Installing kitchen cabinets isn’t a job for your average homeowner. Think about the total weight of all the ceramics, glassware, and appliances stored in your kitchen. But if you’re planning a major kitchen remodel, trying your hand at designing your kitchen yourself, or just want to be in the know when talking with the contractors, it helps to have some basic cabinet info. We asked Scott Bird of Danish company Reform, which makes custom cabinet fronts for Ikea cabinets (and now has a Brooklyn showroom), for a cabinet cheat sheet, everything from how much of a gap to leave between the upper cabinets and the counter, to where not to install drawers. Scott emphasizes that a lot of cabinet decisions depend on the style you’re going for. A kitchen planner will measure and help you plan your dream kitchen, maximising every space, all in the comfort of your own home.

Traditional kitchens often stress vertical lines, so think about wall cabinets to the ceiling. Doors can have frames around the panels, slats or bevelled details. Glass doors with crossbars add variation and show off what’s inside the cabinet.