

# Home Improvement

## Make your kitchen sizzle — renovating on a budget

(NC)—Ask Canadians which room in their home they would most like to remodel and they will probably say the kitchen. Although this room is usually top priority, the assumed high cost of the job often keeps many from making the project a reality. It doesn't have to be the case. Here are some simple remodeling projects to freshen up your kitchen.

### New Countertops

An easy project is replacing old countertops with plastic laminates. Available in hundreds of colours and textures, laminates are very affordable and easy to maintain. Since countertops cover a large area,

replacing them creates immediate impact.

### Refacing or Refinishing Cabinets

New cabinets are usually the single largest expense in a kitchen renovation. However, if the structure of your cabinets is sound, consider refinishing or refacing. Refinishing means stripping and staining or painting the surface. With refacing, the cabinet fronts and drawers are replaced and a matching veneer is put on the cabinet frames, creating a totally new look.

### Changing the Faucet

"Changing the faucet is one of the quickest and eas-

iest ways to improve the kitchen, and it is one of the least expensive, to create a dramatic new look," says Ted Harrison, Director of Marketing at Moen Inc. Canada. If you prefer the warm, traditional look, Moen's new Colonnade® kitchen faucet, finished in bright copper, becomes the immediate centerpiece of any kitchen and blends beautifully with other high-gloss copper kitchen accessories. To complement the trend towards commercial-styled appliances, Moen developed its new, brushed stainless finish, now available on the Salora® and Extensa® pullout faucets as well as its popular

PureTouch® Classic Filtering Faucet.

### Colour Trends All Around

For walls and flooring, whites or off-whites are still the colours of choice. Neutrals never go out of style and become a definite plus when selling your home. To add colour, stencils, borders, dishes and flowers work well, and are easily replaced as styles change. In flooring, vinyl is the most popular since it is durable and easy-to-install. For an easy upgrade choose laminates in the latest imitations of wood stone and marble. In many cases, laminates can be installed directly over existing flooring.

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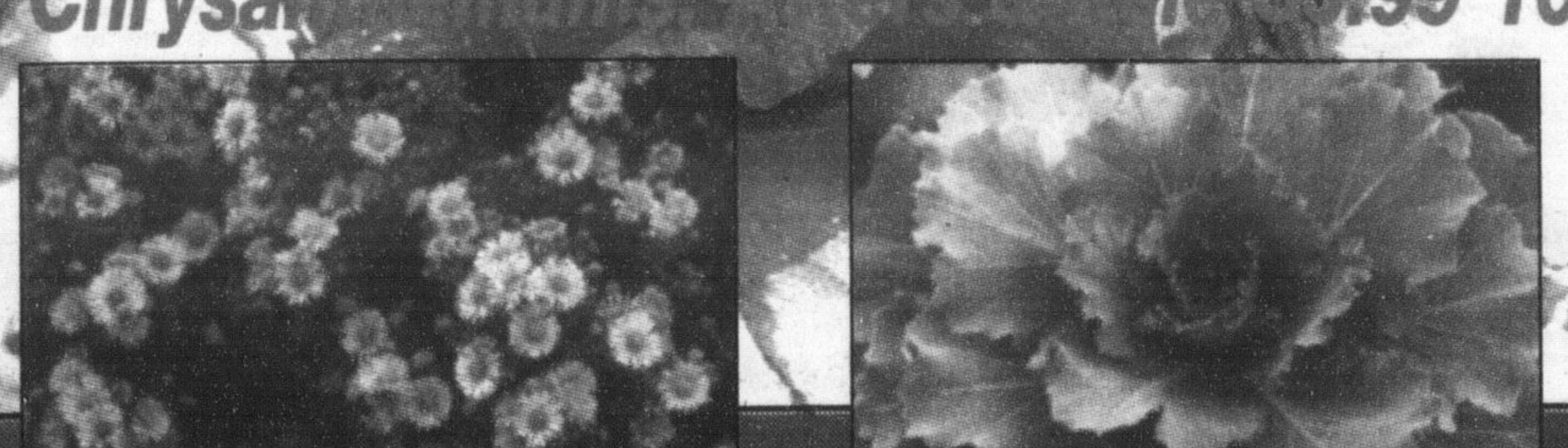

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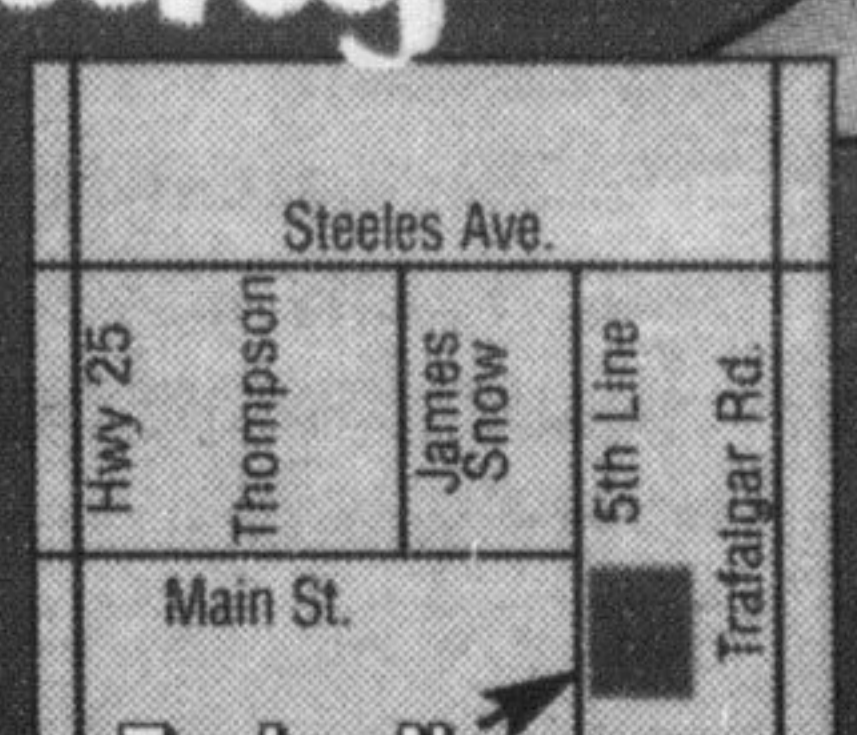
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