



## MAKEOVER

Marni Jameson explains how to design an attractive mudroom  
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## LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

EDITOR: LISA MONFORTON 235-7428 FAX: 235-7379

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## ARTFUL LIVING

## PAPER UNIVERSE

In the home of fibre artist Susan Kristoferson, decoration comes second to art

JANE HARRISON

FOR THE CALGARY HERALD

For many artists, paper is just the starting point, an unremarkable foundation for the creative strokes they apply and the images they create. For artist Susan Kristoferson, paper is the centre of her creative world. She often works with paper the way others work with paint.

Kristoferson is a fibre artist who makes beautiful craft papers which she sells to art supply stores as well as to individual artists and craftspeople. With these papers, she also creates large suspended sculptures and intricately sewn collages that are greatly influenced by traditional quilt making.

This year, the Triangle Gallery's annual Artist Home + Studio Tour at the end of March provided the opportunity to have a look at her world.

Kristoferson, her husband, Larry Kapustka, and their 12-year-old daughter Annie relocated to Calgary from Oregon about two years ago. Kapustka is an ecotoxicologist who found that opportunities for innovative work in his field were better in Canada than the United States. The family settled into a comfortable home in the Coach Hill area.

In a converted garage, her main studio contains the massive sink, workbenches and tools she uses for two processes: paste painted paper and itajime.

Paste paint is made by mixing acrylic paint, agents that retard bacterial growth and a cooked paste of starch powders. The paste is applied to wet paper and then textured and patterned with various tools — combs, sponges, stamps or anything at all — to make a distinctive mark or attractive pattern. Although the exact history is unknown, the process originated with 16th-century European bookbinders.

Itajime is a Japanese word that means "fold and clamp dyeing." Originally a farmer's winter work, the laborious tie-dye process results in beautiful paper covered with a complex repeat pattern where no two pattern units are identical.

"I'm fascinated by the little details that are possible to control. Each the same, but a little different — nuanced, not a machine repeat that is boring.

It's homage to those precious things in nature that we don't always appreciate," she says.

In a gallery adjacent to this studio, itajime paper is suspended in free-hanging panels from ceiling to floor. A large loom dominates the centre of the gallery. On the walls hang examples of her work from a studio career dating back to 1970.



Photos, Jenelle Schneider, Calgary Herald

Artist Susan Kristoferson created this piece while on her residency at a psychiatric hospital.



Susan Kristoferson makes paper as well as mixed media art composed mainly from her papers, above and right.

## AROUND THE HOUSE

## Shower yourself with music, light

**PRODUCT** • Who knew showering was about more than a stream of hot water cleansing the body? The folks at Kohler kitchen and bath products, who have engineered a shower system that sounds like more fun than an afternoon at the spa.

Kohler's DTV custom showering experience is a digital hydrotherapy system that adds music, ambient lighting, steam and chromatherapy (artificial light purported to promote healing). The media module is installed behind a wall and links the DTV interface, DTV valve, spray outlets, speakers, lights and steam generator.

"Showering is not just about water anymore," said Michael Wandschneider, a product manager for Kohler. "The new product takes the shower to an unexpected and uncharted level of performance."

Best of all, homeowners can create custom shower experiences by using the technology's digital interface to control water, sound, light and steam features. Go to Kohler.com for details.

— Calgary Herald

## Summerize your home

**TIPS** • Calgarians winterize their cars and cabins, but whoever heard of "summerizing" a home? New York-based home efficiency expert Robin Wilson says summerizing can make a home more energy-efficient and save money at the same time. Here are some of his tips.

■ Use the sun: Solar powered patio lights use less energy.

■ Invest in an electric mower: Gas-powered mowers are a major source of air pollution.

■ Turn off the gas fireplace for the summer: Pilot lights account for 40 to 50 per cent of the power used by gas fireplaces.

■ Insulate the attic: Uninsulated attics can sizzle all summer.

■ Check windows and doors: Ensure they latch and lock. Close at night (for safety) and when the air conditioner is running.

