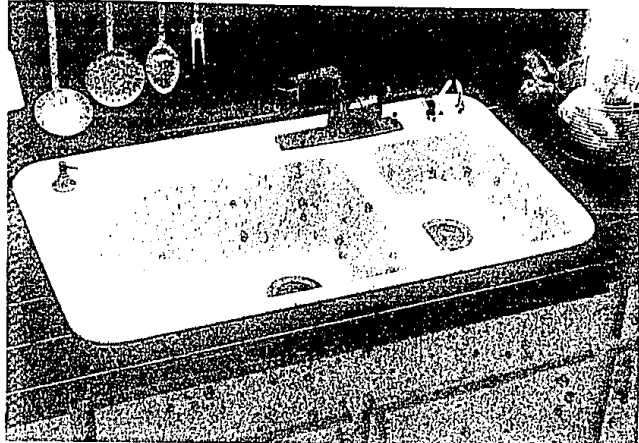


The new room to showcase versatility — kitchens



New sinks combine good looks with efficiency. This enameled cast iron sink features an extra large main basin designed to accommodate large pots and pans.

By Lisa Brody
special writer

Kitchens. We cook in them, visit in them and talk on the phone in them. For many of us, it's where we live.

Kitchens are our new family rooms. For many homeowners, the great room, encompassing the living, family and dining rooms, was the key room of the house in the 1970s and '80s.

But as we have entered the '90s, we find ourselves inching farther from the great room and closer to the kitchen.

Architect David Sellards of D.A. Sellards and Associates in Birmingham frequently combines the kitchen, nook and family room into what he calls "the keeping room."

"The kitchen is really the heart of the home," he said. "It's the living center, with fireplace, TV, stereo, kitchen and work area and the sofa."

Life in the kitchen has gotten easier, allowing us simpler techniques and tools for culinary masterpieces. Appliance makers have come up with new recipes for ranges, ovens, microwaves, refrigerators, freezers and trash compactors.

GE Appliances has introduced three over-the-range microwave/convection to its Spacemaker line for those whose kitchens are smaller than their cooking talents.

"WITH MICROWAVE, convection and combination cooking options, these ovens can tackle virtually any cooking task."

Microwave/convection ovens, which are also available in full-size models, provide a full range of cook-

ing options. Microwave cooking is ideal for quickly cooking soups and stews, defrosting frozen foods and reheating leftovers.

Convection ovens, which use forced air with thermal heat to cook, can be used for baking, broiling or browning. Combining microwave and convection cooking offers the advantages of speed and browning.

Gourmet cooks no longer have to content themselves with worshipping commercial appliances from afar. Viking Range Corp. offers a full line of professional quality ranges and ovens for the home cook.

Twenty-seven-inch, double-wall ovens provide gas cooking expertise with self-cleaning ease, and now come in stainless steel, white, black and almond.

The cook no longer needs to toil on the traditional four-burner stove. The cook can choose six gas burners and a 12-inch griddle for Sunday morning pancakes for the kids, just

burners or four burners and the griddle.

Viking has designed many of their range tops with ovens to fit into standard cabinetry. One of Viking's double ovens also provides infrared closed-door broiling. This oven heats to 1,600 degrees and cooks food in half the time, leaving the food with more nutrients.

CLEANUP HAS become less of a chore. New sinks with oversized basins provide fresh styling options for the head bottle-washer. Kohler claims its new Madral sinks are the only ones designed with stainless steel basins bonded to a cast composite deck for durability.

The Ravina is made of high-grade stainless steel and features deep recesses and rounded shapes. The Gallison is designed for the cook who needs a generous-sized sink and loves the beauty and durability of enameled cast iron.

Tips to ease mildew problems

Continued from page 3

er and hang them on a hook.

- Clothing. Don't put garments away if they're still damp, let them air dry, or iron them at the highest temperature safe for the fabric. Don't store clothes in plastic bags or boxes, they trap moisture. Ventilate storage areas when the weather is dry and cool.

Place paradichlorobenzene mothballs or crystals inside closets and drawers, they absorb moisture and prevent mildew.

PACK CLOTHES loosely when storing so that air can circulate around garments.

Don't use starch or fabric finish on items to be stored.

- Wallpaper. Spray an anti-bacterial agent on the damp, pasted side of the wallpaper before hanging it.
- Books. Place a container of baking soda nearby.
- Basement, laundry room, bathroom. Install exhaust fans and use electric dehumidifiers as needed.

Try these methods to remove mildew if it gets to you before you get to it.

- Books. Spread the pages of mildewed books fanwise to dry. Or, sprinkle pages with cornstarch or talcum powder to absorb moisture. Wipe off loose mold with a clean, dry, soft cloth.
- Ceramic tile or concrete. Scrub with a mixture of one cup chlorine

bleach to one gallon of water; rinse and allow to dry.

- Clothing. Mildew can cause permanent damage to clothing. If the fabric is washable, first shake or brush it outdoors. Pre-treat darkest

stains with heavy-duty liquid detergent. Wash in hot water with heavy-duty detergent and bleach.

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