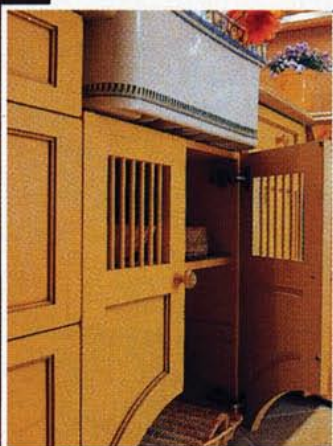
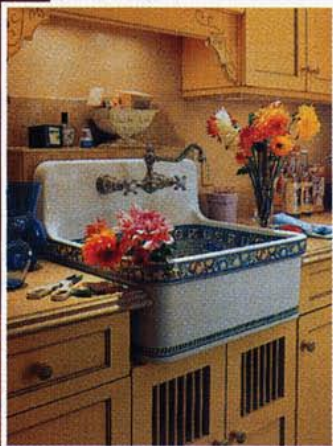


UNDER WRAPS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MATTHEW MILLMAN



The space under the sink acts as a "kitty cabana"—doors feature cutouts that lead to the litter pan.



Almost too pretty for hand-wash, the farmhouse sink introduces pattern to the room's decor.



A laundry chute deposits clothes from the second floor right near the washing machine.



Quick pressing touch-ups are easily done on the slide-out ironing board.

"I LIKE TO USE CABINETRY THAT LOOKS AS IF IT was always there," says designer Helena Steele, of Golden Gate Kitchens in Campbell, California. Few would dispute her success in the cabinets, and other details, of the laundry room she designed for a 1925 Mediterranean Revival house in nearby Los Gatos.

The 8¹/₂×8-foot room is next to an eight-seat home theater, installed during a remodel that also added a cabana and an exercise room. Because guests pass the laundry room on their way into the theater, the homeowners wanted it to be an attractive space that they could also use as a staging area for serving light refreshments. Before friends arrive, a curtain is drawn across the washer and dryer to visually transform the space into a butler's pantry.

The room packs multiple laundry-related functions into a compact area. Opposite the strikingly patterned Kohler farmhouse sink, a tall cabinet hides a laundry chute that empties into a roll-out chrome basket. Beneath the counter to its left are a pull-out ironing board and storage for sewing supplies. Household hand tools—hammers, screwdrivers and such—are kept in the cabinet to the right of the sink. Beneath the sink is one of the room's cleverest touches: a place for cat food storage and the litter pan, with feline-size access provided by an arched opening cut into the bottom of the doors.

LAUNDRY LIST

DESIGNER HELENA STEELE, whose background is in historic preservation, matched windows and moldings to those elsewhere in the house to avoid a "remodeled" look.

OPEN SHELVES to the right of the laundry chute provide a place to keep freshly folded clothes until it's convenient to put them away.

TO MAKE THE PAINTED CABINETS stand out, the backsplash was rag-painted to blend in with the golden Jerusalem limestone counters.

THE SINK is pushed out from the wall to provide room for a generous shelf behind it.

