

Build yourself a dining counter or breakfast nook

Cook up a great new look for your kitchen without burning up the family budget.

This can be done with a do-it-yourself project such as a cook-and-serve counter, a dining breakfast nook or a gourmet cooking center.

Ideas such as these can be obtained by writing for Georgia-Pacific's new book "Great Possibilities for Your Home." Send 75 cents to cover postage and handling to Great Possibilities Dept. NAFS, Georgia-Pacific Corp., 900 SW Fifth Ave., Portland, Ore. 97204.

A cook-and-serve counter is a cozy, modern version of the nostalgic family kitchen. Design one end around a new cooktop, with adjacent room for food preparation.

Allow 18 to 24 inches per person for seating. Keep the space under the dining area open for knees.

You can construct it two ways: "A strong skeleton frame of 2 X 2 or 2 X 4 lumber (or a combination of both) covered with attractive, prefinished plywood paneling, or box construction, using one-piece plywood components.

"For a stained-resistant top that's easy to clean, use a plastic laminate or ceramic tile. Either way, choose a material like 1/2 inch particleboard or exterior grade plywood for the substrate. The neat little breakfast nook of the past is still handy for all-purpose dining today.

Build one in a corner or create a safe-style booth.

Start with a rectangular table three feet wide and allow at least 18 to 24 inches per person. Use a prefinished interior paneling for a warm decorative accent.

Make the table top functional and practical by covering 3/4 inch particleboard or plywood with plastic laminate or a smooth tile.

The benches should be 17 or 18 inches high, about 16 inches deep. Make covers of foam rubber and sheet plastic if you wish, but allow for the upholstery thickness when you plan the wood structure.

Any screen wall you erect will not be a bearing wall, so the frame can be 2 X 2 or 2 X 3 lumber. Either material will support a handsome 1/4 inch prefinished paneling.

Choose a rich, real hardwood paneling or a bright pastel-toned paneling.

The chef's center should be a practical and pleasant workshop. You can remodel a cooking area that's against a wall, add a superstructure to an existing island or make it brand new, cheerful and planned so all tools are easily accessible.

Think of the job, basically, as heavy corner posts (4 X 4) of redwood cedar or cedar that support a 2 X 3 or 2 X 4 framework you cover with materials of your choice.

Design a sturdy, easy-to-maintain top made of butcherblock plastic laminate on a core of 1 1/2 inch plywood for a durable work surface.

your choice. Prefinished interior paneling or smooth 1/4 inch hardboard panels you can paint are possibilities, as is exterior plywood siding in redwood, fir,

Pontiac shows African art

African Art from the Detroit Institute of Arts "Show on the Road" exhibition will continue through Feb. 16 at the Pontiac Art Center, 47 Williams.

The 18 objects in the exhibit represent cultures of sub-Saharan Africa, an area three times the size of the United States. Since the art of Africa forms an integral part of daily life, these objects range from the functional to the ritual, utilizing wood, metals, including gold, clay, fibers and paint. Accompanying photo panels show geographical sites, craftsman at work and objects in use.

Because nearly all the objects are made of perishable materials subject to temperature and humidity damage,

dating is difficult, but most are no more than 100 years old.

In African societies, woodcrafts, metalcrafts and weaving usually are practiced by men. Women are the potters. Some skills such as blacksmithing remain within the family and are handed down through the generations.

The "Firespitter" (Ivory Coast) mask in the exhibition is a composite of animals—head of a hyena, eyes of a human, tusks of a wart hog, mouth of a crocodile.

Dancing at night, the wearer blows sparks from the mouth to frighten away spirits thought to enter the community under the cover of darkness. The mask was a gift to the Detroit Institute of Arts from former Governor and Mrs. G. Mennen Williams.

The "Helmet Mask" of the Bunda Society (Sierra Leone) is a rare type worn by women of an adult organization whose purpose is to protect its members from exploitation by men and to initiate young girls into their roles in society.

"Mancala," a game board originating in Liberia, is an example of the strategy games played throughout the African continent in numerous variations.

The Ashanti "Femal Figure Seated on a Stool" (Ghana) illustrates the importance of ancestor veneration in African cultures.

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Blithe Spirit is presented

Noel Coward's comedy "Blithe Spirit" will be presented at 8:30 a.m. Jan. 31 at Meadow Brook Theatre, Rochester to benefit New Horizons of Oakland County, Inc. A pre-performance reception with light refreshments will begin at 7:45 p.m.

Tickets for the benefit are \$10 each and are available by calling 338-6176.

New Horizons is a Torch Drive agency which trains mentally physically handicapped persons who are 16 years old and older in job skills that utilize their abilities. With these skills, they can become independent contributing members of society.

New Horizons is headquartered at 117 Turk, Pontiac and has branches in Madison Heights and Farmington.

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