

Mass

While you can draw a perfect kitchen picture using lines, textures, and colors, to build a kitchen you must put on your 3-D glasses. Mass begins with line, which then moves into space — collecting heft, depth, and height. One rectangle drawn on paper will become a refrigerator in your new kitchen; another will be transformed into a center island where you will prepare food, wash dishes, and eat your breakfast.

Kitchens are high-performance sculptures that must be evaluated both aesthetically and physically for the sake of practicality, comfort, and beauty. Therefore, as you visualize your new design, walk yourself through all its spaces. A stove, refrigerator, cabinet, island, table, and almost anything else that fills a kitchen has mass. Negative space is the emptiness between the elements — all the recesses, nooks, and corridors. When sculpting your kitchen, your goal should be to find the balance between positive masses and negative spaces.

Because life in the kitchen means constant physical interaction with large appliances and massive architectural constructs, kitchen forms must be measured with the body as well as the eye, and every form must fit its function — and its owners — for any aesthetic to be truly pleasing.

RIGHT Mass begins with line, which then moves into space — collecting heft, depth, and height.

Design: Colette and William Rodon Hornof

