



KITCHEN DESIGN



HAND CARVED PANELS AND VALANCE MAKE THIS PIECE A SHOW STOPPER

Lets Go custom!

What comes to mind when you think of custom kitchen cabinets? A master Craftsman diligently leaning over his bench, tapping away at a glorious wood masterpiece, only stopping occasionally to scream at an apprentice?

Well maybe thats partially right, but in the kitchen remodel world, a custom cabinet is a cabinet that is designed for a unique space, or with unique attributes that are not available off the shelf from a cabinet supplier. Maybe you

want the family name carved in the doors. Or perhaps a grape vine for around the bar area. That is why you might choose a custom cabinet as opposed to a stock cabinet.



CUSTOM TILE LAYOUT



CUSTOM PREP AREA



CUSTOM CABINET FITS STOVE

Don't go for average

If you want your kitchen to stand out from the average, if you want your kitchen to be the pearl of your home, if you want your kitchen to look like the cover of a home magazine, If you want your friends and family to grab their chests and gasp in awe while gazing at the incomprehensible beauty that is your kitchen...

Then, we go custom.

MANY PEOPLE CAN DO IT ALL, BUT ONLY A GREAT FEW CAN DO IT ALL WELL

This being said, there is absolutely nothing wrong with stock cabinets if that is what your budget allows.

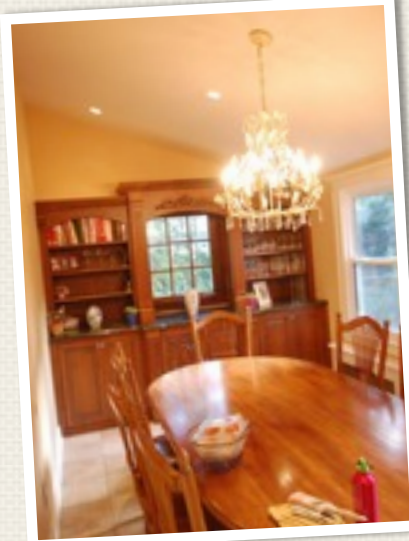
But can I afford custom cabinets? Well, that depends... Is your kitchen small, so that less labor is involved with the install?

You might be able to make up the difference by not completely ripping the kitchen to the studs, or keeping the plumbing in place. A good kitchen remodeler could walk you through this.

A word of caution though, make sure that the remodeler that you choose is well seasoned in laying out and designing kitchens. Some contractors might take offense at this, but if a person does roofing and vinyl siding ten months out of the year, I don't think he would be a good candidate for a kitchen remodel. Many people can do it all, but only a great few can do it all and do it all well.

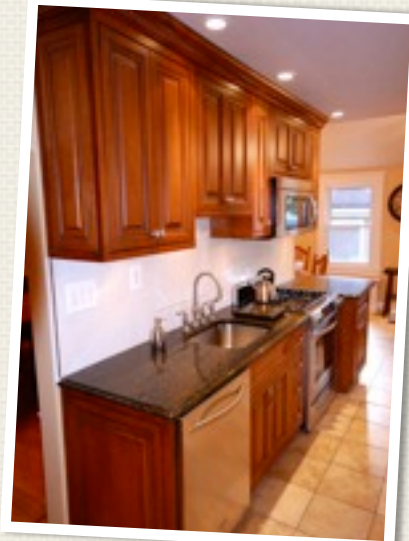
Where do I get custom cabinets?

Well there are a lot of custom cabinet makers out there. You could go by the recommendation of a trusted colleague or friend. Small ads in papers sometimes feature wood workers and cabinetmakers.



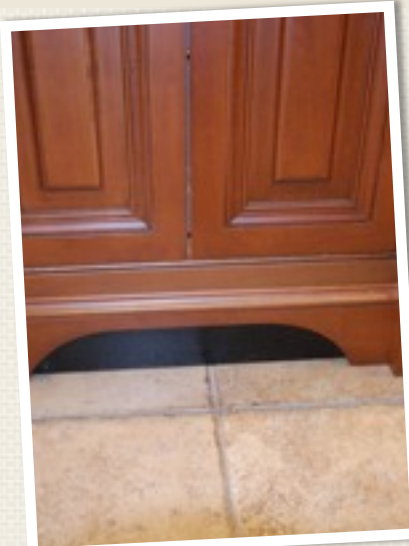
COZY DINING AREA

THE CUSTOM BAR/ HUTCH MADE THIS AREA COMPLETE.



CUSTOM CROWN MOLDING

CUSTOM EGG AND DART CROWN AND UNIQUE PROFILE. NOTICE THE BUILT IN SIDE PANELS ON THE CABINETS



CUSTOM BASE

THIS CUSTOM BASE MAKES THE CABINET LOOK MORE LIKE FURNITURE

LONG ISLAND KITCHEN & BATH



CHOOSING A SHOP

DO YOUR HOMEWORK AND WEED OUT THE SHOPS THAT SLAP CABINETS TOGETHER WITH CONSTRUCTION ADHESIVE AND STAPLES

MAKE SURE THE JOINTS ARE TIGHT AND NOT FILLED WITH PUTTY

IS THE FINISH SMOOTH AND SOFT TO THE TOUCH?

Choosing a custom shop

Do your best to weed out the shops that slap cabinets together with construction adhesive and staples, and choose the one that is orderly and neat. Look at the joints on a project that they are working on, are they tight, or filled with putty, to make up for a quick job.

These are the methods I use to choose my custom cabinet shops, and that is why I stick to the ones that I know are concerned with quality, customer satisfaction, and repeat business.

But by far the best way to choose a cabinetmaker is to work with a kitchen

remodel company who does a lot of custom work. They know that their reputation lives or dies on every job, and only deal with reputable cabinet shops.

Patrick Cooke

(Patrick Cooke is a kitchen design specialist, and the owner of Long Island Kitchen and Bath on Long Island, New York)

1 888 411 (LIK) 5452

<http://LongIslandKitchenAndBath.com>