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Customized Designs with Mass Customized Cabinetry

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Customized Designs with Mass Customized Cabinetry

Presented By: AyA Kitchens and Baths
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Description: This course will introduce you to the flexibility of kitchen design using mass customized cabinetry, touching on certifications and green design, scheduling, door styles, cabinet options and accessories.

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Learning Objectives

Upon completing this course, you will be able to:

- relate the advantages of using mass customized cabinetry for a design project
- identify the quality components of cabinetry and the industry certifications recognizing quality cabinetry
- recall the design flexibility of mass customized cabinets and the possibilities for kitchen planning, and
- discuss the options generally available to accessorize cabinetry to optimize functionality, and the choices available for cabinetry utilized throughout the home.

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Introduction to Mass Customized Cabinetry

Cabinet Choice

Traditionally, manufactured cabinets fit one of two profiles, mass produced or custom. Mass produced or stock cabinets are readily available and economical, but are limited in sizes and cabinet options. Custom cabinets offer unlimited design and style options but can be very expensive, and quality standards can be highly variable.

A middle ground, mass customized cabinetry, offers the value benefits of mass production with a high level of customization and quality enabled by state of the art manufacturing technologies.



Introduction to Mass Customized Cabinetry

Cabinet Manufacturing

Mass Produced

Mass produced, stock, or ready-to-assemble cabinets are often a “bare bones” type of cabinetry. Cabinets are either mass produced prior to purchase or are assembled from pre-existing stock. Prices can be fairly low, but the trade-off is no design flexibility, limited door and finish selection and limited quality control.

Custom

This type of cabinetry allows for full design flexibility; for instance, if a particular shade of blue is required, colors can be matched. Changes to the design are often possible after construction has begun. Also, when using a reputable company, this type of construction should offer excellent quality control and personalized service. However, these benefits come with a higher cost and longer lead times. Another consideration with a smaller custom shop is whether they will be able to sustain their business and/or provide warranty work as needed.

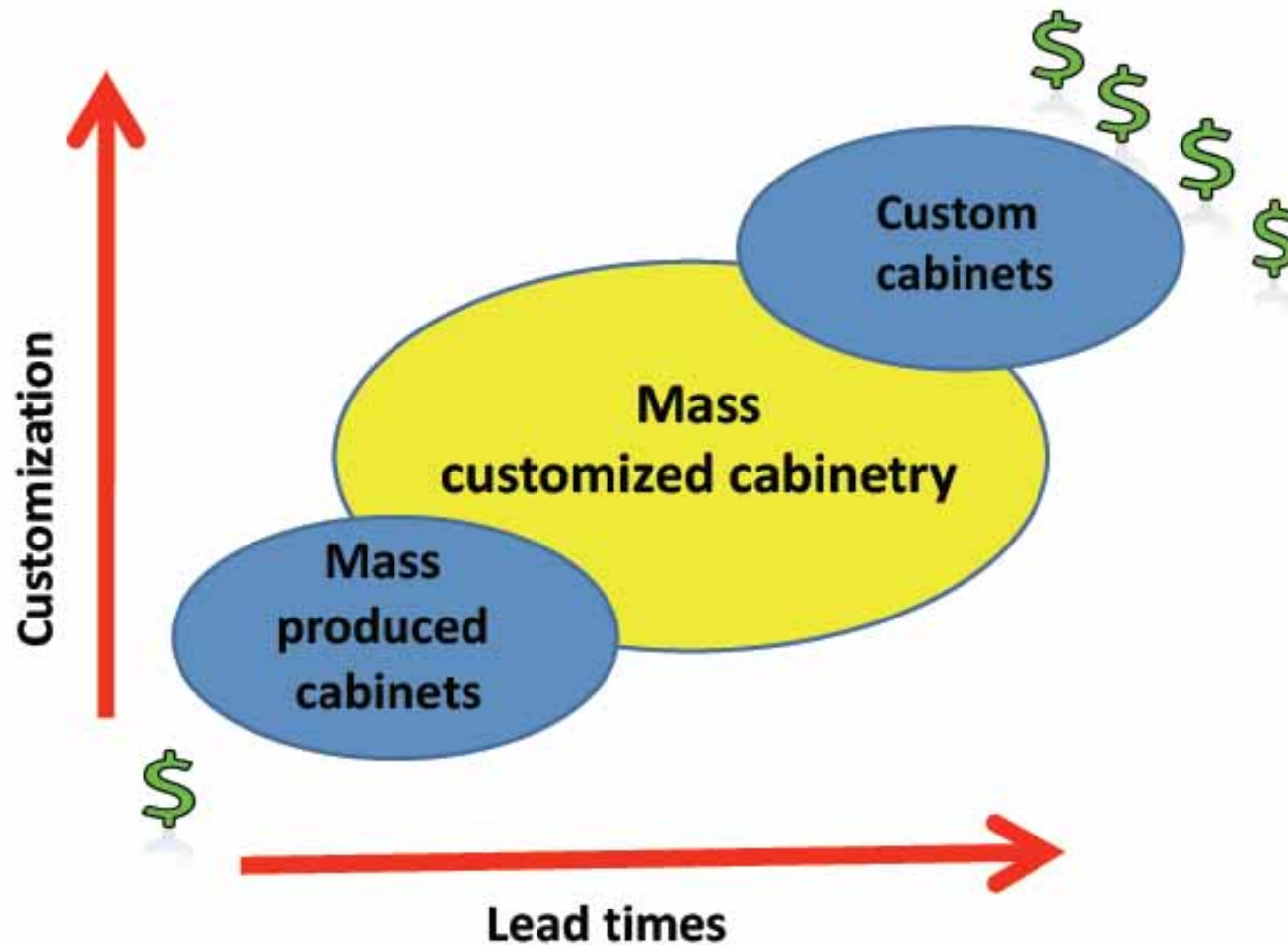
Introduction to Mass Customized Cabinetry

