

Housing

**There is that most ubiquitous
of all "luxury features,"
a bidet in the master bedroom.
There is one of those kitchens
which seem designed exclusively
for defrosting by microware
and compacting trash.
It is a house built for
a family of snackers.**

**Joan Didion, on "Taj Mahal," the
8-bedroom, 8-bathroom, 12,000 square feet
Governor's mansion built in Carmichael, CA,
for Ronald Reagan by his friends,
but never lived in by Reagan
or any later governor**