

INSIDE

CLASSIFIED

LISTINGS BEGIN ON PAGE G4



LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

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WWW.CALGARYHERALD.COM

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AROUND THE HOUSE

Hit and miss

ECO CLEANING • In our continual search for eco-friendly cleaning products, we recently tried the Fruits & Passion line of home cleaners. With cleansing ingredients such as coconut oil and cornstarch instead of petroleum-based products, they're easier on the environment — but do they work?

The Botanical Glass Cleaner (\$8 for 500 ml) was a definite hit. It cleaned mirrors just fine, left no streaks and didn't need rinsing.

The Ecological Heavy Duty Home Cleaner (\$12 for 1L), however, wasn't quite as effective. It left streaks that had to be rinsed away, and one of our testers found that something in the fragrance made it difficult to breathe around the product. So — one hit and one miss this time around. For more information, visit fruitspassion.com.

— Calgary Herald

Finally — find those lids

ORGANIZING • Rubbermaid clearly knows what our kitchen cupboards and drawers look like. We'd love to say that we've never opened a door to have plastic containers and assorted lids fall out onto the floor (or our heads), but it wouldn't be true.

So — their solution? Easy Find Lids food storage containers. The lids fit together and they snap onto the bottoms of the containers — but even better, there are just four different sizes of lids to fit 10 different sizes of containers.

Now, they don't guarantee organized kitchen cabinets (that part's evidently up to us). But at a price point between \$2.49 and \$9.99, they're certainly making it easier. Visit rubbermaid.com for more information.

— Calgary Herald

Chill your bills

ENERGY • Refrigerators — particularly older models — can be big energy users, so it pays to keep yours in top condition. Here are some tips to keep your consumption down.

■ Leave space between the refrigerator and the wall or cabinets so that air can circulate around the condenser coils.

■ Keep the coils clean by brushing or vacuuming them. (Unplug the fridge first.)

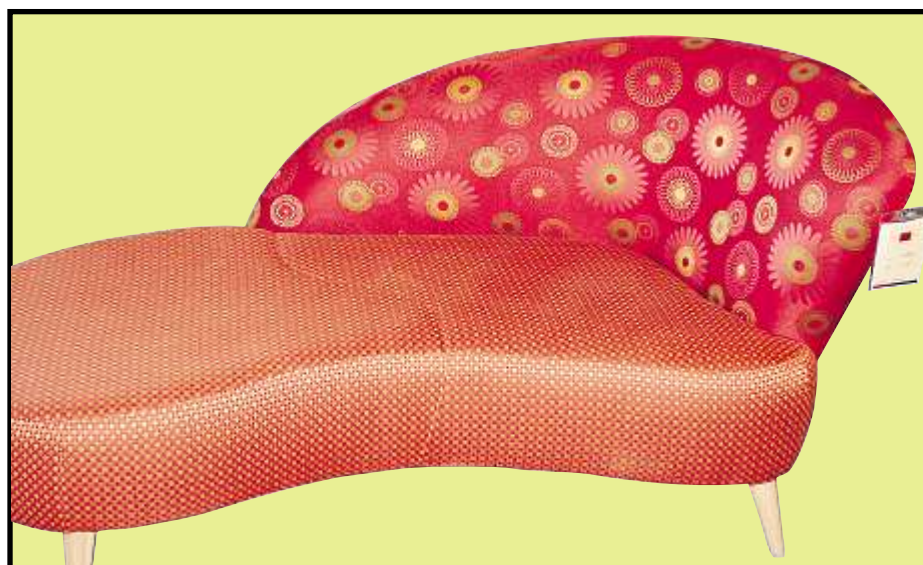
■ Test door seals by closing the door on a dollar bill and trying to pull it out. If the dollar slides out easily, the seals need to be replaced.

■ Keep the refrigerator temperature between 2 C and 5 C and the freezer at -18 C. A fridge that's 10 degrees colder than necessary can use 25 per cent more energy.

■ Keep the refrigerator full (but not overfilled). The mass of cold items lets the refrigerator recover more quickly after the door is opened. If the fridge is nearly empty, store water-filled containers inside.

■ Open the door as seldom as possible, and close it quickly. Label leftovers so you can quickly see what they are.

— McClatchy Newspapers



Urban Living Ltd.

■ 7012 Fisher Rd S.E.; 403-253-0433

■ Eye-catching designs that lean towards the modern side of the design spectrum can be found in Urban Living's expansive showroom. There's a full range of furniture here, along with a healthy selection of art and accessory pieces, mixing international design with local artists.



