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# LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

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WWW.CALGARYHERALD.COM

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## AROUND THE HOUSE

### Save pennies, and the planet

**ENVIRONMENT** • Families can save about \$60 a week, plus be good to the planet, by taking all of these steps:

- Use fabric instead of paper napkins. This saves trees and lessens the load in landfills.
- Turn down the thermostat to 62 C at bedtime. It cuts smog-forming pollutants.
- Cook at home one additional night a week. Saves a drive to the restaurant and takeout container waste.
- Eat one vegetarian meal a week. Animal protein production uses more resources than vegetable protein production.
- Cut your shower time by two minutes. Save water and energy.
- Do some errands on foot. Save gas, oil, antifreeze and brake fluid.

That's the news from National Geographic, which this week debuted the quarterly Green Guide, a print and online magazine dedicated to showing consumers ways to gradually and affordably go green. Its slogan is "The Resource for Consuming Wisely."

Topics in the first issue include Same Car, Better Gas Mileage, Cosmetics Ingredients: The 12 Worst, and Free Your House of Toxic Chemicals.

Subscriptions cost \$15 for a year or \$12 for an online subscription. Information: [thegreenguide.com](http://thegreenguide.com). The site also offers a free weekly e-newsletter.

— McClatchy Newspapers

### Best bets for bargain hunting

**SHOPPING** • Consumers who regularly visit discount stores know what bargains there are to be found, and know that shopping at off-price stores can be hit or miss, and overwhelming.

So be sure to go armed with paint chips, fabric swatches, room measurements and layout, including the locations of windows, doors and heating/air conditioning vents.

Other sage advice: ■ When measuring rooms, include the height and width of doorways, stairwells and hallways to make sure large pieces will actually fit.

■ When shopping during a big sale, it helps to go with a buddy. One of you can physically claim the piece while the other goes in search of a sales clerk to put a "sold" sign on those chairs you covet.

■ If you see a scratch or tear on something, try to negotiate a price break. There is no harm in asking, and the manager will frequently say yes.

■ Instead of paying top dollar for custom framing, check out the art section at discount stores. Buy a well-framed, well-matted print (even if you hate the image) for a fraction of custom work. Then just remove what's inside and insert your own painting or photo.

— The Washington Post

# The Belle of the block

This year, curb appeal is crucial in Calgary's changing real estate market

YVONNE JEFFERY  
CALGARY HERALD

Never mind the vernal equinox and visions of frolicking calves and budding leaves. Spring in Calgary has to be the harshest month when it comes to curb appeal, whether we're selling our homes or simply living in them.

Gone are the clean white snows of winter, and far in the future are tulips and daffodils. Instead, the grass out front is crisp and brown, and our homes are wearing a drab overcoat of a winter's worth of dust and grime. Not to mention those green front doors.

"In 2006, it didn't matter if your house had a pink door, it sold," says Neil Lauzon, a Realtor with Calgary's Remax House of Real Estate. "Now, buyers are being very picky. If it's not your home, it's the other 14 that are

within \$10,000 or \$20,000 of your house with the same square footage."

A few short seasons ago, it wouldn't have mattered that buyers saw a green front door as tired and dated—but it does now.

"Last year, we had limited inventory available," says Calgary Real Estate Board president Ed Jensen.

"This year, our total inventory is up. What it speaks to is more selection for buyers than there was last year. As such, it's important that the sellers understand that they're in a different marketplace than last year."

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Photo Illustration, Kathryn Molcak

## When art becomes life

Two artists share their work and their space on the Triangle Gallery's home and studio tour

JANE HARRISON  
FOR THE CALGARY HERALD

Art and life really come together in the Robb family home. A sculptor and a quilter respectively, Greg and Lynn Robb's impressive new home was built with two customized studios.

The remarkable house will be open to the public during the



Stuart Gradon, Calgary Herald

Lynn Robb sits in her studio in the family's Calgary home, which is featured in the Triangle Gallery's tour.

annual Triangle Gallery's Artist Home + Studio Tour, sponsored by Times Press Ltd. The March 29 event winds through the homes of a photographer, sculptor,

quilter and two ceramicists.

The Robb house sits prominently on a generous lot. The two-storey, Arts and Crafts style home commands attention in a

### PREVIEW

The Triangle Gallery hosts its annual Artist Home + Studio Tour March 29, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. This year's tour includes the homes of a photographer, sculptor, quilter and two ceramicists. Tickets are \$25 to \$30 at the door. Go to [triangle-gallery.com](http://triangle-gallery.com) for more information.

streetscape dominated by modest builder bungalows.

