



LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

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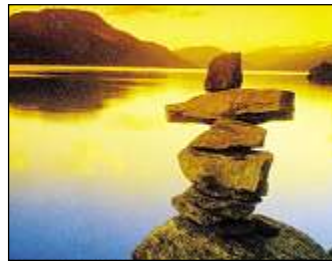
AROUND THE
HOUSEHow ghoulish
is your house?

CONTEST • If your home has the creepiest Halloween decorations on the block, we want to hear from you. We'll feature the scariest, most gasp-inspiring homes in the Calgary area in an upcoming Life At Home section. Do the witches on your lawn make passersby shiver? Do the ghosts in your trees make the neighbourhood dogs bark in fear? Whether you've massacred a field full of pumpkins or made like the most dastardly of moles and dug up your entire lawn to create a mock cemetery, share your creativity with our readers.

Show us your scary stuff by e-mailing a jpeg photo of your home (indoors or out) to lifeathomecomment@theherald.com. We'll choose four winners and send a photographer out to showcase their homes for an upcoming story in Life At Home on Oct. 27.

If you haven't yet made your house into a Halloween horror show, there's still time. Deadline for entries is Oct. 19. Four winners will each get four tickets to Heritage Park After Dark, running Oct. 24 to 27.

— Calgary Herald



Courtesy, General Paint
Inukshuk is just one colour
in the Canadiana collection.

Colour me
Canadian

DECOR • You could go with Grouse in the living room, Spirit Bear in the dining room and Little Manitou Lake in the bathroom with General Paint's new patriotic line of colours. The Canadiana Historic collection has 122 colours inspired by Canada's most iconic symbols and locales. There's Canuck Red, Canadian Bacon, High Prairie, Telegraph Cove, Moose, Killer Whale and Prairie Crocus to name a few. The palette is mostly subdued but the rich colours seem timeless.

While the names reflect the colours, they're more than just a label. General Paint culled the finalists from employees who were asked to submit names that evoke a truly Canadian place, experience or emotion.

One of the new colours, Polar Bear, is also helping to make a difference. General Paint is working with the World Wildlife Federation through its Adopt a Polar Bear program to help save the bear and its Arctic habitat from climate change. For \$40, you'll receive a plush toy, adoption certificate, a letter identifying you as the gift giver, and a report detailing WWF's work. Go to www.ca/en/polarbearcentral/adoptapolarbear/default.asp

— Michele Jarvie,
Calgary Herald

We asked readers to 'fess up to their furniture stand-ins and they delivered.

Our contest winners deserve recognition for their uniquely alternative decor

JOHN IRELAND
CALGARY HERALD

Necessity may be the mother of invention, but the end result, especially when it comes to interior design, can sometimes vex the most open of minds.

The Herald made that discovery recently when we ran a contest asking readers to send us examples of items they use as stand-ins for real furniture. We were shocked. We were awed. But we weren't really all that surprised. After all, it's nearly considered a rite of passage for young people to use plastic milk crates for storage at some point in their flight from the parental nest.

But, as our three winners proved, the ability to make do with whatever is handy is, similar to riding a bicycle, an innate skill we never lose.

Dennis Estacion has a good excuse for the metal creature that passes for a coffee table: the IT consultant told his ex she could have her choice of the furniture once she found a place of her own.

"I recently had to honour that promise," said Estacion, who admits to being over 30, of bidding farewell to a cherry-finished combo of centre table and side tables.

His makeshift replacement, looking like a set-



Dennis Estacion, an IT consultant, fashioned a coffee and end table from various used computer components. He's not embarrassed by it. In fact, he boasts "it's unique; it's a conversation piece."

Photos, Ted Jacob, Calgary Herald

SUBSTITUTES
THAT MAKE A
STATEMENT

dressing prop from the movie Robots, consists of a desktop PC supporting a rack-mountable server, with an anti-static mat serving as a tablecloth. Two other PC hard drives, one a tower, the other an inverted

Jennifer Ooi uses her winter tires as makeshift seating at the entrance to her very small condo.



'pizza box,' take on the role of lamp stands on either side of the couch.

Estacion earns points for incorporating his job into his decor, even as he sets himself up for any number of "byte-size" one-liners.

Fortunately, he doesn't spend his spare time contemplating his PC production.

"I hardly stay at home anyway, so it's OK," he said of the electronic furniture he originally set up two months ago. "But I'm not embarrassed by it. It's unique; it's a conversation piece."

His ultimate goal is to replace the gizmo with an Asian centre table of the design where you eat while kneeling or sitting on the floor. That swap date, however, is still somewhere in the hazy future.

"The table I'm thinking of getting is expensive," he said. "I've seen it at one of the Asian malls for \$1,500."

If Michelle Ooi lived in a more temperate climate, she'd spend a lot more time sitting on the floor.

Fortunately for the 29-year-old engineer, Calgary

receives its share of the white stuff, prompting Ooi to invest in a full set of winter tires. While one tire hibernates in her vehicle's trunk, that still left a trio of rubber rings in need of a home.

Which would explain that chair-like contraption squatting in Ooi's front entrance.

"I need somewhere to sit down when I put on my boots," she said of the rationale behind the tire throne.

There is a further method behind the Michelin madness.

"I have a condo," she explained, "but if I want an extra storeroom, then I have to pay extra. And I'm trying to avoid collecting junk by staying away from getting the storeroom. But I still needed a place to store my tires."

Protective covers from Canadian Tire not only match Ooi's decor — "black and dark colours" — they also help avoid tread marks on her clothes while she reclines to don footwear.

A stuffed dog, perched to one side, adds a "cute" factor to offset any eyebrows raised by visitors.

"They think it's creative,"

Ooi said of her friends' attitude toward the impromptu chair. "But mostly they don't say anything..."

It's a wonder Georgie Stone and her partner, Alan, can sleep at night.

A glimpse into their bedroom reveals a wooden contraption hovering over their pillows that would look right at home in an Indiana Jones movie... as a trap designed to crush unwary grave robbers.

Two loose boards — supported precariously between a pair of bookcases — stretch across the head of the bed. They sag under the accumulated weight of two years' worth of boxes and plastic containers.

"(Alan) wants me to sew a curtain to cover it all up," Stone wrote in her original submission to the Herald. "And hang it from where?"

Contacted at her office, the 48-year-old researcher is asked if she hopes to one day replace the boards with real furniture.

"Don't tempt me with wonderful ideas," she said. The villain here is space.

SEE SUBSTITUTE, PAGE G2

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