

Kitchen clutter easy to remedy

(AP) — Most recipes for remodeling a kitchen call for lots of hard cash. But you can pare the cost if you can settle for something far short of a total redo. That means isolating the worst problems and solving them inexpensively.

If storage space is lacking — as it is in most kitchens, kitchen designer Florence Perchuk says — use ready-made goods to expand usable space.

Perchuk, co-author of the "Complete Book of Kitchen Design" (Consumer Reports Books, \$16.95), says one place to look for more space is the ceiling. It can be used to mount a pot rack or a series of bicycle hooks for hanging pots.

Another seldom used space, even in the most cramped kitchen, is the window. Install narrow glass shelves across the bottom sash for drinking glasses, preserves and condiments, spices or Mason jars filled with dried beans, lentils and pasta.

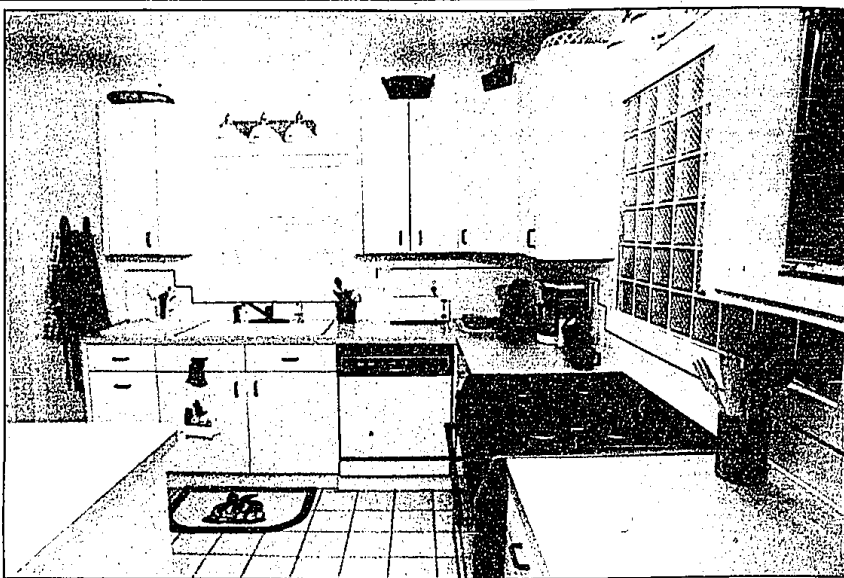
"Unused wall space can be covered with grids or pegboard for hanging frequently used gadgets such as strainers, whisks, graters and ladles.

Perchuk has taken her own advice. She claims there isn't an inch of bare wall in her New York kitchen.

"I bought stainless steel grids for gadgets," she says. "I made lid racks out of six ordinary towel bars which I bought at Ikea. The lid knobs rest on the bars."

If you have no storage space above the refrigerator, as in many older homes, install brackets and deep shelves for outsize items such as woks and large casseroles.

Before investing in cabinetry, shop at a hardware or housewares store for Band-Aid solutions such as sliding cup racks that mount



Convenience, not clutter: Nine out of 10 kitchens are more cluttered than organized. Most people think they need more space, but they only need to rearrange and eliminate extras, say kitchen designers. This kitchen takes advantage of its size by offering compact convenience.

Quick fixes lend new look to kitchen

Sprucing up a tired-looking kitchen doesn't have to be a complicated remodeling project. The cabinets, walls, ceilings, and countertops all lend themselves to creative improvements on a budget.

Here are some ways of doing it:

- The simplest change for wood wall cabinets is to remove the doors and hinges, conceal screw holes with wood filler, and paint the interiors a lively color to show off kitchen gear on open shelving. To make the cabinets seem deeper than they are, line the cabinet backs with mirrors (be sure the back of the face frame is painted).
- Cheer up a dark kitchen by painting wood-grain cabinets with

Georgian from page 1E

Carnovale said the economy may contribute to more traditional styles. "The instability of the economy is driving people to a more stable feeling architecture."

Georgian-influenced architecture represents a durable, timeless style, he said. People buying a home want to feel they've bought something that will last.

"(Georgian influenced architecture) evokes a stately, stable community feeling with some of the continuity of older neighborhoods," he said.

James Bonadeo, president of Bonadeo Builders in Plymouth, said Georgian influenced architecture gives people a feeling of security.

