

LIVING KITCHENS DO DOUBLE DUTY IN MODERN FAMILY-PLANNED HOMES

"Living kitchen" is an up-to-date term applied to an old idea which is stretching both space and living enjoyment in modern homes.

Combining the kitchen with some of the features of a family room started generations ago in farm homes where the kitchen was the center of family life, devoted equally to work and relaxation, points out Ralph Sherwin, chief designer of Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company. Now, with usable space a prime consideration, living kitchens are coming back into prominence. "Today, budgets and smaller lots are limiting the size of many homes, making it increasingly important to use every square foot of living space to the fullest," Mr. Sherwin commented. "This means that rooms often must be called on to do double duty."

THE KITCHEN is a prime example, the designer noted. Although it receives a lot of use during the day, there are many hours when it could be doing valuable extra service as a hobby center, a

spot for informal entertaining, TV viewing or just relaxing. It can often double as a gathering place, relieving crowding by accommodating the "overflow" from the family or living rooms. And food service is already built-in, the designer noted, adding to its convenience, especially for teen-agers.

In planning a living kitchen there is not need to be elaborate. Often an easy chair, sofa and a sturdy table will serve the purpose and keep the room from becoming overcrowded. This is important if it is to remain efficient in its primary function as the food preparation area. The table should

Keep Cool With A White Roof

Interior temperatures can be reduced by as much as 20 degrees by painting your roof white, according to studies made by the National Paint, Varnish & Lacquer Association. This means lower electric bills because air conditioners will have less work to do and if you do not have an air conditioner, upstairs rooms will be more comfortable.

Model houses with roofs of black asphalt shingles were used for the test in Washington's notoriously brutal climate. One roof was painted white, the other left untouched. Other tests showed that natural color aluminum paint also brought reductions of a lesser amount in interior temperatures. Light pastel aluminum paints helped to a lesser degree.

Not every kind of white paint is suitable for painting a roof, however. In the first place do not use a so-called self-cleaning, or chalking paint, because as this wears away (as it is supposed to do), the chalk may stain the sides of the house.

Roofs built of materials containing asphalt cannot be painted with solvent-thinned paints, because the solvent will dissolve the asphalt and cause ugly bleeding. So, for asphalt-felt, asphalt shingle and similar roofs, use an exterior white latex paint.

Exterior latexes can also be used on asbestos-cement shingles. Other paints suitable for this material are so-called swimming pool paints and paints designed especially for masonry.

Galvanized metal roofs should first be primed with zinc dust-zinc oxide paint, or other primer meant for this metal. The top-coat can be any non-chalking exterior paint.

Tin-coated roofs should first be primed with an anti-corrosive primer, and then be given the desired topcoat.

Modern shingles can be painted with any non-chalking exterior paint. To prevent old shingle stain from bleeding through, a coat of exterior aluminum paint is advised as a primer.

Remember that the life of paint on horizontal or nearly horizontal surfaces is shorter than on vertical surfaces. Two coats will last longer and do a better hiding job. To save your back, apply the paints with a long-handled roller or a spray.

Be sure, however, that you use only quality paint. Only quality paint has lasting hiding power, retains its color brilliance, and is wear and weather resistant. To be sure that you are getting a quality product, ask a friend or neighbor who has had a satisfactory paint job which brand be used or consult your established, reputable paint dealer.

ADDITIONS VALUABLE

The most popular home improvement project—and the one most likely to increase the value of a home—is a room addition, according to the Douglas Fir Plywood Association.

PICK BEST SPOT

When adding a room to your home, try to pick a location where an existing window or door can be used as a connecting passageway. By doing so, costs are reduced because the existing opening already will have a functioning header.

PAINTING A CHILD'S ROOM

The one room in the house which is probably subjected to the most wear and tear and requires the most frequent clean-up is also the room that should be the most cheerful. This is the child's room. Parents frequently are met with the sight of Johnny's last artistic effort on the door, the place on the wall where he drew an outline of his brother in indelible ink, the dots on the ceiling from the night they used it for target practice with their slingshots and ink cartridges. Subsequent decision: a fresh paint job will do wonders for the room.

In selecting the proper type and color coating for this room, there are some basic facts the homeowner should remember, says the National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association. Armed with information about type and color, the resulting paint job will be a source of satisfaction for him and of pleasure for his children.

What, then, should be considered when choosing paint for a child's room? The following are questions which should be answered by and for the handyman for a successful paint job. Is the paint sturdy and able to withstand much art-work and many cleanings? What type of surface will he be painting on? Where is the room located? What color should be used?

A latex paint is generally the best bet for the "do-it-yourselfer," when painting most ordinary walls and ceilings. It is easily applied, gives a smoother appearance, leaves no lap marks and dries quickly. It can be cleaned frequently with soap and water, and the cleaning up after the painting can also be done with soap and water. Many latex paints require a 30-day curing period before they can be washed or cleaned. Also, a few latex paints on the market today have a gloss or semi-gloss finish.

