

## Modernism gives a fresh look to kitchen

Just in time for the Millennium, it is once again fashionable to design kitchens with clean lines, bold colors and elegant practicality, according to Frank W. Siekmann, CEO of SieMatic Corp.

Far from being just a nostalgic, backward glance at the '60s, the new modernism, with its emphasis on convenience, flexibility and functionality, looks ahead to the changing lifestyles of the baby boom generation. One excellent example of this trend is the totally new Modula kitchen system from SieMatic.

"Modula is a terrific expression of form following function," according to Siekmann, who is the CEO of SieMatic's North American operations and a

grandson of the company's founder. "Modula is a system of free-standing units that can be easily configured for the four basic kitchen functions—storage, preparation, cooking and cleanup. The units can be customized, moved from place to place, or integrated with a more conventional kitchen."

Siekmann explained that the Modula system exhibits many of the characteristics of the new modernism trend that were evident at the just-completed Kitchen and Bath Industry Show in Chicago:

■ More imaginative use of color in the kitchen. Greens, oranges and yellows are coming back in sophisticated shades.

■ Light colored woods in species like cherry and maple. In the new kitchens, designers may even mix natural wood finishes with colorful painted or laminate surfaces for a fresh, unregimented look in the cabinetry.

■ Clean lines and an emphasis on practicality in surfaces and detailing. Elegant, unfussy design and sleek, hard-working materials make a modernist kitchen easy to look at, as well as easy to use.

■ As people seek to simplify their hectic lives, the current attraction to modernism is easy

to understand," Siekmann says. "The classic clean and uncluttered look has a great serenity and a kind of forward-looking optimism. With today's fresh interpretations, which includes a new emphasis on warm, beautiful materials and vibrant colors, modernism is more appealing and more inspiring than ever."

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## Screens create outdoor living

Looking for a good place to escape the heat and bugs of summer? Then consider a screened-in porch. These great places to relax, breathe fresh air, and enjoy the warm summer days and evenings.

With a screened-in porch, you won't have to retreat inside to the comfort of your air conditioning quite so often. In fact, the porch or other types of screened enclosures will quickly become your favorite summer hangout. Screening keeps the area light and airy, while holding pesky insects at bay.

"Many homeowners create an outdoor oasis that gives them more living space during the warmer months and screening makes the outdoor more pleasurable," says Frank Fitzgerald, Executive Vice President of the Screen Manufacturers Association. "Also, screening defines and enhances by closing in open space. With populations of disease-carrying mosquitoes and insects growing, screening is not only effective, but is an environmentally friendly way to control pests," adds Fitzgerald.

"Insects can be more than bothersome. Many homeowners hire costly pest control services to treat their home each summer with chemicals to keep harmful insects away, or spray with insect repellents. But screens can effectively and safely do the job without environmental impact. Costs are relatively in-

pensive because screens can be installed by most do-it-yourselfers."

Insect screening is available in woven fiberglass and aluminum in a choice of colors. Homeowners can enhance the outdoor aesthetics of their enclosure, while affording good outward visibility.

Charcoal color fiberglass and aluminum screening is very popular as well as the old standard bright aluminum and the new black aluminum insect screening. Black/charcoal screening provides excellent outward visibility, almost disappearing when you look through it.

Insect screening manufactured today is very durable which means it can withstand the rigors of year-round weathering. Aluminum screening is very resilient and is rust-proof, while woven fiberglass screening is coated with a strong vinyl making it tough so it won't dent, corrode or rust. In areas of extreme heat, sun control screening is available to provide shading and keep your living space more comfortable.

Rolls of screening are available in several widths that can accommodate a variety of needs making installation easy for a variety of projects. If you wish down screens and screen doors are beginning to show wear, don't forget those projects. "The screening can be replaced in a few simple steps," Fitzgerald says.

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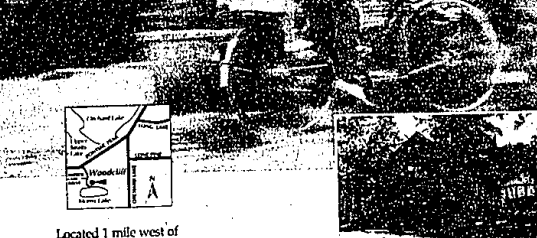
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