

Profiles of SUCCESS[®] in Home Design

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Bird Treats
Fusion Living
Leather Flooring
Bachelor bathrooms

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Treats For The Birds



Like the thought of birds visiting your back yard all winter long but don't want to fuss with refilling feeders in cold weather? When it comes to bird feeding, there are plenty of convenient options, including ready to hang socks, treats and suet bars, so you needn't spend a lot of money or time and you can still enjoy nature's feathered friends all year long.

With a much more limited food supply available during the winter, you can be sure to attract birds to your backyard when you put out seeds and treats. 43 per cent of Canadians feed the birds at some point during the year, but you may be surprised to learn that more than half of those households feed all year long.

"Bird feeding is a great pastime to share with children and helps to give them an appreciation of nature and the outdoors at a time when most of us are focused indoors," says Kathy Russell, bird food expert at Scotts Canada. "It's easy, affordable and a rewarding way to add natural beauty to your winter garden."

Look for the Morning Song line of ready to hang treats and seed blocks, including:

- . Ready to use Seed Bell
- . Woodpecker Snack
- . Bird Watchers' Blend
- . Snack & Feeder Combo
- . Bar and Basket Combo
- . Goldfinch Thistle Sock and Super Sock
- . Suet including Year-Round, Woodpecker, Nutty Safari, Berry and Raisin Crunch

The website www.morningsong.com provides bird feeding tips and interactive games to help teach children about birds. N/C



FUSION LIVING

IS

The formal living spaces made popular in the 50's and 60's are being replaced with casual, multi-tasking rooms the whole family can enjoy. Next generation homeowners seek communal spaces that are design-conscious, flexible and comfortable.

From lofts and condos to town homes and single dwellings, open concept living means the walls come down, living spaces are blended and function meets form in design. But living in open concept doesn't mean you have to sacrifice style and luxury.

"Blending complementary design elements is a great way to create a sense of luxury and flow throughout the living space," says Toronto-based interior decorator Jacqueline Glass. "Subtle touches will pull the room together and offer a functional environment for everyone to enjoy."

Glass offers these hints for creating blended rooms:

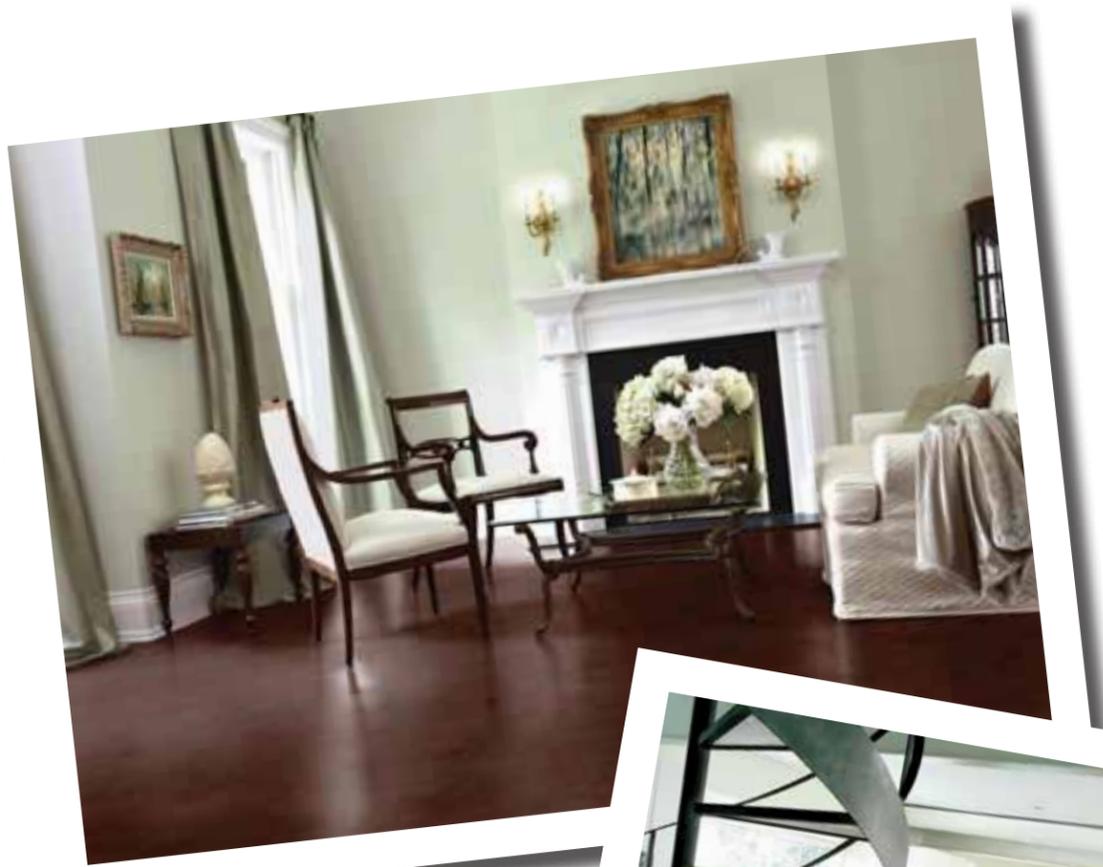
- The Living Room: One room works as two with easy-to-transform day beds for guests, cocktail tables that can stack and be hidden away and cube sitting that can double as storage
- The Kitchen: Sliding backsplashes offer hide-away storage for spice jars while wall mounted faucets, like Brizo's Euro Styled Trevi faucet provide extra counter and sink space. Use counters as high tops for quick meals and homework, or custom build portable components into cabinetry or tables.
- The Bathroom: A hub of activity in the morning and a quiet retreat at night, this space serves double duty on a daily basis. Splurge on designer sinks, faucets and baths that are functional and beautiful

