

HOBSON'S
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YOUR 2021 KITCHEN PROJECT - GETTING STARTED GUIDE

THE GUIDE COVERS

- Questions for you to think about
- Research starting points
- Preparation to help your designer
- Questions for your designer

QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. What do you like about your current kitchen?

Examples - The layout works well, lots of natural light, the position in the house is perfect for views out into the garden.

2. What do you dislike about your current kitchen?

Examples - The furniture is looking tired, small appliances are cluttering the work surfaces, when you are cooking nothing is within easy-reach.

3. What do you wish to spend, in total, on your project?

Bear in mind you may be thinking about more than simply kitchen furniture and appliances. Flooring, lighting, heating and decoration all need to play a part in your plan.

4. What do you want your finished space to be?

Examples - Is it a social cooking / dining room, will it become an open-plan area, or have you always wanted to cook a certain type of food but haven't had the right appliances?

5. How do you want your new space to feel?

A number of elements fall into this question, from your taste in colour and style through to the functions you wish the room to achieve. Examples - Warm, textured, light and airy, glossy, matte, social, sleek, rustic.

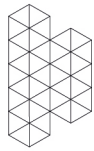
For inspiration, I'd look in the following areas:

MAGAZINES

- Kitchens, Bedrooms and Bathrooms
- Elle Decoration
- Living etc
- 25 Beautiful Homes
- Ideal Home
- House and Garden

WEBSITES

- Pinterest
- Houzz
- Homify
- Hobson's Choice (the Projects section in particular)



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ORGANISING YOUR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS

When you are collating your ideas and inspiration, Pinterest, 'mood boards' or 'scrap books' are very useful for reference. Carefully organised, they can support discussions later in the process. These are the sections I would use to organize my thoughts, you can obviously choose whatever you like.

- Colours and Textures - walls, kitchen furniture, worktops, wall panelling
- Kitchen Style - modern (flat panel, shaker, framed door, classic (decorative)
- Room Layout - kitchen / dining, open plan, kitchen
- Appliances - ovens, steam oven / microwave, hobs, extractors, fridge / freezer, wine cooler, extractors, hot water tap, dishwasher
- Flooring - tiles, wood, concrete
- Lighting - hidden, ceiling, dining, cooking
- Heating - radiators, underfloor

BEING PREPARED

Every showroom worth your time will have designers on-hand to talk about their services, their kitchen furniture, design process and recommended appliances. To ensure you visit the right place for your project, take time to research the companies you believe meet your wish-list.

A company's website is very often the first port-of-call for clients exploring ideas and styles. By spending time looking at previous project case studies, client testimonials, the history of the company and their recommended suppliers you should be able to gather a good understanding of what they can offer, their reputation and their client satisfaction.

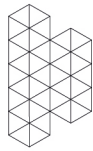
Social media channels are also a great way of learning about a company, the staff and the projects they work on. If you are lucky you might even find a client that has documented a project in photos.

THINGS TO TAKE WHEN YOU MEET A DESIGNER

- A plan of the space - measure the whole room including windows, doors and waste pipe locations
- Your Scrapbook or Mood boards - A printed or electronic version of your research and preferences
- Photos of your current kitchen

A plan of the whole property and its compass position (if possible.) This doesn't have to be accurately measured, just a sketch of the layout will help your designer understand the flow of the property and the direction of natural light

All of this information will enable you and your designer to have a meaningful conversation and begin to shape the brief he or she will need to do their job. Good designers will begin to build a picture of your requirements from the moment they meet you.



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Over a coffee I would expect you will be asked a number of questions such as:

- How many people live at the property?
- What sort of food do you like to cook?
- Do you have any pets?
- What sort of lifestyle do you lead?
- Do you have any particular requirements I would need to consider?

My advice is to be as open and honest as you can. Your designer is doing exactly what they feel is required to understand you and what you would like from your future space.

When speaking to the designer you need to ask questions to help you make an informed decision as to whether they can offer you what you need and whether you will feel comfortable working with them. Here are some suggestions of things you could ask.

1. What services do you offer?

- Design & Build - is it all done by the same company?
- Supply Only - How does that work for a kitchen as an element of design is required beforehand?
- Minor remedial works - What can be done?
- Other Rooms - If your project includes another space like a Bathroom can this be designed at the same time?

2. Can you explain the process to me?

Let the Designer walk you through every stage, from design, presentation and payment schedules to project planning, installation and sign off.

3. How long does an average design and build take (understanding every project is different)?

There are many deviating factors that can speed up or delay a project outside of the control of the designer. However, they should have an idea of how a 'normal' project would progress.

4. Who manages the installation phase, would I have a key-contact?

Different companies control their processes in different ways. At Hobson's Choice a client has a single point of contact from the very start, their Design Consultant. We believe they become the best person to see the project management phase through, they have the greatest understanding of both project and client.

5. What after-care and warranties are provided?

Check the details of what is covered and for how long.

6. Do you work with other professionals such as Architects, Builders and Interior Designers?

If your project requires additional building work, or is a new build, it would be reassuring to know the company has experience of working alongside other trades and collaborating with other design professionals.

I wish you all the luck in the world as you begin this exciting, and sometimes challenging, journey.

Best wishes

Richard Carter
Hobson's Choice. Managing Director