



LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

EDITOR: LISA MONFORTON

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CRAFTED WITH CARE

Custom maple woodwork creates a showpiece

YVONNE JEFFERY
CALGARY HERALD

So often these days, we walk into a building store and come out with a pre-formed piece of manufactured wood — a crown moulding made out of MDF, for example, or a set of flat-pack pine cabinets that we just need to put together with hammer and screwdrivers. Now, there's nothing wrong with this. But if you have the budget, Calgary has the artisans to create stunning cabinetry that raises wood from the status of simply functional or attractive all the way to art.

Take Noreen Irvine's home, for example. It's been eight years since a major renovation brought finish carpenter Dennis Heinzig in, but the solid maple doors, mouldings and built-in cabinetry



ARTISANS:
An occasional series celebrating the work of Calgary's top artisans, from cabinetry to metal and more.

that Heinzig and his crew created throughout the house still look — and feel — new. And none of it, from the fluted columns in the fireplace surround to the dentil details above the built-in display cabinet, came out of a box or off a shelf.

SEE CRAFTED, PAGE G2



Homeowner Noreen Irvine with cabinetmaker Dennis Heinzig in the kitchen of her northwest home.

Photos, Ted Jacob, Calgary Herald

AROUND THE HOUSE

Winning at houses

NEW BOOK • Anyone who has gone through building a new home will tell you, a trip to the homebuilders' design centre is not as much fun as it sounds. The mind-boggling assortment of choices, the skyrocketing cost of upgrades and the ridiculous time constraint (OK, now we'll take five minutes to decide where you want all your light switches) are enough to reduce even the most hardcore decor enthusiast to a quivering mass. So it's comforting to share in the self-deprecating anecdotes of someone who's done it all and is willing to tell the tale.

In *The House Always Wins*, syndicated columnist Marni Jameson (whose column *At Home with Marni* appears Saturdays in *Life at Home*) chronicles, in her self-deprecating manner, the process of building, decorating and landscaping her Colorado dream home, one agonizing decision at a time.

The book is a compelling mix of humorous anecdotes and useful information. Half the text details Jameson's struggle to create her specific dream home and the many fiascos and frustrations that entailed. The other half is a series of no-nonsense tips from professionals on each and every subject in the book. So even if you don't relate to Jameson's agonizing over her choice of wall and carpet colour, you can appreciate her list of tips from interior designers on how to create a neutral palette as a starting point. (Start with neutral wall colours in similar, harmonious tones, cover the floors in materials slightly darker than the walls, and you have a great starting point for future decor.) Available at major bookstores.

— Pamela Fieber, Calgary Herald

Get inspired at Willow

DESIGN • Take your design dilemmas, photos, paint and fabric swatches to Willow Studio in Kensington on Friday, April 18, between 12:30 and 5:30 p.m. for cappuccino and consultations.

The event is Red Carpet Friday, and it happens every month on the middle Friday — a chance for you to talk to the designers at Willow about challenges or to find a little inspiration.

Also check out its current Branching Out art show — gorgeous works from a variety of local artists, all dealing with the theme of trees.

For information, call 230-9226 or check willowstudio.ca.

— Calgary Herald

Correction

If you're looking for Schluter's new tile profile system (profiles are the accents that not only protect the edges of the tile job but also add great design elements), it was incorrectly named in last Saturday's article "It's hip to be square." You want to ask for "QUADEC." There's more information at schluter.com.

— Calgary Herald

Timeless design moves beyond classic elements



Courtesy, Empire Kitchen & Bath
Empire Kitchen & Bath recently won the Calgary category in the Sub-Zero/Wolf Kitchen Design Contest.

Empire Kitchen & Bath's approach wins kitchen design award

YVONNE JEFFERY
CALGARY HERALD

Empire Kitchen & Bath intended to create a beautiful, functional, luxurious kitchen when they contracted

with McKinley Masters to work on one of the custom home builder's Calgary homes. What they got was a kitchen that earned them a place in the Oscars of the kitchen design world.

Empire recently won the local Calgary category in the 2008 Sub-Zero/Wolf Kitchen Design Contest, a competition that looks for use of space and innovative use of the namesake appliances within that space.

