

KURZ & CO
BESPOKE CABINETRY · SUNSHINE COAST

The Bespoke Kitchen

Planning Guide

A considered approach to commissioning a kitchen built around how you actually live.

Before You Begin

A bespoke kitchen is one of the largest investments you'll make in your home — and one of the few that's genuinely custom-built around you, rather than adapted from someone else's standard sizes. This guide is written for homeowners who are serious about getting it right: not the fastest option, or the cheapest, but the one that's made properly and lasts.

Work through it before your first conversation with a cabinetmaker. It won't just save you time — it will help you ask sharper questions and recognise the difference between a flat-pack quote and a genuine trade.

1. Define the Brief

Every good kitchen starts with a clear brief, not a Pinterest board. Before you think about finishes, get clear on:

- What isn't working in your current kitchen — be specific (storage, bench space, flow, natural light)
- Who uses the kitchen, how often, and for what — everyday cooking, entertaining, a household with kids, a passionate cook
- Whether you're renovating to enjoy the home long-term, or to prepare it for sale
- Any fixed constraints — structural walls, plumbing and electrical points, window and door positions

2. Layout & Flow

Layout has more impact on how a kitchen feels day-to-day than any finish choice. Consider the classic "work triangle" between fridge, sink and cooktop, but also think about traffic flow if more than one person cooks at once, and where you naturally want to land groceries, mail and school bags when you walk in.

A good cabinetmaker will challenge your assumptions here — the best layout isn't always the one you arrived with.

3. Storage & Functionality

This is where bespoke earns its price over off-the-shelf. Think beyond "more cupboards" to how you actually store things:

- Deep drawers versus doors for pots, pans and appliances
- Dedicated zones — bin and recycling, pantry, appliance garage, bench-top charging
- Corner solutions that don't waste dead space
- Integrated versus freestanding appliances, and where they sit in the layout

4. Materials & Construction

This is where the real quality differences show up — and where they're easiest to hide in a quote. Ask about:

- Carcass material — moisture-resistant MDF or ply, and board thickness
- Door and panel finishes — 2-pack polyurethane, laminate, timber veneer — and how each wears over time
- Hardware — soft-close hinges and runners, and the brand behind them
- Benchtop material — stone, engineered stone, laminate or timber, and its suitability for how you cook

A genuinely custom cabinetmaker works from your final drawings and measurements — nothing is trimmed to fit on-site after the fact.

5. Budget, Realistically

Bespoke cabinetry is priced on the complexity of the design, the materials specified and the number of custom elements — not a flat rate per metre. Be wary of any quote given before a design exists; a genuine number can only follow a proper design and measure.

A considered process typically looks like: initial consultation, a paid design phase that produces real drawings, a fixed quote against those drawings, then a staged payment schedule tied to the build — deposit on acceptance, a progress payment once materials are ordered, and the balance on completion.

6. Questions Worth Asking Any Cabinetmaker

- Are you a licensed and insured trade, and can I see that documentation?
- Do you design and manufacture in-house, or manage subcontractors?
- What's included in the quote, and what typically comes up as a variation?
- What's your realistic timeline from signed quote to installation?
- Can I see examples of finished work, ideally similar in scope to mine?

Ready for the Next Step?

If you're at the stage of turning ideas into a real design, Kurz & Co offers a dedicated design consultation — a proper measure, brief and concept process that produces drawings you can actually quote and build from, not a rough sketch on a napkin.

Get in touch to book your design consultation and start your kitchen properly.