

Soft Brutalism Kitchen Planning Checklist

Keep

Palette & materials

- ☐ Build the palette from warm neutrals: warm white, greige, taupe, sand, oak, walnut.
- ☐ Limit concrete to one or two focal points (island, hood, or feature wall).
- ☐ Choose honed or matte finishes over polished surfaces.
- ☐ Pick at most three main materials: one cabinet finish, one stone, one wood tone.

Cabinetry & layout

- ☐ Specify flat-panel (slab) doors with full-overlay construction.
- ☐ Plan handleless or minimal hardware: finger pulls, J-pulls, or push-to-open.
- ☐ Improve the layout and storage BEFORE locking in finishes.
- ☐ Include hidden storage: pull-out pantry, appliance garage, deep drawer organizers.

Surfaces & light

- ☐ Countertops: honed quartz, limestone, travertine, soapstone, or concrete-look quartz.
- ☐ Flooring: large-format tile or wide-plank wood with minimal grout lines.
- ☐ Layer lighting: recessed 2700K-3000K, under-cabinet task, island pendants, all on dimmers.
- ☐ Maximize natural light: larger windows, slim frames, minimal coverings.

Avoid these mistakes

- ☐ Do not use concrete on every surface - it turns heavy fast.
- ☐ Do not install cool-white LEDs above 4000K; they kill the warmth.
- ☐ Do not skip storage planning - minimalism fails without a place for everything.
- ☐ Add texture (limewash, plaster, fluted wood), not clutter, for depth.