

# The Art of Kitchen Design: Planning for Comfort and Style

*Johnny Grey*

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#3879303 in Books 1995-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 12.75 x 9.50 x .75l, #File Name: 0304343846176 pages | File size: 64.Mb

**Johnny Grey : The Art of Kitchen Design: Planning for Comfort and Style** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Art of Kitchen Design: Planning for Comfort and Style:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. The finest kitchen design book I have ever seen. By A Customer  
Designing a kitchen is an excruciating task for most homeowners. The restrained and often stale design palette of most kitchen designers compounds the difficulty. Far too many "dream kitchens" are nothing more than expensive appliances attached to row upon horizontal row of bland cabinets and continuous work surfaces. Not only is this esthetically uninteresting, but these modern designs are often not fully functional and detract from the spatial beauty of older homes. John Grey dares to be different. While decidedly modern in material choice and functionality, his kitchens evoke the flavor and visual beauty of older kitchens. The book is superbly illustrated with examples of his work. Mr. Grey's book is a passionate treatise on how to create a stunning yet fully functional kitchen interior. His ideas are provocative, among them a banishment of upper cabinets and a mixing of lower cabinet styles and height. The book is not a "how-to" book, it has scale drawings and colour pictures, but its focus is on the principles and not the particulars of kitchen remodelling. The audience of this book will be those who desire something different and special in a kitchen. It is an essential read for anyone planning a kitchen remodel and is of particular importance to those who have older homes.  
7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A new way to think about kitchen design. By Charles Buck (billnjae@earthlink.net) I am a professional cabinetmaker and designer. Johnny Grey's book opened my eyes to a new way of thinking about and designing kitchens for the way we use them in our modern

lifestyles. It is easily the most inspirational book I have ever seen on the subject. I fully recommend this book to anyone in the trade wanting to take a fresh look at their craft. In general, cabinetry from the big mass manufacturers are inadequate to fulfill Johnny's ideas, because his whole design philosophy represents a new paradigm not yet integrated into our general culture. Therefore I do not recommend this book to the average homeowner wanting to remodel their kitchen unless they have a reasonable budget and can think creatively. And oh, yes, you are willing to establish a working relationship with an open minded cabinet maker skilled at custom design as well!

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Expensive cabinetry - big kitchens  
By A Customer  
The biggest difficulty I had with this book is that nothing is standard. I guess that's the whole point. However the majority of the kitchens in this book require custom cabinetry. If you can do that yourself, you're in luck and this book is for you. However if you do not have a \$30k budget for cabinetry to store your food and dishes then this book will do little to help you design your kitchen. The kitchens shown are mostly huge with a few exceptions and even the exceptions are using tens of thousands of dollars of custom cabinetry. If all you need are ideas of what is possible, browse through this book in a library or bookstore. If you need real life examples of what can be done with a small to medium size kitchen on the same size budget, forget this book. It won't help.

Moving away from the idea of the kitchen as merely functional and "fitted", this work provides guidelines to designing kitchens. As well as case studies, ideas and opportunities prompt the imagination.

From Library Journal  
British kitchen designer Grey is a champion of "unfitted kitchens" a "well-planned mixture of free-standing furniture and architectural fittings" as opposed to the "fitted kitchens" of built-ins and uniform cabinets that became popular in suburban America in the 1950s and 1960s. Here he details his approach to kitchen design, beginning with the social role and development of kitchens from the 17th century to the present. Although he does discuss kitchen design broadly, the styles depicted represent Grey's philosophy of "unfitted kitchens." A basic kitchen design planning book, such as Elaine Martin Petrowski's *Dream Kitchen Planning* (Pedigree, 1996), is recommended as a first choice, but this one is a good addition if kitchen design is a popular topic.  
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From Booklist  
It certainly can jump start a career to be related to a celebrated personage in a similar line of work--in this case, Johnny Grey to much-beloved food writer Elizabeth David. Talent, however, will always triumph over genes. So despite not-so-humble beginnings, this British architect and kitchen designer has produced some of the most innovative yet comfortable all-purpose rooms around, starting with his aunt's winter and summer kitchens. His philosophy is key to the aesthetics shown: a kitchen has become more than just a space for cooking, and its furniture--not fitted cabinets--must reflect the owner's activities. Included among his idiosyncrasies in the dozen or so kitchens illustrated and written about are the use of inlays, whimsical pane decorations, plate and hanging racks, and freestanding dressers and cupboards, along with an insistence on the very best in materials and craftsmanship. A true dream and wish book, because only a few can afford the results from a man Metropolitan Home honors as the "world's best kitchen designer." Barbara Jacobs  
Is the kitchen a work space or a living space? Most people today would surely answer that it's both--the average household spends more time in the kitchen than any other room in the home. Yet in many houses and apartments, the kitchen is the "Cinderella" room--at best a purely functional area to be clothed in efficient-looking cupboards, appliances, and surfaces, or cluttered with unattractive tables and stools. Break the mold, and discover how a kitchen can be efficient and contemporary, yet at the same time offer traditional comfort and style as an elegant living space. Indulge in this lavishly illustrated volume, with over 150 superb color photographs, offering solutions for every type of kitchen space, from large and lofty to small and awkward. A superb work by a world-famous kitchen designer, essential for everyone interested in rethinking their kitchen. -- From the Publisher