

LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

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Ikea's ALBERTA ADVANTAGE

Bow Island's
Nicole Jannesson
shops the world
for the home
decor giant

YVONNE JEFFERY
CALGARY HERALD

How does a girl from Bow Island, (that's near Medicine Hat, in case you don't have a road map handy), end up in Almhult, Sweden, at IKEA's world headquarters? And more specifically, how does she end up influencing what's hanging on the walls of your

home back in Canada?

If you're Nicole Jannesson (who indeed grew up in Bow Island), it helps to marry a man from Sweden. And it also helps that just as you both were considering a move to his home country for family reasons, your job as the national category manager for home decor at a major supermarket chain suddenly moves from Calgary to Toronto, leaving you looking for work.

Stuart Gradon, Calgary Herald
Nicole Jannesson is one of the buyers for the pictures and frames department for IKEA.

That was 2005. Today, 29-year-old Jannesson is IKEA of Sweden's product developer for wall decoration. When you're shopping in IKEA's 220-plus stores around the world — including right here in Calgary — the posters, frames and artwork you see very much bear her influence.

As Jannesson and I are chatting in the city's IKEA store during her recent visit home, I catch her watching a couple shopping in the poster section. She shoots me a wide grin. "It's really fun, because I watch people looking at the images and I wonder what they're thinking. I don't know if it's the colour they're interested in,

the content of it or the size," she says, adding she often stops to chat with shoppers, to find out what's motivating their purchase. "It's really important to stay in touch with the customer."

Jannesson's influence surrounds us, from the photograph-turned-poster of a single, almost luminous green shoot unfurling its leaves to a bold, ochre-hued abstract canvas from a Canadian supplier to a version of Gustav Klimt's Three Ages of Woman with the oldest age represented by a single hand almost hidden from view.

SEE IKEA, PAGE G2

AROUND THE HOUSE

What's your tradition?

CONTEST • How do you celebrate Christmas in Calgary? Tell us about your most treasured tradition, and you could receive one of four \$30 gift certificates to Rona — and see your story featured in our Dec. 22 edition, just in time to inspire everyone for the holidays.

Did you start an annual foray to the Calgary Zoo when the kids were little — and now Christmas just wouldn't be the same without hot chocolate and Zoolights? Or maybe you're continuing a tradition that's followed your family through generations, like Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve or Monopoly to pass the time while the turkey roasts.

E-mail lifethomecomment@theherald.canwest.com telling us about your tradition and how it got started — put "treasured traditions" in the subject line and submit it by end of day Dec. 5. We'll choose four winners that celebrate the holidays, whether your stories bring a tear to our eye or have us rolling in the aisles.

— Calgary Herald

Lost for a gift? Try a limited edition cooler

SHOPPING • Lost for gift ideas for a Champagne lover this holiday season? Try a limited edition Champagne cooler.

German sports car maker Porsche has designed a Champagne cooling tower called Vertical Limit that costs almost as much as the cars it produces.

Porsche Design Studio has handcrafted 15 of the sleek, brushed-steel cellars that retail for \$70,000, stand nearly 213 centimetres tall and come with 12 magnums of vintage bubbly — each in an individual, temperature-controlled compartment.

If the high-end version proves a hit with well-heeled Champagne collectors, Brun said the companies may consider manufacturing smaller, cheaper versions.

— Reuters

Drab to dramatic

REFINISHING • Minwax Polyshades, the one-step stain and finish system for wood, now comes in three new shades: Mission Oak is designed for a rustic feel, Classic Black for contemporary accents and American Chestnut for warmth — and all three come in both gloss and satin sheens.

Polyshades can be applied even over an existing finish — just clean, sand lightly and away you go. You'll find pro-

Plate shifting

Mixing dinnerware
is not taboo



JOANNE HATHERLY
CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

Shoppers can invest in top-end everyday dinnerware, buying open stock as they can afford it, and extend the number of table settings by mixing the expensive pieces with less costly dinnerware.

And they can do it in style, since mixing, not matching, is the in thing in dinnerware, says Kristi Kinghorn, merchandise manager at Chintz and Company in Vic-

toria.

The trend toward mixing dinnerware styles bodes well for those keen to reduce adding to landfills. Rather than throw out old dinnerware sets, incomplete due to breakage, you can combine old plates with new, following these guidelines from Kinghorn and Sokly Lay, boutique manager at Chintz.

■ **Colour comes first:** Stay within one family of colour to make the mix a snap. Pair a light robin's egg blue with a rich royal blue. Feel daring? Try a trio of colours, either all from the same colour family, or experiment by edging toward another colour grouping. ■ **Think white:** White "hotel" dinnerware is a strong seller. "All foods look good against a white or ivory-coloured plate," notes Lay. The hotel look is sleek, functional, luxurious and durable, all traits demanded by commercial use. White works



CanWest News Service

Patterns on plates have given way to textures, such as raised rim details.

with any other colour and allows for maximum flexibility in table setting styles.

■ **Tonal qualities:** Colours that might seem to clash at first can still work together, if they share the same tonal qualities. Pastels, dusky colours or vibrant colours can mix well to create a strong statement.

■ **Weight:** Kinghorn warns that mixing delicate dinnerware with heavier weighted plates can lead to a garage-sale-stack look. Choose plates

that have similar depths.

■ **Plaids and stripes do not mix:** Combining patterns takes an artful eye. You can play it safe by mixing patterned dishes with solids, such as intricate damask patterns, which are making a big comeback, with solid whites.

■ **Profiles:** The word "plate" was practically synonymous with "flat circle." No more. Scalloped, carved, fluted, petalled and finely detailed edges are as much in evidence as uncomplicated circular edges. Bowls can have a swooping, watery profile with warped shapes, and dinner plates can look almost crumpled, except for the necessary flat centres.

Squares, rectangles, ovals — designers and manufacturers are definitely thinking outside the circle. This variety makes up for the paucity of geometric and coloured patterns.

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Patterson, \$349,000
60 Patina Vw, SW
Ideal starter home or investment, spacious townhome, 1344 sf, 2 bdrm + den, back deck + west facing balcony off living & formal dining, big bay windows, jet tub ensuite, tandem garage, low condo fee \$186/month.



West Springs, \$519,000
128 West Springs Ct, SW
Big 4 bdrm home, 2293 sf, oversized garage, large mudroom, den, great room, elegant formal dining room, maple kitchen w/ hardwood flooring, vaulted bonus room & sunny south backyard.



Cougar Ridge, \$525,000
27 Cougarstone Ct, SW
Walking distance to Waldorf school, nicely upgraded 2067 sf 3 bdrm home with great room, flex/dining room, island kitchen with maple cabinets & granite counters, bonus room + loft, south backyard.



Strathcona, \$850,000
70 Strathlea Cres, SW
Stylish & large, 2816 sf, 4 + 2 bdrm home with dev'd basement, total of 4100 sf of living space, ideal for extended family or nanny, full service wet bar in bmst, close to shopping, quick commute to DT.



Discovery, \$975,000
32 Discovery Ridge Rise, SW
Backing greenbelt, south backyard, quiet street close to tot lot, 4+1 bdrms, 2760 sf + dev'd walkout bsmt. Oversized garage, granite counters, romantic master suite w/ fireplace and mountain views.