Cabinet Manufacturing cont'd...

Mass Customized

With mass customization, also referred to as semi-custom cabinetry, cabinets are manufactured to order based on the extensive manufacturer's catalogue, giving the impression of being fully customized. This type of cabinetry offers more design flexibility within the manufacturer's catalogue and better quality consistency. This leads to price advantages over custom cabinets. Although there isn't a same-day delivery, the lead times can be accurately determined by working with the company designer or sales person.

Introduction to Mass Customized Cabinetry



Introduction to Mass Customized Cabinetry

Mass Customized Cabinetry

Mass customized kitchen cabinetry is mass produced in a much wider array of styles and sizes, allowing the designer to create an impression of custom without the cost. The mass customized manufacturer offers not only many sizes and styles but also options, upgrades and accessories to further personalize the choice of cabinets.



Quality Cabinetry

Quality Components and Flexibility

One way to determine quality mass customized cabinetry is to review the range of options, components and finishes. Most manufacturers have a wide variety of cabinet sizes and types as well as qualified designers to guide the customer through the design process. There should be many options in the form of wood types, finishes and accessories. This allows for great flexibility in style and design.



Quality Cabinetry

Finishes

Look for a broad range of low luster, environmentally friendly finishes, with a UV cured topcoat. This type of topcoat ensures a long-lasting, non-fading, hard-wearing finish on cabinet frames and doors. The quality and the consistency of the finish on mass customized cabinetry are controlled by using automated finishing equipment rather than hand spraying.



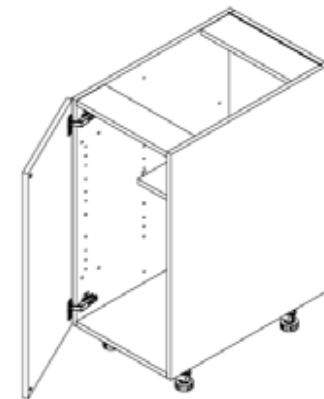
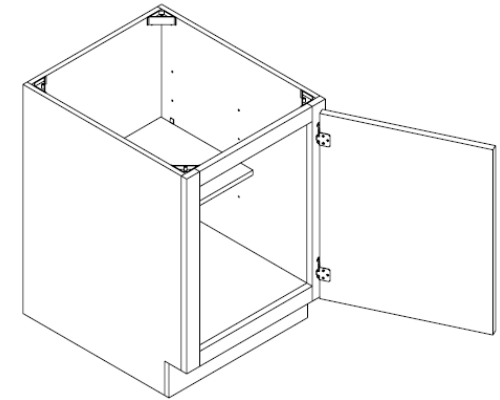
Quality Cabinetry

Quality Components

Cabinets are differentiated into two types, framed or frameless.

Framed or traditional cabinets have a solid wood frame on the front of the cabinet, and the door is mounted to this front face frame. The size of the door determines how much of the frame is revealed, from a full overlay to $\frac{1}{2}$ " overlay.

Frameless, European, or full access cabinetry is built as a box with the door mounted to the side of the cabinet. All frameless cabinets have a full overlay door providing a seamless look to the finished kitchen and full access to the cabinet.



Quality Cabinetry

Quality Components cont'd...

Structure: A well-built cabinet begins with quality materials used for the structural components, including the sides, top, bottom, shelves, hanging rails and back panels. The assembly is generally glue and dowel with no visible connectors, similar to that in fine furniture.

Consistent color: Mass customized cabinets allow for the offering of a fluid color inside and out of the cabinet. Ensuring the cabinet interior blends with the front edge banding is one example of customization. Likewise, the finished exterior will match both in materials and finish, much like that on custom cabinets.



Quality Cabinetry

Quality Components cont'd...

