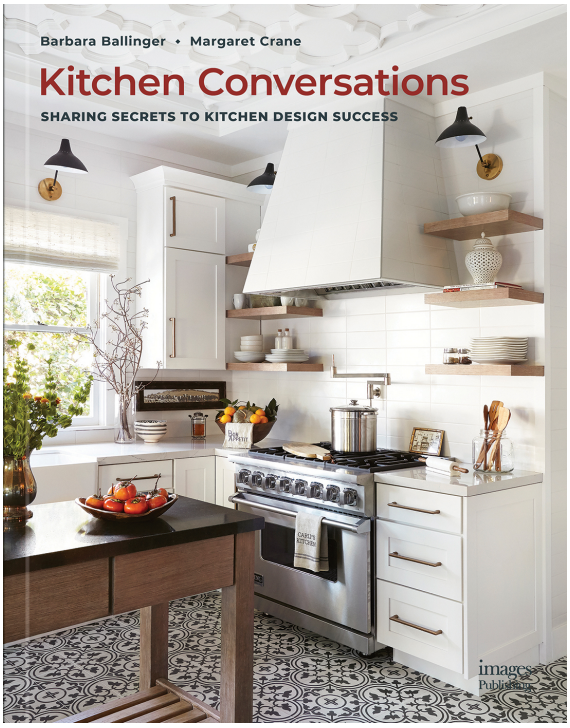
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Kitchen Conversations

Sharing Secrets to Kitchen Design Success

Barbara Ballinger

Margaret Crane

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- An invaluable and delightful resource for laypeople and professionals alike, packed with advice from kitchen designers and industry specialists
  Friendly, conversational tone used throughout to make the often intimidating process of kitchen renovating, remodeling and designing more personal and accessible
- The book allows for all kinds of budgets and provides guidance on what features, big or small, are worth the financial investment
- Sections within are laid out in order of how you might embark upon the journey of designing your own kitchen (Nuts and bolts; Design considerations; Blueprint). Tick off the finer features first before reaching the bigger decisions — every detail matters
- Featuring full-colour photography of breathtaking kitchens throughout the United States, with something for everyone, and blueprints of real kitchens to serve as inspiration
- Filled with anecdotes and tips, checklists, interesting facts and defining terms

Now more than ever, the kitchen continues to be the epicentre of the home. To serve its multiple purposes, the design must be functional, comfortable, and chic. Enter ***Kitchen Conversations***: the friend you want in your corner. Whether you are working on a budget, sparing no expense, or trying to find a nice balance, this book will guide you to make crucial decisions on details large and small, and be your companion on the journey of imagining, planning, designing and then building the kitchen of your dreams. While feasting on full-colour photography and real kitchen plans, you can also savour the input from kitchen designers and other industry professionals; personal stories of kitchen builds, remodels and cosmetic changes from many homeowners; useful checklists from homeowners and industry sources, and valuable tips for managing contractors throughout the entire process. There may be challenges along the way but being aware of what lies ahead will allow you to manage them well.

Barbara Ballinger (Hudson River Valley, NY) is an award-winning journalist, author, and reporter who has interviewed a variety of celebrities and experts including Tipper Gore, Martha Stewart, Danny Meyer, Rosalynn Carter, Lorraine Bracco, Doris Kearns Goodwin, and Ruth Reichl. She has covered diverse topics such as business, design, real estate, entertainment, food, law, and personal finance. Her work has appeared in publications such as the *GlobeSt.com, Chicago Tribune, the New York Times, Crain's Chicago Business, HGTV, American Bar Association Journal, House Beautiful, Multifamily Executive, Developer, Realtor, Robb Report, Travel & Leisure, Midwest Living, AAA, NAA's Units Magazine*, and more. Of the nineteen books Barbara has authored, thirteen have been with Margaret Crane - the most recent being *Suddenly Single after 50, Not Dead Yet*, and *The Kitchen Bible*. She and Crane blog weekly at lifelessonsat50plus.com. Barbara has also appeared on television and radio, including a segment about remodeling disasters on The Oprah Winfrey Show, and with Crane on NPR about their last book. She formerly worked for *House & Garden, part of Condé Nast, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch newspaper*, and *Realtor® Magazine* by the National Association of Realtors®. She earned a BA from Barnard College, Columbia University, and an MA from Hunter College, City University of New York, and started work on her MBA. **Margaret Crane** (New York, NY) is a nationally known freelance writer focusing on business, food, wine, fashion, home furnishings, and real estate. She has interviewed such luminaries as Jack Buck, Virginia Johnson, Sally Quinn, Moshe Dayan, Dr Benjamin Spock, David Ben Gurion, and Tippi Hedren, among many others. Her work has appeared in a wide variety of publications, including *The Beverages Journal, Crain's Chicago Business, Family Business Magazine, Inc., Midwest Living, the New York Times, Newsweek, Realtor® Magazine, St. Louis Business Journal, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis Magazine, the Wine Spectator*, and *Your Company Magazine*. A proven author with thirteen titles to her credit, she has co-authored with Barbara Ballinger other such books as *Successful Homebuilding and Remodeling, The New Homeowners Handbook, Apartment Living, Not Dead Yet*, and *The Kitchen Bible*. She formerly worked as a senior writer and researcher at a nonprofit fundraising organisation in St. Louis, where she helped launch and maintain an award-winning website. Margaret blogs weekly with Ballinger at lifelessonsat50plus.com. She has also appeared on television and radio and, with Ballinger, spoken around the country about becoming single, including on NPR and at Barnard College. In addition, she writes website content and does ghostwriting and editing for various clients. She holds a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Missouri and has started a master's in education. ***Kitchen Conversations*** is Barbara and Margaret's thirteenth collaboration.







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