More information is available online at www.deltafaucet.com.

CREATING

A MULTI- TASKING HOME





CHOOSE LEATHER

FLOORING FOR TODAY'S BUSY

HOUSEHOLDS

From earliest history, even as far back as our primitive days as cave dwellers, leather has had a place in our homes. We've made everything from clothing to sofas with this durable and beautiful material.

Why not floors?

Cost, for one thing. In the past, leather floors were enjoyed only by the wealthy as a custom order for the home, and so expensive they were simply unattainable for most of us. Until now.

The revolution, as they say, is here.

Leather floors, in a totally new format, are now affordable for the average homeowner. And they are absolutely stunning in their look and feel. Without a doubt, Leather is the most exciting, exotic and original floor to hit the market in years.

Look for leather floors that are also backed with a layer of cork, a natural insulator and an innovation that eliminates the need for an underlay. With these floors, you not only get a spectacular floor, you save time and money on installation, and add extra comfort and quiet to any room.

Torlys, a Canadian flooring company known internationally for its European styling and decor-driven collections, has created a breakthrough floor for today's home: an environmentally responsible flooring made of 100% recycled leather.

Not surprisingly, early customer response to this completely unique new product has been overwhelming.

"We're working hard to keep up with the demand," says Torlys VP Marketing, John Kocemba. "This floor is taking the market by storm. Consumers just love the combination of exotic richness and environmental benefit of recycled leather floors."

Torlys Leather stands up beautifully to the wear and tear of everyday living and carries a 25-year warranty. To find out more visit torlys.com.

Bachelor bathrooms: Create a bathroom with a masculine feel



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While bathrooms have traditionally been seen as a woman's refuge, Jacqueline Glass and Christine McGee, of Toronto-based interior design firm Jacqueline Glass and Associates, are seeing a rise in the bachelor bathroom trend.

"The key to creating a masculine feel in a bathroom is simplicity," says Glass. "Although men want a luxurious, spa-like experience, they also seek contemporary design with clean lines and darker colour choices."



"Another consideration is the scale of a man's bathroom," adds McGee. "The overall look should be generous, uncluttered and very functional."

Glass and McGee offer these tips to bachelorizing the bathroom:

- Add manly storage places - Open shelving or basket and tray combinations allow men to easily grab the necessities during their morning routine.

- Carefully consider a urinal - Although mainly seen in public washrooms, urinals are becoming more popular in private homes. Including one is still a matter of personal preference.

