



LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

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AROUND THE HOUSE

People spend more for green

SURVEY • The principle reason may not be altruistic, but a majority of Canadians say they'd willingly spend more for a home with eco features.

According to the second annual TD Canada Trust Green Home Poll, 57 per cent of Canadians are prepared to pay five to 10 per cent more for a green home. With homes in Canada expected to average more than \$318,000 this year, that's a fair chunk of change.

Mind you, chopping energy bills, not saving the planet, is the leading reason we'd spend the extra money.

No matter what the reason is for going green, "I think it makes good sense," says Joan Dal Bianco, vice-president of real estate secured lending at TD Canada Trust. "With all hell breaking loose (in the financial markets), the more we can help people save money in the day-to-day operations of their homes, the better off they'll be."

The survey also revealed the 55-plus crowd is most active when it comes to environmentally friendly home improvements.

Despite that age differential, the survey of 1,000 men and women, conducted by Angus Reid Strategies in July, found that almost all Canadians are making their homes more environmentally friendly or plan to do so in the next 12 months.

—Canwest News Service



Bosch offers new features

PRODUCT • Appliances use a lot of energy. So, in the quest to green our homes, we'd be well-served by picking Energy Star-qualified models, such as those made by Bosch.

The company — the only Canadian home appliance manufacturer with Energy Star qualification on all its washers, refrigerators and dishwashers — has come out with several new advancements and design solutions without sacrificing energy efficiency, stylishness or the ability to run quietly.

Bosch's Nexxt front-loading washers now have additional leak protection, while Nexxt dryers come with an "ecoaction" option that reduces energy consumption up to an additional 10 per cent.

Expanding on its heritage of European-style design, Bosch has debuted the new counter-depth Linea Refrigeration, a fridge that looks like a high-end built-in and is perfect for a small kitchen. A new category of Ascenta dishwashers brings high standards for energy efficiency to a wider consumer market. Bosch has also introduced a space-efficient five-burner gas cooktop. To see the full range of Bosch products go to bosch-appliances.ca.

—Lisa Kadane, Calgary Herald



Soho + Nada

■ 820 11 Ave S.W.; 403-261-0888

■ You're guaranteed a clean, pleasing contemporary palette when you walk through the doors into an expansive main floor and a cosy loft display space. Accessories in kitchenware and china range from classic to bold to fun, while the furniture itself leans toward modern without being cold. Even better, the furniture is in stock (no waiting for a six- to eight-week order to come in). There's also free parking evenings and Saturdays.



Artevo/Artists of the World

■ 514 11 Ave S.W.; 403-244-8123; artevo.com

■ From the work of Toller Cranston to Dr. Seuss, and from vintage motorcycles to interactive plasma screens, this three-floor historical building is home to an art gallery and events centre that's not exactly typical — and the variety here means that there's surely something to pique everyone's interest. The focus is on both Canadian and international fine art, offering purchase or lease options and free consultations.



Country Furniture

■ 738 11 Ave S.W.; 403-515-0011; countryfurniture.net

■ Don't expect old-world country here — the collections include the clean lines of Rowe Furniture, Moroni and Legacy Leather, and there's a wonderfully European feel to the displays. Think chic and modern: CountryFurniture offers the comfort of country, but with a contemporary influence that brings in accessories such as soy-based candles from B.C., Sophie Conran kitchenware from England and Vietri dishes inspired by Tuscany.

Robert Sweep Home Furnishings Inc.

■ 739 11 Ave S.W.; 403-262-8525; robertsweep.com

■ Robert Sweep exclusively showcases the B+B Italia line from Italy, offering some of the city's most unique finds (like a moon-shaped cold-pressed neoprene sofa from Israeli architect Zaha Hadid). There's also a private collection, with antique reproduction seating, handmade iron lighting and tables, and custom sofas and upholstery.



DOWNTOWN DIVAS

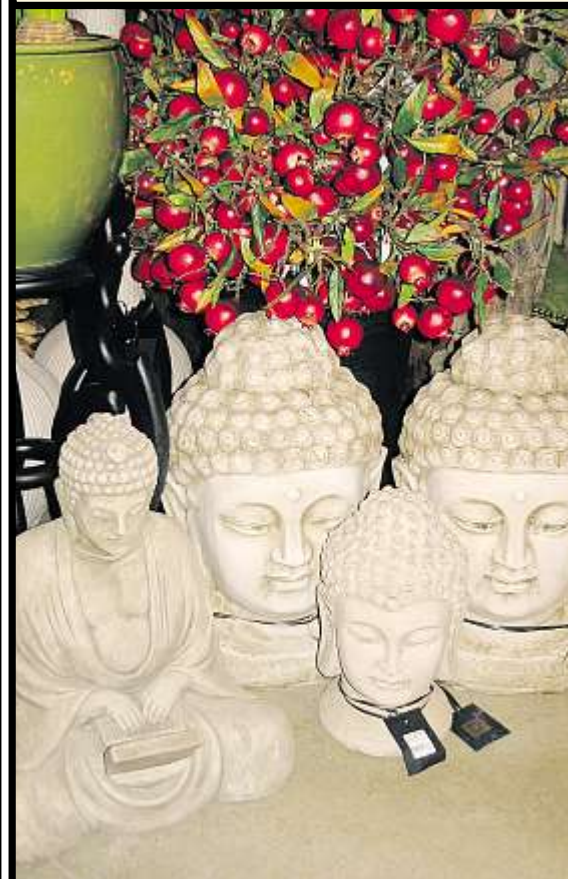
Calgary's Design District offers showpiece stores well worth the trip

YVONNE JEFFERY
CALGARY HERALD

It has evolved fairly quietly over the past few years, but there's no doubt that Calgary's Design District has achieved a critical mass that's worthy of its branding. Focused from 10th to 12th Avenues S.W., between approximately 4th and 14th Streets S.W., it's an area of upscale design shops, plus a wealth of art galleries, boutiques and restaurants. Talented local designers and shop owners have put this all together, but the influences span the world — from Thailand to Tuscany, from Paris to Provence.

We'll admit the construction makes heading downtown a bit of a pain these days. But if you go on the weekend, you'll find the roads a little quieter and parking easier to come by (and cheaper — in fact, it's even free at some of the stores). If you're willing to walk a few blocks south from the nearest stations, the C-Train makes the trip even easier.

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Chintz & Company

■ 1238 11 Ave S.W.; 403-245-3449; chintz.com/calgary

■ Packed. It's the only word that fully describes the three floors of accessories, furniture, fabric, garden decor and more in this long-time Calgary design stalwart. It was one of the first to arrive on 11th, and it's still hugely fun to explore. There's such a range of accessories that every budget will find a home here — and the Christmas stock is beginning to arrive already. (Free parking on-site.)

The French Connection Interiors

■ 1222 11 Ave S.W.; 403-283-4344; frenchconnectionantiques.com

■ Antiques, linens and accessories from Europe are the specialty here — French, of course, but also notable Swedish and Belgian designs, in styles from neo-classic to mid-century modern. Can't make it to the Paris Home Decor Show? Shop here instead, and name drop designers such as Philippe Starck and Le Corbusier.



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