

# INSIDE CLASSIFIED

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## LIVING GREENER

Environmental changes  
begin at home

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# LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

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## AROUND THE HOUSE

### Sustainable solutions

**EVENT** • Discover how to boost sustainability and reduce your environmental impact, from the people who are making it happen. More than 50 exhibitors from business, government, educational institutions and non-profit agencies will showcase their products and services at the 2007 EcoLiving Fair, running from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 13 and 14 in the Colonel James Walker Building at SAIT Polytechnic (1301 16th Ave. N.W.).

With admission of \$5 per person (under-18s are free), it's an inexpensive way to find out about new energy efficiency and alternative energy forms, water conservation techniques and various initiatives that are occurring in Alberta and across Canada. It's also a great opportunity to talk to the experts about practical details: how the technology works, its costs and its potential savings.

For more information, visit [ecolivingfair.ca](http://ecolivingfair.ca), where you'll also find details about the Saturday evening presentation from Liana Vallicelli from Curitiba, Brazil about that city's sustainable example.

— Yvonne Jeffery, for the Calgary Herald

### Meet a real country fan

**BOOK** • A-list designer Kathryn M. Ireland shows off her fabrics for every room in the house in her first book, *Classic Country* (Gibbs Smith, \$49.95).

A native of London, the interior and textile designer lives in Santa Monica, Calif., and has been named one of the top 100 designers by *House Beautiful* magazine and one of 10 design professionals to watch by *House & Garden*.

Her book, full of photos of her batik and English country fabrics, has a relaxed, unpretentious tone. She also freely dispenses her decorating do's and don'ts. She doesn't like upper cabinets in the kitchen. She likes family photos and children's art in the mudroom but bans those personal objects from a guest room. No TVs in living rooms or bedrooms. One quibble with *Classic Country*: The admiring quotes from clients Steve Martin, David Mamet and Julia Louis-Dreyfus are unnecessary. In this book, fabric is the real star.

— The Washington Post

### Soak before you plant

**TIP** • Soak garden beds deeply several days before planting trees, shrubs, perennials or bulbs this fall.

Two preliminary soakings, a couple of days apart, will allow an even deeper penetration of moisture in soil that has hardened from drought.

— The Washington Post



# ROOM WITH A NEW VIEW

Decorating on a budget? Transform your home using what you already own.

YVONNE JEFFERY  
FOR THE CALGARY HERALD

Calling all rooms that are slightly tired, just a little bit awkward, or plain old not working:

Cat Hackman has a plan for you. The Calgary-based interior refiner transforms problem rooms in a matter of hours, using furniture and accessories that you already own and leaving you with colour and decor ideas to implement as budget and time allow.

If this sounds too good to be true, consider the case of an apartment owner whose space was so tight a year ago that she was ready to move. Reluctant to give up her near-downtown location, however, she called Hackman, whose firm, Room 4 Refinement, specializes in redecorating and refreshing.

Today, a living room that was once cluttered with mismatched tables and jam-packed bookshelves shows off Asian-inspired furniture pieces and dramatic art.

"It's a space where I can come home to at night and feel it really reflects my personality," says the homeowner. "I had a lot of pieces that I loved, but the room was cluttered with stuff. Cat had me evaluate each piece, and I have to say that I haven't missed one thing that I took out. It accentuates



BEFORE

Dark brick and panelling made the kitchen, above, look too busy. Below, Hackman suggested painting the brick white which let the cupboards and flooring stand out.

the pieces that are beautiful." "I don't tell people right away to go and buy a bunch of new things," says Hackman. "It's more about using what they already have, but we go through it methodically. One big aspect is decluttering — most people don't have tons of storage space... so you have to ask yourself, will you ever use the piece, do you love the

piece? In this room, the great furniture was obscured by the furniture that wasn't so great and wasn't really needed."

A consultation generally starts by talking about what works and what doesn't, how the room is used, what can go and what has to stay. Then Hackman discusses colour, window treatments, lighting, flooring and

furniture placement.

"We usually get down to moving things right away," says Hackman, who notes that she'll often go through the home (with the homeowner) to find items that could be moved into or out of the room. "You have to be ready and willing."

In this case, the homeowner liked the existing shade of paint (a warm yellow that sets off both her art and her sofa) so Hackman focused on furniture, lighting and accessories. Extra side tables were removed, a pair of similar lamps was positioned at the end of the room to unify the view, and the packed bookshelves gained space and themes.

"Cat does have all these rules and ideas, but she's not that demanding. It's like a partnership — she works with you," says the homeowner, adding that with the design plan Hackman gave her, she now plans to renovate, including updating the kitchen and replacing the carpet with a different flooring. When her budget allows, she'll also replace the bulky television with a space-saving flat screen model. In the meantime, however, the living room already looks and functions so much better that she no longer feels the need to move.

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**Bridgeland, \$469,000**  
#304, 1010 Centre Ave, NE  
Trendy inner city area, walk to DT, 1200 s.f. w/ contemporary floor, gourmet kitchen, 2 bdrms & 2 baths, glassed in den, large master w/ his/hers closets.



**West Springs, \$575,000**  
136 Westpoint Gardens, SW  
Gorgeous former show-home, 1967 s.f. + dev'd basement, 3+1 bdrms, 4 baths, beautiful west backyard, extensive upgrades, custom window coverings, central air.



**Montreux, \$669,000**  
134 St. Moritz Place, SW  
Walkout basement! 2064 s.f. vaulted great room, dramatic window-wall w/ views over the neighborhood, rich woodwork, maple kitchen, main floor den, lg bonus room.



**Springbank Hill \$650,000**  
Open House Sat./Sun. 1:00-4:00  
15 Springbank Mount, SW Cul-de-sac, almost 3100 sq ft of living space, hardwood floors, maple kitchen, formal dining, bonus room, 3 bdrms, fully dev'd basement.



**Stathcona, \$875,000**  
1630 Strathcona Drive, SW  
Backing the park! Big family home, 2500 s.f. + dev'd walkout, 3+1 bdrms, walkout with family/games room with built-in entertainment centre & wet bar.