

# Kitchens will serve as social hub

By Kate Ennis  
special writer

The old saying, "No matter where I serve my guests, they seem to like my kitchen the best," is being taken to heart by architects, interior designers and appliance manufacturers as they look ahead to the coming decade.

Recent trends in kitchen design, such as built-in eating areas and adjoining living rooms, indicate that kitchens will increasingly serve as the social hub of the household, according to Ann Patterson, editor of Kitchens & Bathrooms magazine.

As a result, kitchens will be designed to accommodate more than one chef. Patterson points to the rise of kitchen islands and peninsulas that increase the surface area for food preparation and additional sinks and cooktops.

"If you're entertaining and your spouse wants help, that island will have a second sink," she says.

Working couples seeking time with their children will demand designs that don't cut them off from the family. Joy Schrage, a home economist with Whirlpool, suggests that the ideal home will have laundry appliances in the kitchen rather

than the basement "so you can toss in a load while you're cooking."

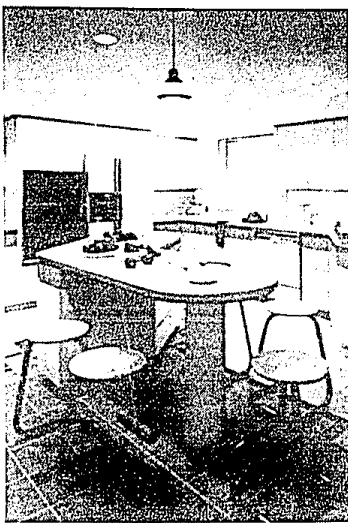
Architect Barry Sugarman, who has his own firm in Miami, predicts that the kitchen increasingly will become a communications center for the household where messages, stored electronically, will be left and received by members of the family as they pursue their work and leisure schedules. The kitchen he envisions will have a computer that contains data on kitchen inventory and accounts.

"EVERY FOOD item will have a bar chart you run past your comput-

er that will order it for you directly from the store. The store will then deliver it to your home," Sugarman predicts.

Microwave ovens can be made to read bar codes on food packages so that the cooking time and temperature are automatically entered. Microwaves can also be equipped with sensors that detect moisture levels in food and shut off when the food is cooked, thus saving energy.

Assuming that water conservation may be a major issue in the '90s, Whirlpool has developed technology to recycle wastewater from clothes washers and dishwasher for reuse.



This kitchen contains many of the design features predicted for the 1990s, including an island for eating and food preparation. To maximize space and reduce clutter, appliances are concealed by an appliance garage (center). The rounded counter (right) pulls out onto a spice rack. Designers are predicting that kitchens will combine the functions of food preparation and family and social gathering and will be used as information centers.

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