



DESIGN FOR CONVENIENCE — Contemporary home design puts the accent on convenience and livability. Here, family room is adjacent to the kitchen, separated by breakfast bar. Open pass through makes serving to guests and family a simple matter. Note petite buffet unit built under counter. Paneling and woodwork of knotty western red cedar give room its informal charm.

Snack Bar Can Seem Like Having Maid

How many times have you wished for a maid to help you serve at parties, keep small fry under control while you're preparing meals, and set the table? A maid is a hard thing to come by these days, but many families are finding that they can build a substitute right into the home.

The built-in servant is a snack bar, handily located between the kitchen and family room where it performs a multitude of duties—traffic cop, lunch counter, buffet table, and pass through.

Designed as a half-wall divider, the snack bar does a fine job of separating the family room and kitchen, yet allows communication between them. Mom isn't cut off from family goings-on while she's doing chores, and would-be cooks can kibitz without getting in her way.

If the stove, or built-in counter unit, is placed on the back or kitchen side of the snack bar, it's a real snap to serve informal meals or to set out a buffet spread. Food comes steaming from pot to plate, saving Mom steps and time.

Sometimes cooking odors create a problem with an open area plan such as this, but a vent over the stove can be neatly disguised in a handsome ceiling beam which runs the length of the bar divider.

It's also a smart idea to incorporate a pint-sized china closet into the bar so that snackers can help themselves to dishes, silver and napkins with the mere reach of an arm. A couple of drawers and a two-shelf cupboard built right under the counter top and adjacent to the outside wall provides adequate storage space.

Though all-simple in design, the snack bar can be the decorative exclamation point of the family room-kitchen area. A basic plan can be varied stylistically through selection of wood for the bar. For an Early American theme, the favorite is a knotty grade of western red cedar, finished clear to take advantage of the cedar's rich coloring and texture. Douglas fir finished with glazed color is another favorite for traditional or Colonial homes.

The contemporary touch can be brought out with a snack bar created from luxurious west coast

hemlock, a wood of delightful sunlight coloring and graining so delicate it is hardly apparent, while for the ultra-sophisticated look, white pocket Douglas fir panels could be used. Finished clear with gold paint brushed into the wood's open pores, a snack bar of white pocket fir smacks of the exotic.

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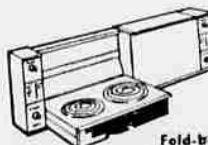
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