

INSIDE

## CLASSIFIED

LISTINGS BEGIN ON PAGE G4



## LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

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## NATURAL TENDENCIES

Calgary design stores feature inspiration from the great outdoors

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FOR THE CALGARY HERALD

For several years now, design gurus and trend-watchers have talked about the transfer of our outdoor environment indoors, and vice versa. In fact, the lines between outside and in have become increasingly blurred — we don't even have patios and decks anymore, for example; we have outdoor living spaces.

Inside our homes, the trendy green palette of moss, forest and fruits is gradually evolving to ocean blues, but nature and the environment remain influential for the foreseeable future.

At Willow Studio in Kensington, designer Sandra Young has taken the theme a step further, working with her lead designer, Jayne Creighton, to create an entire furniture and accessories line devoted to the idea. Natural Habitat started with Young's photograph of rock coral underwater in Mexico, and now includes a multi-functional furnishing line made from commercially harvested sheesham wood.

"I find that nature doesn't make mistakes — if you're driving through the mountains and you see a colour scheme, you can take it home and use it and it almost always works," says Young.

"There's also a groundedness in surrounding yourself with natural elements, with rocks and bark and eggs and wood," she adds.

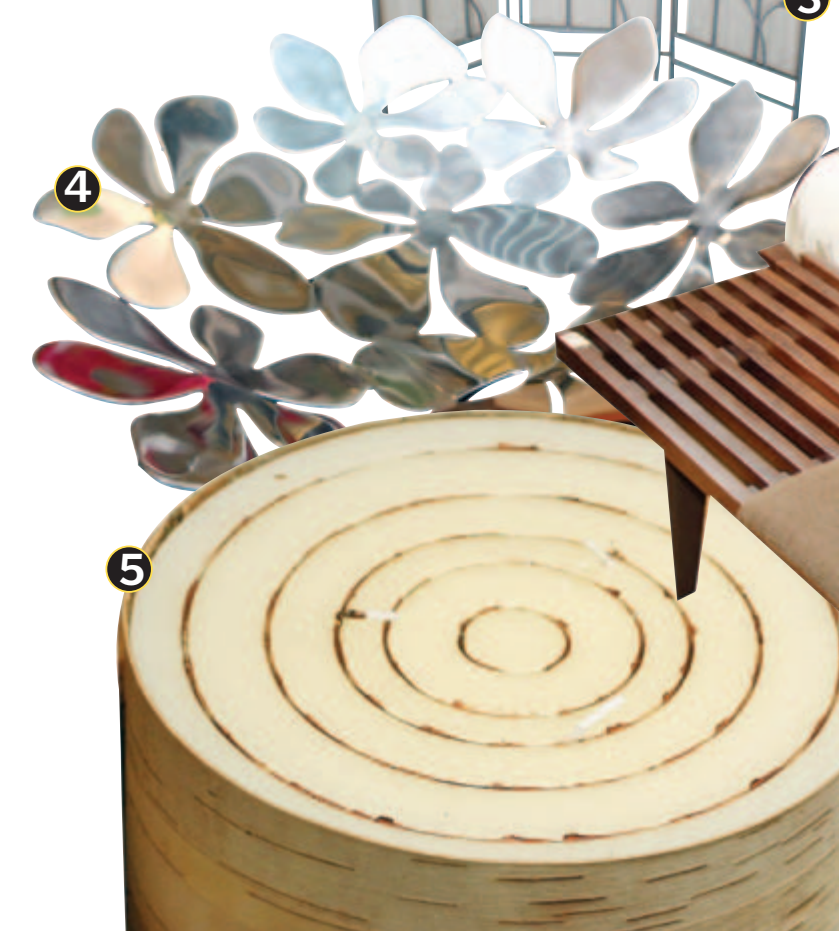
"Maximum creativity to me equals down-to-earth design, taking ordinary elements from nature and displaying them to their best. Our furniture is therefore an extension of that — groundedness and flexibility."

