

Learning from Kitchens of the Future: Humanized Technologies for Domestic Spaces

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Alternate titles:

Kitchens That Need Women (& Men)

“My grandmother could cook a pasta dinner in seven minutes, with no wasted steps.”

**Kitchens of the Future of the Near
And Far Past:**

**Technology for Domestic Spaces for
Humans**

What
I'm
Going
To Tell
You

1. We assume technology and efficiency go hand in hand...
2. ...thanks to Frederick Taylor
3. **Future home design has focused on efficiency not experience.**
4. Some examples
5. **Counter Intelligence Work**
6. Some items for discussion

Mark
Weisner
&
*Leave it
to Roll-
Oh,
1946*

“We must dwell with computers,
not just interact with them...
Dwelling with computers means
that they have their place, and
we ours, and we co-exist
comfortably.”

“No, Lady, that’s *good*.”

Technology

from the workplace

telephone

computer

pager

industrial equipment

(not TV)

Technology
&
Efficiency

Efficiency

Less human effort to
accomplish task

(not energy)

Taylor invents

Time & Motion Studies

Efficiency

Frederick

Taylor,

Principles

of Scientific

Management

t, 1912

He brings efficiency into factories...
and brings technology at the
same time.

Acolytes:

Frank Gilbreth

Lillian Gilbreth (Cheaper by the
Dozen)

Christine Frederick

Christine Frederick

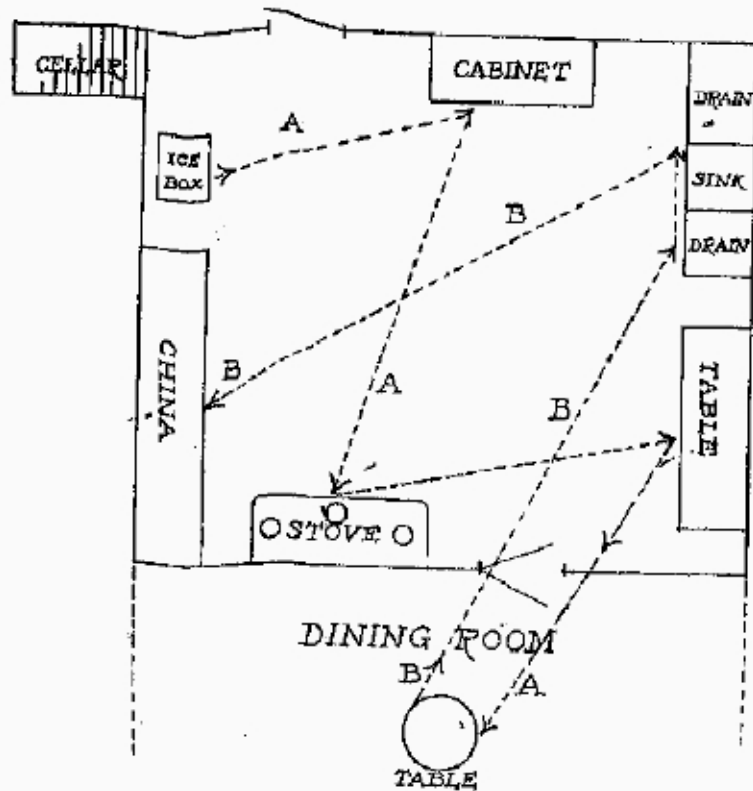


Diagram showing badly arranged equipment, which makes confused intersecting chains of steps, in either preparing or clearing away a meal.
(A — preparing; B — clearing)

