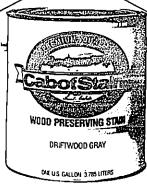


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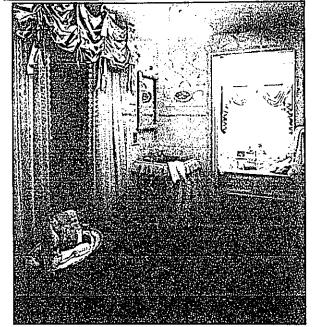
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COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Fabulous retreats can be made from ordinary bathrooms through the use

## Spending increases for opulent baths, glamour kitchens

HE BATHROOM and kitchen once were the most used and abused rooms in the house. They suffered from scuffs and spills, not to mention numerous decorating maladies.

Meanwhile, home owners lavished their improvement dollars on new drapes for the living room or a bureau for the bedroom.

But in this decade, these rooms have shed their unglamorous, if not boring reputations.

Enter the age of the opulent bath awash with luxuries, the well-appointed kitchen where furnishings for sur-pass the Cuisinart and the family liv-ing space that is better than a one-man band when it comes to entertainment.

Thousands of home owners are willing to spend an average of \$20,000 to make over their kitchen, and \$7,000 to revamp a bath, according to Remodel-

ing magazine.
Others are digging even deeper into their pockets and taking to the drawing boards to come up with the cus-tom-built room of their architectural dreams. Maybe it's a media room that makes beautiful sense of a tangle of

electronic equipment, or a home version of a health spa, complete with a crushed marble Jacuzzi/tub for two. gleaming bath fixtures, sauna and exercise equipment.

TAKING THEIR cue from a new wave of interest, designers have re-sponded with ideas and furnishings guaranteed to infuse these most fundamental of rooms with personality, ap-

Peal and usability.

With a sweep of a paintbrush or a slab of sheet rock, a once-bleak bathroom or bedraggled kitchen can now become a room worthy of acclaim on its own, as opposed to a space that de-pends on a hot shower or fresh baked pie to bring in the crowds.

Here's a look at some of the newest design trends in baths, kitchens and family areas.

## BATHROOMS

Yesterday's bath was pretty cut and dried. There were the necessary fixtures, a few toothbrushes hanging

Please turn to next page