

Homeowners On A Budget Can Cook Up The Look Of An Upscale Kitchen

(NAPSA)—A well-designed kitchen can be comfortable, inviting and responsive to every need of the family that uses it.

With the cost of commercial-style appliances, upscale materials and custom cabinetry, many homeowners believe designer kitchens are out of reach. Fortunately, homeowners on tighter budgets can have their dream kitchens, too, whether they are remodeling or building a new home. It just requires some smart product choices and design tricks.

Start With the Cabinetry

The best way to cut costs from your kitchen is to start with the cabinetry. “Cabinetry has the largest impact on a kitchen’s design, function and cost,” said Paul Radoy, manager of design services for Merillat, a leading cabinetry manufacturer.

Custom cabinetry is beautiful, but it can cost as much as 50 percent more than standard, or stock, cabinetry and can take 12 or more weeks to deliver. “Standard cabinetry costs much less and can be delivered in as little as three weeks,” said Radoy.

Going with a standard cabinetry line doesn’t mean consumers have to sacrifice style and function. According to Radoy, standard cabinetry such as the Merillat Classic line offers features characteristic of custom cabinetry. Glazed finishes, decorative detailing and functional components give homeowners the flexibility to make sensible choices without giving up the style and functionality they want.

In addition to cabinetry, there are other areas where homeowners can make more sensible product choices. A wide variety of ceramic tile or laminate flooring is



Using standard cabinetry doesn’t mean sacrificing style and function.

available to mimic the look of a stone floor or backsplash. Laminate countertops or solid surface can provide a luxurious look at a fraction of the cost of granite. Even appliance manufacturers offer mid-range alternatives to ultra high-end ranges, refrigerators and ovens.

Smart Design

In addition to choosing products wisely, there are certain design tips homeowners can follow to make their kitchens look more luxurious.

Radoy suggests installing the cabinetry at varying heights and depths, which “gives a custom look to the kitchen.” He also recommends using cabinetry to create hutches or other furniture pieces.

Finally, Radoy suggests choosing hardware and decorative details that reflect the homeowner’s personality and the design of the kitchen. “The right hardware, moldings and accessories are an easy way to put the finishing touch on the kitchen.”

Homeowners should be aware that there are many sensible options when it comes to kitchen design for both new construction and remodeling projects.

For more information, visit www.merillat.com.