Lynn found the dream home while flipping through an issue of Better Homes and Gardens. Greg was equally impressed. And Brian Enns, a Red Deer designer, adapted the plan for the family and the house was built by Lindner Brothers five years ago.

The much-photographed house has been used as the setting for a commercial made for a Dutch sausage company. Completely developed on three levels, it provides convivial family

living space for the Robbs and their two teenage daughters Sarah and Emily. More importantly, there is also room for their artistic passions.

Interior designer Esther Lill helped with the paint colours, a palette of chamois and soft golds. "We saw eye-to-eye on colour," says Lynn. Extensive wall space throughout the house displays a who's who collection of work by local artists, as well as pieces from prominent international artists. Their collection includes work by Marion Nicoll, Illingworth Kerr and Ted Godwin, to name a few.

In the family room, leather furniture is grouped around an oriental carpet facing the fireplace. Stained glass lamps are Frank Lloyd Wright design. On one wall, a West Coast cedar mask accompanies a collection of Maori spears that were a legacy from Lynn's aunt.

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#### Spruce Cliff, \$429,000

#10th floor, 55 Spruce Place, SW. Panoramic city & golf course views! 1072 SF, 2 bedrooms/2baths. Steps to golf course & Starbucks, on future c-train route, fabulous indoor pool & large gym.

#### Erlton, \$450,000

2411 Erlton Road, SW. Exceptionally upgraded 1065 SF, 2 bedroom/2 baths, garden suite, steps from Talmison Centre & the river. With extensive use of porcelain & granite. Private outside entry.

#### Bridgeland - \$459,000

222 - 6A Street, NE Inner city location, across from Riverside Bungalow/Park, with city views! 946 SF bungalow + basement, on a great 30 x 110-foot lot, w/ oversized single garage. Beautifully maintained!

#### Banff Trail, \$499,000

3212 Cochrane Road, NW. 50 R-2 zoned lot, quiet street, steps to an elementary school, near U of C & a quick commute to DT. Ideal for redevelopment, a street in transition, land value only.

#### Discovery Ridge, \$539,000

26 Discovery Woods Villas, SW. Stylish villa, developed basement, double garage almost 2000 sf, of living space, 1 + 2 bedrooms, maple kitchen, built-ins, backing greenbelt, with mountain views!

#### West Springs, \$569,000

4 Weston Place, SW. Beautiful bungalow backing south onto a park! 2+2 bedroom home, developed basement, over 2800 sf of living space, hardwood floors, 3rd bedroom has full ensuite.

#### Royal Oak, \$575,000

58 Royal Oak Heights, NW. Developed basement & oversized garage! Quiet street near parks, open plan, 2243 SF, 3+1 bdrms + den, large mudroom, total of 3200+ sf of living space!

#### Wentworth, \$599,000

6033 Wentworth Avenue, SW. Stylish, high-end townhouse, overlooking ravine, in the estates, split level, over 2000 SF, rich hardwood, gourmet kitchen, 3 bedrooms, double attached garage.

#### Valley Ridge, \$625,000

311 Valley Springs Tc, NW. Over \$170,000 spent on recent renovations! One-of-a-kind, new kitchen, flooring, fantastic built-ins throughout, ideal location backing large park, 1843 SF + basement.

#### Killarney, \$850,000

3020 - 27 Street, SW. New, executive attached home w/ developed bsmt, total 2800 sf of luxurious living space, granite counters kitchen & baths, vaulted master suite, rain shower, 3+1 bedrooms.

#### Bridgeland, \$899,000

228 - 6A Street NE. 3040 SF home, 44-ft lot, facing onto a park with wonderful city views from 2 levels. 5 bedrooms upstairs, renovated kitchen & baths, granite counters, steam shower, dev'd basement.

#### West Springs, \$995,000

121 West Springs Place, SW. Exquisite finishings, on a cul-de-sac, siding a park! 2541 SF + developed walkout, 3+1 bdrms, rich built-ins, tiger-wood & heated slate floors, master suite overlooks park.

#### Crescent Heights, \$875,000

1412 - 2A Street NW Walk to work! Exceptional heritage-inspired never home, almost 2900 SF including basement, dbl garage, 3 bdrms+den, huge vaulted master suite

#### West Springs, \$1,275,000

11 Westpark Crescent, SW 3195+ SF, 5 bdrm, custom built home with developed basement, large kitchen, high-end appliances, granite counters & detailed millwork. Master bedroom with double steam shower & jet tub.

#### Evergreen, \$1,995,000

2626 Evercreek Bluffs, SW. On Fish Creek Park! 3457 SF home + developed walkout, over 5000 SF of luxurious living space, 3+2 bedrooms, park views from most rooms, exceptional upgrades!

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