



WHY GIVE YOUR KITCHEN DESIGNER A BUDGET

Budgeting and planning are the fundamental basics to consider before embarking on a kitchen renovation. Working with a budget is like giving children rules and guidelines – it allows for security and gives clear direction. Your designer is there to be guided by you in order to ultimately deliver a finished product that is pleasing to both you and your pocket. It is unfair to have the expectation that they are going to deliver the desired result if they do not know what they have to work with. Establishing these boundaries allows for peace of mind, as well as avoiding disappointment.

Your designer is key in helping you achieve your end project within your budget. Each choice you make will have an effect on your budget. Once your designer knows exactly what you want to spend, they can set about selecting and advising you on the different options available and their impact on your budget.

It is possible to manufacture a kitchen with a particular look and feel for a variety of different prices. The final cost will be dictated by your choice of materials, what hardware you opt for and how your kitchen is designed. This is where it is really important that your designer works cleverly and endeavours to give you the best quality products available within your budget. When you bring a photograph of a kitchen to the designer to show them what you like they can either replicate that product as is in more costly finishes like high gloss duco and veneer or they can copy the look and feel in wrap or even melamine.

It is also important to note that the more drawers and cupboard doors you have the more your kitchen will cost. By reducing the number of drawers and opting for 1200 sized cupboard units with two 600 doors instead of a variety of 300 and 450 doors the cost of the kitchen can be drastically reduced. This is because the more drawers and smaller cupboard doors the more material and hardware is used.

We so often hear consumers say that a particular company is too expensive but the truth is that the consumer has given them no idea of how much they are prepared to spend so the

company has quoted on the best materials in their range maximising storage and using life-time guarantee hardware. If the consumer had given then an idea of their budget the company would have been able to come back with a proposal suitable to that budget.

A helpful hint would be to give the designer some budget parameters. For example, that they have between R75 000 and R100 000 to play with. Ask them to do you a quote using all the bells and whistles your budget will allow and another being more conservative. You can then compare the two and pull out those special extras in the more expensive quote that you like and come to a comfortable compromise between the two.

To conclude we suggest you do three things before you meet with your kitchen designer. Firstly, have an idea of what you want look and feel wise. Collect some pictures to help the designer understand your aesthetical preferences. Secondly, have a brief. Why are you doing this revamp, to add value to the property for resale or to make a warm family space? In the brief you should note any objectives you have like maximising storage space or opening up a dark corner of your home. Also, make note of any 'must haves' like stone tops or a pull out pantry. This all helps show your designer how to allocate your funds. Finally and most importantly empower your designer to do the best job they can for you by giving them your budget. It will not only save time but also put you and the designer on the right foot to see the job to completion.