

### **First – Set some objectives:**

The first step is to decide on your goals and objectives. Do you want a complete renovation, including moving walls, all-new appliances and different décor, or a simple face lift, upgrading your cabinets and counters and a fresh coat of paint? To help you decide, consider these questions:

- Do you need more cabinets, counters or storage space?
- Do you want to completely change the look of your kitchen, perhaps from country to contemporary?
- Do you need to upgrade appliances such as cooktops, refrigerators or the dishwasher?
- Do you want to add high-tech features such as a workstation, computer, fax and telephone?
- Do you want to change the layout or floor plan, knock down some walls to expand the size of the kitchen or add a center island?
- Are you looking to increase the value of your home but can't afford a dream kitchen?

### **Second - Find the right partner:**

A kitchen renovation is a complex project. Many elements need to be brought together in a cohesive way to achieve the result you want at the price you're expecting to pay. Over the years, we've gained a lot of insight and experience with how the process works. You should make sure, by checking references and looking at completed projects, that your builder has this kind of insight and experience.

In our next installment, we'll share what we've learned about how to approach this process.

Happy Remodeling!

**Chris Gage**