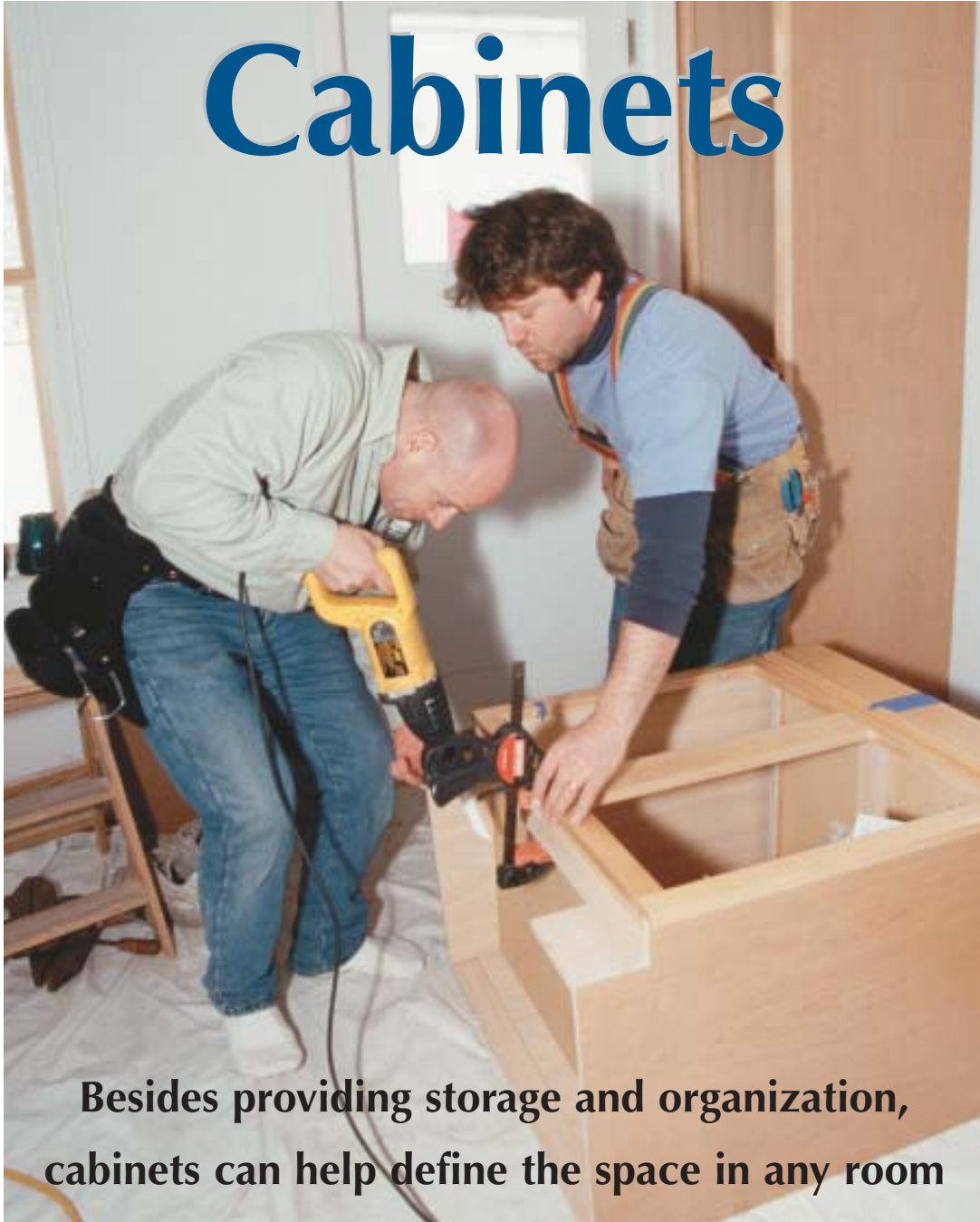


PROBLEM-SOLVING Cabinets



Besides providing storage and organization, cabinets can help define the space in any room

By now, you've noticed that many, if not most, new home designs and remodels feature the kitchen as the focal point of a great room or open floor plan. Cabinet

by Dave Holbrook

styles and finishes have evolved to allow their integration into the general decor, taking on the appearance of built-in, or not-so-built-in, furniture. That's great, because cabinets come in handy in every other room, too.

