

INSIDE CLASSIFIED

LISTINGS BEGIN ON PAGE G5



SAVVY HOST
Say thank-you with style
and sincerity
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LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

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AROUND THE HOUSE

Be gentle with your HE washer

SURVEY • Who knew high-efficiency (HE) washing machines require a specially formulated detergent to run properly? The soap gurus at Sunlight, that's who. The detergent company recently conducted a consumer survey and found that although 24 per cent of Canadian households have HE washing machines, 76 per cent of consumers aren't aware that HE detergent even exists.

The big deal, says Sunlight, is that using regular detergent in an HE machine can wreak havoc in the form of soapy clothes or — worst case — washer maintenance calls.

High-efficiency machines are designed to use less water, so they function best when a low-sudsing, HE detergent is used. By switching to an HE machine, which also requires less energy to operate, a family of four can save up to \$123 annually on water and energy costs.

— Calgary Herald

Curtain call

TIP • If your room is feeling a little staid, lighten the mood by hanging curtains in two different colours at the same window. This idea in the April issue of Domino is part of an article that also notes that rich jewel tones seen on fashion runways are migrating to the home.

The issue also shows a big built-in bookshelf that has been turned into a canvas of sorts. Instead of being arranged alphabetically, the books have been stacked and sorted by size and colour. All the books with red covers are lined up together, as are the yellow books, the blue books and so on.

— McClatchy Newspapers

Pets are people, too

PETS • Canadians love their pets, with 53 per cent of households owning at least one animal, usually a cat or dog (4.5 million felines call Canada home vs. 3.5 million dogs).

So infatuated are North Americans with their furry friends, it's estimated we'll spend \$45 billion on them this year. No wonder furniture giant IKEA launched its Pets and People Collection, coming to stores in August 2007.

"People are really starting to treat their pets like their children," says IKEA'S Madeleine Lowenberg-Frick.

The retailer is expanding its line to include stylish furniture that promises pets "instant access to the same kind of comfort and design as people have had for decades."

Look for chic stainless steel food bowls, pet beds with washable cushions in classic and fun colours and patterns, and washable chew toys that look like your favourite pair of Jimmy Choo shoes. Other items include leash wall hooks, blankets, and cat or dog tents.

— Calgary Herald



Sarah Susanka, designer-philosopher, has emerged as a leader of a movement that is redefining our ideas of what a home should be.

INSPIRATION

When enough is enough

Architect-philosopher Sarah Susanka's mantra is simplify, and ask yourself what's important and what's not

SHEILA BRADY
CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

Sarah Susanka is antibig when it comes to designing the ideal home and the balanced life.

Yet this petite architect-turned-writer-philosopher has been on the big circuit recently, appearing on ABC's Good Morning America and then on to San Antonio, Texas, to launch her newest book, *The Not So Big Life, Making Room For What Really Matters* at the national gathering of the American Institute of Architects.

Within four days, this gentle general, leading the fight against the blight of suburban McMansions, was talking to millions of ordinary Americans and Canadians on network television and then from a podium to top architects and developers who craft the homes and new streets from Florida to California and north of the 49th parallel.

Her message: Ditch the over-committed McLife, focus on what you love, and live the moment to the max.

The author of *The Not So Big Home* (Taunton, 1998) has already revolutionized the way

many think about their homes, prompting some to call her a cultural visionary. Instead of building big, her followers are cutting designs by one-third and crafting the remaining space with light and air, niches for storage and "away rooms" to meditate or find time to be alone.

Nine years ago, Susanka's *Not So Big Home* opened the design dictionary to ordinary folks by taking the mystery out of "architectural talk."

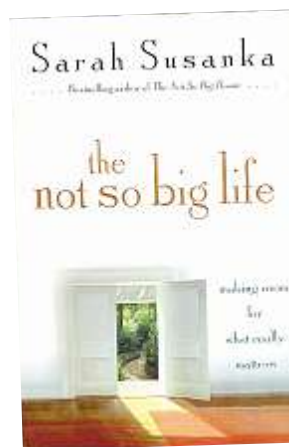
A series of books followed, including *Home by Design* (Taunton, 2004) and *Outside the Not So Big House* (Taunton, 2006), plus an exhaustive website featuring sources for thoughtful plans (which she sells), product sources and contact

points for like-minded architects. Now she is applying many of the same architectural techniques to redesigning and simplifying our lives.

"Early on, I thought I might be cheating by borrowing concepts from *The Not So Big Home*," Susanka says in an interview from her home in Raleigh, North Carolina.

"But, people understand the concepts and it works."

SEE ENOUGH, PAGE G2



MOTHER'S DAY IDEAS

Get a clue to what moms really want

Honestly, aprons and electric knives don't cut it

LISA KADANE
CALGARY HERALD

All I really want for Mother's Day is a pack of Diaper Baggies for my toddler's dirty nappies, so I won't stink up Chinook when she makes a poopy at the mall.

No, wait. What I really, really must have on my special day is an electric fondue pot that I will

never ever use, but that my toddler will probably tote to university in 16 years when fondue stages its next comeback.

Clearly, the folks behind these Mother's Day gift ideas that crowd store displays, clutter up ads and flyers, and cram themselves into myriad press releases, haven't a clue what Mom wants. It's definitely not a new electric knife, a splash-apron for bath-time, an easy-meals-that-kids-will-love cookbook or some revolutionary kind of ironing board. Last time I looked, it was 2007, not 1957.

The problem with "gifts" like these is they remind Mom she gave birth and now — unless her husband is a stay-at-home dad —

spends a lot of what used to be her free time changing diapers, cooking pasta, cutting pancakes into cute shapes and trying to get tomato sauce and blueberry stains out of clothes. So, any present that doesn't give her a break from domesticity isn't really a gift. It's more like a friendly reminder: "Hey! When you're done unwrapping this new coffee maker, can you grind up some beans and brew another pot?"

Dads are likely reading this and fuming, "But it's the thought that counts! And we need a new electric knife!" (The above-mentioned gifts, however, are as bad as getting Dad a new tie for Father's Day, which sends the hidden message:

"Please work harder and make more money so we can afford a stainless steel refrigerator.")

Granted, such prezies aren't as insulting as the gym membership a friend's boyfriend got her for her birthday. Read: "Happy birthday, sweetie! Now that you've gained another year, I thought you could stand to lose a few pounds."

They're also a step up from the gift a guy might give his gal that's really for him, like when Homer Simpson bought Marge a bowling ball for her birthday.

If you want to give a home-related gift she'll thank you for (and mean it), read on for some ideas.

SEE MOMS, PAGE G2



Illustration: Kathryn Moicak, Calgary Herald

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