

As featured in the June 2007 issue of *Mpls/St. Paul Magazine*:
"36 Great Remodeling Tips," by Jane di Leo

KITCHENS TO GO

If your kitchen is a room you avoid (and not just because of your distaste for cooking), then it might be time for an overhaul. Laura Orfield delves into what you need to know, and say, when remodeling your kitchen.



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15 ONE-STOP SHOP

If you want your vision of the perfect kitchen carried out seamlessly, consider finding a design/build company that can carry your project through the entire process: aiding in material selection, meeting and managing inspectors, and coordinating with all the trades.

16 DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Tell a designer your taste, family dynamics, and interests—all things that affect how your family functions in the space. Think about details such as material and style of cabinets, type of countertops, and flooring materials—all of which affect pricing. This will help the cost be consistent with your desires.

17 BE OPEN

Although you might have exactly what you want in mind, remember that alternative creative solutions might exist. A design/build contractor might have an idea that better fits your desires and budget.

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18 PUSH THE BOUNDARIES

Don't be afraid of using color or opening the kitchen up to the living and dining rooms.

19 COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Be honest with your designer about your lifestyle, inspiration, and especially your budget. "Do you need more ovens, extra sinks, places for children to do homework; [or] detailed spaces such as pantries, wine racks, cookbook storage?" asks Orfield. If you have a photo of a kitchen that represents what you want, show it to the designer.