Adjustable legs: Some mass customized cabinetry offers engineered adjustable legs, allowing the wood components to be raised above the floor level, minimizing potential water damage to cabinetry. These legs are hidden behind the toe kicks which are then recessed on the ends of cabinet runs, typically a custom application.

Drawers: A solidly constructed drawer box with a substantial bottom and metal smooth-rolling runners should be a minimum requirement. This provides durability and will not bind or warp, providing ease of operation.

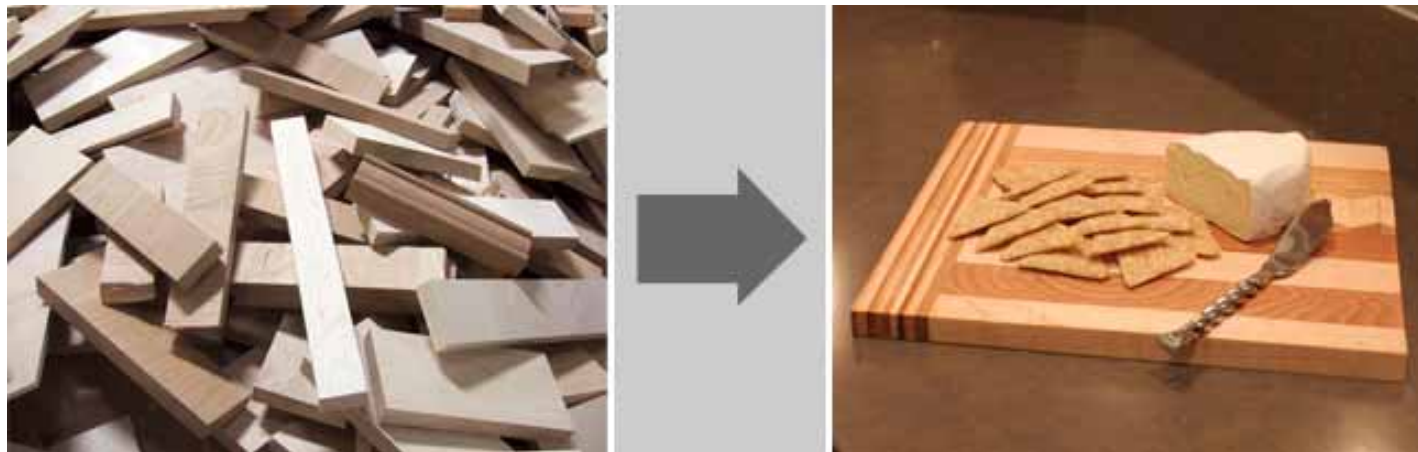
Hinges: All-metal adjustable hinges provide a lifetime of operation for the cabinet doors. The clip-on feature and adjustability of many frameless type hinges make for easier installation of the cabinetry.



Quality Cabinetry

Green Design

An inherent benefit in using a mass customized cabinet is that the manufacturing techniques lead to optimal material use. Manufacturers use computer technology to design and cut raw material, allowing them to minimize waste and recycle what waste there is.



Quality Cabinetry

Green Design cont'd...

Low or No Emission: Many cabinets are made using both particle board and plywood, two products that use VOC (volatile organic compounds) emitting adhesives and urea-formaldehyde in their production. A green cabinet will be made with no added urea-formaldehyde plywood and/or low or no emission materials.

FSC Certified Wood: The use of FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified wood and wood products also ensures the raw materials come from an environmentally managed forest. Proper forest management ensures that the harvest of timber and non-timber products maintains the forest's biodiversity, productivity and ecological processes.



Quality Cabinetry

LEED®

Use of green cabinetry will contribute to achieving U.S. and Canadian Green Building Council LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. Composite wood products with no urea-formaldehyde used in the manufacture of the cabinets could contribute to LEED credit IEQ 4.4: Low Emitting Materials - Wood and Agrifiber Products.

If the cabinets use recycled material they could contribute to credit MR 4: Recycled Content.

Finally, if the cabinets use FSC certified wood they will contribute to LEED credit MR 7: Certified Wood.



The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit composed of leaders from every sector of the building industry working to promote buildings and communities that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work.

Quality Cabinetry

Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association (KCMA)

Many manufacturers are certified to assure customers that their product is best quality.

The KCMA is a voluntary, non-profit, member-based industry trade association that has two certification schemes. The first is KCMA Certified Cabinets, which requires annual random inspection and testing of cabinet quality. Approved cabinets are able to perform after a rigorous battery of tests simulating years of typical household use. Tests are performed by approved third-party independent laboratories.



For more information see: <http://kcma.org/>

Quality Cabinetry

Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association (KCMA) cont'd...

The second certification is the KCMA Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP). This program is meant to help customers easily identify environmentally friendly cabinet products. After meeting certification requirements in the areas of air quality, product and process resource management, environmental stewardship, and community relations, cabinet manufacturers can display the ESP seal on their products. This includes meeting the California Air Resources Board (CARB) standards for composite wood products.

