

Kitchens, from page 11

says Gary Fried, designer for the Madison Design Group, located in the Michigan Design Center, Troy.

"The kitchen is no longer merely a food preparation area," says Fried. "The client also wants to integrate a functional space-saving desk area, and a media center with a built-in TV and intercom."

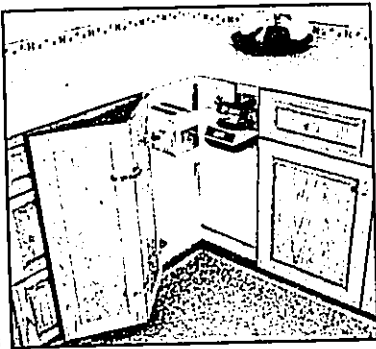
"All of this implies a change in what the kitchen looks like - it's no longer independent of the rest of the house, design-wise. When I meet with a client, we choose materials that are consistent with what's used in the rest of the home. It's more of a challenge designing a kitchen now than it was before."

As you might expect, cabinetry encompasses most of the space-saving features, spice drawers mean we can find

the cumin, and pull-out recycling bins are very popular, separating bottles, cans, plastic, and newspapers, eliminating the need for a compactor. Almost anything can be "pulled-out" - ironing boards, bread boards, chopping blocks, etc. - and then slipped back in place.

Appliances, too are doing double-duty. "There are stoves with interchangeable units. You can unplug a burner, and plug in a grill, a wok, or a deep fryer component," says Fried.

"Thermador ovens easily convert to microwave. Refrigerators have many space-saving features, and they're energy-efficient, as well. And, dishwashers are quieter. People are no longer grateful just to have their dishes washed for them; they want them washed quietly, as well."



Shown above, DeGiulio's version of the "Lazy Susan"; the cupboard opens to reveal the perfect "garage" for appliances you'd rather keep out-of-sight.

Tool Box Tips

Similar to a well-stocked medicine cabinet, a basic tool kit is a must-have for every home. You'll be glad you have it when those inevitable repair projects come along. Your basic tool kit should contain:

- Hammer, fiberglass or wooden handle, weighing 16 ounces.
- Screwdrivers, several sizes of Phillips head and flat head.
- Slip-joint pliers (10-inch).
- Curved-jaw locking pliers, commonly known as Vice-Grips, these work like a clamp or small vise.
- Needle-nose pliers with a built-in wire cutter.
- Adjustable wrench, also known as a Crescent wrench.
- Crosscut saw. The basic hand-saw.
- Retractable steel measuring tape.
- Utility knife with a retractable blade.
- Putty knife.
- File for sharpening blades and tools.
- Power drill with a starter collection of bits.
- Plastic goggles for eye protection.
- Plumber's friend or plunger.
- Carpenter's level (18-inch).

If you'd like to stock your garage or workshop with tools that go beyond the basics, consider:

- Pipe wrench (8-inch & 10-inch sizes).
 - Combination square, for building projects.
 - Set of wood chisels, for making cuts in wood and chipping.
 - Cold chisel, for removing bolts and rivets.
 - Small hacksaw, for cutting metal or plastic.
 - Set of hex key wrenches, also known as Allen wrench.
 - Pocket plane, for shaving wood from boards.
 - Sandpaper holder.
 - Staple gun, heavy-duty version.
- You needn't buy the following, unless you plan to use them often; they're available at rental service stores and yards:
- Concrete saws
 - Generators
 - Ladders
 - Power drain cleaners
 - Pumps
 - Power tools
 - Rototillers
 - Floor polishers
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