

# It takes a smart kitchen cabinet to pass this test

In most kitchens, the cabinets work as hard as the cook.

Kitchen cabinets do a variety of jobs—from providing storage and countertop space to setting the room's decorative tone. A sufficient number of accessible cabinets makes a kitchen more convenient. Not surprisingly, new cabinets rank as a key factor in kitchen remodeling.

A recent survey by the Bureau of Building Marketing Research reports that 75 per cent of professionally-remodeled kitchens feature new cabinets. Cabinet installation is also included in about 40 per cent of kitchens remodeled by do-it-yourselfers. Either way, cabinet selection can play a big part in successful upgrading.

A basic factor in kitchen cabinet selection—and one no remodeler should overlook—is the cabinet's performance ability. The National Kitchen Cabinet Association points out that kitchen cabinets must provide long-term daily service in the home's toughest "workroom."

How well the cabinets are constructed, the amount of storage they hold, their strength, ease of operation, and resistance to staining should all be considered. NKCA suggests that cabinets be chosen to withstand a variety of kitchen "trauma"—from normal slams and spills to extraordinary abuse—such as children standing on cabinet doors to reach high shelves.

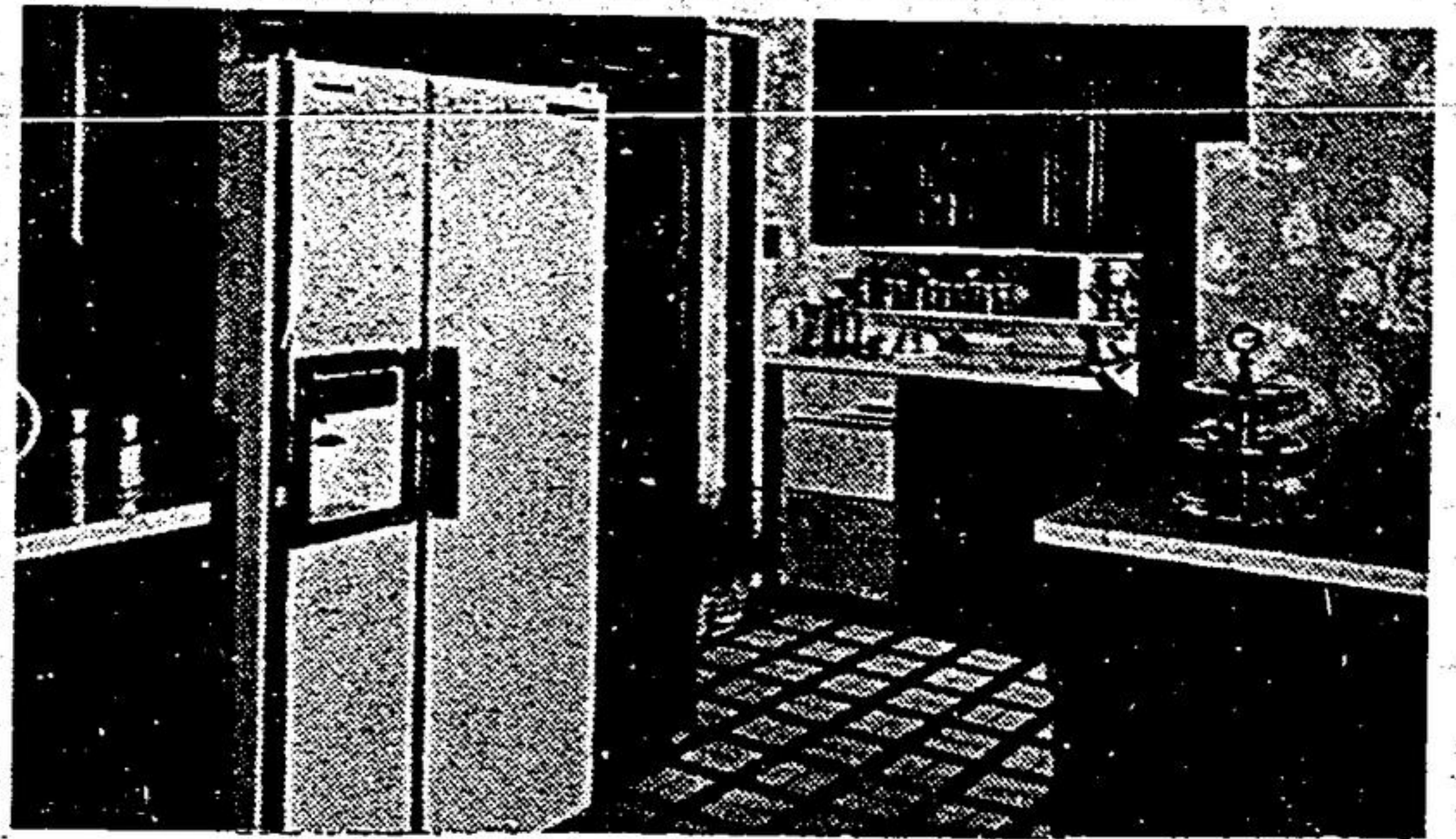
Although style, color, placement and size of kitchen cabinets may vary, performance shouldn't, says NKCA. Therefore, the Association recommends use of kitchen cabinets that carry an NKCA certification seal. The seal certifies that the cabinet meets stringent construction and performance standards of American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for kitchen and