For more information see <http://kcma.org/>



Quality Cabinetry

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

ISO is a non-governmental organization based in Geneva, Switzerland, that develops and publishes international standards. ISO certification is voluntary, but in many countries ISO standards influence regulations and legislation. All ISO standards are numbered; the series numbered 9000 is a family of standards for quality management systems. The 14000 series standards deal with environmental management systems.

An organization that meets the requirements of ISO 9001:2008 has demonstrated its ability to consistently provide product that meets customer and applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. It will enhance customer satisfaction through the effective application of the system, including processes for continual improvement of the system and the assurance of conformity to customer and applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. Products cannot be “ISO 9000 certified”; only a company’s procedures can be certified as ISO 9000 compliant.

For more information see <http://www.iso.org/iso/home.htm>

Quality Cabinetry

Woodmark Quality Certification

The Woodmark Quality Certification program is designed for manufacturers of wood-based products. It is administered by the Wood Products Quality Council. Annual re-certification is required, and compliance is audited by third-party auditors. The principles of the certification system include commitment to service quality and total customer satisfaction; measurement of organizational performance; fact-based decision making with the use of benchmarking and statistical process control tools; associate leadership and teamwork, involving everyone in the organization in improving service, quality and productivity; continuous learning, innovation and improvement; and respect for people and the environment.

Woodmark differs from ISO in that it may be used to label product. This mark will appear on a Woodmark certified product.



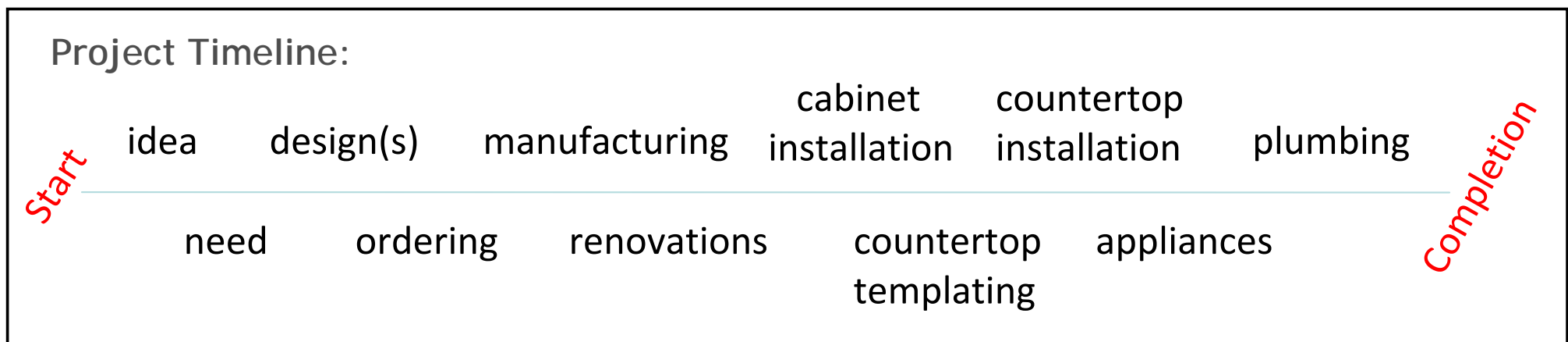
For more information see <http://www.woodmarkquality.com/home/index.html>

Kitchen Design

Project Time Management

In determining a project timeline, the client timeline, construction timeline and cabinet manufacturing lead times need to be considered.

With mass customized cabinets, finish and door style may affect the lead times. For instance, standard stains are a single-step process and take the least amount of time. Any multi-step finishes such as blackened stains or painted finishes may require additional time beyond the basic lead time. Glazed and antiqued painted finishes may require an even longer lead time.



Kitchen Design

Project Time Management cont'd...

The manufacturer's designer can estimate the delivery date based on amount of cabinetry and level of finish. Depending on the complexity of the preparation/renovation of the space, kitchen preparation and manufacturing of cabinets may begin at the same time.

General delivery guidelines:

- Stock: 2- 3 weeks
- Custom: 10-12 weeks
- Mass Customized: 4 -6 weeks

Kitchen Design

Cabinet Installation Timeline

The higher the level of complexity in the design of the kitchen cabinetry, the longer the installation timeline—a simple kitchen can take as little as one or two days to install, while a complex kitchen can take up to a week or more.

The countertop fabrication also requires lead times. Other than plastic laminate, most countertops require a template and then fabrication/installation. The template commences after the base cabinet installation, and depending on the production schedule of the fabricator and the complexity of the countertop, the lead time from template to installation typically starts at two weeks.

Final construction details include: appliance delivery and installation, plumbing installation and hook-ups, electrical fixtures installation and hook-ups, gas hook-ups and backsplash installation.