■ Check exterior siding and bricks: Seal cracks wider than 1/16 inch with clear silicone.

■ Clean the dryer vent: Lint in the vent is flammable and should be cleaned out regularly.

— Calgary Herald

## Decorating sleight of hand

**BOOK** • Aching for a unique look for your next home-decorating project, but don't want to spend big bucks? Interior designer Christopher Lowell's book, One-of-a-Kind Decorating Projects, shows how to transform a ceiling medallion into a one-of-a-kind mirror frame over your fireplace or how to staple your way to a collection of floating fabric panels that adds an arty look. Or learn how to holiday in your bedroom with an organic hotel makeover.

Lowell may fly under the radar in Canada, but in the U.S., he has authored five home-design books, and hosted his own home-design show.

The book is published by Random House/Clarkson Potter and sells for \$37.95.

— CanWest News Service

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West Springs \$519,000

59 West Springs Close, SW

Charming heritage style 1726 s.f. home w/ front veranda & south backyard, quiet cul-de-sac. Features gleaming hardwood floors, white country kitchen, main floor den, formal dining room, 3 bedrooms, sunny deck, no maintenance vinyl fence.

Strathcona \$799,000

28 Strathlea Place, SW

Location, location, location - backing onto the ravine & into a tranquil grove of trees! This hillside bungalow offers a total of almost 2700 s.f. of living space, 1 + 2 bedrooms, open plan, sunny, + developed walkout basement. Triple garage.

Springbank Hill \$569,000

218 Springbank Villas, SW

Carefree villa living, close to shops, park & golfing, bungalow with loft + dev'd bsmt - almost 2200 s.f. of living space, stylish, like new condition, 2 bdms, slate floor, granite counters, vaulted ceiling, 2 fireplaces, wet bar & Murphy bed!

Springbank Hill \$845,000

209 Springbluff Blvd, SW

Spacious two-storey, 2685 s.f. with 4 upper level bedrooms, main floor den + large upper bonus room. Maple kitchen, hardwood floors, dining area with 10-ft high ceilings & wrap around windows, bonus room with 5 west facing windows.

Strathcona \$675,000

57 Stratlea Grove, SW

Huge pie lot on child-friendly cul-de-sac, 2140 s.f. home + dev'd basement (almost 3000'), 3 + 1 bdms & den with French doors, vaulted bonus room, 2 f/p, Island kitchen, extensive hardwood & tile floors, Oversized double garage.

West Springs \$850,000

25 West Cedar Point, SW

Spectacular executive home, 2996 s.f., on quiet cul-de-sac w/ south backyard, unique open plan w/ vaulted great room open to beautiful wrap around upper gallery & loft, 3 bdms, den + loft, master bdrm & 6-pc ensuite w/ fireplace.

West Springs \$695,000

161 Wentworth Park, SW

Big pie lot, like your own private park, incredible landscaping with large pond & waterfall, bridge, heritage stone patios, deck, fire-pit & an aspen grove! 2000 s.f. 2-storey with developed basement, 2000 s.f., total 4 bdms, cul-de-sac location.

Discovery Ridge \$1,095,000

8 Discovery Valley Cove, SW

Griffiths Woods Park on your front step, ideal location, with views overlooking the greenbelt, stylish architecturally designed, professionally decorated bungalow w/ developed walkout, 3500+ s.f., 1 + 2 bdms, home gym, fireplace on deck.

Christie Estates \$799,000

148 Christie Park View, SW

Spacious brick bungalow with developed walkout basement, total of 3100 s.f. of development, 2 + 2 bdms, hardwood & slate floors, wet bar, granite counters, vaulted ceilings thru most of main lvl, walkout family room is open to main floor.

Strathcona \$1,150,000

66 Strathridge Grove, SW

Much sought after location, one of the best streets on the west side, backing west onto the ravine, 2500 s.f. 2-storey, 3 bdms & main floor den, plus walkout basement with newly developed wet bar, 4th bedroom & r.i. media room.