



GREENER CLEANING

Toss your toxic brew of cleaning products for a more natural way

See Page G4

LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

EDITOR: LISA MONFORTON 235-7428 FAX: 235-7379

WWW.CALGARYHERALD.COM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2007

No wasted space

On the cutting edge of what's next in architecture, Sarah Susanka, the woman behind the 'not so big house,' has gone prime time

JOANNE HATHERLY
CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

Does your house feel like home? No? Do you wonder why? Sarah Susanka will tell you.

Susanka is the architect who has spearheaded a home-design movement away from McMansions towards what she has branded "the not so big house" in a series of books.

Now she's moving into television, but can she cut it?

High-profile home-design television personalities like Ty Pennington or Mike Holmes have that knight-riding-to-the-rescue-on-a-white-steed appeal that commands viewers' attention.

But there is nothing about the

lanky sweater-over-the-shoulders and sensible-shoe-wearing 50-year-old Susanka that would make anyone look at her twice, which might have given pause to the producers of her new television show, *The Not So Big House: Home By Design*.

She's short on ego, too. She doesn't use her best-selling books to showcase her own work — most of the photos on her pages show off the designs of other architects, suggesting Susanka has not so much invented the wheel as explained in everyday language how it rolls.

SEE SPACE, PAGE G2



Photos, courtesy, Taunton Press

Architect Sarah Susanka, right, is the author of the *The Not So Big House* book series. She's an avid proponent of the need to build smaller and better or what she calls "rightsizing."



AROUND THE HOUSE

The meaning of home

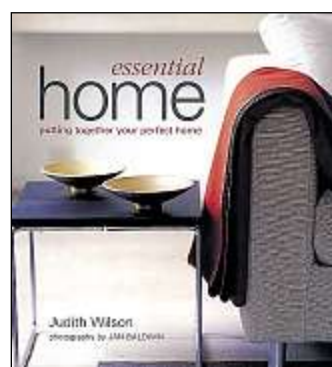
CONTEST • Students in grades 4, 5 and 6 can earn a chance to help a deserving family get a home of their own — and win themselves a Dell PC — by entering the Meaning of Home contest launched by Genworth Financial Canada and Habitat for Humanity Canada.

All they have to do is write a composition, essay or poem of 200 to 400 words about what "home" means to them. Maybe it's all about family gatherings, or a favourite tree in the yard — or even just the same warm, reassuring place to come home to every day after school.

Genworth and Habitat want to encourage kids to think about their communities and how important it is to reach out to those in need. The first-place winner can choose a community where Genworth will donate \$60,000 towards a Habitat for Humanity home, plus they'll receive a Dell computer. For three runner-ups, Genworth will donate \$5,000 to a Habitat affiliate of their choice, and they'll receive a \$100 Chapters Indigo gift certificate.

Enter online or by mail by Oct. 31; there's more information at meaningofhome.ca.

— Yvonne Jeffery, Calgary Herald



Keeping the old while bringing in the new

BOOK • Interiors expert Judith Wilson gives a room-by-room take on what's necessary for the home and when to splurge on luxuries, like cashmere blankets or Egyptian cotton sheets.

This book will appeal to the minimalist who prefers restrained rooms in subtle colours. *Essential Home* is \$25.95 and available at bookstores.

— CanWest News Service

Go green

PRODUCT • Duraflame has abandoned petroleum-based wax in favour of bio-wax fire logs and fire starters, making the new products carbon free, according to a company spokesperson. They also burn better and light quicker than old products. The switch to an environmentally friendly material will displace about 100 million pounds of petroleum-based fuel annually, says Duraflame.

In Canada, Duraflame logs are available at Canadian Tire, Loblaw's stores (Real Canadian Superstore, Zehrs and Independent Grocers) and Costco. A box of six logs is priced from \$12.99 to \$19.99, depending on the size. Visit www.duraflame.com for more details.

— Calgary Herald

Try before you buy

Tours offer appetizing peek at the neighbourhoods around popular Victoria developments



Ray Smith, CanWest News Service

Kathy McAree customizes self-guided or guided tours in and around Victoria for people thinking of relocating there.

YVONNE JEFFERY
CALGARY HERALD

From The Breakwater to Docksider Green, Calgarians are flocking to real estate developments in Victoria, seeking out warm summers and mild winters.

But four walls are only part of the equation when you're buying a new home — you're also purchasing part of a neighbourhood, and that's where it can get tricky if you don't know the city well. Enter Kathy McAree. The

tour guide has added "Relocation Vacations" to the list of tours that she offers through her Travel With Taste company. A public relations colleague suggested the idea, which made sense to McAree based on the number of people on her culinary tours who were asking about real estate in Victoria — usually as they gained a sense of how cosmopolitan the city has become.

"More than anything, they just want to know what it's like to live here. They see something different than what they were expecting, and they start thinking about where they want to live in the future," McAree says. "It's kind of a natural progression."

Having spent more than a decade in Victoria, exploring its wine and cuisine, McAree

is well placed to introduce visitors to the areas that could become their next homes. She focuses on seven of the city's major real estate developments, from the master-planned resort of Bear Mountain with its 36-hole, Nicklaus designed golf course to Aquaturo with its spaces designed for entertaining and art.

Depending on your preference, McAree builds time into the tours (self-guided or escorted) for you to meet with salespeople, or you can opt for a quick "drive-by" to pick up brochures or check out the atmosphere. Her real focus, however, is on the neighbourhoods around the developments, and in particular the places that people gather.

SEE BUY, PAGE G2

samcorea

Marketing your home for all it's worth™

403-870-8811

www.samsluxuryhomes.com

RE/MAX
HOUSE OF REAL ESTATE

West Springs, \$549,000
128 West Springs Close., SW
Perfect family home! Kitchen feat. maple cabinetry, centre island w/ b-fast bar & walk-in pantry. Dining room w/ hardwood, French doors to foyer & kitchen. Master feat. walk-in & 3pc ensuite.



Montreux, \$625,000
OPEN HOUSE SUN. Oct 21, 1-4
134 St. Moritz Place SW, walkout basement! 2064 sq. ft. vaulted great room, dramatic window-wall - views over the neighbourhood, rich wood-work, maple kitchen, lrg bonus room.



Springbank Hill \$650,000
OPEN HOUSE SAT. Oct 20 1-4
15 Springbank Mount, SW, cul-de-sac, almost 3,100 sq. ft. of living space, hardwood floors, maple kitchen, formal dining, bonus room, 3 bedrooms, fully developed basement.



Strathcona, \$875,000
1630 Strathcona Drive, SW
Backing the park! Big family home, 2500 sq. ft. + developed walkout, 3+1 bedrooms, walkout with family/games room with built-in entertainment centre & wet bar.



Strathcona Park, \$1,195,000
51 Strathridge Gardens SW
Backs onto green-space! Great room feat. soaring ceiling & window wall w/ sweeping views. Master feat. corner-jet-tub. Walkout w/ wet bar feat. SubZero wine fridge, 4th bedroom & full bath!