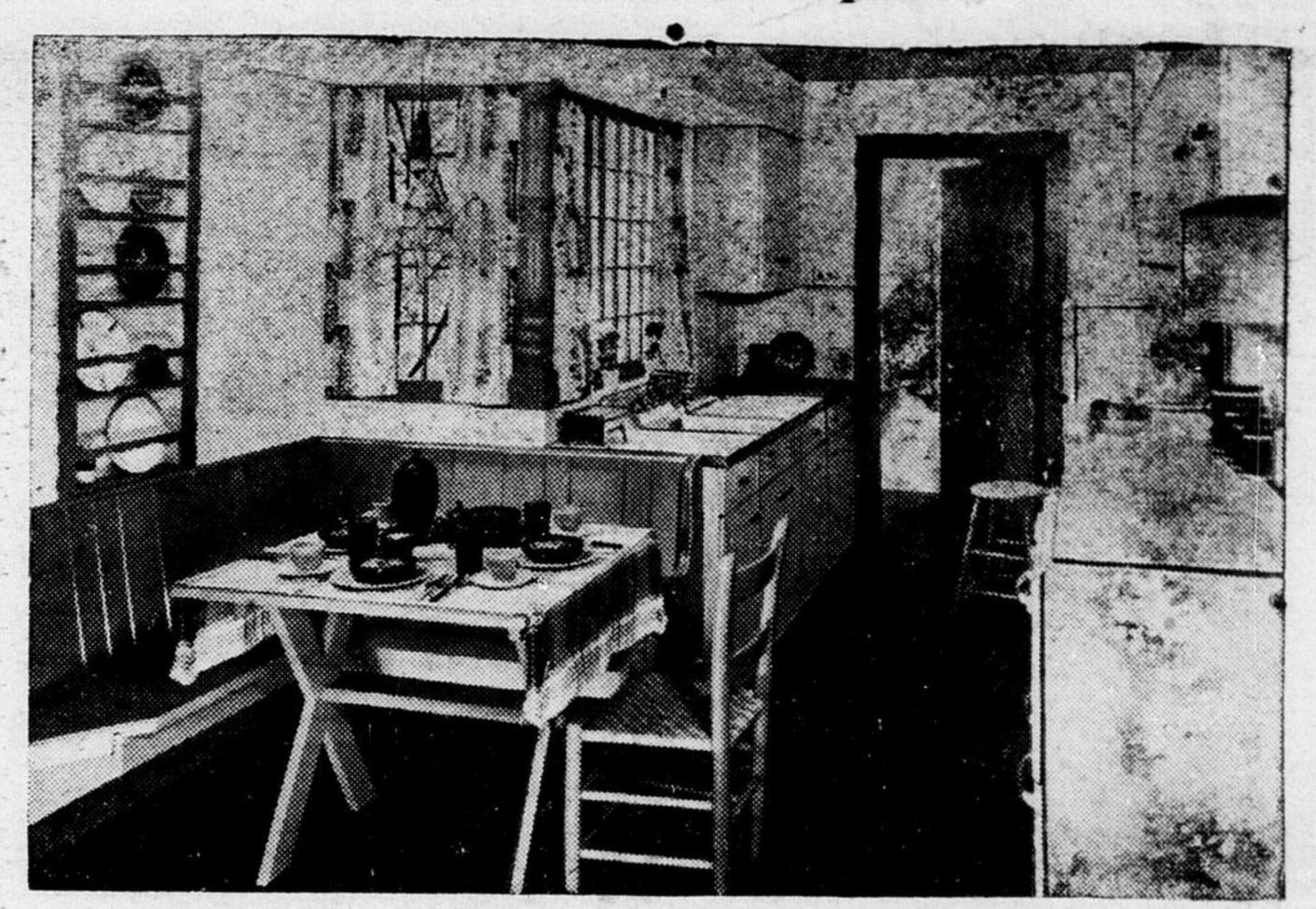
Family Kitchens Still Popular



Bright, cheery and colourful, the modern kitchen is planned for its livable qualities as well as for efficiency.