Kitchen Design

Kitchen Design

The architect and client's vision for the space can either be quite general or very specific. Either way, in the kitchen design process it is important to involve a professional who will translate a fully developed design into the specifics of the mass customized offering, or will help facilitate the design process, working with both architect and client to achieve a custom design.

Defining the purpose may inform the design. For instance new empty-nesters will be looking to pare down; changes to physical ability may indicate a need for accessible or universal design. On the other hand, many may be looking to update a style or increase the functionality of an existing space.



Kitchen Design

Function

Kitchen function will affect design. Some of the questions you may ask about the use of the kitchen are: What type and amount of cooking will the owner be doing? What are the food preparation and food storage requirements? Are your current ones sufficient? In which area is more or less needed?

Kitchens no longer function as simply cooking spaces. Consider the other activities that may occur in the kitchen, and make accommodations for them—entertaining, home management (paying bills, scheduling activities), and media (will the kitchen have a TV or music center?).

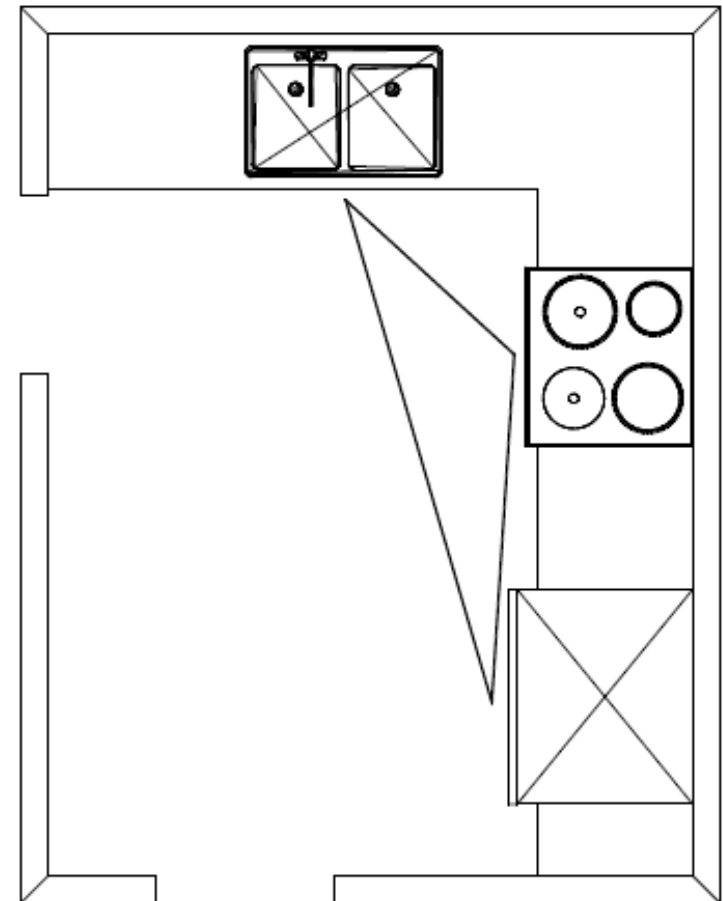


Kitchen Design

Kitchen Layout

Also consider work zones, separating the cooking zone, for instance, from the dry food storage zones and placing complementary zones adjacent to one another. Other work zones include the prep zone, clean-up zone, chilled food storage zone and homework, food consumption and social zones.

And lastly, optimal counter-to-counter space is 42", or 48" if more than one person cooks at a time. Local building codes are considered at this stage also.



Kitchen Design

Users

How many people will be using the kitchen at one time? Consider the number and ability of all family members using the kitchen. For instance, children may need the microwave to be lower to the floor, and seniors may need door pulls instead of door knobs.



Kitchen Design

Cabinet Placement

Once the general layout of the kitchen area has been determined, the cabinet choice and placement can begin. At this point, with mass customization you can consider the types of cabinets and the needs of the clients and budget, and choose from the array of cabinet functions available. Cabinets are chosen to suit the specific use requirement of the work zone. Cabinet options include varying installation heights, height of upper cabinets, full height doors on bases or top drawers, pot drawer cabinets, rollout shelves, corner cabinets (blind cabinets vs. pie cut or angled corner), sink cabinet, waste management systems and pantry cabinets (blind corner, angled corner or pie cut).

Kitchen Design

Cabinet Sizing and Placement

Generally, some cabinet manufacturers have a fixed number of cabinet sizes available, which put limits on designs. Mass customized cabinetry has fewer such limitations, so there are virtually endless possibilities for kitchen design.

Cabinets are generally manufactured in 3" increments for width (with some manufacturers offering 1½" increments), and with various height and depth options depending on the cabinet's application (i.e. above the fridge, stove, etc.).

Kitchen Design

Wall Cabinet Sizing

Below is a comparison of sizes available with most stock cabinets and some mass customized cabinetry. This type of extensive selection provides the opportunity for complex designs with mass customized cabinets.

