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**Celebrity Chefs Harpal Singh Sokhi  
& Pankaj Bhadouria**

in a Special story on How to buy Kitchen in India  
as per your budget & components

SURFACES REPORTER | Cover Story

# DESIGNING & BUYING KITCHENS AS PER YOUR BUDGET

*The quest for ideal Kitchen*



Frankie Kitchen

*Kitchen is an area where there is no room for compromises since it is one of the most functional parts of the house. Modern-day kitchens have gone a step-ahead where they have also turned into place to socialize. When Kitchens are so directly connected with your health, socialising and status, you would want to have a kitchen that mirrors your personality. The market is filled with kitchens that range from budget to ultra high-end. **SURFACES REPORTER** spoke to brands to understand how the industry works for different requirements, space, designs, price and the way ahead to get your perfect kitchen in the Indian market.*



Ar. Ankita Sweety & Pratyosh Chandan  
Directors, Studio An-V-Thot



Ankush Aggarwal,  
Principal Designer,  
ANSA Interiors

## HOW TO BUY A KITCHEN BASED ON YOUR BUDGET?

### BUDGET KITCHEN: WITHIN 2 LACS

#### Ar Pratyosh Chandan & Ankita Sweety, Studio An-V-Thot

A kitchen can range from a weekend-long, low budget brush up (paint-job and new cabinet hardware) to a full blown overhaul (with money spent on granite countertops & uber luxury appliances). Everybody wants a gorgeous kitchen but spending lavishly is not the only option, especially in the current economic climate.

Coming to details, **PVC Boards** is one unique product with the basic advantages of being termite-proof and waterproof along with several other benefits of it being eco-friendly, reliable, manageable & cost effective substitute for wooden plywood; it doesn't even require pasting of laminates unlike PVC plywood.

Affordable ranges of **laminates** are another crucial aspect to maintain the "cost-friendliness" in this category of kitchen. When the budget is the first matter of consideration, it is important to consider price, from low-cost kitchen countertops to the most expensive options. There are plenty of low-cost kitchen countertop options coming in the budget range such as basic range of **Granite**

or simply **PCC or Cement oxide counter** covering which also are relatively durable which can also be used for the backsplash.

Probably more than any other element, cabinetry sets the look and feel of your kitchen as the right cabinet choices will help make the room efficient and easy to use. Pullout drawers with simpler accessories are advisable option. **6" wide handles** (basic model) are usually the most economical choice and can be easily changed over the time to update the kitchen's look; not compromising with the aesthetics. To cut down more on the cost, one can even **go without handles by making punctures in the shutter** itself to open or close it.

**Ankush Aggarwal, ANSA Interiors** - For a budget kitchen within one lakh I would recommend to start by buying an **economical 304 stainless steel sink, a faucet fitting from Hindware** or equivalent. Buy electrical from any branded companies like **Kalinga, Havels**. Also buy good quality ISI mark plumbing fittings, specifically the internal fittings because they cannot be changed anytime easily. Planning is the key to success, in case your budget is very tight fitted, I would recommend that you plan everything beforehand. Do a market survey; look at the cabinetry options

*Designed by Studio An-V-Thot, this kitchen brings light to the concept of breakfast bar which is luxuriously accentuated, instead of sticking to the old conventional hues, new bright hues have been experimented with; which are further enhanced by contemporary-styled overhead & underhead storage cabinets.*



If budget is a concern, be ready to give more time in research and keep your eyes open for all the offers companies provide, from time-to-time.

available. In a budget of less than one lakh pre-laminated particle board will fit well. The only problem with pre-laminated particle board is that once the screw leaves its place, you will have to change the whole piece; it cannot be tightened up again. But none the less they are easy to work and are a carpenter's rejoice. For the shutters you can look at membrane shutters or laminated shutters. The membrane shutters will cost Rs.250-300/ sq. ft. while a laminated shutter will cost Rs.700-800/ sq. ft. However in quality, laminated shutters over ply are the better. The problem with membrane shutter is that in case it gets a cut by a blade or a knife the whole membrane peels off. For the accessories look at wire baskets and racks, these may not be branded but essentially have to be 304 grade, also look at channels which are **India made** rather than going for imported channels like Hettich, Hafele or Blum. A lot of accessories can also be tailor made in Indian market, so you can customize the accessories to your requirement.