The old saying, "styles may change, but friendly customs never" can apply aptly to kitchens, says the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating.

The big old-fashioned family sized kitchens were always one of the most popular rooms in the house. Today's kitchens are a complete transformation from those of a few years ago as far as style is concerned, but they are still the most popular room with guests and members of the family alike.

Kitchens in the old days were "homey" rooms, but were sadly lacking in efficiency, and what might have been considered attractive decoration several years ago, is now regarded as drab and old-fashioned. Having in mind the general popularity of the kitchen, artist designers have sought to provide this important room with the maximum of efficency, without detracting from its air of friendly informal hospitality. The modern family-planned kitchen is now an efficent workshop for the housewife, but still the kind of room in which she can sit down comfortably and relax between chores, where the family can enjoy a meal, where the children can find a cozy corner to study in after school, or where guests can congregate for a late informal supper party.

Space-saving efficency has been the keynote of the family-planned kitchen, says the Institute, and this has chiefly been accomplished by the introduction of the cabinet sink. An acid resisting, cast-iron enamelled sink, with chromium plated swinging spout faucet is fitted on to a cabinet of heavy gauge steel. In the case of a sixty-inch double drainboard sink, the cabinets underneath make 28 cubic feet of space available for storage. This space accommodates soap, dish clothes, cleansers, towels, kettles, pots and pans. Some models contain towel dryers, vegetable rack and drawers for cutlery.

There is no pantry in the modern kitchen. Built-in cupboard and cabinets of various sizes take care of ironing board, brooms and mops, as well as food supplies and kitchen utensils, all conveniently arranged to eliminate any unnecessary steps, reaching or bending.

As most families like to eat at least one meal a day in the kitchen, a convenient corner can be reserved for the breakfast nook. It will also be found to be an ideal place for conveniently serving a late evening snack, or an excellent spot for the smaller members of the family to play with their toys and dolls, while the housewife is at work.

One of the most convenient accessories in the modern kitchen is the planning table. Here, in a comfortable chair, the housewife can relax and listen to the radio, telephone the grocer, or plan the day's menus.

Any old-fashioned kitchen can be made more efficient and attractive with up-to-date equipment, and expert advice on planning and arrangement is available from any experienced plumbing contractor, points out the Institute.

RECOMMENDED THICKNESS FOR CONCRETE FLOOR SLABS

Q.—What is the recommended thickness for garage concrete floor slabs and for driveway slabs?

A.—Garage concrete floor slabs should be not less than four inches and should be laid on a fill of cinders, gravel or crushed stone having a minimum thickness of four inches. This slab should extend at least two feet beyond the door opening and be sloped. Drainage in one-ear garages can be provided by sloping the floor toward the entrance, but if the garage is larger it is advisable to pitch the floor four ways to a central floor drain.

Garage driveway slabs should not be less than four inches thick. If the slab

is reinforced, the fill may be omitted. Expansion joints should be provided every 30 feet and between the driveway and the concrete slab forming the garage floor. —From Building in Canada

MINIMUM THICKNESS FOR THE FOUNDATION WALLS

(From Building in Canada)

Q. What is generally considered to be the minimum foundation wall thickness for a one-storey dwelling without basement?

A. Foundation-wall thickness should be not less than the thickness of the wall supported. However, foundation walls supporting the brick veneer wood-frame walls can be eight inches thick providing the veneer does not project more than three-fourths of an inch beyond the face of the foundation wall and the wood studs are not larger than two by fours. One-storey woodframe structures can be supported by six-inch-thick poured concrete foundation walls. Footings for a one-storey woodframe or masonry veneer woodframe dwelling without basement should have a thickness of six inches and project three inches on each side of the foundation walls. If the construction of the exterior walls is masonry, the footings should be eight inches thick and project four inches each side.

ECONOMY

"A Kansas cafe saves on butter by laying out knives after the soup course. Thus the customer cannot butter the crackers which accompany his soup." It somehow recalls the discovery, by an efficiency shark, that by placing towels high on a washroom wall, the bulk of the water runs down the user's arm.—Sudbury Star.

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