Stock cabinets

Height: 12, 15, 18, 30, 36, 42

Width: 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36

Depth: 12, 24 (only on some sizes)

Mass Customized Cabinetry

Height: 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 36, 42

Width: 6, 9, 12, 13.5, 15, 16.5, 18, 19.5, 21, 22.5, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39, 42, 45, 48

Depth: 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24

The more varied the individual cabinet components, the more design flexibility is achieved. For instance, if the client desires full height cabinets in a 9'-0" ceiling height, a combination of 36"-high upper cabinets with 18"-high upper cabinets stacked above can be used. Staggering wall cabinet heights and depths can also be used to create a more dynamic and interesting design.

Kitchen Design

Base Cabinets

Base cabinets are constructed from a 30"-high cabinet, and are either supported by 4½"-high adjustable legs for leveling, or are constructed with 34½"-high side panels which are notched for the toe kick along the floor. Standard depth for a kitchen base cabinet is 24".

Storage may be full height doors, full set of drawers, or a combination of doors and drawers. Cabinets for optimizing corners are pie cut (double door), angled, or blind base which allows access from one side of the layout. Some base cabinets come with accessories such as rollouts, pullouts, recycling centers, tilt-out soap trays, or flat front panels for built in appliances to be installed.



Kitchen Design

Tall Cabinets

Tall cabinets, also known as pantry cabinets, are constructed from a 79½"-high (or more) cabinet, and are either supported by 4½"-high adjustable legs for leveling, or are constructed with 84"-high (and upward) side panels which are notched for the toe kick along the floor. Standard depth for a tall cabinet is 24" .

Configurations may be all doors (some with pullout systems or adjustable shelves), or door and drawer. Tall units to hold appliances will have a flat front panel that gets cut out on site. Typically there are no tall cabinets for optimizing corners. Some tall cabinets come with accessories such as rollouts or pullouts, chef racks, and either a warming drawer or other small appliance provisions.

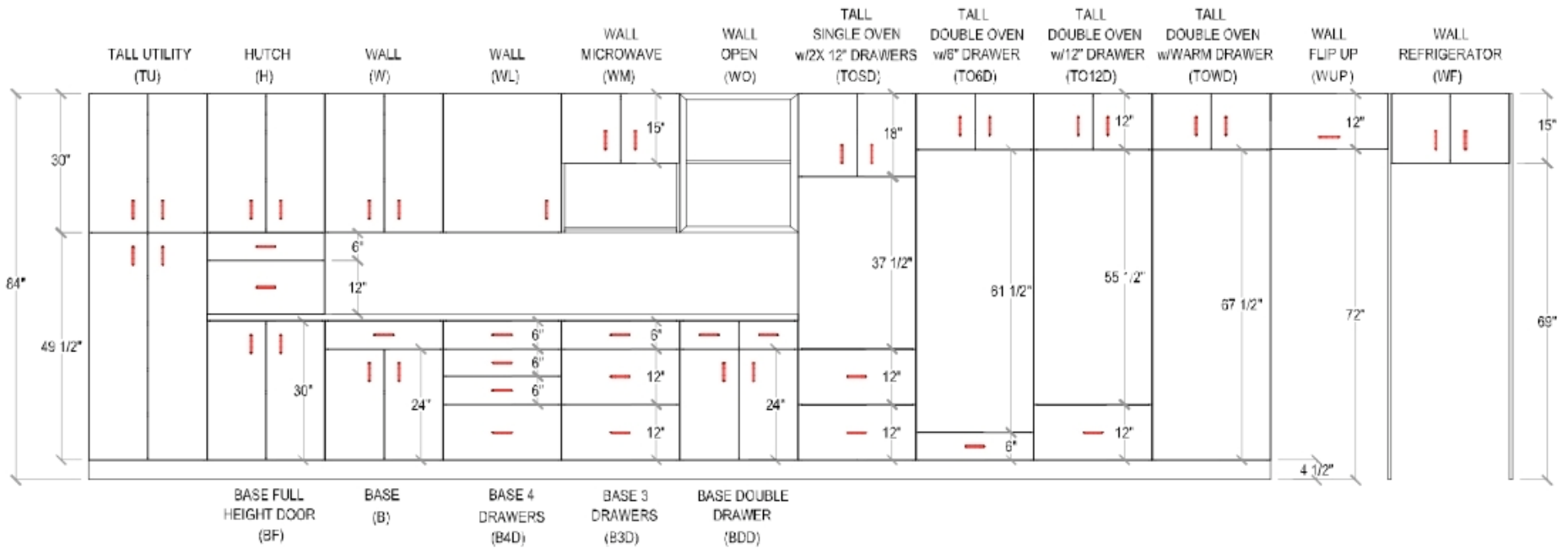


Kitchen Design

Cabinet Elevations



PLAN VIEW



ELEVATION VIEW

Kitchen Design

Combining Cabinets

Using the catalogue of cabinets to create a custom look includes combining a variety of cabinet heights and widths. Stacking cabinets not only creates visual interest but also increases storage capacity and creates a customized cabinet with a built-in look.