While some clients demand efficient performance from their cabinets, others will settle for a pretty face. Give them both and they'll never forget you. Today's stock cabinets offer plenty of function and face appeal for the cost-conscious consumer. Semi-custom cabinets may push the dollar envelope some but offer substitution of door and drawer styles, a choice of finishes, interior storage options, and, in some lines, even custom sizes. Go all custom and the sky's the limit, in both design and dollars.

Finishes

Vince Achey, of Plain & Fancy Custom Cabinetry, says, “Customers are emphasizing comfort over the ornate trend we’ve seen in the recent past; traditional styling is making a comeback, and people are going for less bold, more subdued colors, like browns and yellows.... Glazing is a hot new finish.”

What clean-happy housekeepers used to scrub off, cabinet makers now rub on, and, apparently, it’s selling like hotcakes. Glazing is a hand-rubbed colored paste that’s applied over a stain or pigmented clear tone base color. The paste tends to fill, or “hang up” in detail profiles, open grain, and recesses, imparting an aged “patina” to the finish (see photo 1). One manufacturer actually offers “fly speck highlights” as a finishing touch.

Two-tone cabinets add a distinctive look to stock and semi-custom cabinet lines; mixing tones can be accomplished in many ways (see *Kitchen & Bath*, “Two-Tone Kitchen Design,” 2/02). Contrast a light-colored face frame with darker doors and drawer fronts, or work with pale cabinets on the wall and a darker base array (2). Any way you work it, you’re riding the wave of current design, often for the same money as a monotone layout.



Period and Furniture Style

If not for solid-surface countertops and high-tech appliances, you’d almost think you’d died and gone to 1920 from the look of many of today’s kitchens. Crown Point Cabinetry’s Jeffrey Stowell notes that we’re “experiencing an amazing upsurge, in the last five years, of people who want to maintain the integrity of their period homes.... The period style is very big right now” (3). His company claims “historical accuracy” as a strength.



5



KRAFTMAID

A tall “armoire” cabinet can store the china or serve as a pantry closet (4). A wall cabinet combined with an open base unit suggests a stand-alone hutch (5). Glass-front storage bins display goods like an old-time grocery (6).

It really doesn’t take much to suggest furniture in the kitchen; a decorative corbel support under an island top, spindles or a turned column to accent an outside corner, ball feet to offset the toespace (7, 8, 9) all help to soften the lines.

Cabinets can not only look like, but also serve as, furniture, as in the case of these storage seat assemblies (10, 11).

Semi-custom cabinets permit swap-in options, like the ever popular dovetail drawer upgrade. Full-extension, concealed slides go traditional one better, giving full access to drawer contents with little space lost to hardware (12).

8



KRAFTMAID

10



PLAIN & FANCY

6



KRAFTMAID

9



KRAFTMAID

7



KRAFTMAID

11



YORKTOWNE

12



WELLBORN

Kitchen Tricks

Precise geometry, close tolerances, clever gadgetry, and maximized use of space characterize the Euro style. But these sleek units can cover the full spectrum of design, from industrial perfection to warm and familiar (13).

A kitchen island can simultaneously establish separation and integration of kitchen and living spaces in an open floor plan. The curvy Sistema Es concept cabinet is no wall hugger — it's completely freestanding due to its self-supporting structure (14).

Rolling cabinets serve as storage satellites at table side, then stow away under the island or countertop (15, 16).

The drop-front sink panel has been around for a while, but that triangular-shaped tray is not much good



19



MERILLAT

for storage. An unconventional U-shaped under-sink drawer reclaims more real estate (17). A tandem pullout drawer explores another, curvy alternative (18).

Clever design makes use of space formerly tossed away with a filler panel. Narrow pull-out storage makes sheet pans and trays easy to select (19).

Multiple layers of swing-out storage may wow them in the showroom, but users often tire of all that unfolding over time. Tall, narrow pullout storage is practical and convenient, typically providing full, double-sided access to stored items in one simple motion (20).

Open plate racks and apothecary drawers add visual interest and can reclaim a little space below wall cabinets (21).