In this day and age, when there seems little to feel secure about,

Georgian-influenced architecture provides an anchor for people in a fast-moving world.

"It's the type of house where Grandma used to live," he said. "When you were there, you felt like Grandma owned the world."

Bonadeo predicted that as the 1990s continue, more homes will be built in Georgian-influenced architecture.

"We build a lot of speculative homes, but we would never build a contemporary home unless it's a sold house."

Birmingham architect Christopher Long said while it's true Georgian-influenced says "home" to people, one of the key reasons it is finding new popularity is because it's different.

"For so long, it was Tudor, Tudor, Tudor."

Part of the value of a house is derived from it being different from your neighbor's house — and your neighbor is probably building a Tudor."

any bright high-gloss enamel, then paint the surrounding woodwork white or a color to contrast with the cabinets. (Strip or sand old finish, and prime before painting.) Also consider stenciling walls and cabinets with a design, or painting the ceiling. Use high-gloss enamel for an eye-catching, easy-to-clean look.

- Change cabinet hardware; for example, replace with round porcelain knobs.
- Replace old cabinet doors that are beyond repair with new stock doors available from cabinet dealers.
- For the appearance of ceramic tile at a fraction of the cost, look for vinyl-coated wallpaper designed to look like tile. Some tile papers look so authentic that a person has to touch the paper before realizing it's not real.
- Cover damaged or badly worn walls with wood lath placed on the diagonal. Apply a protective coat of polyurethane, then hang utensils, pots, and pans from hooks or nails attached to strips.
- If the walls aren't right for windows, install a skylight to bring sunlight into the kitchen. Skylights provide five times as much light as a wall window of the same size — and won't sacrifice privacy. For improved ventilation, consider an operable skylight that opens by remote control on a hinged frame.
- Consider painting everything white — the ceiling, walls, woodwork, cabinets, even the floor. A light palette will enhance a feeling of spaciousness.
- Make a wooden countertop with oak or maple tongue-and-groove flooring glued and nailed to a plywood base. Seal with four

coats of polyurethane.

- Wood or plastic moldings can create almost any design — from flat strips to ornate scrimshaw — on the walls and doors. They also offer a good way to frame a wall-covering insert, separate two paint colors, or trim the edges of laminate.
- Add mirrors along one backsplash to give the room more depth.

If you've wondered how you could squeeze a dishwasher into your kitchen, however, you might consider sacrificing a base cabinet to get the space.

Cabinet-for-dishwasher swaps won't work in every home, however. Cabinets that were built in place or not built to standard dimensions pose too many problems.

Another roadblock can be a cabinet that was nailed down or screwed down from the top before the plastic laminate was installed. In this case, removing a base cabinet for a dishwasher means you'll have to look at a new countertop, as well.

Luckily, the best cabinets for this switch are also the most commonly installed. These are factory-built, modular units that are screwed together through their stiles, which makes them easy to remove.

They also come with corner brackets mounted on the inside walls of each unit near the top. The countertop is screwed to the brackets from underneath so it can be easily removed. If your kitchen has these mix-and-match cabinets, and you find a 24-inch base unit near the sink, you can install a standard dishwasher.

A glossary of housing styles

Styles of houses vary from community to community. Following is a guide to help you recognize the most common building styles put together by Doug Strannan, regional director of Century 21 of the Great Lakes.

- Ranch: These long, low houses rank among the most popular types in the country. The ranch, which developed from early homes in the West and Southwest, is a one-story with a low pitched roof. The raised ranch, which is also common in the U.S., has two levels, each accessible from the home's entry foyer, which features staircases to both upper and lower levels.
- Cape cod: This compact 1½-story house is small and symmetrical with a central entrance and a steep, gable roof. Brick, wood or aluminum siding are the

materials most commonly seen.

- Tudor: Modeled after an English country cottage, Tudor styling features trademark dark-wood timbering set against light-colored stucco that highlights the top half of the house and frames the numerous windows. The bottom half of the house is often made of brick.
- Queen Anne/Victorian: Developed from styles originated in Great Britain, these homes are usually two-story frame with large rooms, high ceilings and porches along the front and sometimes sides of the house. Peaked roofs and ornamental wood trim, many times referred to as "gingerbread" decorate these elaborate homes.
- Dutch colonial: The Dutch colonial has two or 2½ stories covered by a gambrel roof (having

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