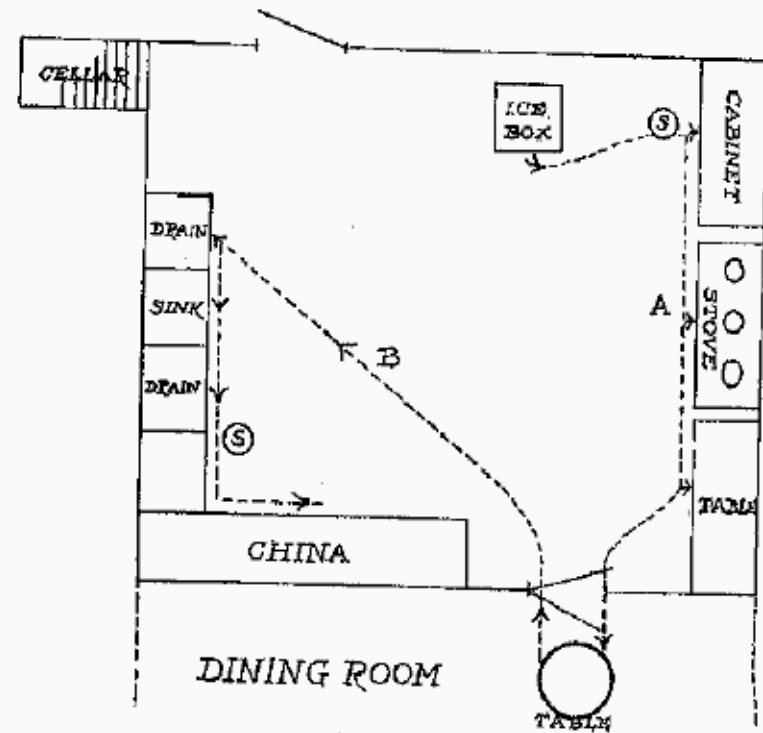


Diagram showing proper arrangement of equipment, which makes a simple chain of steps, in either preparing or clearing away a meal.
(A — preparing; B — clearing)

Christine
Frederick,
*Household
Engineering:
Scientific
Management in the
Home*
1920

6:00-6:30	Rise and dress; start water heater
6:30-7:00	Prepare breakfast
7:00-7:30	BREAKFAST
7:30-8:30	Wash dishes; straighten kitchen; inspect ice-box; plan meals for Monday, Tuesday
8:30-9:00	Prepare towards lunch
9:00-10:00	Bedrooms, bath and hall cleaned; sort and prepare soiled linen and laundry
10:00-11:00	Thorough downstairs cleaning
11:00-11:30	<i>Rest period</i>
11:30-12:00	Serve lunch
12:00-1:00	LUNCH
1:00-3:00	Lunch dishes; prepare cooking for Monday and Tuesday; mop kitchen
3:00-4:00	Sewing and mending
4:00-4:30	Soak clothes & prepare for next day's washing
4:30-5:30	<i>Rest period</i> ; play with children; walk, recreation, or market
5:30-6:00	Prepare supper
6:00-7:00	SUPPER
7:00-7:30	Wash dishes

	1890s...
Past	Ellen Swallow Richards
Domestic	Fanny Farmer
Technology	1910s...
Research	War food
	1950s...
(Briefly.	General Motors (“Design for
Insert entire	Dreaming”)
course	Monsanto (House in
here.)	Tomorrowland)
	<i>and more...</i>

Current
Domestic
Technology
Research

Microsoft Home

Panasonic

Siemens

LG Electronics

Copper Development Center

Merloni

MIT House_n

Georgia Tech: Aware Home

Philips: *la casa prossima futura*

MIT Media Lab

and more...

Kitchen & domestic technology research

(Ex-)Sponsors: Kraft Foods,
Marks & Spencer,
McDonald's, Schott Glas,
Royal Ahold, Unilever

