

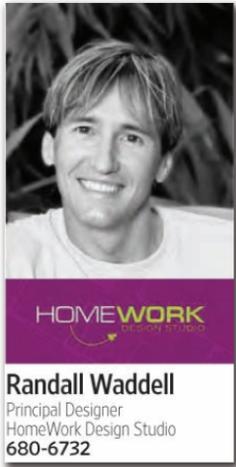
Success is in the PLANS



BEFORE RENOVATION



AFTER RENOVATION



Like everything in life, if you take the time to make a plan, whether it is for education, finances, work or vacation, then more than likely it will be a success. This remains true for any renovation, new construction or remodel done to your home.

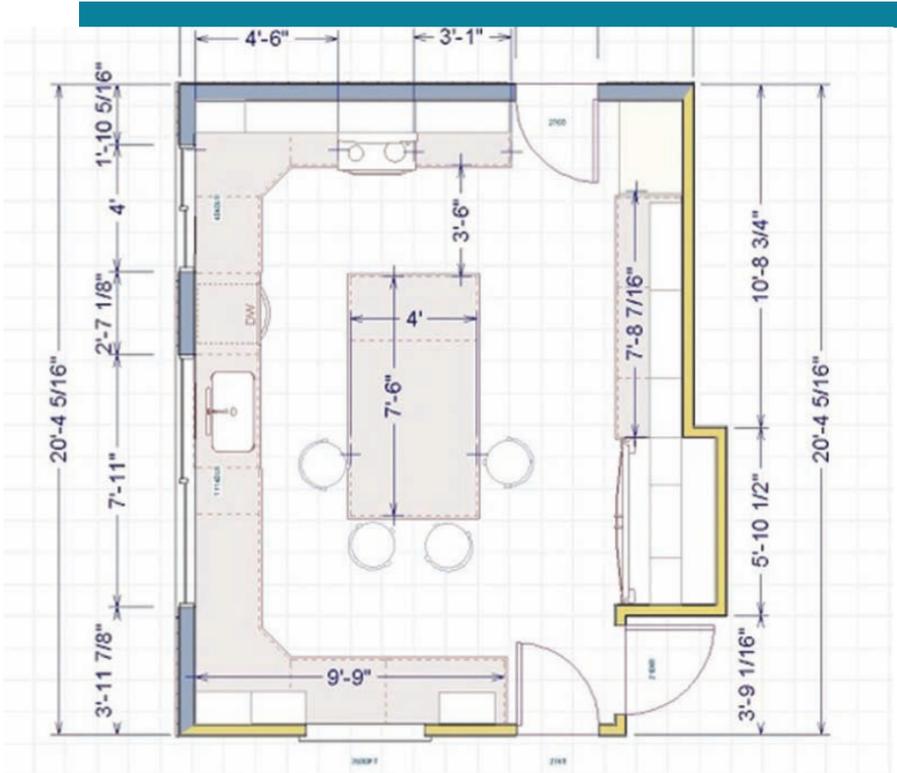
The kitchen is without a doubt the hardest working room in any home. If it doesn't function well, you don't function well, and therefore this, more than any other room in the home, needs some serious professional planning!

The images of the kitchen in this article are of a recent project completed by Home-

Work Design Studio and will help to illustrate the process of planning the space. As an Interior Designer, I must first take the "naked" space into account - even if there is an existing layout or not - as depending on the guidelines from the client, that space will dictate what the future plan will hold.



3D Illustrated Conceptual View



Specification Plan

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So we start with the specifications plan, which will represent the layout of the proposed new kitchen with all the dimensions of the space with its existing windows, electrical and plumbing. We use the opportunity to revise the plan for the new space to include cabinetry, appliances, countertops, flooring, window treatments, ventilation, electrical and plumbing. This gives the foundation to start creating what would become the elevations and 3D views of what the new concept for the kitchen will look like.

This is always important as it will be the first representation that the client will see and they can start to visualise from the conceptual drawings what they should expect of the design.

The plan is also the first step in giving the designer the tools to create the budget for all the required elements that make the space. It will tell the designer the quantity of cabinetry and counter space required to specific measurements so that it can be costed appropriately by the supplier/manufacturer of the cabinets. It tells us the size of each appliance and what specifics we may want out of each of those items. It guides us as to the works needed for electrical and plumbing, the area available for backsplash finishes and the direction in which the lighting plan and ventilation and ceiling design will take us. All of this is needed to create the budget for client review, this is when we now have the total

dollar value of what the conceptual design will cost to build and install from a materials, labour and finishes perspective.

The plan allows each contractor and supplier to fully understand what is expected of them and thus the time and cost for execution is understood by the client. This of course allows for educated decisions about how to move forward as they can see the whole picture for the first time; it removes the risk, the guess-work and the nerves that come with large renovation investments such as a kitchen. Considering that the kitchen is also the most important room, other than bathrooms, that adds direct value to your home, it is important to get the plan right. This is the only time that you, as a client, have the opportunity to create a space that is designed to function with the correct design sensibilities for such a space but also allows special consideration to how you live in the space. The size of your family, how the room is used, for entertaining or not, the level of use - are you a Cordon Bleu Chef or an amateur or simply want a trophy kitchen? Those realities are what guide the plan and the decisions for the choices that go into the space in the end.

However you look at it, in any kitchen or any room in your home and /or in your life, a plan makes for a successful result; and success usually brings happiness - and who could argue with that?