A standard for painting children's rooms has been the alkyd or oil base paint. The alkyd paints are available in gloss or semi-gloss finishes. They will so withstand many and frequent cleanings. However, alkyds are not quite as easy to apply and still achieve a smooth surface; there is a slight odor during drying; and post-painting clean up is not quite as simple.

Armed with factual information about types of paint, the handyman and his wife can now get down to the choice of color. Color is relative to the location of the room and the type of paint decided upon. In a room with a northern exposure, a light color with a gloss or semi-gloss finish will reflect existing light and artificial light to a better advantage than will a flat finish of a darker color. If the room has a southern exposure, then a darker color with a flat finish may be used. If the type of paint lends itself to frequent cleaning, a light color may be used. If not, then the color may be one which will not tend to show even the slightest bit of grime and dirt, such as a sandy beige. The handyman should also remember that brightness can be added to a child's room in accent colors, either in painted furniture or in the fabrics used.

Above all, when painting a child's room, remember the child himself. He should be able to "live" in his room. The room should be bright and cheerful so that a rainy day spent inside is not so depressing after all. A child spends varying amounts of time in his room, from an entire day to a few minutes spent there between dashes outside to play. The room should be a reflection in his own cheerful personality.

TIP FOR PAINT BRUSH BUYERS

When purchasing a paint brush, look for a solid strip in the heel of the brush, says the National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association. This strip plays three major roles in the performance and durability of the brush. It keeps the bristles in shape, it helps the brush to carry its paint load, and it makes for easier cleaning.

SINGLE WALL SAVES

One of the least expensive ways to build a good-looking wall is with the Douglas Fir Plywood Association's Sturd-i-Wall technique. This method involves the application of a single layer of plywood that acts as both sheathing and siding.

Child Needs 3 - in - 1 Room For Activities

As youngsters grow older, their hobbies and interests change. And so do their needs for living space. Homemakers can keep pace with these changes by converting their children's bedrooms into 3-in-1 activity centers that serve as bedroom, party room and general fun room.

Besides meeting the needs of the child, says the Construction Research Bureau, national clearinghouse for building information, the 3-in-1 activity center is designed to provide a substitute for living rooms and family rooms, thus keeping the rest of the house more quiet and less cluttered.

Start with Floor

Because the floor design determines the overall decorating scheme, it's wise to start there. Resilient coverings that resist scuff and stains such as vinyl asbestos tile are ideal for the rough wear youngsters will give them. They can be obtained in gay colors and combinations and can be kept bright and clean with a minimum of care.

A charming floor for a girl's room can easily be created with dainty madiera pink or eggshell white in a marbled style of Kentile vinyl asbestos that will hide any signs of dirt. For a boy's room, colonial blue or shannon green are ideal, marbleized colors. And hop-scotch or checkerboard patterns as well as complete shuffleboard game insets can be built into the floor to provide many fun-filled hours for the youngsters in this all-round room.

Trundle Beds

Next, select furniture and accessories that are in tune with the colors in the floor. Trundle beds, with one short-legged bed fitting under a standard-height bed when not in use, are an excellent choice. They can double as daytime seats when the youngsters entertain.

Washable draperies come in a wide range of colors and prints for window accent. Install scratch-resistant composition tops on work tables and desks, and add storage chests and built-ins for the youngsters' clothing and hobby materials.

A half-oval table for snacks that can also be used for model building or games will save space if it is hinged to the wall so it can be folded back and hooked when not in use. A radio, hi-fi and an extra television set often can be built into a storage wall to provide restful entertainment.

FLOOR IDEA OFFERED

A new floor system developed by Douglas Fir Plywood Association is engineered with $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch Underlayment grade plywood over joists on 24 inch centers. This method, when combined with tongue and groove edges, eliminates one-third of the joists normally required and eliminates both edge blocking and subflooring altogether.

IT PAYS TO SHOP FOR LOAN TERMS

There are a number of ways to finance a home improvement project.

The right way depends on the cost of the job, the monthly payment desired, and the amount of money still owed on the existing house.

Most home improvement plans require no down payment, but plans vary considerably in other terms. It is an intelligent to shop around for the best financing arrangements as it is to devote time and thought to the structural changes you plan for your home.

Remodeling contractors are familiar with most lending plans.

Your bank or savings and loan office can be of assistance, and so can the local office of the FHA.

For information on various financing plans and about specific home improvement projects to add space to your house, send 25 cents to Douglas Fir Plywood Association, 1119 A Street, Tacoma, Washington, and ask for the DFPA Remodeling Guide.

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Here's a Page From the Home Gardener's Handbook

Children And Gardens Grow Together

BY ALLAN SWENSON

Written for

Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Indoors and out, most children enjoy gardening if it is organized and kept simple. The challenge of keeping children's interest may help you do a better job of plant care yourself.

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