Domaine Fine Furnishings & Design

■ #8 7130 Fisher Road S.E.; 403-301-2339; domainefurnishings.com

■ From Frank Lloyd Wright's licensed designs to Maria Yee's contemporary California style — including her bamboo timber made from flattened stalks — this is a design centre that focuses on unique, superior pieces (think reclaimed teak wood and hammered copper, just to start). Make sure you walk all the way to the back, as the store opens out even further to the rear.

Traders of the Lost Art

■ 5915 1A Street S.W.; 403-229-0234; traderstoo.com

■ Even the name evokes a sense of adventure, but that's nothing compared to stepping inside the store. From a life-size cast-iron Teutonic knight on horseback to a much more demure Italian marble bust, you just never know what you'll find inside the doors. Officially, it's European architectural items for home and garden — but unofficially, it's just plain fun.



design walk

Step out with us as we explore the decor-rich neighbourhoods of Calgary (and slightly farther afield), where it's as easy to find unique local talent as it is internationally renowned designers. This week, our series hits the pavement around the Heritage shopping district, but you can explore more at any time, online at calgaryherald.com. Go to the Life at Home section, find the Design Walks icon and click away.

THE WARM WINDS OF DESIGN

Calgary's Chinook area features one-of-a-kind decor destinations

YVONNE JEFFERY
CALGARY HERALD

Chinook Centre, with its signature Pottery Barn and Williams-Sonoma stores, is an easy pick for great decor options, but if you cast your eye just a little farther around the shopping centre, you'll find that it's part of a strong node for decor and design.

From Fisher Road S.E. north to 50th Avenue S.E., all the way east to Blackfoot Trail, you'll find powerhouse stores and studios tucked away on both main streets and back roads. And don't even get us started on Blackfoot Trail, where there's even more to choose from — unfortunately, we had stop somewhere (but don't feel that you have to).

So — pack up the car and plan a walk in the mall (park in the back, trust us), and a quick drive to stores nearby. You won't be disappointed.

SEE DECOR GALORE, PAGE G2



Ethan Allen

■ 6707 Elbow Drive S.W.; 403-258-2346; ethanallen.com

■ There's no reason why you can't just swoosh past the concierge who greets you at the entrance to Ethan Allen and wander through the store yourself, letting serendipity guide you. But the store's on-staff designers really love to help (as much or as little as you'd like). It's upscale, with themes that include country house, villa, global and metro.



Uniquities

■ 5240 1a Street S.E.; 403-228-9221; uniquities.ca

■ Another fantastic local store specializing in historic architectural pieces, Uniquities is well worth a browse... or two. From wrought iron, stone and tile to entire fireplaces, staircases and floors, it's a treasure trove. Most pieces come from the United Kingdom, but France and Egypt make appearances, too, and the store sources reclaimed building materials from North America.

Pottery Barn

■ Chinook Centre; 403-259-2100; potterybarn.ca

■ Yes, we know it's a chain — but it's one that we welcome for its south-of-the-border variety and its vibrant patterns. Plus, there's the cachet of being one of only three Canadian cities to have the stores (the others are in Toronto and Vancouver). As for atmosphere, the furnishings and textiles are all about casual comfort, but with a generous helping of style.


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RE/MAX
HOUSE OF REAL ESTATE

Cougar Ridge \$595,000 • 90 Cougarstone Terrace SW
Backing greenspace! Beautiful 3 bedroom family home with fully finished bsmt & recent upgrades! Hardwood floors, soaring ceilings, formal dining room, bonus room, large family room in bsmt & newly renovated 3 pc bath! Over 2059 + 803 s.f.!



Altadore \$649,000 • 2047, 49th Avenue SW
OPEN HOUSE, Saturday, August 30, 1 - 4 pm 1673 s.f.
3 bedroom, 3 bath 2-storey boasting hardwood floors, granite counters & stainless steel appliances in kitchen, flat-surface ceilings, elegantly curved staircase in foyer & south facing back yard!



Strathcona Park \$675,000 • 55 Stratton Crescent SW
Saturday, August 30, 1 - 4 pm City views, South backyard, across from the ravine + siding treed green space! 2223 s.f., tastefully renovated, 3 bedrooms, jetted tub in master ensuite, jack n' Jill ensuite, wood-burning f/p, hardwood & granite!



Killarney \$795,000 • 3018, 27th Street SW
New home! Executive attached home with developed basement & double garage. 2800+ s.f. with granite counters, Grohe fixtures, vaulted master & rain shower! 3 bedrooms upstairs & developed basement with wet bar, games room & 4th bedroom!



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