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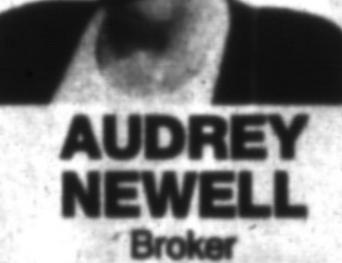
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Timing is perfect for renovating your kitchen

An integral part of any home, the kitchen is really a multi-purpose room.

sumed here, and, because of its very nature, the kitchen serves as a traditional gathering place for the family.

having your kitchen complete remodelled, or having your cup boards refaced or replaced a together, your timing is perfect. With the ever-increasing diverproducts continually coming onto the market today. designs and materials to choose inch of space that you have. from - regardless of whether you prefer traditional to contemporary or if you like the smooth, clean lines of European styling.

Today's kitchens can be anything you want them to be sleek and shiny, warm and cosy, bold and bright. Many homeowners are opting to make an informal family room area part of their kitchen renovations as well. Some are even adding on solariums.

ding to the overall value of your home. The payback on kitchen renovations in general, is estimated to be quite good.

As with any home improvement project, planning is the key ingredient. So before you decide on a particular style or layout, make sure you take a good look around at kitchen showrooms.

Consult magazines and books your homework and know what's available.

Make sure you get quotes for the costs of various types of projects you have in mind and ask if the company includes installation in its prices.

Costs vary

Obviously, costs and policies will vary somewhat from manufacturer to manufacturer and you may have to revamp your plans somewhat to suit your budget.

In addition to cabinets, consider other factors as well. Do your appliances need replacing? new ones (possibly of different sizes than your existing ones) into your design for a custom fit.

Do you want or will you have to put in a brand new floor? These are things you'll want to

Also keep in mind that what magazine may not be entirely practical for your own purposes and space limitations. Consult experts and take time to choose carefully. For instance, if you have a very small galley kitchen, may want to incorporate special "effects" (such as color techniques, mirrors, skylights and so on) that will make the room appear more spacious.

If you're working with very limited room, you'll also want to get the maximum amount of you have an unending variety of mileage out of every available

Time Savers

Today's cabinets come with all sorts of gadgets designed to help you keep things more organized. like built-in, gliding cutlery drawer organizers, plate racks, special drawers for pots and pans and special racks or slots for pot lids.

You can also get special pullout revolving corner sections which allow you to maximize By udating and enhancing your storage space in corner your kitchen, you'll also be ad- cabinets and make the most use out of awkward space.

Other specialty items include built-in wine racks, spice bins, built-in curio cabinets and special rolling racks and bins that allow you easy access to underthe-counter items.

Work Islands

In more spacious kitchens, work islands are a popular opas well. After all, it's your home tion because they provide an and your money, so it pays to do area which can be easily accessed for food preparation. They also provide an interesting focal point.

If you don't have room for a large work island, you may want to consider a small portable "butcher's block" which can be rolled out of the way and stored in a corner or pantry when not needed.

In addition to providing you with extra working space, many of these units contain extra shelves for permanent storage.

When finalizing your design plans, it's a good idea to try and keep your fridge stove and sink If so, you'll want to incorporate in a triangular pattern so that you don't waste a lot of time needlessly retracing your steps.

This article is provided by local realtors and the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA) for the benefit of consumers in the real estate market.

