1934

For Working or Walking?

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Recommended Citation

Christensen, Laura (1934) "For Working or Walking?," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 14 : No. 3 , Article 2.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol14/iss3/2
Is Your Kitchen Built

For Working or Walking?

By Laura Christensen

Two of our most important American institutions—our mothers and the food we eat—spend the greatest part of their lives in the kitchen. In consideration of this fact, perhaps kitchens deserve more attention than their lowly reputation signify.

If we intend to glorify the American kitchen, we should start from the beginning. The beginning naturally would be the location, for before a kitchen can be, it has to have a corner of a house to be in. Which corner this is to be, depends upon several things—the view, the climate and convenience of the location. On a farm, it might be desirable to have a view of the barnyard. If there is by any good fortune a brook or a beautiful hillside within sight, the kitchen should be placed so that this view can be seen while washing dishes. Those of us who live in climates where summer days are very, very hot, like to have our kitchens on the north so that all unnecessary heat is avoided.

The next step in the plan is to decide upon the size of the kitchen. This also has some definite determining factors. It depends upon the number it serves, its purpose, and the number of people working in it. In cooking for a family of ten, obviously one would need more room than in cooking for two. If a kitchen is used only for cooking and washing dishes it can be smaller than if it were necessary to have laundry equipment in the kitchen. And if your mother-in-law or sister lives with you and there are two or more in the kitchen, it had better be larger than if only one person were cooking. An average size for a kitchen of four with one person cooking is from 90 to 100 square feet. This would be a room of about 8 feet by 12 feet or 9 feet by 11 feet.

And this, logically, takes us to the shape of the kitchen. There are three common shapes—oblong, square and L-shaped. Of these the oblong is the most convenient as a rule; it is easier to place equipment as well as to use it. Square kitchens are in their element either as very small or very large rooms. In small apartment kitchens a square one is best, for the cook can stand in the middle, reach out, and everything is within grasp. In a large square kitchen a work center can be placed in the center and two people can easily work around it. The L-shaped kitchen is rather unhandy, and should be used only when necessary; when it is used, it is best to place all of the equipment together at one end.

A room, even a kitchen, has more to it than shape and size, so let us next consider the doors and windows. Although doors are necessary, they are something of a nuisance after you once get in, for they take up so much valuable wall space. So use as few of them as possible—often two will suffice, and group them together so that traffic across the entire length of the floor will be avoided, and so that wall space will be broken up as little as possible. If the door to the outside is not direct, a great deal of mud-tracking will be done away with. The door to the dining room should be wide, easily opened and easily accessible from the stove, yet it should hide kitchen clutter from the view of the diners.

New Deal in Houses

By Hazel Moore

"WHAT does your generation think of these new houses and furnishings?"

My friend and I were walking down from the sunporch on the roof of the last of the homes in the modern trend at A Century of Progress in Chicago when a voice behind us asked this question.

We turned around to see a middle-aged man. He continued, "Now I'm more than twice your age and I'd really like to know how you young folk feel about all this."

He told us that he was a furniture retailer and was having a hard time to accustom himself to such different furnishings. So we discussed the "New Deal" in houses.

What opinion do we come to with regard to the latest in homes? They are vastly different from anything we are accustomed to.

One of the houses was of glass through which the occupants can see out, but outsiders cannot see in—and best of all—the whole house revolves on a central axis, thus making it possible to get the sun's rays in all rooms, or the light in whichever room it is wanted.

Every one has roof porches, making