



# LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

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## AROUND THE HOUSE

### Reno trends steady

**RENOVATIONS** • It's another busy year for Calgary renovators and contractors. According to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp., 41 per cent of the city's households are expecting to spend \$1,000 or more on renovations in 2008.

Going into 2007, almost half of us were going to renovate, but only a third of us actually went through with it — primarily to update, repair, or prepare to sell our homes.

Another interesting fact is that almost a third of households that renovated did it themselves. More than a quarter contracted out part of the work, while the rest handed it all over to experts.

You'll find excellent tips and detailed background information about renovating and home buying at cmhc.ca.

— Calgary Herald

### Room by room to a safe home

**ON THE WEB** • Fires, burns, falls, poisonings and drownings are all accidents that can happen in your home if you don't take steps to prevent them.

Mysafefhome.org, an interactive safety tool by the Home Safety Council, breaks down the steps needed to make your home safe.

From outdoor spaces to your bedrooms and baths, the site helps users find risk areas and provides tips and advice to correct them. The site offers up-to-date research on home safety and shares what others are doing to prevent injuries.

Other site features include a list of rooms where families feel most vulnerable and ways to reduce the risk, safety practices taken in the garage and backyard, and a room-by-room safety plan.

Users can tour a virtual home and learn about the leading causes of serious home injuries. Digital animations show major risk areas.

— McClatchy Newspapers

### No-fuss gorgeous grass

**ECO-LOGICAL** • For healthy grass that looks good and is good for the environment, try this no-sweat plan from the July 2008 issue of ShopSmart, by the publisher of Consumer Reports.

■ Mow like a pro. Mow every five to 10 days, keeping the grass a minimum 5 to 7.5 centimetres high. Set up your mower or tractor in the "mulch" mode so that the machine will chop up the clippings into tiny pieces.

■ Keep it tidy. Don't forget to trim around trees, posts and other scruffy areas that the mower can't reach. For easy handling, choose a light, electric trimmer with a top-mounted motor for better balance.

■ Water it right. The morning is the best time to use sprinklers, before it gets too hot and moisture evaporates. Long soaks encourage roots.

— Calgary Herald

# 101 DECKS

Your fearless guide to planning a deck that will last

YVONNE JEFFERY  
CALGARY HERALD

**T**here's nothing like stepping out onto your deck on a summer afternoon, cool drink in hand, ready to share the setting with family and friends — or even just a really good book.

Unless, like me, you have a big expanse of nothingness where that lovely deck should be. Oops.

Whether you've bought a newer house that's yet to sport a deck or an older house that needs a deck replacement, the construction of a new one can seem daunting.

The good news is that a deck isn't that difficult to build (or have built for you) — but you do need good advice. To start you out on the right footing (pun intended), we turned to some local experts for their deck planning tips.

#### Building permits

First things first. You need to know how the City of Calgary defines a deck, because that definition comes with rules and regulations designed to maintain safety.

"If it's two feet or higher off the ground, it's considered a deck — below that, it's a patio," says Jill Clarke, with the city's development and building approvals unit. "If it's a deck, people have to come down to City Hall to apply for a permit."

While you wait, a safety codes officer will review the design to make sure that it meets building code requirements (such as safe foundation and railing construction) and a planning services technician will review it for placement on your lot to make sure it meets land use rules such as setbacks from the property line.

Clarke suggests being at the permit office at 8 a.m. Monday to Friday for the shortest wait times, and notes that permit costs depend on your square footage. When you're finished building, you'll need to schedule and pass a building inspection.

Clarke notes that deck construction brochures to guide you through the process are available online at the City of Calgary's website — they're also sent to many of the city's building stores.

#### Design

"Decks have become an extension of your indoor living space," says Braden VanBryce, owner of Fab-u-scape (formerly Deckmaster), a Calgary company that specializes in deck and landscape design and construction. "Think of it like a living room — what are you going to be doing on the deck?"

Decide whether the deck will be a space for cooking, eating or lounging — or all three — and you can move on to the furniture you'll need, and then its arrangement.

