



KITCHEN ENTERTAINMENT—The new GE Spacemaker² 9-in. color TV mounts easily under-the-cabinet, saving valuable counterspace.

Art investment should give pleasure

By SONIA ZIMMERMAN, CA

The whole point of investing in art - like investing in anything else - is to make money. Eventually.

So if you're thinking about starting an art collection as an investment, there are some things you should know at the outset.

First: forget all about picking up a grime-covered early A.Y. Jackson (that no one else has spotted!) for \$2 at a Saturday sidewalk sale. You might, of course, but you're more likely to win \$10-million in the lottery. So be realistic - and decide how much money you want to spend.

When it comes to art, a high price doesn't guarantee a sound investment. Sometimes just the reverse. But good art doesn't have to be expensive. In fact, the works of many reputable Canadian artists are available at very reasonable prices - in the \$200 and upwards range.

By far the easiest and least expensive way to get your art collection going is by buying what's known as limited edition prints. Such prints are still "original" art

- but much less costly than, say, an oil painting by the same artist. But before rushing out to the nearest dealer, it's as well to keep two simple rules in mind: Buy only what you like; and buy the highest quality art you can afford. Both make sense.

So you know your own tastes and know how much you can spend. Are you ready to start your collection? Sure you are. But what constitutes good art investment?

Who's to say. But a few guidelines may help to keep you on the right track.

Your art acquisitions should not only be profitable, they should give you a lot of personal enjoyment as well.

After all, you're the one who has to live with them.

For CA's advice on TV, see Your Wealth, available on broadcast channels in Ontario and on satellite across Canada, or see Money in the Bank, on your community cable channel.

Moneycare is general financial advice by Canada's chartered accountants. Sonia Zimmerman is in practice in Toronto.

Know your tax act

By RON DUNNE, CA

When most people think of investing, they usually have in mind such things as stocks, bonds and real estate, which have well-known tax advantages spelled out in the Income Tax Act.

What the Act calls "personal property" - your house, cottage, car and boat, for instance - generally do not have the tax benefits of such investments (though your principal residence has its own considerable advantages).

However, there is a sub-category under personal property that the Act calls "listed personal property". LPP offers not only an added tax advantage over garden-variety investments but a good deal of personal enjoyment as well.

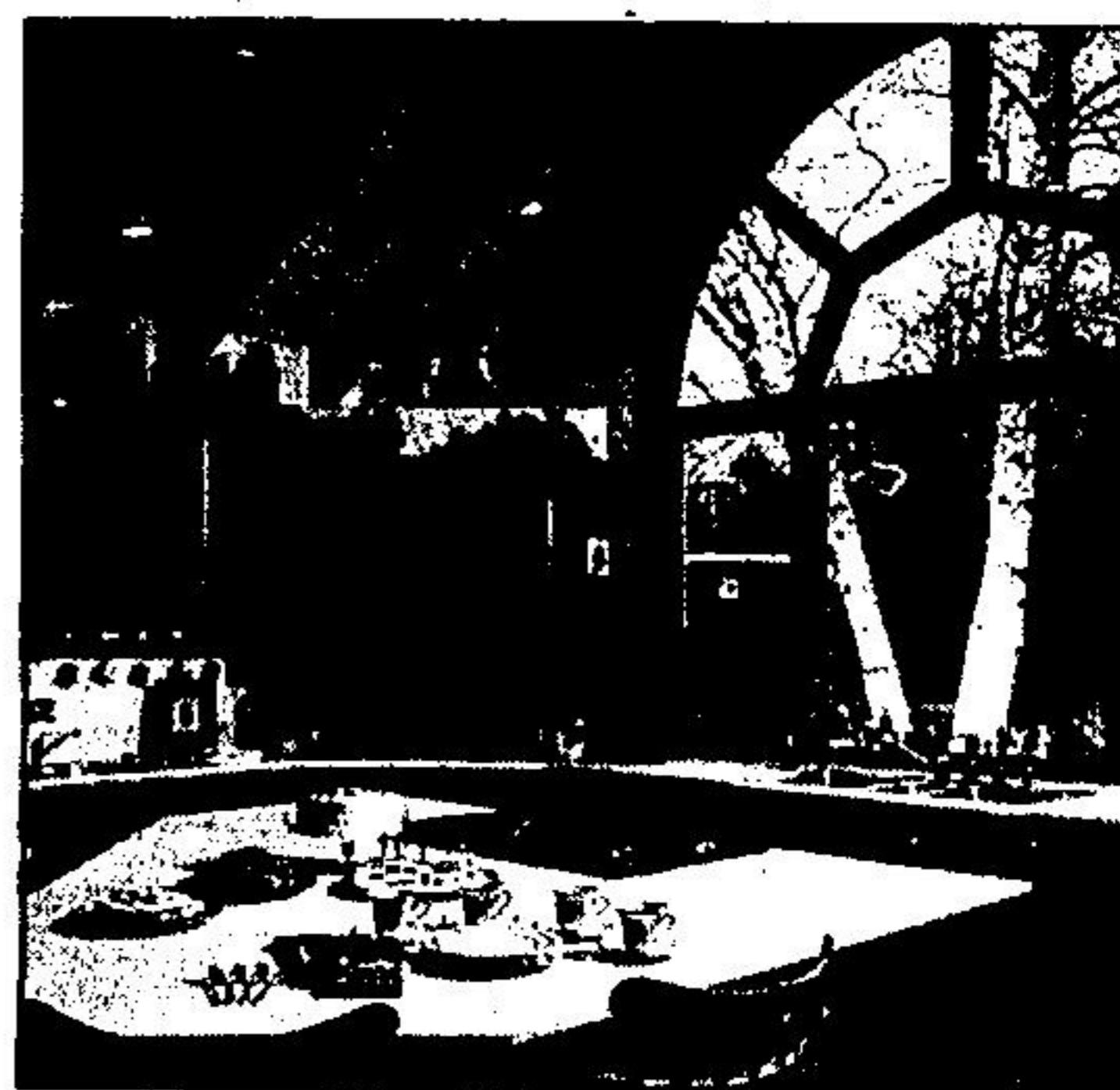
LPP - including paintings, prints, etchings, drawings, art and coin collections, sculpture, jewellery, and rare folios, manuscripts and books - gets preferred treatment if there are capital losses.

