

MIDWEST DESIGN

THE MAGAZINE FOR FINE INTERIOR DESIGN, BUILDING & ARCHITECTURE

A PEEK INSIDE:

2024 DESIGN AWARDS



[BUZZ]

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ABOVE: O'Hara Interiors brings visions to life with a Mediterranean-style kitchen perfect for hosting.

LEFT: Boasting brass finishes, a restaurant-grade Maestro stove, and custom cabinetry in the homeowners' favorite color, this Lake Minnetonka kitchen—also designed by O'Hara Interiors—was specifically tailored for a chef.

What Does a \$100,000 Kitchen Look Like?

No two humble (or not-so-humble) abodes are created equal. For homeowners tackling the most luxurious remodeling project of all—the kitchen—luxury encapsulates a daily feeling shaped by your tastes, wants, and needs, along with that certain *je ne sais quoi* that distinguishes a space executed with the finest materials and impeccable craftsmanship. Of course, this brings us to money—the only vehicle that can deliver the ubiquitous promise of your dream kitchen. We asked local experts where a \$100,000 budget stands in today's market and what clients can expect for a kitchen remodel that's one zero shy of a million.

According to Scott Archambault, sales manager at Ansum & Ash, a \$100,000 kitchen remodel falls in the middle range of luxury. He notes that clients typically allocate 18% to 20% of the budget to countertops, which can rise to 22% to 25% when they opt for full-height backsplashes—an increasingly popular trend in the industry. "Clients are all going natural stone in the form of different quarries, such as styles like Taj Mahal and Bianco Superiore," says Archambault. "The blocks that move well are lighter tone with some warmth to them."

The best way to maximize a \$100,000 kitchen remodel is by working with remodelers who offer a concierge construction approach, according to Leena Heiman, owner of MCC Kitchen, Bath & Closet Remodeling.

In fact, she recently finished an impressive kitchen in Eden Prairie, where the fully custom cabinetry and countertop alone cost about \$80,000. Heiman says, "If 3-inch increments don't restrict your design, then semi-custom cabinetry could be a good option—allowing you to allocate more of the budget to other parts of the kitchen, such as appliances or flooring."

But Gabrielle Lindberg, senior designer at O'Hara Interiors, says the price points are as variable as the projects. "Luxury can be experienced in any size of space and at any price point," she says. "It's a matter of perspective and personal taste, so it's different for everyone."

As with everything in construction, costs ultimately come down to the materials, products, and labor involved. "Material costs are more standardized than ever, thanks to the internet and online retailers," says Lindberg. "However, labor costs can vary greatly and impact the final cost of any remodeling project. The lakes region and coastal areas tend to have higher labor costs than other parts of the country."

The consensus? There isn't a standard for what a \$100,000 kitchen remodel should look like, as projects can be as unique as the homeowners, their goals, and finances. Each kitchen expert agrees they have yet to see a client who stayed within budget regret revamping the most used and discussed room in any home. —JV

PHOTOS: SHARON KATZ/STUDIO JENSEN



Bravo TV's Craig Conover Brought 'Southern Charm' to the Minneapolis Home + Remodeling Show

Craig Conover, star of "Southern Charm" and co-founder of popular lifestyle brand Sewing Down South, was a featured guest at the Minneapolis Home + Remodeling Show at U.S. Bank Stadium in late January. Conover, known for his passion for sewing, crafting, and home improvement, shared his journey from starring on Bravo TV to creating a successful home goods brand.

Conover's company started from his desire to make a simple pillow and has since grown into a full-fledged business. Sewing Down South's offerings include everyday products like kitchen goods, candles, blankets, and accessories, but primarily focus on Conover's mainstay, pillows. Both indoor and outdoor products, including inserts, comprise most of his curated collections. "It has been really fun to give light to crafting again and to show people it's okay to embrace side hustles and creative projects," he says. "Whether you're doing it for fun or business, it's about doing what makes you happy." sewingdownsouth.com —AT

Editors' Picks: Local Shopping Spotlights

CURIOSITY HOME, curiosityhomedecor.com
THE FOUNDRY HOME GOODS, thefoundryhomegoods.com
FOX & WILLOW SHOP, foxandwillow.com
HAYLOFT STUDIOS, hayloftstudioschaska.com
THE JUNE HOUSE, thejunehouse.com
MARTINPATRICK 3, martinpatrick3.com
PETEK TRADING CO., petektradingco.com
STYLE SOCIETY, stylesocietymn.com
TIMBER & TULIP, timberandtulip.com
VIVID HOME, vividhomepn.com

PHOTOS: KEMRA LUTY BLAKE; SHOOTING: SHARON KATZ/STUDIO JENSEN

Cut the Clutter

Imagine coming home to a space that feels serene, stress-free, and superbly organized—what do you see? Some might picture a color-coded closet, dedicated storage spaces, and stacks of bins with neatly typed labels that clearly distinguish their contents. Others might envision wicker baskets, ottomans, and drawers that discreetly hide the daily clutter.

The truth is, organization is not a "one size fits all" concept. As one of 78 people across the globe who have achieved Master Certified status of a KonMari Method Organizer, Melissa Klug, owner and chief clutter conqueror at Twin Cities-based Home By Eleven, says personally type plays a big role in determining the best organization strategies to ensure lasting success. "Generally, Type A people need to know exactly where everything is, with labels and very sensible places to put everything, (while) Type B people might need a little bit more flexibility to adopt a more laid-back approach to organizing," she explains. Klug's advice? Be honest with yourself and focus on what works for you. "No matter where you're starting, organization is achievable!" homebyeleven.com —ER