vanity cabinets. The standards apply to manufactured, factory-finished kitchen and vanity cabinets.

Before they can carry the NKCA seal, cabinets must pass endurance and quality tests conducted by an independent testing laboratory. The tests cover a wide range of performances. For instance, it's required that shelves be sufficiently supported; that swinging doors be properly aligned and operate freely, and that the cabinet finish be clean and free of disfiguring marks.

In addition cabinets must be able to withstand above-average weights on shelves and in drawers, as well as the impact of dropped cans and other objects.

There is even a test for the special abuse suffered by base cabinet doors—from being closed by adult knees to being hit bith children's tricycles.



WHAT ONCE WAS A HUGE, OLD-FASHIONED KITCHEN was remodelled by a professional designer to improve use of space, especially of storage space. Ceiling height is diminished by installation of beams and bright yellow-white wallcovering. Large refrigerator-freezer has easy access. "Mission" cabinetry, St. Charles.

## Lost in space? Get the advice of an expert for your kitchen

Working in a kitchen, too cozy to be convenient you may visualize "a big, big kitchen" as your dream come true.

Professionals — among them the specialists who are Certified Kitchen Designers — say it's not size that counts most. It's space, and how you use space.

A large kitchen can be a nightmare fatiguing both physically and emotionally if it's cut into by doorways, is badly lit, has high ceilings with cabinets all the way to the top, and appliances so far

apart you need roller skates to get from the refrigerator to the sink to the range.

A large kitchen can also be a delight, if the shortcomings described above are corrected through professional remodeling.

One expert, confronted with such a kitchen lowered the ceiling from 108 inches to 100 inches; installed task lighting to supplement overhead fixtures; updated and brought appliances closer together to save steps and added dining facilities in

"salvaged" space that proved large enough for a sewing centre and desk.

Just as a big kitchen can be improved, so can a small one through professional planning that "rethinks" the area.

Most CKD's and the member firms of the American Institute of Kitchen Dealers by whom they're employed, will quote free of charge on equipment, labor and materials from plans and specifications you submit.

For a fee of \$50 to \$75, the professional will visit

your home, take measurements, discuss your family's needs and preferences, develop layout sketches, prepare a comprehensive budget analysis, and meet with you at his showroom to present his initial suggestions.

For a fee of \$100 to \$150, his services will also include finished floor plans and perspective renderings or elevations, plus an accurate quotation for equipment, labor and materials.

Drawings and quotations become your

property. So should you decide to postpone your remodeling, or to become your own contractor, you will have spent a minimum amount for professional help that eventually will save you time, effort and the possibility of making expensive errors from lack of knowledge.

Should you pursue your remodeling plans within 90 days with the specialist who has prepared them, it is the practice of the reputable dealer to include his design fees in the cost of your kitchen.

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