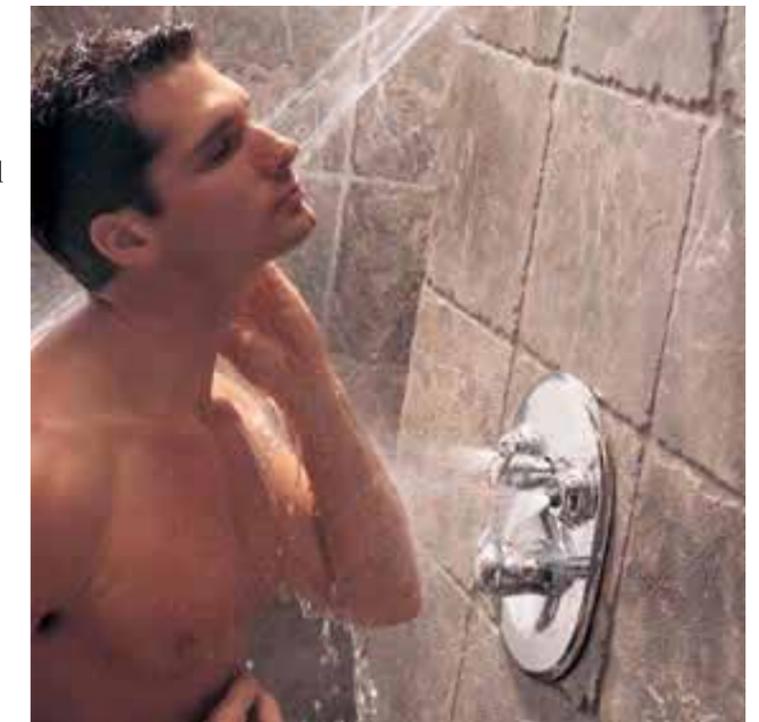
- Accessorize in Chrome - Install crisp chrome faucets and accessories, like the Arzo Bath Collection by Delta. With its clean, angled lines Arzo is the perfect complement to the gentleman's bath. Don't forget to include accessories such as towel bars and hooks.

- Neutralize - Keep colours and tones neutral. Dark wood cabinets will appear bold against caramel-coloured walls and a white porcelain sink. Accent with cream, black or brown towels.

- Mirror Mirror on the Wall - Consider installing a pivot mirror that gives taller men a larger reflective surface. Extension shaving mirrors are also a functional addition and should be installed at around 5 feet.

- So Vain-ity - It is essential that dead space between the vanity and mirror is limited. Consider the height of the vanity - a bachelor bathroom requires no less than 33" and all surfaces must be the same height to maximize counter space.

- Snub the Tub - Consider removing the bathtub to make room for an oversized shower stall. Install several shower jets or a raincan shower head for extra indulgence. N/C



Enjoy Comfort Without Guilt

Next Generation Wood Boilers Save Money, Benefit Environment

Tired of paying the cost of a warm home? Rising energy costs have driven many homeowners to seek alternative options for heating their homes. They may not have to look any further than wood as one of the best choices.

Many people are surprised to discover the benefits of heating with wood. They ask: Isn't it dirty, producing a lot of smoke and ash? While traditional fireplaces, wood stoves and boilers may be some of these things, the latest generation of high efficiency wood boilers are clean-

burning and convenient. They can also save homeowners a considerable amount on their heating bills.

Brad L. of Manitoba was passionate about using his wood stove to help heat his 1,800 sq. ft. home. But even burning 5 cords of wood did little to lower his \$400 per month heating bills. After doing some research, Brad replaced his electric boiler with a Greenwood wood boiler to power his central heating system. He installed it in a shed attached to his garage. The heat is pumped

through the home via his existing mixed radiant-in-floor air system.

"It doesn't take a lot of wood to make a great hot fire," says Brad. "I can open up the door and see so much energy and flame coming off of a piece of wood." Now those 5 cords of firewood satisfy all of Brad's heating needs.

When burning logs in the new generation of high efficiency hydronic furnaces (or wood boilers), like those offered by Greenwood Technologies, the heat generated is more intense and little is lost up the chimney. These furnaces can be used in lieu of standard heating systems featuring gas or oil during

the heating months, or as an add-on when homeowners prefer to use other heating sources as their primary method of heating. This reduced need for oil, propane and natural gas means a reduction in monthly heating bills. In fact, many homeowners using a Greenwood system have seen energy bills reduced by up to 70 percent during winter months. One of these furnaces pays for itself in energy bill savings in just a few years.

