

# Builders want both convenience and authenticity

(AP) Many old-house restorers stop their restoration efforts when they reach the kitchen. They just don't want to sacrifice the convenience of today for the sake of authenticity.

As far as modern appliances go, such as refrigerators and dishwashers, there's not much you can do to get a period look short of disguising them with wood panels.

The stove, however, is a different story.

Restored antique kitchen stoves are sturdy appliances that work remarkably well. One of these old

beauties is sure to become the focal point of your room, and, together with the right combination of period features, will give your kitchen the unmistakable feel of years past.

Some of you may remember the glowing cast-iron range that warmed your grandmother's kitchen. Many of these old stoves had six top burners over a wood- or coal-powered oven, with an open high shelf or warming oven overhead. Often, a hot-water reservoir sat on the right-hand side, keeping warm water handy for dish washing and other tasks.

THE DUAL functions these stoves served in years past — both to cook and help heat the home — were again realized by conscientious restorers in the energy crunching 1970s.

Although you can still find some restoration shops willing to make a new reproduction wood or coal range from patterns they own, it's usually cheaper to buy a restored original.

Since the firebox setup varies from stove to stove, the first thing you need to know before buying one is what your primary source of fuel will be. This largely depends on your location and what is abundant there. A wood-burning firebox is usually longer than one that is used for coal. There may be an extension in the

back of the stove allowing pieces as long as 22 inches to be burned. The lining of the firebox is generally a thin, 1/4-inch cast iron.

Since coal burns hotter than wood, a thick lining of fireclay (usually at least 1 to 1 1/2 inches thick) is necessary in the firebox. Because of this, the firebox is smaller, generally around 14 to 15 inches.

Although the warmth these stoves generate is a welcome addition in the cold winter months, no one wants to heat the kitchen unnecessarily in the summertime. Thus, the two-season, or gas side, stove was born.

Often replacing the water reservoir or shelf on the side of the stove, a gas side attachment usually consists of three or four burners, an

oven and a broiler.

Considered a retrofit item years ago, a gas side makes cooking on a

coal- or wood-burning cookstove a more comfortable chore in the warm months.

## Building news

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the annual awards breakfast in the industrial division of the Byron W. Terree Co. of Birmingham.

David Courtney was named salesman of the year for posting the highest dollar volume of transactions in 1989.



Thomas Lasky



Robert Vail

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