

Design Session Tools

Below are all of the tools that we have gone through so far in the Design Sessions. The tools I used when remodeling my kitchen are in bold below. Watch these Sessions to get a fuller understanding of the tools and how they apply to your own design process.

Tool 1	The Key Principles of Accessorizing	Tool 17	Moulding and Wall Treatments
Tool 2	Budget Friendly Ways to Buy Accessories	Tool 18	How to Use Fabrics to Pull Things Together
Tool 3	How to Lay Out Your Furniture	Tool 19	Tile for Your Home
Tool 4	Tablescapes and Entertaining for the Fall Season	Tool 20	The Business of Built-Ins
Tool 5	Lighting a Home Perfectly	Tool 21	How to Refresh Your Home
Tool 6	Beautiful Window Treatments	Tool 22	All About the Flooring
Tool 7	Bedroom and Closet Decluttering	Tool 23	The Art of Stone Countertops
Tool 8	Accessorizing for the Spring Season	Tool 24	BONUS: Lighting Trick
Tool 9	Selecting Paint Colors for Your Home	Tool 25	Project Management
Tool 10	Selecting, Placing and Arranging Art	Tool 26	Discovering Your Design Style
Tool 11	Hanging and Placing Wall Decor (3D)	Tool 27	The Transitional Design Style
Tool 12	Furniture Arranging - How to Get it Right	Tool 28	Small Space Design
Tool 13	Tips for Area Rugs	Outdoor 1	How to Boost Your Curb Appeal
Tool 14	Tips for Beautiful Bedding	Outdoor 2	Outdoor Planting with a Pro
Tool 15	Accessorizing to Personalize Your Home	Outdoor 3	Outdoor Decorating Tips
Tool 16	How to Decorate with Throw Pillows	SketchUp	There are 11 Sessions detailing how to use SketchUp in "The Vault" Section

The Kitchen Remodeling Process

Before we hop into designing, please make sure to [click here to sign up for the exclusive Design Sessions member email list!](#)

1. Assess Your Situation (Tool 25)

As always, the first step I take in any design project is to assess what we have got to work with!

- What do you currently like about your kitchen?
- What do you NOT like about your kitchen?
- How does what you want affect your storage?
- Will you be moving plumbing locations or keeping them where they are?

I had waited years to get the kitchen of my dreams and I was not going to waste this opportunity (or any money)! I knew I wanted to get rid of the soffit so that the cabinets could go all the way to the ceiling. I also wanted to eliminate an awkward space that was previously a doorway. These became my priorities when designing.

2. Identify Your Style (Tool 26)

Before you make ANY big decisions, it is important that you really nail down your Design Style! Having a clear vision of the style you want to create will save you from making expensive mistakes or completing your project with a finished result that doesn't feel cohesive. While we have a [quiz on the Kinwoven website](#) that will help you identify your Design Style, we also have an entire Session on this topic (Tool 26)! *For my project, this was incredibly easy for me to identify. I wanted to create a kitchen that looked high-end and updated; tying in the built-ins from the living room. This would mean white cabinetry and Transitional Design Style elements. I also knew that I wanted to create an impressive focal point wall within the kitchen that kept interest as you moved from the living room and dining room.*

KITCHEN LAYOUT TIP:

When designing the layout of your kitchen, place your sink, refrigerator, and cooktop in a triangle pattern.

This creates a functional space that ensures your cooking and prep time is efficient!

3. Consider Your Storage

Of course storage is essential in a kitchen and we all want to maximize it! This is why when it comes to actually designing the kitchen, I start here. It is the first thing that I start putting into my SketchUp model for a kitchen. Now that you have your lists of 'wants' for your new kitchen, you can begin to decide how your cabinetry will support that. It can help create an impressive focal point wall or you may need to decide where you will

compromise or get creative with storage to meet one of your design desires. Begin to determine what type of cabinets and drawers you will use most and where they should be located.

Since I really wanted to have an impressive range and hood on my focal point wall that would not have to compete with cabinets, I had to decide if there were other ways I could maximize my storage space. By having cabinets installed in a U-shape I could maximize my storage while getting rid of the things that I did not enjoy about the kitchen.

4. The Final Design - Create a Floor Plan & Layout (SketchUp Sessions)

Identify where your sink, cooktop, dishwasher, fridge, and pantry will be. Since you've already identified your main design wants for your kitchen, function becomes the name of the game here. Place your big players (sink, cooktop, and fridge) in a triangle layout and work your way on to the smaller details. You want to be thinking about how you need the space to function:

- Where will your pots and pans be located?
- Do you need any specialty storage?
 - Knife Drawer
 - Spice Storage
 - Wine Rack
 - Pantry

During this part of the process I determined that I would opt for versatile storage that could change over time. This allowed me to save money by using cabinet doors instead of a lot of specialty drawers. I also decided to rethink doing a typical pantry and opt for cabinet storage that kept things clean and simple and fit the space.

5. Choose Your Flooring (Tool 22)

I always recommend keeping your flooring consistent. It is one of the best ways to create flow throughout a home! But there are times in certain projects where that is either not practical (within the budget) or not functional (needs to be waterproof). If that is the case, I recommend choosing a tile or another durable material that matches the flooring in the rest of your home.

