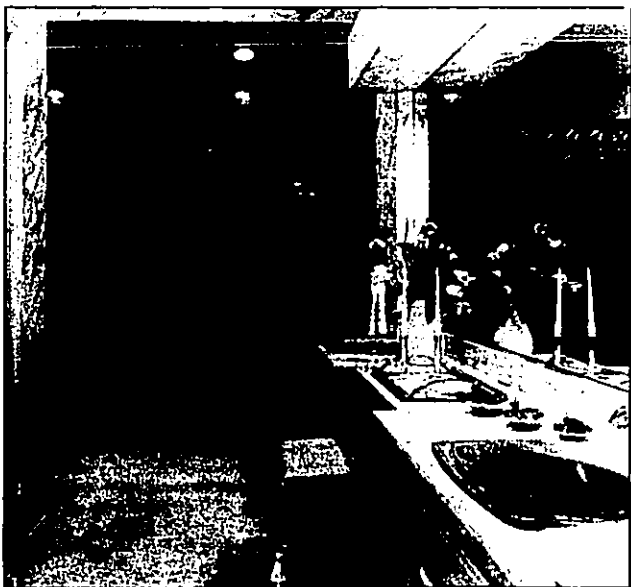


and class kitchens and baths



Today's bathrooms marry luxury and utility with state-of-art fixtures and amenities.

white. Kitchens in dark colors — wine red, dark green, even black — also are on the rise.

FOR A FINISHED look, appliances should match your decor.

For floors and countertops, touches of real or faux granite and custom tiles add a touch of rich elegance.

As far as kitchen layout is concerned, kitchen designers are adding islands to increase precious counter and storage space. Islands also provide more than one work station if you consider cooking a family event. Try creating one with a tall butcher block table.

Another important kitchen design element is lighting — the most current kitchens are flooded with natural and electric light.

Make the most of your kitchen's window space; even add a solarium window to increase natural light.

If natural lighting is limited, make sure the lights you have are bright and inviting. Install warm fluorescent lights under cabinets to light up counters.

Anyone who is faced with redoing a kitchen comes up against the contro-

versy boiling over cabinets. Should you have your cabinets custom-made or purchase them from stock manufacturers?

"A common myth suggests that because custom-made units cost more than stock, they must be better," says Home Remodeling & Decorating. "But the quality of the materials, the construction methods and even the finishing techniques can be equivalent in both."

CUSTOM CABINETS are made to order, to fit your exact specifications — for example, if you want something that isn't standard size, or long for an uncommon color, such as fire-engine red or emerald green.

All this custom perfection comes with a price tag to match — custom kitchens can run as high as \$75,000 or more. And it takes months to complete.

If your remodeling plans accept standard sizes and you want a popular cabinet style and color, investigate stock cabinets.

Stock cabinets bearing the approval

Please turn to Page 18

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