



LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

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SATURDAY, JULY 5, 2008

AROUND THE HOUSE

Don't let mosquitoes be a buzz-kill

SOLUTION • Pesky mosquitoes can take all the fun out of sitting on the porch. With only two hands, it's tough to sip a summer beverage, turn the pages of a mystery thriller and sweat bugs all at once.

The June/July issue of Domino has a solution for keeping bugs at bay: mosquito netting that effectively turns an open-air porch into a "screened" porch. Although the magazine recommends a website (mosquito curtains.com) that sells kits, this looks like a project many do-it-yourselfers could handle.

The easiest and cheapest way to attach the netting is with Velcro.

Buy a long roll of adhesive Velcro tape and stick it along the inside wall of the porch, close to the ceiling. Reinforce the adhesive by stapling the Velcro every 12 inches or so. A staple gun makes quick work of this task.

Measure mosquito netting to fit and sew the other side of the Velcro tape along the top edge. Hold the bottom and sides of the netting in place with magnets or large snaps.

When the netting is not in place, it can be pulled to the side and tied back like a billowing curtain.

— McClatchy Newspapers

Cool ideas to beat the heat

TIPS • Be forewarned and you can forearm yourself in the battle to stay cool and green this summer.

■ Start with your air conditioning system. A power pig, it's a direct contributor to those hot, furnace-like days.

A new, well-maintained air conditioning system is more energy-efficient than an old, dirty one.

■ Electric fans offer an alternative to air conditioning and cost about 50 cents a day to run. Pointed directly at you, a fan will whisk away the internal body heat your perspiration carries to the surface.

■ You also need to keep your home from overheating during the day and allow it to cool naturally at night.

Close windows and window coverings in the morning and keep them shut until the evening.

■ A Wireless Weather Station from Lee Valley (www.leevalley.com) will help: this \$36.50, battery-powered gadget consists of a small outdoor monitor and an indoor digital reader that indicates the temperature in both places.

The only drawback is that its default setting is Fahrenheit and the procedure for switching to Celsius is buried in the instruction manual.

■ Window film, which blocks the sun's ultraviolet rays, will slash your home's summer heat gain by up to 60 per cent, while also reducing heat loss in the winter.

Installed cost is \$6 and up per square foot; look under Window Tinting and Coating in the Yellow Pages.

— Canwest News Service



Photos, Ted Jacob, Calgary Herald and courtesy Bruce Edwards

This ranch house on the edge of the city hasn't gone hog-wild western. Subtle elements are seen inside and out.

Country warmth meets city elegance in this family-first home

WESTERN STYLE GOES UPSCALE

YVONNE JEFFERY
CALGARY HERALD

On the outskirts of the city, where the prairie swells start rolling out to the Rockies on the horizon, a low-slung ranch house tucks itself into a small rise. Two horses graze nearby, in a paddock that sports birdhouses on its fenceposts. The bustle of the city is gone, replaced by the call of a meadowlark in the fields and the embrace of a warm breeze flowing unimpeded from the high reaches.

It would be easy to think that "western" out here means dried flower arrangements on the walls and cowboy silhouettes in the garden — but that's oh, so long ago. As the Calgary Stampede gets into full swing downtown, this house in the country pays homage to the western traditions of warmth and welcome in a subtle style that defies decor trends.

"It's upscale western," says Calgary designer Sandra Young, who worked with the homeowner several years ago to create a family-first feel in the home. "Western style is being interpreted less over-the-top and more subtly elegant. It's not a 'themed' look and it's not flamboyant."

What makes designing for homes in the country different from those in the city, she adds, is scope. The house isn't necessarily bigger, but the chores are: There are the outdoor tasks to look after, including caring for those horses and for the larger gardens.

"You can't be decorating over and over again — you don't have the time. You need a style that's less trendy and more grounded and earthy," she says, adding the house reflects the down-to-earth nature of the homeowners. The decor also works with the home's key features — including a large two-sided fireplace faced in smooth grey, taupe and rust stones, and lots of oak.

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HOUSE OF REAL ESTATE

Killarney - \$285,000

#6 - 1928, 26th Street, SW - Bright, open floorplan, in-suite laundry and a LARGE storage room in the basement! This 2 bedroom condo is located on the top floor in desirable Killarney. Ideal inner city location makes this the perfect space to call home!