"McKinley Masters has a reputation for building very elegant homes with a lot of moulding and details," says Empire's

owner Kevin Mullen. "We decided to continue on that but make it a little bit more contemporary as well — when you look at it, it's very beautiful, but it's right between traditional and contemporary, in what we call a transitional style."

He points to the traditionally styled cabinet doors mixed with more modern see-through glass in the refrigerator doors and the combination of copper and stainless steel in the range hood.

SEE KITCHEN, PAGE G2

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HOUSE OF REAL ESTATE

Erlon - \$430,000

2411 Erlon Rd, SW - Spacious garden suite, 1100 SF, 2 bdrms/2 baths, den, private outside entry, one of the most upgraded suites in the building, spa-like ensuite, condo fee \$326.

Killarney - \$525,000

2638 26A St, SW - Executive detached 2-stry, updated, contemporary, inner city, 1370 SF, hardwood, slate tile, jet tub, private, treed lot w/ sunny east/west exposure, double garage.

Springbank Hill - \$579,900

131 Springbank Mews, SW - Cul-de-sac, west backyard, 4 bdrm home, with dev'd basement, 2118 + 707 SF, crown moulding, granite counter, maple cabinets, formal dining + upper den.

West Springs - \$598,000

9033 Wentworth Ave. SW - Stylish, high-end townhome, on the ravine, estate area, split level, over 2000 SF, rich hardwood, gourmet kitchen, granite counters, 3 bdrms, double garage.

Discovery Ridge - \$639,000

77 Discovery Ridge Hill, SW - Stylish home w/ dev'd walkout (2400 SF), across from park! Soaring ceiling/windows & dramatic stone f/p, granite, hardwood, 2+1 bdrm, south backyard.

Discovery Ridge - \$719,000

187 Discovery Ridge Blvd, SW - 2393 SF + developed bsmt. \$30,000+ in landscaping, rich Brazilian hardwood thru main level, built-ins, bsmt developed w/ 4th bdrm/bath & family room.

West Springs - \$798,000

1141 Wentworth View, SW - Open House Sunday 1-4, Backing greenbelt & steps to the pond! 2388 SF, 4 bedroom home, formal living & dining rooms, maple kitchen, granite counters.

Killarney - \$799,900

3020 - 27 St, SW - fully developed new home on a quiet, tree-lined street, over 2800 SF, granite counters thru-out, dream kitchen, curved, open-string staircase, wet bar, 3+1 bdrms.

West Springs - \$950,000

27 West Park Crescent, SW - On a beautiful street, 2767 SF, 3 bdrms + bonus room & den, hardwood, granite counters, stainless steel appliances, island-style kitchen, ensuite w/ jet-tub.

Wildwood - \$1,275,000

76 Woodlark Dr, SW - New home, large lot, desirable location North of Spruce Dr, steps to Edworthy Park, 1880 SF + dev'd bsmt, 3+1 bdrms, Jack 'n Jill ensuite, luxurious master suite.

Altadore - \$1,150,000

4927 - 21 St, SW - incredible new home on a 37-ft lot, stylish, contemporary, cutting-edge design, 2462 SF, 3 bdrms (incl master w/ huge walk-in closet) west exposure, oversized garage.

Cougar Ridge - \$1,295,000

32 Coulee Park, SW - Estate area, backing a park! 2585 + 1353 SF, 3+1 bdrms, beautiful river valley views, hardwood floors, granite countertops, SS appliances, walkout with full nanny suite.

Heritage Lake - \$1,695,000

184 Heritage Isle - 3400 SF new home + dev'd walkout, backing the ravine, 4 bdrms all w/ ensuite + walk-in closet, upgraded to the hilt, hand-cut walnut floor, granite thru-out, wine cellar.

Strathcona Park - \$1,695,000

63 Strathridge Gardens, SW - 3703 SF + dev'd walkout, backing ravine!, 4 bdrms, fabulous gourmet kitchen, heated tile floors, soaring ceilings/windows, walkout w/ gym & wine cellar.

Evergreen - \$1,840,000

2626 Evercreek Bluffs Way, SW - idyllic location, backing directly onto Fish Creek Park! 3457 SF new home + dev'd walkout, triple garage, superb park views, 3+2 bdrms, den & bonus room.