



LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

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THE
RENO
CLUBWhen eight friends
pool their skills and
energy, it's amazing
what they can
accomplish
in a weekendLISA KADANE
CALGARY HERALD

Over morning coffee, quiche and homemade granola in Paula Dozois's 1963 North Haven bungalow, Laura Fenniak and Robyn Baxter reminisce about living in London, England in the 1980s. As morning sun streams through the picture window and the jazzy vocals of Corrine Bailey Ray fill the room, Lisa Carroll arrives and wows the women with pictures of her redecorated bedroom.

"I had a bedroom and now I have a boudoir," she says proudly, referring to the luxe wall striping and plush purple bedding.

The warm weather soon beckons the group to the sloped, west-facing backyard, where Robin Bell and Sharon Jones catch up on family and careers while they rip out weeds from an overgrown bed with a shovel and pitchfork.

You read right — this gathering of women isn't sitting idle while they chat, and they're not talking about the latest book club pick, either. Instead of holding a glass of wine and discussing *The Kite Runner* over cheese and crackers, the nine 40-something women wield garden tools, paint brushes or furniture assembly instructions and talk about life when they come together for a Saturday every month to complete a landscaping, renovation or decorating project.

SEE RENO CLUB, PAGE G2

Top photo: Colleen De Neve, Calgary Herald
Right: Lisa Kadane, Calgary Herald

AFTER

Paula Dozois, far left, recently benefited from the hard work of her fellow Reno Club members after they re-landscaped her yard.

BEFORE

Dozois' backyard was overgrown and in need of weeding.

AROUND THE
HOUSEDad's day ideas,
big and small

SHOPPING • Moms and kids at a loss for Father's Day gift ideas for dear old Dad may want to check out Canadian Tire.

The iconic Canadian catch-all store has presents for handy dads, barbecue lovers, sports fanatics, car enthusiasts, electronics buffs, outdoorsy types and gardeners.

Ideas range from \$50 stainless steel barbecue tool sets to \$400 automotive GPS navigation systems to \$5,500 4x4 ATVs.

— Calgary Herald

Sleight-of-hand
transformations

BOOK • Yearning for a unique look for your next home-decorating project, but don't want to spend big bucks?

Try out interior designer Christopher Lowell's ideas in his latest book, *One-of-a-Kind Decorating Projects*. Make peace with your crafting demons, recommends Lowell — if for no other reason than a little decorative sleight-of-hand can make a world of difference to the way your home looks. Learn how to transform an architectural ceiling medallion into a one-of-a-kind mirror frame for over your fireplace or how to staple your way to owning a collection of floating fabric panels that add an arty look to the house.

Learn how to holiday in your master bedroom with an organic hotel makeover.

Lowell may fly under the radar here in Canada, but in the U.S., he has authored five home-design books and hosted his own self-titled home-design show, for which he won a daytime Emmy in 1999.

This latest book is a craft-style how-to book for do-it-yourselfers, so warm your glue guns. *One-of-a-Kind Decorating Projects* is published by Random House/Clarkson Potter and sells for \$37.95.

— CanWest News Service

Off the wall
home solutions

TIPS • Here are some ingenious — and unusual — solutions for everyday problems that arise around the house:

Quick fixes

■ Use a wide candle as a pin cushion. The wax helps pins and needles slide in and out of fabric more easily.

■ If you've lost your bathtub plug, use a golf ball as a substitute. It stays in place and rolls back if dislodged.

Cleaning quirks

■ Clean a bathroom mirror with shaving cream, then wipe with a soft cloth. It helps defog the mirror after showers.

■ Shine copper items by rubbing gently with a cotton swab dipped in ketchup. Rub off with a cotton cloth and they'll gleam.

Kitchen aids

■ Ripen green tomatoes by storing them in a paper bag with an already ripe apple for a couple of days.

■ Speed up pokey ketchup by inserting a plastic drinking straw into the bottle.

— McClatchy Newspapers

DECOR



Angus McRitchie, CanWest News Service

After your closet organizers are neat and tidy, you can take off the doors for that boutique feeling.

From eco-decor to prints, here's
10 trends for spring/summerJEANI READ
CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

So far, 2007 is all about colour, says decor diva Lynda Reeves. Light, bright colour. Everywhere.

"It's almost dizzying," she says. "There's a lot of colour coming into our homes — in throw pillows, lampshades, coloured glass, table linens. Everything is coloured. It's getting hard to find cream or white."

Amid all the chocolate-and-turquoise combos (on their way out), the yellows (on their way in), and the pale blues and soft greens, there is a new neutral. After years of taupes and beiges, grey is getting attention. "It's an important neutral," she says.

So what else is new besides colour? We asked for Reeves' top 10 trends for spring/summer 2007.

1. ECO HOME. "We're seeing this everywhere — eco products that are manufactured responsibly," says Reeves. "People care a lot. They love having bamboo towels and sheets and products made of soy and organic cotton. It feels psychologically good, but you really have to check it all out carefully. You can really buy 'green' or you can just buy the colour green. Pay attention."

2. INTO THE WOODS. This is related to eco home, but is all about actual wood. "Tree-stump tables and wood with the bark still on is a big trend," says Reeves. "We're touching the forest in our own homes. And there's a special edginess in putting something like this in a modern space. There's a tension there, and we like that."

3. PAINTED FURNITURE. This is one of the most pop-

ular ways to bring colour into the house, says Reeves. Simple furniture is being lacquered to a high finish. The furniture can be old or new, and can be painted in pastels, in white or grey — or a surprising shade. "If you see one orange table, or red — it's a big statement," says Reeves. "Paint it yourself with enamel paint, or if you want true lacquer, send it out to a spray booth — it's too hard to do on your own. You need the paint really smooth. Mix it in with your other furniture. You can play."

4. PRINTS. Printed fabrics and printed wallpaper are huge. "It's big, coloured prints on cream or white," says Reeves. "It's big, happy prints on duvets, throw pillows and drapes. It's not the ditzy little prints of the past."

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West Springs \$499,000

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.

Discovery \$549,000

#302, 10 Discovery Ridge Hill SW
Stylish & spacious townhouse with double garage, over 1700 s.f. of luxurious living space, 3 bedrooms & 3 baths, tranquil location facing onto a large greenbelt & a short walk to Griffith's Woods Park & the river, and shops.

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 bdrms, slate floor, granite counters, vaulted ceiling, 2 fireplaces, wet bar & Murphy bed!

Strathcona \$650,000

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

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 bdrms, cul-de-sac location.

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.

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 bdrms, den + loft, master bdrm & 6-pc ensuite w/ fireplace.

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 bdrms & main floor den, plus walkout basement with newly developed wet bar, 4th bedroom & r.i. media room.

Discovery \$1,395,000

35 Discovery Valley Cove, SW
Perfect family home, 2845 s.f. + dev'd walkout basement, on a pie lot, backing directly onto Griffiths Woods Park. 4 + 2 bdrms, main floor den, soaring ceilings, granite counters, beautiful landscaping & tranquil views, triple garage.

Aspen Estates \$1,995,000

159 Aspen Meadows Place, SW
Spectacular walkout bungalow, this stunning 5700 s.f. has it all: dramatic open plan, soaring ceilings, walkout w/ dual staircases flanking massive stone fireplace, gym, wine cellar, theatre, spa, doggie shower & oversize triple garage!