

Home Architecture to Kitchen Style Fit Guide

A quick reference for picking a kitchen direction that works with your home's architecture instead of against it. Use it as a starting point with your designer, not a final decision on its own.

Century and pre-war homes

- ☐ Fits well: traditional shaker, transitional with furniture-style details, painted inset cabinetry.
- ☐ Be careful with: handle-free high-gloss slab doors and ultra-minimal European-flat cabinetry.
- ☐ Consider: brass or aged-finish hardware to echo original door hardware.
- ☐ Consider: keeping upper cabinet height proportional to taller original ceilings.

1980s to 1990s suburban homes

- ☐ Fits well: transitional, updated shaker with simplified trim, warm modern.
- ☐ Be careful with: heavy ornate raised-panel doors that repeat the original builder-grade look.
- ☐ Consider: simplifying trim details elsewhere in the room to support a cleaner cabinet line.
- ☐ Consider: a furniture-style island to soften a larger open footprint.

New-build and contemporary homes

- ☐ Fits well: flat-panel modern, minimalist transitional, handleless slab cabinetry.
- ☐ Be careful with: heavily ornate traditional cabinetry with dense moulding.
- ☐ Consider: letting large windows and open sightlines guide a simpler cabinet profile.
- ☐ Consider: a mixed-material island to add warmth without adding ornamentation.

Bungalow and post-war ranch homes

- ☐ Fits well: simplified shaker, light transitional, farmhouse-leaning traditional.
- ☐ Be careful with: oversized islands and tall upper cabinets that fight lower ceilings.
- ☐ Consider: open shelving in place of some upper cabinets to keep sightlines open.
- ☐ Consider: a lighter colour palette to help a compact footprint feel larger.

Before you order anything

- ☐ Bring one paint chip and one hardware sample into the room in daylight before committing.
- ☐ Photograph your existing trim, window casing, and door hardware for reference.
- ☐ If your plan changes layout, plumbing, or structural walls, confirm requirements with your local building department first.
- ☐ Ask your designer to show cabinetry samples next to your existing trim, not just in a showroom.

This guide is general design guidance only. Styles, products, and building requirements change and vary by home. Kitchen and Bath Reno is not liable for outcomes from decisions made based on this content. Confirm specific plans with a designer or licensed contractor for your home.