

Sleek

from page 4

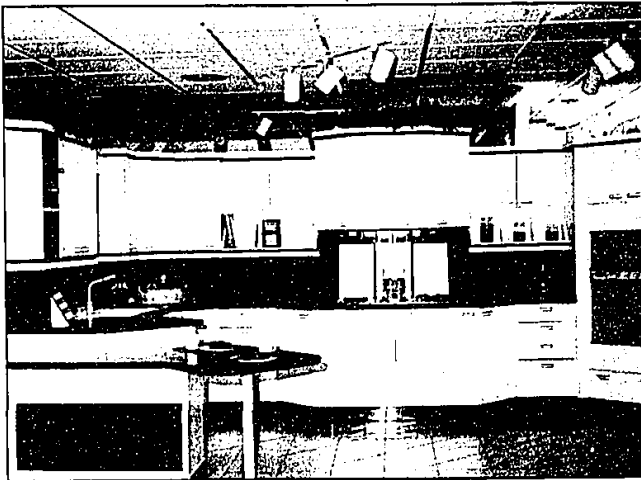
Jeff Scott, co-owner of Canac Cabinetry in Royal Oak, says light wood cabinets in a pickled or limewash finish are popular for contemporary and transitional interiors. And thanks to new paints and advanced applications, painted cabinets also are making a comeback.

"In the past, painted cabinets sometimes cracked with the expansion of the wood," Scott said. "Today, the paints give almost an 'automotive finish' to the cabinets."

CBM Kitchens and Baths in Livonia is beefing up its display of whirlpool tubs for customers who are building or remodeling. Jacuzzi and Samson even make a space-saver whirlpool tub to fit conventional openings in older homes.

On average, customers spend \$7,000 to \$9,000 for a complete bath, plus another \$2,000 for a whirlpool, says Bill Williamson, design consultant at CBM.

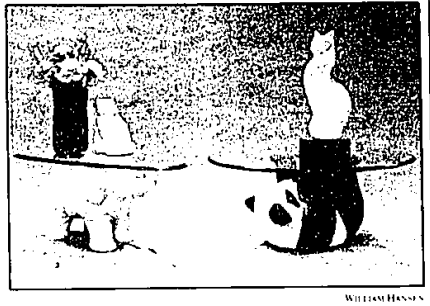
"The whirlpool is more popular than ever," Williamson said. "It's therapeutic but even the hum of the motor is relaxing."



Upbeat: Black and white kitchen features laminate cabinets, accented with black splash tile and black Corian countertops, by CE Cabinetry, Canada. All appliances, plus aquarium, are built in. Kitchen by Que Vie, Royal Oak.

Menagerie

Just for fun: Lane Furniture's Menagerie Collection offers whimsical occasional tables made of cast faux stone with a half-inch glass top (\$399). Tables available in a travertine, antique bronze, or black and white finish. At Charles Furniture Warehouse, Royal Oak.



Study up on home design

An international home fashions show and bazaar, featuring "Around the World Vignettes" by area interior designers, comes to Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester Hills Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 17-18.

As part of the event in Showell Pavilion, local artists will show painting techniques, including faux finishes, tromp l'oeil and painted furniture. A bazaar will feature international merchandise and foods. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17 and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18. Admission is \$8 both days (children younger than 12 will be admitted free). There's a \$50-per-person champagne preview 8-11 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16.

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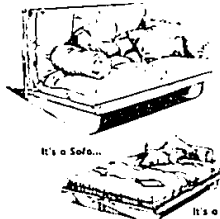
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