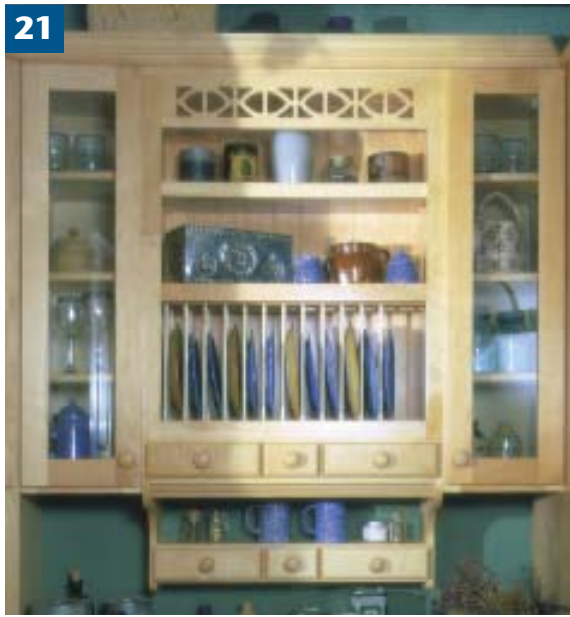
The toespace giveth, and the toespace taketh away: You can add a drawer where no drawer has gone before (22), while the long legs of a furniture-style cabinet can create a void big enough to lose your cat in. But a leggy cabinet visually allows the floor to run to the wall and may help make a small kitchen feel larger. A full-height, rotating shelf corner unit on splayed steel legs makes good use of a blind corner (23).

20



POGGENPOHL

21



WELLBORN

22



POGGENPOHL

23

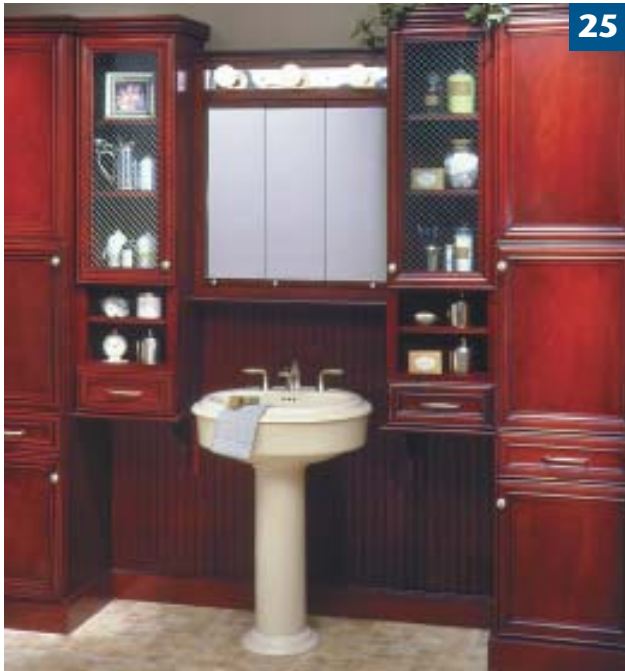


SNAIDERO



24

MERRILLAT



25

Better Bathrooms

It's unusual to find a homeowner who doesn't want maximum storage in the bathroom. So don't just stick them with a stand-alone vanity. Flanked by kitchen-height drawer cabinets and capped with wall units, the vanity can become storage central and create an elegant, custom look (24, 25). However, you may feel as though you've stumbled into a judge's chambers.

Some cabinets may stretch your notion of cabinetry — a bathroom vanity, for example, that could pass for a low-boy, complete with cabriole legs (26).

Fitted cabinets in the bathroom provide convenient storage for countless personal grooming items. If you can't squeeze almost as many cabinets into the bathroom as you find in the average kitchen, you may be missing sales and design opportunities (27).

HOMECREST



26

RUITT



27

WELLBORN



28

KRAFTMAID

The Home Office

Everything from a phone desk to a kitchen computer center to a full-blown home office can be defined with cabinets (28, 29, 30), although you might want to trim the toeboard where it crosses the kneespace.

PLAIN & FANCY



29



30

HOMECREST

Laundry

Instead of abandoning the laundry room to a strictly utilitarian fate, fit the appliances into a cabinet surround (31, 32). It makes one of the hardest-working rooms in the house a nicer place to be.