For the Indian cooking **Granite** is the most recommended counter top, you can look at Indian granite counter top which will cost from Rs 100-200/ sq.ft. The back side of the cabinet need to be tiled but then you can **choose commercial tiles** and only the area which is visible till 2 ft between the counter top and the above cabinet has to be good quality tile. The visible tile portion definitely has to be non porous and a scratch resistance to with stand little bit of tear and wear that keeps happening in the kitchen. Be on the onlook, **keep your eyes open for all the offers** companies like **Fabers and Kaff** take out for chimneys and appliances. Time to time, they come up with offers where chimney and a hob combination is offered at almost half the rate than the usual price. Also in a budget less than one lakh, **it is a good idea to reuse a lot of things than buying everything.** Invest on the **carpenter** and ask him to reuse all the plywood, wood and channels that you already have and are not bad in quality. Must must must! Have a pest control done, must have a termite treatment done at any cost for all the kitchen.

### MID LEVEL KITCHEN: 2-6 LACS

#### Ar. Ankita Sweety & Pratyosh Chandan, Studio An-V-Thot

They advice to follow the ideas of a budget kitchen given above with some additional steps to further aid in devising a mid level kitchen. Increasing the budget automatically amplifies further more options for varied appliances, cabinets, surfaces and other aspects of a kitchen. Use of Glossy Mica can help in enhancing the aesthetics of the kitchen as the budget brings a new variety in beautifying the aesthetics. DUCO paint is another beneficial option for replacing expensive polish without compromising on aesthetics. Mid-ranged water proof products from brands such as CenturyPly, Green Decowood can be used. Normal ranged tiles are a consideration for the backsplash of kitchens in both Budget and Mid-Level kitchen. Tiles are the most popular kitchen flooring option offering a clean, classic look when it comes to categories of Budget & Mid-Level kitchen along with another option of economical range of Indian Marble. Talking about countertops, Granite and Quartz are hugely considerable options for Mid-Level kitchens. For accessories one can have basic steel trays and wire meshed baskets along with a few bottle pullout drawers, etc. Though in both, the kitchen categories fabrication and assembling is done on site but even within budget restrictions assuming that the concerned carpenter keeps in touch with latest trends & materials, he can provide efficient results.

**Ankush Aggarwal, ANSA Interiors** - He repeats, "Again think of making good quality than focusing just on size." For the cabinetry work, use waterproof ply. You have to choose between making a U-Shaped kitchen and a L-Shaped kitchen. Stick to laminated plywood for carcass and for the shutters you can choose between laminated shutters. Look at appliances such



as *Faber, Kaff, Fabia*, also look at Indian options available like *Sunflame*. For the accessories look at options like *Peacock, Ultrafresh and Ozone*. Increasing your budget in all the categories i.e. accessories, appliances, cabinetry, is a good option than putting all the money in only one category.

### UPPER MID-LEVEL KITCHEN: 6-12 LACS

#### **Ar. Ankita Sweety & Pratyooch Chandan, Studio An-V-Thot**

In the scenario when the budget escalates to 10-12 lacs, a locally made modular kitchen can be accomplished. Local modular kitchen requires all factory made shutters, panels and cabinets. Even this type of kitchen has indefinite advantages, giving numerous options for smart and effective usage of kitchen space. Provision of additional budget enables the addition of materials such as **acrylic panels, lacquered glasses** for shutters & backsplash can also have lacquered glass. **Hand made tiles** are another important aspect for magnification of aesthetics of the interiors. One can switch to **Corian** Countertops created and casted in one solid piece, resulting in a seamless kitchen counter adding up to the budget provided, and are also durable. Another influential aspect of upper mid level kitchen is the introduction of accessories such as antaro, tandem boxes, plate holders and cutlery drawers, etc. act as a huge provision to defining a local modular kitchen. Apart from finishes of mid level kitchen, another option is high gloss PU paint. Yet, another major addition is use of SS steel profiles instead of the cliché conventional handles; for cabinets and drawers. Brands such as **Hettich & Kaff** are advisable for clients who have a budget but yet want the best available in the market seeking luxury at affordable price points.