Copperwood/Hemlock - \$345,000

#8103 - 14 Hemlock Crescent, SW - Super spacious 980 SF 1 bedroom, 2 bath condo boasting unobstructed views of the Shaganappi Golf Course, and just minutes from downtown! Natural slate tile in kitchen & bathrooms, upgraded appliances, 9' ceilings & corner fireplace!

Rocky Ridge - \$359,000

#15 - 15 Rocky Ridge Gate, NW - Enjoy the maintenance free lifestyle of condo living with many of the luxuries of a private residence. This lovely 3 bedroom home offers nearly 2000 SqFt of developed living space as well as a double attached garage. Basement beautifully developed!

Acadia, \$379,000

9315 Academy Drive, SE - Perfect starter home! 3 bedroom bungalow close to Deerfoot Meadows, schools & parks. Hardwood floors, upgraded kitchen & baths, media room in developed basement as well as 3rd bedroom w/ 3 pc ensuite & walk-in closet - perfect master!

Discovery Ridge, \$549,000

6 Discovery Ridge Gardens, SW - 2052 SF 3 bedroom family home situated on a large pie-lot in a quiet cul-de-sac in desirable Discovery Ridge! Central A/C for warm summer months. Vaulted master suite w/ 4 pc ensuite, large great room w/ f/p & loads of maple cabinetry in kitchen.

Cougar Ridge - \$599,000

81 Cougar Ridge View, SW - 2138 + 1022 SqFt 2-storey with fully developed basement! This 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home fronts a ravine and features hardwood floors, 2-storey ceiling in great room, sprawling master suite w/ 5 pc jet tub ensuite. Close to parks, schools & DT!

Altadore - \$695,000

2047 - 49th Avenue, SW - 1673 SqFt 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!

West Springs, \$749,000

1141 Wentworth View, SW - Prime estate location, ideal family home. 2,388 SF, 4 bedroom home backs onto a greenspace & is steps from the pond. Features maple kitchen w/ granite counters, gleaming hardwood, yard with water feature, stone patio & dog run, quiet location.

Garrison Green, \$750,000

5616 Henwood Street, SW - Fantastic home by Albi in sought after Garrison Green - steps from Mount Royal, quick commute to downtown. 1900 + 654 SqFt, 4 bdrm 2 storey. Granite counters, espresso hardwood floors, 3 sided fireplace, master w/ 5 pc jet tub ensuite.

Killarney, \$799,000

3020 - 27 Street, SW - New home! Executive attached home w/ developed bsmt & double garage, over 2800 SF of living space, granite counters, Grohe fixtures, vaulted master, rain shower, 3 bdrms up, bsmt w/ wet bar, games room, 4th bedroom.

Inner City - \$825,000

3344 - 35th Avenue, SW - Beautifully refinished bungalow on large corner lot! New: windows, Trex deck, plumbing & light fixtures, kitchen, bathrooms, carpet, tile & drywall. Boasts casear stone counters, marble floors, SS appliances & media room! 20' x 22' garage being built!

Shaganappi, \$1,475,000

1724 - 24A Street, SW - Just a few minutes to downtown & situated on an extra wide 40' x 125' lot, this luxurious 2,541 SF 3+1 bedroom home boasts: Developed basement, 3 storey spiral staircase, 25' x 15' 2 level media room, over-sized triple garage & just steps from off leash park!

Elbow Park, \$1,495,000

601 Hillcrest Ave, SW - LAND VALUE ONLY - Huge 18,483 SF lot in one of Calgary's most prestigious neighbourhoods! Home is gutted & ready for renovation - or build new! Incredible lot in Elbow Park seconds to DT and parks & just across the street from the Elbow River!

Heritage Pointe, \$1,575,000

184 Heritage Isle - 3404 + 1518 SF, 5 bedroom estate home with beautifully developed walk-out, backing a ravine in the prestigious community "The Lake at Heritage Pointe". Granite counters, hardwood floors, 9' ceilings, walk-in closets in all bedrooms, wine cellar & much more!

Springbank Hill, \$1,650,000

10 Spring Valley Place, SW - 3573 SF professionally designed executive home on 1/4 acre lot in Spring Valley Estates. Premium finishes include: Brazilian teak hardwood, extensive built-in's, vein cut Bianco Antico granite, custom cabinets built on-site, imported Italian marble & more!