With LPP, the adjusted cost base (roughly the cost for tax purposes when the property is sold) is actual cost or \$1,000, whichever is greater. The Act also states that if there is a loss, the proceeds from the sale are considered to be the greater of the actual proceeds and \$1,000.

Suppose you bought a painting in 1975 for \$10,000, the artist did not become successful and it is now worth \$100. If you sell it, the actual capital loss is \$9,900. Under the LPP concept, however, the loss is considered to be \$9,000 (\$10,000 minus \$1,000) and this is deducted from your capital gains on other listed personal property. If your capital gains on LPP total \$20,000, you subtract the \$9,000 so that the capital gain becomes \$11,000 (instead of \$10,100 if you had the same loss on shares).

It's very important to note that LPP losses are only deductible against LPP gains. In addition, LPP losses can only be applied against LPP gains of the current year, the previous three years, and the following seven taxation year. Other capital losses (on investments) can be carried back three years and forward indefinitely.

Moneycare is general financial advice by Canada's chartered accountants. Ron Dunne is a partner in the commodity tax department of Ernst and Young.



Bring in the outdoors

Women do home repairs

Some men may not want to admit it, but a woman's place is no longer in the home. It's in the workplace - so much so that women now make up the majority of the work force - almost 55 per cent.

Many of these working women are single, widowed or divorced. So they no longer need or want men to make home repairs. What they do depend on, however, are tools that get the job done. So, how well the tools work is more important than how good they look.

RULES FOR TOOLS

Some tool manufacturers recognize this. One of them, CooperTools, offers the following rules for tool selection:

- Buy high quality tools. Cheap versions, more often than not, prove the adage about getting what you pay for; most are unreliable "knuckle-busters."

- Buy tools that feel comfortable. Before you pay for the tool, handle it. Is it too heavy? Is it well balanced?

SAFETY IS ESSENTIAL

Buy a pair of safety glasses or goggles and good work gloves for your tool kit. It's a good idea to get into the habit of wearing safety glasses and gloves whenever you work with tools - especially hammers and other striking tools.

- Keep the tools clean by wiping them with a coat of light oil before replacing them in the tool box or hanging them up on the peg board.

When it comes to specific tools, CooperTools recommends a 16-ounce hammer as the most useful for chores around the house; a set of screwdrivers with cushion grips for better comfort and higher torque, i.e. the force required to turn a screw; one good adjustable wrench rather than several open-end wrenches. A 10-inch adjustable wrench that opens to one and one-eighth inch is large enough for most repairs, including leaky faucets.

MEASURING UP

Finally, any tool box is incomplete without a retractable measuring tape. For most home uses a 20 or 25-foot rule is adequate.

Natural gas used to power buses

Using public transit in an excellent way to cut down the number of vehicles blowing pollutants into our environment. But even public transit can stand some improvement - and today it's finding that improvement, in the form of cleaner natural gas buses.

NATURAL GAS BUSES - TRIED AND TRUE

Currently, about 40 percent of urban smog is attributed to motor vehicles. However, there is something that can be done. Using natural gas buses in place of traditional diesel-powered buses can greatly improve air quality by reducing carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide and harmful particulate emissions, as well as odour and black smoke. Natural gas buses can also help cut down noise pollution because they operate more quietly and smoothly than diesel buses.

Cities such as Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Mississauga and Hamilton have already begun to integrate natural gas buses into their public transit fleet, or are using natural gas buses on a test basis.