**Ankush Aggarwal, ANSA Interiors** - For Upper middle level Kitchen, for budgets within twelve lacs, you have some money to splurge. You can think of outsourcing the kitchen to good companies. It is always better to outsource the kitchen to a very good company who does a quality job than to all the local vendors sitting all across and get a shoddy work done. There are lot of factories which offer job work with the material given by the client, you can also consider the options like giving your own material to the factories that can do the cabinetry work for you and get them installed at your place. For the cabinetry, stick to **pre-laminated waterproof ply for the carcass, using mini-fit fittings**. Also for the shutters you can look at PU coated shutters, glass shutters, roll on shutters to keep the appliances at one place, magic corners to cover up the corners of the dead space below the counters, **tall ladder, pantry pull out, lady Susan** are some accessories to look at. **Hydraulic shutters** with single lift or double lift are possible within this range. Think of putting the tile or granite on the walls to ceiling and not just between the cabinets and counter. For the CounterTop, look at granites like blue pearl, black pearl and brown pearl. Acrylic solid surfaces such as Corian is another option that can be

considered in this budget. For the flooring take Italian stone which is non porous or get a non-porous treatment above the stone.

### HIGH END KITCHEN: 12-20+ LACS

#### **Ar. Ankita Sweety & Pratyooch Chandan, Studio An-V-Thot**

"As the saying truly goes "a kitchen is likely to reflect the energies and preoccupation of its owners." When the budget exceeds 15 lacs the options for designing a kitchen becomes numerous. Sleek, clean and trendy looking modular kitchens arrive in place with modern contemporary finishes. It has plethora of advantages over the conventional kitchen type. Clients who want high-end kitchens with the top of the line appliances often go in for the leading international brands such as **Poggenpohl, Veneta Cucine, Cucine Lube**, etc. Modular kitchens have swept into the urban Indian cities with offerings based on practical functionality, convenient design and glamour (to some extent). Luxury kitchens call for extraordinary details along with the use of rich materials and colours, the top of the class accessories and details of the hinges with wide range of shutter panels, along with the intelligent appliances making the setup one can drool for. The effective use of spaces with modern & smart accessories is what makes them in demand"

**Ankush Aggarwal, ANSA Interiors** - For a budget between twelve to twenty lacs, think of splurging. Instead of putting tiles think of putting Italian marbles on the walls also. You can consider the options of **Neolith, Slim-teck and Laminam**. These are man-made 10' x 4' slabs, non-porous and available in exotic colours and textures. For the counters think of Brazilian granites absolutely non-porous and available in colors which Indian granite do not offer. For cabinetry, there is fusion material available which are blend of wood and metal, they are absolutely termite resistant. You can also consider making the carcass in WPC (Wood Polymer Composite) which is more in range than waterproof ply but absolutely termite resistant. The internal carcass has to be laminated to make it easy to clean. Do the lighting in LED and take soft close, and very sophisticated internal fittings. Add to it integrated refrigerator, freezer drawer, dishwasher, chimney, hob, deep fryers, induction cook plate, built in oven and microwave. Top it with high end gadgets from **Miele and Siemens**. Your trendy kitchen is ready.

For a budget Kitchen, the mantra is all about re-using materials as much as possible and do not forget to get pest control done!

*The Kitchen is no more just a space meant for cooking. Rather, it is the only space that enthuse the spirit in one's home weather you are cooking or enjoying a dish with family or friends. Kitchens are all about emotions and feelings that define the real meaning in our lives. An Ideal kitchen is that where the available space is made functional without losing the aesthetic appeal. For others, an Ideal kitchen is also where a hassle-free cooking is possible without the need for much movement to perform various functions, of course with ample storage space. The kitchen should also be made of materials that require little maintenance and keep looking good even after enduring the rough Indian food habits for years. Here, SURFACES REPORTER seconds with Mr. Srivastava's who has put it beautifully: an Ideal Kitchen has to be efficient, practical, stylish and comfortable, all at the same time :)*