Flow is so crucial in my mind, that I took the opportunity to upgrade the flooring in the rest of the downstairs. But since I wouldn't be replacing the upstairs it was important that I chose a material that could tie everything together. I used a sample of the flooring from the Beach House as my inspiration when shopping and brought home 11 different samples to be able to see them in the actual place they would be installed. I never buy hardscape without seeing how they interact with the lighting and everything else in the space!

6. Choose Your Stone (Tool 23)

This is may be the part of the process that you have been most excited for and because of that you may be surprised that it does not come earlier. I believe that it is important to nail down your design before you make any purchases of materials (especially ones that may be very costly like a stone slab). Be sure to get a sample when shopping and bring it back to the kitchen to see if it plays nicely with your other materials.

I found an amazing piece of stone that was perfect for my kitchen. It was

white and clean with a beautiful gray marbling. It was also on sale! Win-win!

7. Choose Your Tile (Tool 19)

Tile is another material that makes or breaks the flow in your kitchen. Just like with flooring, I recommend you think about flow when you determine where your tile will be placed. Technically, it is only necessary to have about four to six inches of backsplash in a kitchen - but I always prefer to take tile all the way to the ceiling! When choosing your tile you want to be sure it will complement your other selections and be something that you will enjoy for years to come.

I went with a transitional subway tile in a matte finish because it would help me accomplish the clean and luxe look I was going for without straining my budget. The tile was a selection that saved me a lot of expenditure!

8. Lighting (Tool 5)

Create your lighting plan based on where you need it. A kitchen is a room where you typically work in many different areas so it is important that they are all well-lit. A combination of lighting that highlights your kitchen's design and task lighting is ideal.

I placed two can lights on each side of the range hood to light up my focal point wall - this was a design highlight that turned out fabulous. Then I worked my way around the room and placed a canned light in the center of each cabinet, above the sink, etc. so that no matter where you are working in the kitchen it is evenly lit.

9. Manage Your Project (Tool 25)

It's important to note that if you are working on either a tight budget or a tight timeline it is crucial that whoever is in charge of your project stays on top of things.

Because I didn't have a general contractor, this was one of the most important parts of the remodeling process! I've included some resources on the next couple pages for you when planning your own kitchen remodel whether you are working with a limited budget or on a fast timeline - or both!

WAYS TO SAVE ON COST:

- Keep appliances close to the same location (moving plumbing is expensive)
- Choose a high-end layout, but more affordable materials (tile, stone, etc.)
- Choose cabinet doors instead of drawers
- Opt for simple cabinet faces (like shaker cabinets and plank drawers)
- Don't overbuy on stone (let the marbling/material land where it does and consider getting creative where you cannot have it reach the full length)
- Shop around to find material selections that are on sale
- Skip lighting on the inside of drawers and cabinets

AREAS WORTH SPENDING ON:

- Tile Installer: a quality job is worth every penny spent
- Creating Flow: it can require more quantity of material but is a principle of great design
- Cooking Range and Hood (I went with a 48" instead of standard 36")
- Hardware: great hardware really elevates your kitchen
- Catching mistakes: if you've found a mistake it is cheaper to fix it sooner rather than later
- Updating any outdated architecture: you can only hide it for so long - if you're remodeling then it is time to get rid of any eyesores

My Timeline & Budget

August 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Water Leak		SketchUp Kitchen	Shop for Flooring	Design Kitchen	Meet w/Contractor
				Base Cabinets Removed		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Contractor Review Plans			Contractor Contact		
	Water Remediation					
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

September 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
			Downstairs Furniture Removed Shop for Stone & Tile	Took Flooring Sample to Stone Yard to Confirm Choices	Shopped for Appliances & Plumbing Fixtures	Create Lighting Plan in SketchUp
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Meet w/ Electrician Contact Stone Fabricator for Site Visit	Entire Kitchen Demolition			Rewire Kitchen & Lighting	Move Water & Gas Lines Install New Vent for Range Hood	Drywall & Ceiling Repair
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Mud & Texture Walls	Finish Flooring Demolition	Cabinets Built		Cabinet Installation		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Flooring Installed					Lighting
Cabinet Installation						
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
Lighting	Ceiling Painted	Cabinet Bases Painted In Place	Counter Top Templated			

October 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Floating Shelf Design Correction Countertops Installed	Tile Backsplash Installed		Appliances Installed	Plumbing Fixtures Installed Hardware Selection	Canned Lighting
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Cabinet Door & Drawer Faces Installed	Organized & Placed Kitchen Goods	Finishing Touches!			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

EXPENSES	
Flooring (Demo, Material, Installation, & Baseboards Replaced)	\$5,000
Cabinets	\$19,373
Hardware	\$600
Tile & Stone	\$2,702
Plumber	\$762
Drywall Repair	\$1,600
Painter	\$1,907
Demo of Cabinets & Countertops	\$2,009
Stone & Tile Installation	\$4,920
Appliances	\$7,175
Electrician & Lighting	\$1,500
Total expenses	\$47,548



