



LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

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

WWW.CALGARYHERALD.COM

SATURDAY, JULY 7, 2007

AROUND THE HOUSE

It grinds, mixes and kneads

PRODUCT • This fall Cuisinart is introducing a Stand Mixer that, in combination with its attachments, looks poised to become serious home cooks' one-stop-baking-shop.

Not only is it powerful with a 1,000-watt motor, the unit boasts a seven-quart mixing bowl and a digital precision timer to ensure bakers never again over-knead their dough.

Available attachments include a three-cup Food Processor (\$59.99) with stainless steel blades, a Blender (\$49.99) with a large 40-ounce blending jar, and a Citrus Juicer (\$39.99) that holds 16 ounces of fresh O.J. Serious gourmands will appreciate the Meat Grinder attachment (\$129.99) and the Pasta Maker attachment (\$79.99), which lets cooks make all manner of noodles. The Cuisinart Stand Mixer will retail for \$599.99 at kitchen stores across Canada. Go to Cuisinart.ca.

— Calgary Herald

Pink and blue still going strong

FURNITURE • If you thought pink for girls and blue for boys were clichés that ended after babyhood, you haven't visited The Brick lately. The furniture retailer has debuted Barbie and Hot Wheels bedroom sets for ages three and older.

The Barbie suites comes in two styles, one in fuchsia and the other in pale pink. Beds, dressers and bookshelves with curvy lines and Barbie decals ensure your princess's room will never be mistaken for her older brother's. For boys, two Hot Wheels bedroom sets, in navy and ice blue, provide underbed storage for the future NASCAR racer in the family.

The bedroom sets are made in Canada by DeFehr under the Mattel license. Complete beds are priced starting at \$499.

— Calgary Herald

Counter the clutter with this

PRODUCT • Appliance maker Breville knows cooks hate counter clutter and has created a small hand blender that doubles as a food processor and is easier to clean. The Breville Hand Blender blends, chops and crushes. It's ideal for creating drinks, cocktails, sauces, dips and soups.

The 9.6V powerhouse (\$129.99) comes with a blender attachment for crushing ice or pureeing soup, and a smoothie attachment for making fruit and yogurt drinks. The 12V cordless model (\$149.99) comes with both those attachments plus a chopping bowl that acts like a food processor. Available at department stores and select boutique kitchen stores in Calgary. Go to Breville.ca.

— Calgary Herald



Design for the mind

Therapist/decorator creates rooms for a healthy psyche



Colour inspires passionate and highly individual responses, says Stephens

JOANNE BLAIN
CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

When you decide to re-decorate, what should you focus on first — the sofa or your psyche?

For Hilary Stephens, the answer is obvious. Don't even think about buying paint or choosing furniture until you decide, on an emotional level, how you want your house to look and feel.

That's something Stephens is uniquely trained to help clients do. The Vancouver-based interior decorator has a master's degree in counselling psychology and worked as a therapist before switching careers a few years back.

Understanding a client's state of mind and what kind of issues he or she is working through "is an important part of what I do, because I've found that colour consultations and interior decorating can become a very emotional experience," she says.

"I've had people break down over using colours," Stephens says. "People in life transitions, like divorce, can be very confused."

"I've found that while I'm not their counsellor, I understand the process, so I can stand back and let them work through their confusion, and I can be a guide to picking fabrics or colours or whatever."

Stephens' career change was a result of her own soul-searching. She was working as a suicide-prevention and crisis-management counsellor in 2001 when world events and a significant birthday made her



Richard Lam, CanWest News Service
Interior designer Hilary Stephens uses her counselling skills to help clients pick colours and designs.

consider what she wanted to get out of life.

"I was beginning to feel a bit burned-out in my job, because suicide prevention is very stressful," she says. "It was around the time of Sept. 11, and when that happened, for me it was kind of a gigantic wake-up call to grab life when you can. It was a time to reassess and it was also kind of a mid-life crisis thing for me, because I was turning 40."

SEE MIND, PAGE G2

CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION

This ain't your parents' hibachi

Taking utilitarian uptown

MISTY HARRIS
CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

Just when you thought affluenza had claimed its last victim, luxury marketers are finding an unlikely target in a Canadian summer tradition: barbecuing.

From \$1,900 sterling silver

ketchup sleeves to a \$15,000 barbecue grill and an ice-cream cone worth a cool million, the accoutrements of outdoor noshing have been reinvented in ways that will burn through your wallet faster than an open-flame spit.

It's all part of a broader trend in which down-market items are "upbranded" and sold to the monied classes for an exponentially higher price.

Beyond the trappings of the backyard barbecue, utilitarian items given the glamour treatment include a 14-karat gold-

dipped Slinky that "walks down stairs but prefers red carpets" that, at a price of nearly \$100, is "expensive enough to justify adult tears if it gets tangled up"; a white gold baby pacifier encrusted in 278 pave-cut diamonds retailing for \$18,200; and Renova Black toilet tissue, described as being "soft and glamorous . . . just right for your sensual needs," priced at \$3 for a single roll.

"It's like a lottery ticket — you're buying the dream," says

Allen Adamson, managing director of the brand consulting firm Landor Associates.

"When I show friends my

gold-plated Slinky, I can pretend I have the mansion that goes with it."

Although Target was selling designer toilet brushes as early as 1998, Adamson says strong growth in utilitarian merchandise — the kind long ignored by luxury marketers — began about five years ago.

SEE HIBACHI, PAGE G2

Photo courtesy, Beefeater
This 24-karat gold barbecue goes for a cool \$15,000.



samcorea

Marketing your home for all it's worth™

403-870-8811

www.samluxuryhomes.com

RE/MAX
HOUSE OF REAL ESTATE



Two Waterfront Homes to Choose From

Emerald Bay, Calgary's best kept secret, 2 acre lots, backing directly on the water, just 30 minutes to downtown. Exceptional waterfront location - boat, water-ski, swim & fish in your own backyard!

46 Emerald Bay Drive \$1,695,000 Amazing 3658 s.f. Cape-Cod style home, spectacular views from all principal rooms, 4 bedrooms & den, hardwood floors and granite counters, 4 river-rock fireplaces, high ceilings, chef's kitchen with professional style appliances, private master bedroom wing, outdoor fireplace and hot tub, triple garage and separate heated studio & RV garage.

142 Emerald Bay Drive, \$2,500,000 Spectacular 3700 s.f. bungalow + developed walkout, over 7200 s.f. of luxurious living space, 4 car garage, 4 huge master-style bedrooms with huge walk-in closets and jet tub ensembles, fabulous furniture-quality built-ins throughout, high ceilings and expansive window walls to enjoy the water views, circular drive with fountain. See more of Sam's listings inside