



THE EIGHT-HUNDRED-DOLLAR-ROOM starts with sturdily traditional all-wood furniture from SK Products and finishes with everything else from the dime store to make a room that is low on budget and long on imagination.

Charming new decorating for the dime store budget

The most attractive ways to decorate do not always depend on what you pay. To prove that imagination is more important than money, designer Shirley Regendahl created a highly functional dining room filled with immense amounts of comfortable, cheery furnishings—and a bill that was less than \$800!

The sturdy, well-made wood furniture in the Country Pine finish was budget-priced for a start, and then everything else—from the fabric on the walls to the dishes in the buffet—were found in dime stores.

It all began with SK Prod-

ucts' oval table that expands to 60 inches and costs only \$105. Comfortable chairs were about \$50 each and the commodious buffet hutch was \$340, for a total of \$645 for the furniture.

With the \$150 that was left, here's how the room was furnished:

Walls—10 yards of blue-and-white bandana fabric at \$1.99 a yard, stapled to the wall.

Windows—11 yards of white fabric at \$1.09 a yard, edged with 10 yards of ball fringe at 30 cents a yard.

Floor—a do-it-yourself stencil painted on a solid color border, either with a

stencil kit or from a stencil you can cut yourself. Cover the paint with a protective coating.

Lamp—a \$10.98 shade was made into a hanging lamp with a socket and cord that runs through a large cup hook in the ceiling, and then down to the nearest electrical outlet.

Charming bird prints with gay red mats were found in the dime store. So were traditional china and flatware patterns as well as the stemware and glass accessories.

Hanging baskets and colorful fruit add the finishing "country" touches.

The furniture's rich hand-rubbed finish and the deeply-carved details on the buffet and hutch helped add dignity as well as convenience to a deceptively budget-conscious room.

Classic kitchen 'work triangle'

The "work triangle" approach to kitchen planning remains the classic favorite of the 4,000,000 Americans who remodeled their kitchens last year, according to the National Home Improvement Council, the New York-based coordinated voice of the \$30-billion home improvement industry.

According to the Council, a working kitchen begins with plans for three work-centers.

The sink should be the first of the work-centers to be placed. Traditionally, the sink is found under a window; but if locating it there puts it out of reach of the refrigerator, it can be placed on an inside wall or island, which would make the window space available for a dining or seating area.

The second work center is the refrigerator. It should be placed so the door, or doors, open toward the counter serving it.

The cooking area is the third center, completing the "work triangle." It is basically the path walked by the homemaker as she works in her kitchen.

Professional kitchen planners advise starting at the center front of the sink, measuring to the center front of the range, then to the refrigerator and back to the sink. If the distance between any two of these work centers is less than four feet, there won't be sufficient counter or storage space serving each center.

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Replace windows to save on energy

Does your list of home improvement projects include replacing old windows? That could be good news.

Because of advances in window technology, modern wood units offer a number of benefits from high style to low maintenance that were probably not available when the original units were installed. Most important, perhaps, proper replacement windows, properly installed, can make a substantial contribution to energy conservation—and can cut your fuel costs.

In an average home, windows occupy a large part of exterior wall space. If uninsulated or poorly-insulated, these units can account for excessive amounts of heat loss. To combat this expensive fuel waste, you should select windows with superior insulating capabilities. That means units which reduce heat loss through the frame, sash and glass and prevent air infiltration through openings between the sash and frame.

Modern wood windows meet these qualifications. Wood sash and frames are natural insulators, because wood does not transmit heat. The units are available with insulating glass—two panes with an insulating layer of air between. And they have tight, factory-applied weatherstripping.

Style options in modern wood windows are another advantage. They include traditional double-hungs, wide-view bows and bays, convenient-to-operate casements, awnings and hoppers (usually used to provide ventilation with fixed-sash units), sliding windows and sliding patio doors. Sophisti-

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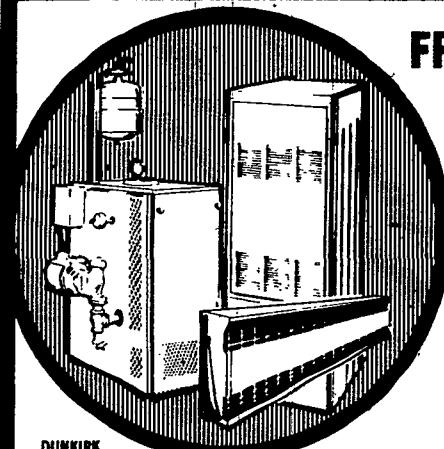
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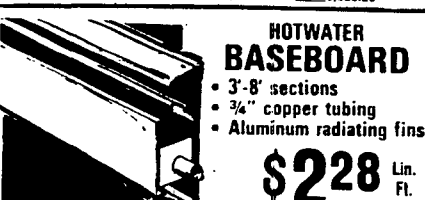
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