Kitchen Design

Budget Considerations and Design

To stay within a budget, it's good to know which elements beyond the basic kitchen will affect costs. That way, careful and intelligent use of the components available will assist in managing both design and cost effectiveness. It goes without saying that the more cabinet components chosen, the higher the cost. Exterior detailing and storage solutions will also impact the budget. Additionally, more complex door finishes and styles increase cost, i.e., glazed and antiqued finishes and more ornate doors are more costly than simpler door profiles.

Meeting budget goals is easier when more options are available. Mass customized cabinetry provides a large array of components, finishes and styles that can be organized in any number of combinations, giving the client more design and budget choice.

Styles

Door Materials

The most common materials for doors in mass customization cabinetry are laminate or thermofoil and wood, such as oak, maple, and cherry, as shown in the following slides.

Some manufacturers will also offer a more exotic material to their collections, such as wenge, zebrano, bamboo or makore.

Thermofoil is available in many colors, including imitation wood for the client who likes the look of wood, but prefers something more consistent in grain.



Styles

Door Materials cont'd...

Maple is a very hard and durable closed grain wood and has a subtle grain pattern; its color variations range from pale white to a pinkish tone.



Oak has an open grain, and ranges in color from light to dark. This wood will accept a stain from light to very dark, which accents the strong grain texture.

Styles

Door Materials and Wood Species

Cherry is a medium hard wood with a vivid grain pattern and a traditional and elegant look; it is enhanced by natural pitting and gum deposits.



Styles

Door Materials and Wood Species cont'd...

Bamboo (below) is considered exotic natural wood. Cabinets use veneered strips of natural wood adhered to an engineered board core.



Wenge is a dark colored tropical wood.

Finishes

Quality

Consistency of Finish

Mass customized cabinets boast a high level of consistency in finish, achieved by two main factors in the manufacturing process. The first is by working with standard colors instead of custom-made colors. The second is through the use of automatic sprayers, which are more controlled than handheld sprayers.

Longevity

A UV cured topcoat is often used with this type of cabinet after staining. UV curing is a process in which a special topcoat is applied that reacts upon exposure to UV light. This process increases speed in production and leaves a very resilient finish that is less prone to fading or discoloration.

Eco-Friendly

When choosing a manufacturer, look for finishes that are water based or contain low VOC. Higher VOC finishes may have a strong odor and be harmful or even toxic—which is why the lower the emission, the better!

Finishes

Common Types of Finishes

Finishes

There are several types of finishes from which to choose with mass customized cabinetry. With this extensive variety clients have the option to choose the finish that suits their decor and style.

Stains

Stains range from transparent to semi-transparent, so the wood grain is always visible. They come in clear coats and very light tones to dark browns and blacks with many colors in between. Each piece of wood, regardless of species, will be unique with the different wood tones, pith marks, and mineral marks drawn out when stained.



Finishes

Painted

A painted or solid finish can be applied over MDF or wood doors to cover any visible grain; the texture of the grain may still be evident, however, depending on the type of wood. This opaque finish gives a solid consistent color typically available in a range of options.

Painted and Glazed

Glazing on painted doors is typically done with a darker coat which is brushed onto the painted finish. There is typically a heavier accumulation in the corners, and the brush strokes are also visible over the entire door.



Finishes

Handcrafted Hang-Up Glazes

Glazing is a two-step process, whereby a base stain coat is first applied to a door and allowed to dry. A second layer is added—typically a deeper shade in a partially translucent liquid—and while wet, the excess is removed or wiped off. This allows the deeper shade to pool in the grooves of a door, enhancing the natural shadow lines.

Since the first layer requires setting time before the next is applied, this treatment requires additional time to produce, and the hand craftsmanship will also increase cost.



Finishes

Distressed Antiqued

Distressing is the process in which a door is purposely worn and distressed in order to give the illusion of wear and tear that comes with age. This antiquing process is available on wood doors only since it involves the aggressive sanding and rubbing off of areas of the top paint layer to reveal a base stain coat, typically on corners and other areas which would be more subject to wear.

In addition to sanding, some methods of distressing include marking of the door (with chains, etc.) to create grooves and dents. Antiquing is typically an additional procedure which adds a crackle finish to areas of the top coat to capture some of the base color and enhance an aged look. This type of finish requires the most time to produce, and the hand craftsmanship will increase the cost.



Accessorizing with a Purpose

Cabinet Options

Most good mass customized cabinet manufacturers will offer yet more alternatives.

