

CABINET DESIGN 101

Design Should Reflect Your Style

Great design should feel almost effortless. However, achieving that look takes both intention and planning. When it comes to cabinetry, the right design balances beauty with function. Whether you follow a traditional design process and principles or decide to go against general rules, these tips will help you create a space that reflects your stylistic preferences and works for your lifestyle.

Getting Inspiration

The best ideas often start off as bookmarks, screenshots, or clippings. To begin developing your cabinet design and overall room aesthetic, immerse yourself in inspiration. Look through magazines, browse online galleries, download apps such as Pinterest, and visit showrooms. This basic exploration should help you to identify different colors, textures, and styles that speak to you.

Visualize It

Once you've gathered some general inspiration, try to sketch a rough layout of your ideas. Don't worry about perfection—this is just a first draft. You could even take it a step further by using painter's tape to measure out your design directly in the room. Trying to get ideas out of your head and out in front of you is critical to achieving the final result you desire.



Establishing a Focal Point

While not required, most well-designed rooms have a focal point. It might be a breathtaking view, a specific piece of furniture, or a unique architectural feature. If you have an idea for a focal point, trying to design and build your cabinetry to highlight and compliment the feature helps to bring the rest of the room together.

Prioritize Function

Style is important, but function is essential. Think through how the space will be used daily. Talk with others who will use it and identify potential obstacles. Will cabinet doors block key walkways? Are appliances placed in convenient locations? What will be the most utilized areas? Keeping functionality in mind throughout the entirety of the planning and design process will help ensure that your space will be effective in daily use.

Design Tips

- **Put it in Writing:** Describe your ideal room style in detail—capturing your vision in words can help to clarify the direction you want the design to follow.
- **Using Samples:** Gather physical samples of paint, flooring, countertops, and any other applicable materials to see how they interact in real lighting.
- **Repetition and Continuity:** A cohesive space often uses recurring elements such as shapes, finishes, patterns, or colors to tie everything together. Whether its matching wood tones across cabinetry and flooring or echoing trim styles throughout the room, thoughtful repetition creates harmony.
- **Invest in Quality:** High-quality materials not only elevate your design—they also ensure durability and longevity. Allocate your budget toward long-lasting materials where it matters the most.