



## Outlaw Design Company

Ruth Ellen Outlaw

1186 Old Lynchburg Road  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903  
434 971 9914 w/h 434 996 7849 c

[reoutlaw@earthlink.net](mailto:reoutlaw@earthlink.net) [outlawdesigncompany.com](http://outlawdesigncompany.com)

# Kitchen Design Considerations

The kitchen, previously the invisible domain of servants, is now the hub of the house that can function in multiple ways. Cooking, of course, is the primary function, but it is also a place where families connect, entertain, and relax, where kids work on homework, where school paperwork is organized, where junk mail is recycled, etc., etc.

Here is a list of questions that will help us design a kitchen well-suited to your particular household.

What is the composition of your family, and what are their ages?

Do you plan to “age in place” in your home?

Who in your household does the majority of the cooking?

Is the cooking shared between one or more people?

Are there children in the house that like to cook?

Does anyone in the household have a disability?

What types of cooking do you do? For example: vegetarian, ethnic, baking, home garden-sourced, etc.

If you have guests over for meals, where do they hang out while you’re cooking? Where would you like them to be?

What interior rooms other than the dining room would you like your kitchen to directly connect to? For example: breakfast room, family room, playroom, utility room, mudroom, garage, butler’s pantry, walk-in pantry, pantry closet, broom closet, etc.

What outdoor rooms would you like your kitchen to connect to? For example, screened porch, deck, back yard, etc.

Do you like to eat outside?

What kind of separation between the dining room and kitchen do you prefer? In other words, if you're having a dinner party, what degree of isolation, if any, from the kitchen do you want?

Do you eat in your dining room regularly or is it used primarily when you have dinner guests?

Do you have large numbers of family members come to your house for Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, or other holidays?

Do you like to serve buffet style at dinner parties?

Where are the quiet rooms of the house, such as bedrooms, relative to the kitchen? Is noise from the kitchen an issue?

Do you like to listen to music or watch television in the kitchen?

How do you recycle?

Do you compost?

Do you have a land line telephone, and if so, where do you keep the base for the cordless phone?

Would you like a home organizing center with, for example, a desk, file drawers, bulletin board, bookshelves, etc. adjacent to the kitchen?

How many shelves of cookbooks do you have?

What do you primarily use your microwave for?

Do you like your small appliances, such as a stand mixer and food processor, to sit on the countertop between uses or be put away?

Do you have an espresso machine?

How many cubic feet is your current refrigerator? Is it adequately sized?

How many burners does your current range have? Are there enough?

Do you prefer a gas, electric, electric induction burners?

Would you like a convection or a conventional oven?

Would you like a warming drawer, ice maker, beverage refrigerator, wine cooler, or any other non-standard appliance installed in your new kitchen?

Do you prefer the separate appliances of wall oven and cooktop or a range, which has both functions?

Would you like your dishes to be stored in a glass doored cabinet or would you rather they remain unseen?

What kind of flooring do you prefer in your kitchen?

Do you purchase from stores like Sam's Club or Costco and need space to store bulk items?

Do you feel comfortable using a step stool to reach items in higher cabinets?

Do you want ceramic tile on the walls between the base cabinets and the upper cabinets?

Are you the kind of person who would be willing to apply sealant to a countertop every few months, or do you want a maintenance-free countertop?

Have you seen photos of kitchens online or in magazines that exemplify the feeling or look that you'd like for your new kitchen?

What do you like about your current kitchen?

What do you dislike about your current kitchen?

Thinking back on kitchens you've lived in or visited, which ones stood out as rooms you really enjoyed being in, and why? Which ones stood out as rooms you've felt uncomfortable in, and why?

What would you like your kitchen to say about you?