Some of the most common options are to be able to:

- choose from standard white or wood grain melamine interior to complement the door finish
- alter drawer systems with upgrades such as wood dovetail, increased load, or full extension and anti-slam features
- change hinges to soft close and anti-slam or wider opening hinges, and
- choose a green product with no added urea-formaldehyde resins, and use recycled wood products and low emission materials.

Accessorizing with a Purpose

Accessories: Hoods and Cabinets

Accessory cabinets are typically defined as finished cabinets without doors, such as wine racks, wood hood cabinets, open shelves, and plate racks.

They are not necessarily influenced by the chosen door style, but they are important since they provide a unique flair to the project. Accessory cabinets are available in a wide range of sizes and the majority of finishes the manufacturer offers to ensure flexibility in design options.

Accessory cabinets add character and further advance the customization of the cabinetry.



Accessorizing with a Purpose

Accessories: Space Organizers

Space organizers are a key component to personalizing a kitchen. They make the space more convenient to work in, and save space. Examples include cutlery and utensil dividers, lazy susan, magic corners, pullout racks, rollout drawers, and pullout recycle bins.

To determine what types of space organizers are needed, zoning the kitchen is helpful, i.e., prep zone/food storage zone/cooking zone/clean-up zone.



Accessorizing with a Purpose

Accessories: Decorative Accents

These accents add to the aesthetics and further advance the illusion of custom cabinetry.

Examples include:

- corbels
- applied moldings to panels
- applied onlays
- scrolls
- window valance
- glass doors and shelves



Accessorizing with a Purpose

Accessories: Posts and Legs

Legs can be used in a practical manner to support a countertop overhang or as a decorative addition to the cabinets. Examples include turned corner posts, decorative legs, and casters.

The toekick may be removed and replaced with decorative legs or feet to give a more furniture-like look or for aesthetics.



Accessorizing with a Purpose

Accessories: Crown Molding and Light Valence

Crown moldings and light valences add visual interest and provide additional decorative details. Examples include recessed light valence, flush light valence, arched window valence, straight window valence, tall crown molding, extra tall crown molding, shaker style crown molding, and inserts for the crown moldings such as dentil, egg and dart, rope, and acanthus.

Moldings are typically sold in 4' or 8' pieces.



Accessorizing with a Purpose

Accessories: Door Inserts

Door inserts can be both decorative and practical accents. Examples include clear glass, etched glass, heritage mullion glass, mullion glass, leaded glass, water glass, listral glass, and wire mesh. Glass doors can use plain or decorative glass. Some cabinets will have the option of framing the glass with mullions as well.



Accessorizing with a Purpose

Finishing Touches

Finished Ends: May be a panel or matching veneer applied to exposed side panels of cabinets and made to match the doors.

False Doors and Drawers: Adding an applied false door and/or drawer to an exposed side of a cabinet can be a sophisticated way of finishing and ornamenting a kitchen.

Fillers (Standard and Flush): Finish the look of cabinets to a wall, allow for out-of-square corners, and provide clearance for door hardware. Flat fillers are installed to line up with the cabinet box. Flush filler is an additional piece added to the top of the flat filler that has the door profile along its edge.

More than Kitchens

More than Kitchens

With the vast array of cabinet components in the mass customization repertoire, it is a natural transition to include cabinetry for the balance of the home, in vanities, desks, home offices, entertainment units, laundry rooms and closets.

The variety of cabinets, options, and upgrades offered by mass customized cabinets means that case work needed in any part of the home can be supplied by the creative use of a manufacturer's catalogue.



More than Kitchens

Vanities

Bathroom vanities' heights are generally lower than kitchen counter height (height 33", depth 21") but many manufacturers will have different heights of vanity base cabinets to accommodate most applications.



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More than Kitchens

Closets

A benefit to using mass customized cabinetry is that the closet finishes are available in all finishes and door styles, something not typically offered in other branches of the marketplace. Standard depth is 21".



More than Kitchens

Laundry

As with closets, laundry finishes are not limited to melamine and thermofoils as typically seen in the marketplace, thus enabling architects and designers to spec according to the client's needs and desires. Standard depth is 27".



More than Kitchens

Home Office and Entertainment Centers

The flexibility of mass customized cabinetry continues through the home to the home office and entertainment units. Desk height is 30" including desk top, and desk depth is 21".



Summary

Summary

The benefits of using mass customized cabinets include:

- vast array of finishes
- vast array of cabinet components
- vast array of uses for the components
- consistency in product
- controlled lead times
- confidence in the product that is passed on to your client
- support from execution to completion

Summary

Definitions and Organizations

ESP - Environmental Stewardship Program

FSC - Forest Stewardship Council

Green Design - manufacturing techniques that optimize material usage, and minimize and recycle waste

ISO - International Organization for Standardization

KCMA - Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association

LEED - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

VOC - Volatile Organic Compounds

Woodmark Quality Certification - an annual certification program that focuses on processes, skills, and training to maintain a level of excellence

Conclusion of This Program

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