Just ask Julie E. from Keeseville, NY. In the five months since Julie installed her Greenwood Model 200, she reports having saved more than \$4,000 in heating bills.

"The Greenwood is great. It takes all of these whole logs and gives us a tremendous amount of heat," says Julie. "Even with our big drafty house, we've never been so warm."

In addition to energy savings, high-efficiency wood boilers are also easy to use ... and clean. That's because the boilers burn wood at such a high temperature (2000 F) that no discernable smoke is created. What's more, because of the high burn temperature, very little ash is generated, meaning the firebox only has to be cleaned once a month rather than once a day. Also, the furnace can be installed indoors or in an outdoor shelter and be set up to heat the entire home, eliminating the need to transport logs through the house.

When upgrading your home and heating system this year, or if you're thinking about an entirely new way to enjoy efficient, environmentally friendly heat, consider a next generation Greenwood Hydronic Furnace. MS



Spring home care myths: Experts say opening windows not the answer to indoor air pollution



We've all experienced it - that first gust of fresh spring air that spills into your home once you finally open your windows to make that

many of our homes and buildings. "Today's homes can actually trap inside air pollutants and retain extremely high levels of humidity," added Gagnon.



More importantly, these indoor pollutants can have serious adverse effects on you and your family's health. Experts view indoor pollutants as one of the major culprits for the 160 per cent increase in asthma rates over the past 15 years.

So what can you do to protect your family from the harmful effects of poor indoor air quality? First off, opening windows may actually aggravate your situation. What happens

stale "winter" indoor air feel less stuffy and revitalized.

This spring "purification" ritual does have short term ventilation benefits and helps to clear out the unhealthy air that's been circulating in your home. But experts in the field of indoor air quality quickly point out that simply opening your windows is a far cry from an ultimate solution to year-round indoor air pollution.

"I'm still amazed at the number of people who believe opening their windows will help solve their indoor air quality problems," said Gerry Gagnon, Product and Market Manager for Venmar Ventilation, the country's leader in indoor air quality management. "One has to remember the air that enters the home through an open window is not filtered so it also contains harmful pollutants."

Indoor air quality has become more of a cause for concern than it was in the past since improved insulation and other energy-saving measures have meant poorer air circulation for

when the temperature, pollution index or pollen counts are high? Pollen, pollution and other allergens are entering your home as your air conditioner wastes energy working overtime. So what is the optimal solution? According to the Canadian Lung association, effective and efficient mechanical ventilation is an important part of a healthy indoor environment.

Venmar's air exchanger system, the latest technology in indoor air management, offers the best solution to reducing indoor pollution by combining the efficiency of HEPA filtration and effective mechanical ventilation.

"The air exchanger allows polluted air to exit and fresh air, filtered by HEPA filtration, to flow through the home," Gagnon added. "It also allows excess humidity and dangerous mold spores, volatile organic compounds, and carbon monoxide that are not captured by filtration, to escape the home. More details on how to eliminate dangerous indoor air pollutants is available at www.venmar.ca. N/C

Get Houseplants and Get Happy

If you could have something in your home that would purify the air, have a positive effect on your mood, reduce feelings of stress and improve your attitude, would you want it?

Most people would answer that question with a resounding “Yes!” Good news! This item is affordable and readily available. What is it? The common houseplant.

Houseplants look great and can make you feel great, too. Stacks of research support claims that indoor plants can have a calming effect, reduce headaches, boost learning, improve productivity and even help us recover more quickly from illness.

You may recall learning in elementary school science (hopefully you were listening that day) that plants clean the air by taking in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. Houseplants also rid the air of common indoor pollutants like benzene and formaldehyde — byproducts of the slow molecular breakdown of household items such as carpets, plastics and synthetic fibers. The humble houseplant decreases dust and noise levels, too. Plants easily brighten a room, and they lift your spirits when you see them. Maybe this is why they are popular gifts for special occasions.

Gardeners inherently understand the benefits of plants. Even during winter months, die-hard gardeners refuse to let their green thumbs go brown. They extend their gardening pleasure by tending to indoor plants. You don’t have to be an experienced gardener to take care of houseplants, though. Anyone can care for them.