Counter
Intelligence,
MIT Media
Lab

Professor Ted Selker

~3 grad students

~10 undergraduate researchers

Pc Dinners



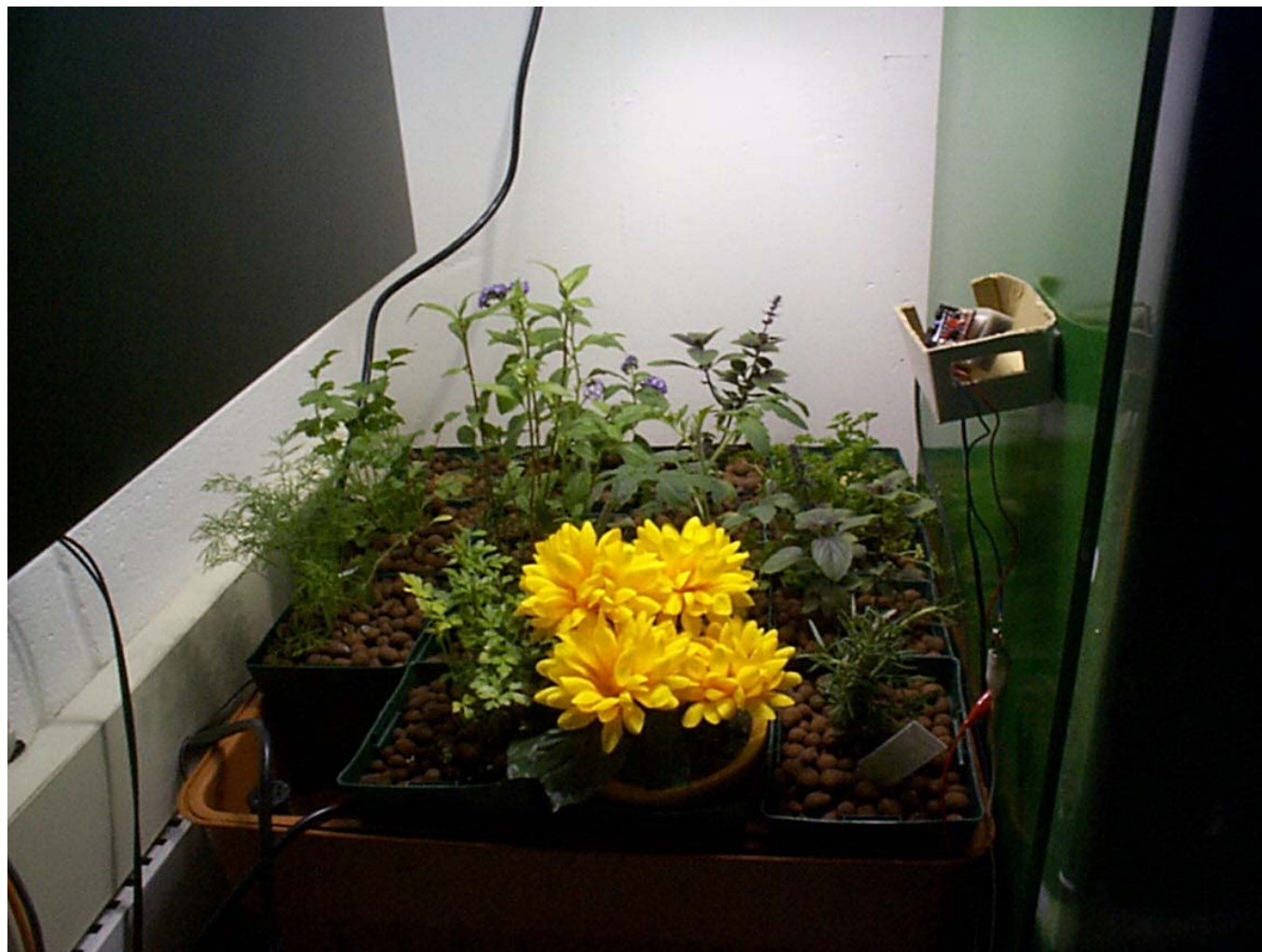
La Cantina



Mr. Java



Robocrop





inStink



Dollars & Scents



Honey,
I'm
Home



So I
collaborated
with
Genevieve
Bell, Intel

Technology use in middle
class homes in Asia.

An initial finding: no market
for kitchen computer in
China... no counterspace to
put it on!

Gadgets

vs.

**Integrated
Systems**

‘Gadgets’ provide a way to
isolate a problem

Integrated cure-all
systems... all you have to
do is use our system!

But...

Design for experience over efficiency

Understand the use of objects in context.

Conclusions

Context is cultural and dynamic

Pay attention to people and their experiences

Be willing to isolate problems (see Technological Probes)

Bell & Kaye, Designing
Technology for Domestic
Spaces: A Kitchen
Manifesto. *Gastronomica*
2(2) Spring 2001.

Fin

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