



SPACIOUS AND EFFICIENT - The new gas kitchen has lockers ringed around a center work island to solve accessibility and storage problems. Shelves are shallow with everything within easy reach and sight. The inside of the lockers are all color-keyed; each category of storage has its own color signal. The floor, in Armstrong's vinyl, looks like Spanish tile. (House and Garden)

Permanent Floors Enhance Resale Value

Planning to build a home? Here's a point to consider

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Items On Cupboard Shelves Spruce Up Tired Kitchen

Most people tend to neglect the decorative potential their kitchen has to offer. Because the kitchen is really the most utilitarian room in the house, beauty is often forsaken for practicality. Yet, with just a little

decorative inspiration and the addition of a few simple, colorful accessories even the most mundane kitchen can be turned into a cheerful center for food preparation and a bivy of other family activities.

To spruce up a tired kitchen, what could be more fitting than a host of inexpensive, practical accessories garnered from nature?

Although there are multitudes of handsome

decorative items on the market designed just for kitchen use, you needn't spend a king's ransom to find the proper decorative touches.

There's an endless array of decorative potential right on your cabinet shelves, just waiting to be discovered.

PASTA, a staple in every woman's kitchen, needn't be hidden behind closet doors.

An oak table adds just the right rustic look to an old fashioned kitchen, or a stark, contemporary one as well.

If you're planning a new counter tops, cereal grains, rice, sugar, salt, pepper and other kitchen necessities will all keep better too, in these inexpensive canisters. Strings of onions, garlic, and peppers can be hung on kitchen walls to add bright spots of color with a natural flavor.

Small pots of homegrown Mother Nature has to offer.



THIS LITTLE dahlia came from a plant grown from seeds sown early. Fun for you to do.

Dahlia Seeds Planted Indoors

Four months or a little less from the time you plant seeds of small-flowered dahlias indoors, the plants will bloom.

That's the reason you start them early, like in late March or early April.

Plant in pots or flats in sterile soil in a full range of colors on plants a mere foot high.

Be sure to keep seeds moderately moist and, as they germinate, which they'll do in eight or 10 days, turn the container daily to keep them growing straight. A sunny window is a must.

When plantlets are a few inches high they should be moved to the garden, if there is no longer danger of frost, or to individual pots of clay or peat if still kept indoors.

SELECT a location outdoors in full sun and space dahlia plants 18 inches apart. They'll form little bushes all by themselves with no "pinching" from you.

If your soil is not rich, add organic matter, mixing it well into the soil, and fertilize before you plant the dahlias. They respond to such treatment.

There are several strains of dwarf dahlias. The Colness hybrids have single flowers in many colors. Border Jewels form plants 12 to 14 inches high, begin to bloom early and bear four inch-wide flowers that may be double or semi-

In the kitchen, many women prefer the easy upkeep of vinyl floor coverings. A carpeted kitchen with nothing more than plywood under-

neath will probably make the home much more difficult to sell.

If you want to take the risk of building without permanent floors, fine. But keep in mind that if you have to add floors later, they will probably cost a great deal more than if installed as original equipment when the house was built.

There's also the possibility that a subsequent buyer won't be able to obtain as high a mortgage as he needs because of a lower appraisal resulting from the absence of permanent finished flooring.

All things considered, it's probably a good idea to spend a little more initially and install resilient or hardwood floors when the house is built. Then, throughout the life of the property, the use of carpeting becomes one of choice — not necessity.

How To Choose Quality Furniture

As in most things, there's more to a piece of furniture than what meets the eye.

Although you can easily determine the style and good design qualities of a chest, table or buffet on sight, a quick look will hardly tell you anything about how well a piece of furniture is made. Or how durable it is. And these factors are important because, after all, furniture is a large investment and you want to get the most for your money is some specific and not very complicated details to look for. Here's what to do when you consider buying a piece of furniture:

• Find out what type of wood the piece is made of. Solid hardwood or hardwood veneer pieces will be strong and sturdy as well as durable. Generally, most medium quality or high quality furniture is made of different species of hardwood. Look for tags which specify the type of wood used in construction, or ask your furniture salesman to supply you with this information. Be especially careful of pieces which imitate wood, since some manufacturers use printed or painted grain patterns on hardboard, metal, or plastic.

• You can check the sturdiness of the frame of a cabinet or table by placing your hand on the top surface and "rocking" the piece back and forth. If the frame isn't strong enough to withstand the weight from your hand, the piece will move. This loose, low-quality construction is an important alert to furniture buyers.

• Look on the inside of drawers and cabinets. These areas needn't be finished to the same fine degree as the visible parts, but they should be sanded smooth and finished.

• Examine all moving parts in a chest to be sure that they operate smoothly. Drawers should be made to fit perfectly, without jamming, and

should open and close when pulled on one side only. Doors should fit snugly and have strong hinges.

• Look at the finish carefully, especially on the posts, door frames, and other less obvious exposed parts. The finish should be applied evenly with uniform color. It should also be smooth and agreeable to touch. Poor or sloppy finishing often suggests inferior workmanship in other parts as well.

• Furniture joints that are smooth, tight and flush in themselves are other signs of quality workmanship.

If you evaluate all of these factors in furniture construction, chances are you will get the most for your furniture dollar.

Art Wall Enhances Any Room

An art wall, a decorating trick that enhances any room, is within easy reach of most families, not just the wealthy.

Richness comes with an imaginative choice of wall covering used as a background.

A gallery on living or dining room wall can display whatever is most pleasing — inexpensive prints of old masters, family photographs, contemporary prints, or the original paintings by friends or family members.

These can be framed and matted without spending a fortune, using a miter saw and any of a wide variety of molding patterns available at lumber dealers.

Other art walls display small sculptures or wood carvings, pottery, china collections or antiques on shelves of western pine boards.

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