Some of the most popular low-maintenance houseplants include Mother-in-Law’s Tongue (*sanservieria trifasciata*), Spider plant (*chlorophytum comosum*), Prayer plant (*maranta leuconeura*), African violet (*saintpaulia*), rubber tree (*ficus elastica decora*) and cactus.

Even though the above mentioned plants are easy-to-care-for, do not be deceived. Houses are not natural environments for plants. You must water and feed them regularly. Thanks to new Jobe’s Drip Feeders, nourishing houseplants is easier than ever. The self-feeding bottles are filled with liquid fertilizer, specially formulated for flowering plants or foliage plants. There is also a formula for poinsettias and Christmas cacti. All you have to do to use them is twist off the cap and stick the neck of the bottle into the soil. Jobe’s Drip Feeders release nutrients into the soil for an average of 15 days. They can be found at retail stores and local garden centers.

So go ahead, run out and purchase some botanical friends (and don’t forget the fertilizer) to brighten up your home or work space. They’ll work hard and you’ll breathe easier.



Adding color to your wood projects with water-based stain is easy as 1,2,3

Years ago, if you wanted to stain a piece of furniture it meant dealing with toxic chemicals, limited color choices, and lots of hard work. Today, with the advent of water-based stains, there is a much easier way to add color to your favorite wood project.

According to Eric Chaimberg of Swing Paints, Canada's leading manufacturer of wood finishing products "staining has finally come of age and the options for consumers are really exciting."

Step 1 - Choosing and Testing the Color

There's nothing more personal than color — it sets a mood as well as defines your sense of style. That's why color should be the starting point for any project. Take your time choosing the right one as, unlike paint, stain is permanent.

"Variety is the spice of life," says Chaimberg, and that's why Circa 1850 Aqua water-based wood stain comes in 30 pre-mixed colors — from traditional wood tones to trendy designer shades. Plus, they can be intermixed to create an infinite number of



inconspicuous spot or a spare piece of the same type of wood.

Step 2 – Preparing the Surface — Cleaning & Sanding

Set yourself up in a dust-free, well-lit area. Because of its low-odor formula, Circa 1850 Aqua is ideal to use indoors. Make sure the wood surface is clean, dry and free from any finish. Use Circa 1850 Furniture Cleaner to remove all dirt, wax and polish. Any repairs that need to be done such as filling nail holes or dents should be completed before sanding and staining.

Sand thoroughly in the direction

150 —> 180 (for soft woods like pine, fir, spruce, etc.)

120 —> 150 (for hard woods like oak, ash, birch, maple, etc.)

If a paler color is desired, sand the wood with finer grit sandpaper, such as 220 or 300.

Step 3 – Applying the Stain

Shake the stain bottle vigorously to ensure no pigments remain on the bottom of the bottle, and remember to stir occasionally during use. Working in small sections, apply Circa 1850 Aqua with a brush or cloth. Use a cloth to wipe the stain in the direction of the grain allowing it to penetrate and seal as it enhances the beauty of the wood. "And because of Circa 1850 Aqua's

n. Chaimberg
"to get the most
progress from a
grit sandpaper" as

special formulation, there's no need to worry about overlap marks or use a pre-conditioner." Since water-based stains dry so quickly, you can apply a second coat after only 30 minutes. Then wait 24 hours before adding a protective, clear finish. And all you need to clean up is soap and warm water – now what could be easier than that!

For more information or tips on staining visit www.circa1850.com.



Renovation Trends: Skylights

By Sandra O'Connor

Are you one of the 7 out of every 10 Canadian households that will carry out home renovations this year*? Impress your guests by bathing your renewed spaces in sunlight with a VELUX® skylight!

Skylights and roof windows are gradually replacing artificial lighting in North-American homes. A recent study published by the Appraisal Institute of Canada identified skylights as one of

the fastest-growing renovation trends. It can even be profitable if we believe other claims made by the same study, which reports that six out of every ten real-estate appraisers believe that as an investment, a window-replacement project is worth its weight in gold in the event of a home resale. Inexpensive, thoughtfully designed, well-manufactured, easy to install, and adaptable to all needs, VELUX skylights and roof windows promise

a brighter and better-ventilated home by emphasizing two of life's essential elements: light and fresh air.

For more information on roof windows and skylights, contact VELUX Canada at 1 800 88-VELUX or visit our website at www.VELUX.ca.

*(Source: Statistics Canada)

