

and gadgets, but also by supermarket provision of prepared meals and pre-washed vegetables.

In the last few decades, little real innovation has been made in appliances since the introduction of microwave cooking. However, the design and performance have considerably improved, some having many sophisticated features. Many now give greater attention to green issues such as fuel consumption and use of eco-friendly materials.

Greater standardisation of cabinets and appliances, at least in Europe, has led to a wider choice and the ability to 'mix and match' items from different manufacturers.

The kitchen today is truly the hub of the family home. It is a place where chores other than cooking take place, where children play or do homework, and where parents spend a great deal of time. It also is the room upon which most money is spent and so deserves special attention.

I hope you will find this book both interesting and useful and that the resulting designs will be admired both for their efficiency as well as their looks.

**Charlotte Baden-Powell**

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The Bibliography lists my main sources, amongst which I would single out the small paperback *Kitchens* by John Prizeman as being a classic.

The DoE series *Spaces in the Home* and the *Architects' Journal Activities and Spaces* are also invaluable.

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