31



HOMECREST



32

MERILLAT


Cabinets in the Bedroom

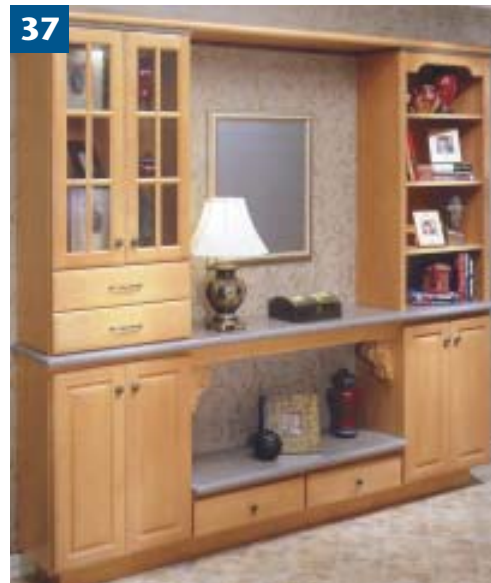
Cabinets can take the place of dressers and closets in the bedroom, creating a custom-designed environment with standard cabinet options (33, 34).



Family Room

Cabinets can improve the looks of a gas fireplace (35, 36). Creating a contemporary credenza requires little more than a reorganization of standard boxes (37).

In today's house, if you can't tell when you've left the kitchen, you're probably on the right track. 



Cabinet Manufacturers

allmilmö

Doylestown, Pa.
800/276-1239
www.allmilmo.com

American Woodmark

Winchester, Va.
540/665-9100
www.americanwoodmark.com

Aristokraft

Jasper, Ind.
812/482-2527
www.mbcabinets.com

Armstrong Cabinet Products

Addison, Texas
214/887-2000
www.armstrong.com

Bertch Cabinet Manufacturing

Waterloo, Iowa
319/296-2987
www.bertch.com

Bruce

Addison, Texas
800/527-5903
www.brucecabineets.com

Canac

Thornhill, Ontario
800/226-2248
www.kohlerco.com

Canyon Creek Cabinet Company

Monroe, Wash.
800/228-1830
www.canyoncreek.com

Crown Point Cabinetry

Claremont, N.H.
800/999-4994
www.crown-point.com

Crystal Cabinet Works

Princeton, Minn.
800/347-5045
www.ccworks.com

Diamond

Jasper, Ind.
812/482-2527
www.diamond2.com

Fieldstone

Sioux Falls, S.D.
800/339-5369
www.fieldstonecabinetry.com

Heritage Custom Cabinetry

New Holland, Pa.
717/354-4011
www.hck.com

HomeCrest

Goshen, Ind.
219/535-9300
www.homecrestcab.com

Kemper

Jasper, Ind.
812/482-2527
www.kemper2.com

Kitchen Craft

Winnipeg, Manitoba
800/463-9707
www.kitchencraft.com

Kitchen Kompact

Jeffersonville, Ind.
812/282-6681
www.kitchenkompact.com

KraftMaid Cabinetry

Middlefield, Ohio
888/562-7744
www.kraftmaid.com

LesCare Kitchens

Waterbury, Conn.
203/755-1100
www.lescarekitchens.com

MasterCraft Cabinets

Aurora, Colo.
303/375-8220
www.mcraft.com

Merillat

Adrian, Mich.
866/850-8557
www.merillat.com

Plain & Fancy Custom Cabinetry

Schaefferstown, Pa.
800/447-9006
www.plainfancycabinetry.com

poggenpohl U.S.

Wayne, N.J.
973/812-8900
www.poggenpohl-usa.com

Quality

Duncanville, Texas
972/298-6101
www.qualitycabinets.com

Regency Industries

Great Neck, N.Y.
516/466-5400
www.regencyindustries.com

Riviera Cabinets

Red Wing, Minn.
800/598-4570
www.rivieracabinets.com

Rutt Custom Cabinetry

Goodville, Pa.
800/220-7888
www.rutt1.com

Snaidero USA

Torrance, Calif.
310/516-8499
www.snaidero-usa.com

StarMark Cabinetry

Sioux Falls, S.D.
800/594-9444
www.starmarkcabinetry.com

Timberlake

Winchester, Va.
800/967-9674
www.timberlake.com

UltraCraft Company

Liberty, N.C.
336/622-4281
www.ultracraft.com

Wellborn

Ashland, Ala.
800/336-8040
www.wellborn.com

Wood-Mode

Kreamer, Pa.
570/374-2711
www.wood-mode.com

Yorktowne

Red Lion, Pa.
717/244-4011
www.yorktowneinc.com