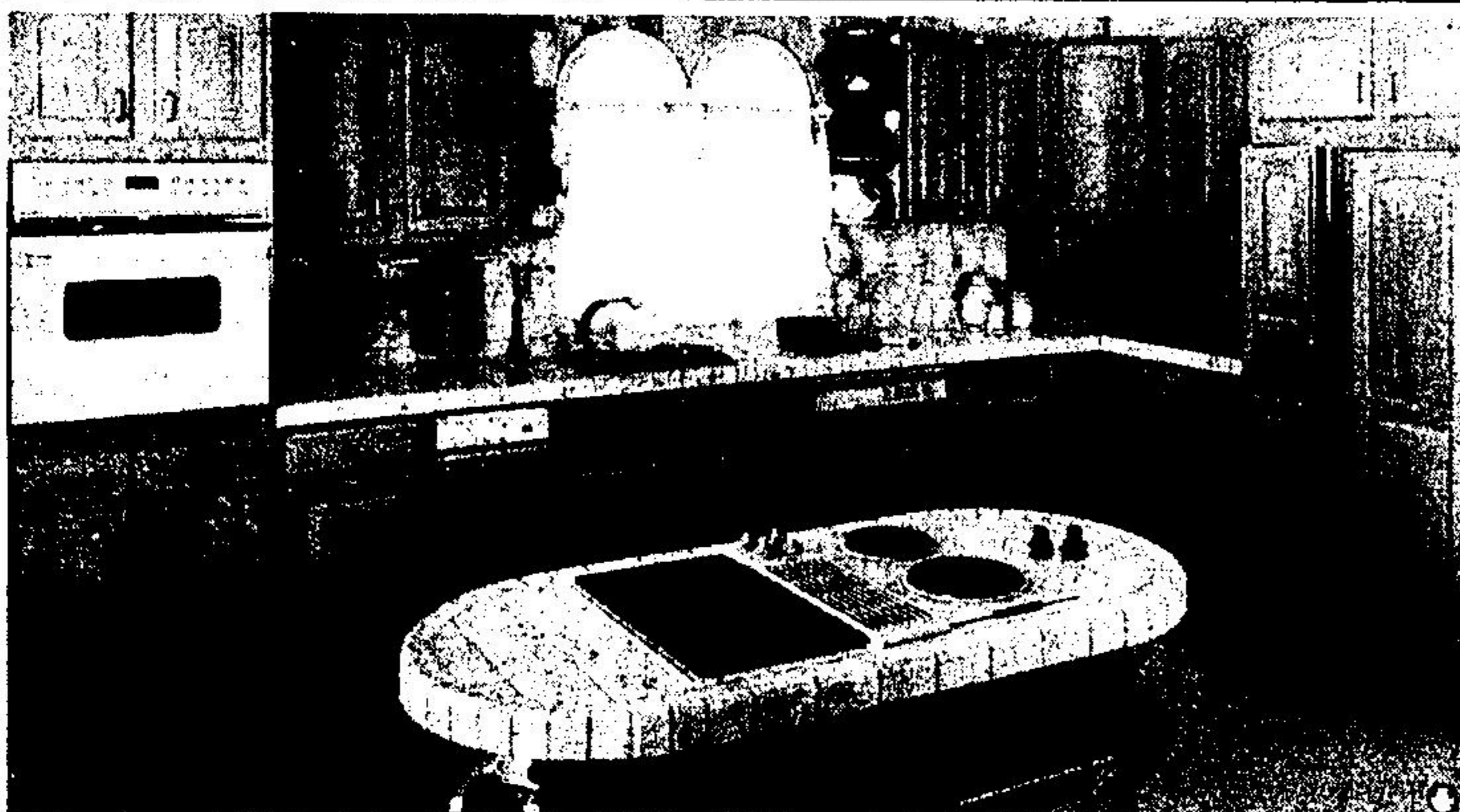
HOME-GROWN TECHNOLOGY Technology is now available to produce buses designed from the

ground up to operate solely on natural gas. The first natural gas dedicated bus in the world - the Orion - was recently unveiled by Mississauga-based Ontario Bus Industries.

The Toronto Transit Commission is currently testing the Orion on the streets of Toronto. "Results have been extremely encouraging," says TTC spokesman Doug Kennedy, "including greatly reduced emissions, and no black smoth or odour. Our drivers, too, are pleased with the vehicles, reporting that they are much quieter and more powerful than diesel buses."

In addition to operating dedicated natural gas buses, transit companies and fleet operators can convert existing buses to run on natural gas. These vehicles can make a significant contribution to reducing air pollution caused by damaging exhaust.

The Canadian Gas Association has extensive information on natural gas transit, and the role it can play in reducing environmental pollution. For a free brochure on the benefits of natural gas, call CGA's toll-free information line at 1-800-668-1563.



THE TREND TO LIGHT KITCHENS includes introduction of new white appliances, such as Jenn-Air's Designer Line White grill-range cooktop, Selective-Use™ wall oven, compactor and electronically controlled dishwasher as well as refrigerators. The compactor, dishwasher and refrigerator are shown with front panels to match the light-finished cabinets.