No

## Section 3:

# Replacing Features

Will you be adding lighting fixtures and/or dimmers?

Yes

No

Will you need new appliances (fridge, microwave, stove)?

Yes

No

Do you want solid surface or granite countertops?

Yes

No

# What do your results say?

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## MORE 'YES'S THAN 'NO'S: MAJOR RENO

From your results, it appears you're in the market for a **major renovation**. If this sounds right to you, bear in mind that it **might cost a bit more** than you initially planned.

## MORE 'NO'S THAN 'YES'S: (RELATIVELY) MINOR RENO

Your results show suggest you're in the market for a more **basic renovation**. This will cost comparatively less and be a **more attainable** project.

In either result, your next step is to **get a professional opinion**.

Talk to a design-builder with expertise in home kitchen **renovations**. They'll provide a vision and plan for building the kitchen of your dreams.

# New Build --- Checklist





Building a new home or cottage from scratch means building a new kitchen from scratch. This affords you all the freedom afforded by designing without having to factor in existing structures. That said, you'll need to consider how your new kitchen fits in with the rest of the house, its floor plan and structure.

Here's a checklist designed to help you look for the primary elements that go into designing and building your new house's kitchen.

## Section 1:

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## Space

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Will your kitchen be open-concept (no doors)?

Yes

No

Will you have a tile floor (as opposed to linoleum or hardwood)?

Yes

No

Will your kitchen have windows?

Yes

No

Will you need room for a kitchen table?

Yes

No

Do you want a large-size range, as opposed to a standard size?

Yes          No

Do you want a gas range, as opposed to an electric one?

Yes          No

Will you have more than one oven?

Yes          No

Will you have more than one refrigerator?

Yes          No

Will you have a wine fridge?

Yes          No

Do you want an island?

Yes          No

## Section 2: Finishing Touches

Will you be installing a tile backsplash?

Yes

No

Will you be installing a skylight(s)?

Yes

No

Do you want specialty lighting, including under-cabinet lighting?

Yes

No

Do you want solid wood cabinetry?

Yes

No



If yes, do you want low-close drawers and doors?

Yes

No

Do you want solid surface or granite countertops?

Yes

No

## What do your results say?

### MORE 'YES'S THAN 'NO'S: ?


From your results, it appears your kitchen space will need to be larger than average. Accordingly, your kitchen budget will represent a bigger percentage of the total construction cost for your house.

### MORE 'NO'S THAN 'YES'S: ?

Your results show you know to count on including typical kitchen costs in your budget and typical space allowance.

In either result, your next step is to **get a professional opinion.**

Talk to a design-builder with expertise in new home builds who can provide a vision and plan for building the kitchen of your dreams in the house of your dreams.

A kitchen window with a view of trees, a blue vase on the sill, and a bowl of tomatoes on the countertop. The window is white with a white sill. A blue and white patterned vase sits on the sill. Below the window is a white subway tile backsplash. In the foreground, a light-colored speckled countertop holds a small white bowl filled with several red tomatoes. A white sink is visible to the left of the countertop.

Differences  
between a rebuilt  
kitchen and a new  
build



When you're renovating a kitchen within the confines of a home, it's going to be a different challenge than designing your kitchen as part of top-to-bottom house blueprints. But just because you're designing a new home – without an existing structure to consider – doesn't mean you also won't have challenges. Indeed, renovating inside a home can present opportunities for your home and guide your creative ideas.

Depending on your situation – a renovation or a new build – you'll have a checklist of considerations you need to address before drafting plans.

A modern kitchen featuring white cabinetry with silver handles, a stainless steel range with red knobs, and a stone wall. The kitchen has a light-colored countertop and a wooden floor. The text "Getting Started: Next Steps" is overlaid on a dark blue background in the center of the image.

# Getting Started: Next Steps

## Now that you have a better idea about your new kitchen, you'll need to take the following steps to see your plan through to reality.

### Decide on your budget

How much are you willing to invest in the home/cottage and your lifestyle goals?

### Check the website for the range of available kitchen styles

You've got to do your research. See something you like?

### Collect images from the internet

Build your wish list by browsing webpages and magazines and assembling a collection of images. Have them ready at your first meeting with the professional.

### Consider adding energy-saving features or appliances at the same time

They may help to pay for your renovation if the utility bill is lower.

### Find a collaborative, budget-conscious professional

Ideally, the professional you'll work with will give you practical advice on what to do if your budget doesn't allow for all of your dreams. Recruit them to develop a project that suits you and your home, whether it's a new build or an old one in need of a makeover.

### Know and discuss your kitchen goals with your designer/builder

They can help determine if there is enough space to do it.

### If it's a reno, be prepared for contingencies

Until the walls are opened up, you never know what might be behind them.

### Want new appliances? Go shopping early

The designer will need to know the specifications of each one to design.

# About Gilbert and Burke

## The signature of excellence

Gilbert + Burke is an industry leading design-build firm known for signature designs and distinguished excellence. Recognized for consistently delivering flawless communication and impeccable project management, alongside an award-winning cast of designers, artisans, and craftsmen, make Gilbert + Burke the go-to choice for discerning clientele seeking to create elite lifestyle spaces. Gilbert + Burke's design, build and renovation services have been highly sought after in the cottage country hot spots of the Muskokas, Kawartha Lakes, and in areas spanning the GTA for over a decade.

Gilbert + Burke is registered with Tarion, with certification in Energy Star home building, and is a member of the Canadian Home Building Association, Renomark, Canadian Federation of Independent Business, and the Kawartha Lakes and Orillia Chambers of Commerce.

Learn more about **Gilbert + Burke**, and see our portfolio of renovation work at

[www.gilbertburke.ca](http://www.gilbertburke.ca)



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