



LOFTY AMBITIONS

Lin Connery wraps up her historic home renovation in Nova Scotia

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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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AROUND THE HOUSE

Picture this

ART • Imagine the skyscrapers of New York, a lighthouse in windblown grass, a dock extending into a quiet blue lake. Now imagine one of these scenes as your wall.

You provide your favourite photo; Denmark-based Ferm Living turns it into designer wallpaper.

It's as simple as a few mouse clicks. Just upload your favourite photo at wallcollection.com and in a few weeks you'll have a custom-fit roll of wallpaper. The print will come in one large sheet of paper, ready to glue. Low-resolution photos will appear pixelated at large sizes, so submit pictures of at least 5 MB.

If you lack photo skills, (or are looking for a more quirky design), you can choose from their collection.

When measuring your walls, dimensions are in centimetres; prices are per square metre. Price per square metre is \$66; then factor in a flat-rate shipping fee of \$60. Yes, your project can be pretty pricey. But did you really want generic butterflies on your walls? Go to wallcollection.com. For more information, e-mail info@wallcollection.info.

— McClatchy Newspapers

Stay off the ice!

SAFETY • Despite the recent downward dips in temperature, there are some ice surfaces in Calgary that you should never stray onto, including the Glenmore Reservoir and the city's 123 wet or "storm" ponds that collect water during storms and snowmelts.

The Calgary Fire Department says that varying temperatures can create unstable ice surfaces, so they're urging residents to stay off the ice unless it's specifically posted for recreational use. They offer these tips for ice safety:

■ Never play on the ice that forms on waterways in and around the city.

■ If you live in a lake community, contact your community association to find out if the ice has been safety tested.

■ Reach, throw, but don't go — never venture onto an ice surface to rescue someone, as it likely won't hold you, either. Reach from safety, throw a line and call 911.

For more safety tips, visit calgary.ca/fire.

— Calgary Herald

Better blades

TOOLS • Utility knives are a wonderful invention, but their blades can be a hazard if they don't snap off cleanly when you're trying to access a new one — or, worse, if they snap when they're not supposed to. Irwin says they've solved the problem with their Blue Blade bi-metal snap blades. Made from both spring steel for flexibility and high-speed steel for a durable cutting edge, the blades are much less likely to snap before their time, and when they do, they leave a clean edge behind. Designed to fit any standard utility knife that takes 18-mm snap blades, Blue Blades are available at Home Depot at three for \$2.99, 10 for \$6.99 and 50 for \$26.99.

— Calgary Herald

Top trends for 2008
From Canadian House & Home magazine

1. Forest — we're still bringing the outdoors in, but with the gothic look of bare, gnarled branches and bulbous mushrooms.

2. Jewel box — gemstones such as ruby, sapphire and topaz provide rich, saturated inspiration.

3. Casino — think "high gloss" and "gleaming" for this metallic trend, which includes graphic wallpaper and a dash of animal prints.

4. Granny chic — florals and quilts are back, but with more vibrant colours and stylized flowers.

5. Modern baby — if Winnie-the-Pooh leaves you cold (say it isn't so!), go for "cool" in non-pastels and funky designs.

6. Fair trade — items created with social responsibility in mind (think artisanal, fairly priced and with clear origins).

7. Neoclassical now — scale, symmetry, columns and urns are featured, but with bold shots of turquoise and sunshine.

8. Root vegetable — imagine deep hues of beet, yam and pumpkin on walls, chairs, tables and more.

9. Global textiles — as we anticipate the China Olympics and travel the world, we're ready for intricate patterns and colourful fabrics.



10. Hot & cold — metallics mix it up, with warm metals (gold, bronze) next to cool colours (blue, lavender) and cool metals (silver, nickel) next to warm colours (pink, yellow).

Big, bold & beautiful...

Where home style is going in 2008

YVONNE JEFFERY
CALGARY HERALD

Each year, the experts at Canadian House & Home magazine take a look at where decor is and where it's going — and then they point the way forward for readers in their January trends issue. With 10 different concepts on offer this time around (please see sidebar) there's sure to be something appealing for everyone — but if you're looking for one overriding idea, it has to be that colour and patterns are in, big-time.

And that's where Lynda Reeves, president of House & Home Media sounds a cautionary note about the state of style in Calgary. It seems that our houses are getting bigger and bigger, while in the rest of the country she's seeing the opposite effect — and this has an impact on design.

"Why the need for all the grandeur and scale?" she asks, adding that she loves to spend time in the city, seeing it as wholesome, sporty and perfectly placed for a relaxed casual style.

"When I speak with designers here, I'm always astounded at the level of detail they go to. They're doing serious work... but it doesn't have to be quite that serious."

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Photos: Stuart Gradon,
Calgary Herald



OUR CITY, OUR HOME



Jacquelynn Mulyk with some of her work at Artpoint Gallery.

Dean Bicknell, Calgary Herald

What do we really, really want?

Jacquelynn Mulyk's art exhibit starts the discussion

YVONNE JEFFERY
CALGARY HERALD

Our city is taking a few knocks these days. We're accused of getting too

big, too quickly. Our environmental footprint is the largest in the country, we rely on cars instead of walking, and even our homes are growing instead of downsizing as they're beginning to in other major markets.

But Jacquelynn Mulyk isn't buying into these generalizations. The 34-year-old artist has stood on the streets of New York City and Vancouver to paint the streetscapes there, and now she's done the same thing for her adopted hometown. The result is Big City Living — from the eyes of a downtown resident, an exhibit

currently at Inglewood's Artpoint Gallery.

"When I moved to Mission, the buildings around there and the businesses really affected me," Mulyk says. "I believe they gave me a sense of peace and excitement. Then, as I spent more time there, I realized it wasn't just the buildings. There are a number of things that contribute to your sense of place, and that's where this series of paintings came from — from trying to communicate those different elements."

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Valley Ridge, \$585,000

89 Valley Ponds Crescent, NW — 2,077+ SqFt home with beautifully developed walkout! Sunken great room w/ 2-storey ceiling & window wall. Sub-Zero fridge, wine fridge, prof. gas range, granite counters. Mstr ensuite feat. 2-person jetted hydrotherapy soaker tub & 2-person steam shower.



Discovery Ridge, \$839,000

389 Discovery Ridge Boulevard, SW — 2,339 SqFt, 3 bdrm home backing greenspace! Hardwood floors, granite counters & SS appliances. Master feat. 5 pc en suite with granite counters & jet tub. Vaulted ceilings & 3 huge south facing windows in bonus room.



Discovery Ridge, \$939,000

32 Discovery Ridge Rise, SW — 2,760+ SqFt, 4 bdrm home backing linear park w/ developed walkout! 3-way gas fireplace enjoyable from grt rm, nook & kitchen which feat. granite & centre island w/ raised eating bar. Mstr feat. 3-way gas fireplace & jet-tub.



Elbow Valley, \$1,395,000

447 Whispering Water Trail, SW — 1,902 + 1,516 SqFt exquisite family home w/ fully dvlpd bsmnt! Hrdwd, gas fireplace & window wall framing mountain views. Lrg granite island w/ brkfst bar in kitchen. Mstr feat. 5 pc ensuite w/ in-floor heating.



Elbow Valley, \$1,550,000

7 Golden Aspen Crest, SW — 5 bedroom home with developed walkout, backing onto greenbelt! This 3518 SqFt 1 1/2 storey offers a total of over 5,000 SqFt of living space main floor master suite, 2 bedrooms up & 2 down. Bright, open plan, extensiv built-ins.