Along with Young's Natural Habitat line, we've selected items found recently in Calgary stores that embody this concept of nature as decor. They cover all kinds of price points and styles, but they have one thing in common — natural tendencies.

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## SOURCES

- EQ3: eq3.com
- From the Ground Up: 403-252-0990
- IKEA: ikea.com/ca
- Mr. Wrought Iron: mrwroughtiron.ca
- Modern Country Interiors: oderncountryinteriors.com
- Willow Studio: willowstudio.ca



1. Pots, at From the Ground Up, are made from palm tree trunks. From \$50 to \$800.
2. IKEA's Pjätteryd circular nature-based art retails for \$89.99.
3. Western silhouettes bring a sense of the prairie inside, at Mr. Wrought Iron (prices depend on size).
4. IKEA's Stockholm bowl in stainless steel retails for \$39.99.
5. This candle wrapped with birch bark (\$28.75) is part of the Natural Habitat line at Willow Studio.
6. EQ3's Canyon platform bed (\$739) and bench (\$349) and Khokhoma duvet set (\$99.99) in queen.

Photos,  
Calgary Herald

## AROUND THE HOUSE

## Painting just got a lot easier

**PRODUCT** • Going back and forth to the paint tray has to be the worst part about painting. Getting paint on yourself is a close second.

Black & Decker PaintStick EZ-Twist helps you eliminate both. Using the PaintStick, you can paint an 8-by-8-foot room without bending over to saturate your roller.

The tool draws paint directly from the can and stores it in the handle, saving you time and giving you more control of your project.

Small or large amounts of

paint can be released onto the surface by flicking a switch. A spatter shield protects you when painting high walls or ceilings. What about leftover paint, you ask? You can return it to the paint can. And then you can clean the PaintStick by snapping off the roller and flushing it with water.

The five-piece painting system is available at local home-improvement retailers and online. Cost is \$29.99. For details check out BlackandDecker.com.

## Apartment SOS

**SOLUTIONS** • When it comes to home-design solutions, you can

probably learn more from the success stories of ordinary people than from the rich and famous.

That's the idea behind Apartment Therapy Presents: Real Homes, Real People, Hundreds of Real Design Solutions (Chronicle Books; \$27.50; hardcover) by Maxwell Gillingham-Ryan with Jill Slater and Janel Laban.

Illustrated with more than 400 photos, the book features 40 homes, all decorated by real people living from Brooklyn to San Diego to Miami.

Each chapter includes an introduction of the home dweller and overview of the home; home profile with floor plans;

detailed resource lists; and "how I did it" explanations from the subjects.

## Work that room

**TELEVISION** • Emmy-winner Christopher Lowell has a new television series in which he'll address growing social trends and how they translate into today's home design.

Work That Room debuts July 26 on the Fine Living Network.

In each episode, he'll address topics such as: dealing with blended spaces where cooking, formal entertaining, media entertainment and private down

time in the same space; taking once-a-year family vacations in your backyard; interpreting the Zen iconography increasingly used in home decor; and defining "sexy spaces," a new commercial-design term that's shaping new homes.

## Everything tastes better outside

**TIPS** • Want to take your summer cooking outside? Check out these tips from Great Kitchens, a magazine put out by Fine Homebuilding:

- Use durable materials and

appliances rated for outdoor use.

- Slope patios and countertops at least 1/4 inch every 2 feet to eliminate standing water.

- Provide ventilation for the grill. Guests will be uncomfortable if smoke gets in their eyes.

- Even on long summer nights, you may need lighting. Put lights on dimmers so they don't ruin the atmosphere.

- Do you want a pergola, portico or awning? They offer shade and can be a structure on which to mount speakers and light fixtures.

- To keep costs down, make utility runs as short as possible.

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Just a few minutes to downtown this executive masterpiece is situated on an extra wide 40' x 125' lot. Loaded with luxurious finishings, this 2541 SF, 3+1 bedroom home boasts: professionally

developed basement, spiral staircase through all 3 floors, 25' x 15' 2 level media room, over-sized triple garage & is just steps from off leash park, playgrounds, schools and trendy 17th Ave!

