



New Designs For Living:

Creating 'A GREAT

ONE of the hottest features in home design is the "great room," which is by definition a great room that creates a flowing space combining the kitchen, dining and living areas.

Shyvette Williams, a Chicago designer who specializes in great rooms, says, "A great room is a large room in which the kitchen and the dining and living rooms flow into each other and create a central gathering space for living

and entertainment."

Lorra Rivers, a Washington, D. C.-area designer who has created a number of "great rooms," says, "The kitchen/great room has become the central hub" and "the heart of the home."

All over America, not only in single-family dwellings but also in high-rise condos and apartment buildings, trendy African-Americans are using their skills and the skills of interior designers to incorporate great rooms in new designs

or to make space in old designs for the openness and the practicality of the new trend.

Among the pacesetters are Chicago entrepreneurs John and Pearl Clark, whose apartment in a high-rise condominium overlooking Lake Michigan features a great room that blends kitchen features and a granite-top counter "island" so skillfully into a single room that they become integral parts of an overall design for living. The Clarks, who own



Great room in Lakefront condo of Chicago entrepreneurs John and Pearl Clark offers spectacular views from living space (opposite page) or from the granite-top "island" counter (above). Kitchen area, shown in photo below, is covered with special Anigre wood. Stainless steel appliances are integrated into the total design picture. Original design, which was modified by the Clarks, was created by Shyvette Williams.

ROOM'

Reggio's Frozen Pizza Manufacturing Company, say they love the "natural flow of the room, the way light comes in, giving a peaceful, languid feeling."

Designers Rivers and Williams say they believe "the great room" trend will continue because it gives a greater sense of togetherness and because it permits single persons and couples to integrate the different spaces and functions of their lives into an open, dynamic whole. □