VanBryce notes that space is also needed at the top of the stairs for a landing.

SEE DECKS PAGE G2



Stuart Gradon, Calgary Herald

Braden VanBryce built this gorgeous backyard deck in Cranston.

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#### 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 - \$359,000

#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!

#### Discovery Ridge - \$359,000

#537 - 10 Discovery Ridge Close, SW - Penthouse suite! 1099 SF 2 bedroom, 2 bath in desirable Discovery Ridge - Premium stainless steel appliances, stone-faced fireplace in great room & incredible views of Griffiths Woods from large balcony with gas line for BBQ!

#### Spruce Cliff, \$419,000

#1003, 55 Spruce Place, SW - For panoramic city views & a stylish condo complex with the best in amenities incl. huge pool & gym, this is the one to see! 10th floor suite, 1072 SF with 2 beds & 2 baths. Across from golf course, on future C-train route, wheelchair friendly.

#### Bridgeland - \$449,000

222 - 6A Street, NE - Much sought after location, across from Riverside Bungalow/Park, with city views! "Grandma's house", in wonderful well maintained condition, newer windows, over 900 SF + basement, 30 x 110-foot lot.

#### West Springs - \$565,000

9033 Wentworth Avenue, SW - Award winning condo! 2002 SF backing ravine in desirable Wentworth! Contemporary 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath feat. 2 storey great room with dramatic window-wall & centre fireplace, hardwood floors, granite counters & stainless steel appliances.

#### Richmond Hill - \$579,000

1040 Sierra Moreno Court, SW - Car lover's dream! This home has 2 double garages, the detached boasting a great workshop! 1923 SF, 4 bedrooms/4 baths, developed basement, 2-sided fireplace & wine cellar. Recently upgraded water tank/furnace/roof & Low-E windows.

#### Altadore - \$695,000

2047 - 49th Avenue, SW - Stylish infill in a fabulous location! 1673 SF 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 backyard!

#### Richmond Hill, \$875,000 - OPEN HOUSE, Saturday, June 7, 1-4 pm!

119 Sierra Moreno Court, SW - Over 10,600 SF pie lot! 3600+ SF, incredible mountain views, hardwood floors, granite counters, stainless steel appliances, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, & developed walk-out!

#### Altadore - \$895,000 - OPEN HOUSE, Sunday, June 8, 1-4 pm!

2018 - 40th Avenue, SW - "The Dorchester" boasts hardwood floors, crown moulding through-out, granite counters, stainless steel appliances, 3-sided 1/p in master & in-floor heating in fully finished basement! 1954 + 771 SF of luxury built by Saddle River Custom Homes!

#### Altadore - \$895,000

4218 - 18th Street, SW - Another gem by Saddle River Custom Homes! 1898 + 741 SF with a fully finished basement, "The Chelsea" features hardwood flooring, legacy kitchen w/ stainless steel appliances & granite counters & 3-sided 1/p master, 6 pc ensuite w/ jetted shower!

#### Elbow Valley Estates, \$1,149,000

44 Golden Aspen Crest - Main floor hosts romantic master suite, 2nd bedroom, full bath, formal dining & spacious laundry room. Granite counters & stainless steel in kitchen. Full basement developed to include 2 bedrooms, a vast family room, media room, den & full bath.

#### Discovery Ridge, \$1,295,000

35 Discovery Ridge Cove, SW - Backing directly onto Griffiths Woods! Beautiful pie lot w/ professional landscaping, 2848 + 1212 SF family home with 4 bedrooms up + developed walkout w/ 2 more bedrooms. Dark oak hardwood, soaring ceilings, granite counters & more!

#### Elbow Valley Estates, \$1,499,000 - OPEN HOUSE, Saturday, June 7, 2-5 pm!

8 Snowberry Gate - Over 5400 SF of luxurious living space in this 4 bedroom home with 60' indoor lap pool! Finishing include slate tile, exposed timber beams, river stone accents, granite & wood stove in kitchen, wood burning fireplace in family room & 5 pc jet tub ensuite in master!

#### Heritage Pointe, \$1,575,000

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