

# CLASSIFIED

LISTINGS BEGIN ON PAGE G4

**GET SOME TY STYLE**  
Why the host of Extreme Makeover:  
Home Edition loves home shows  
See Page G3

# LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

EDITOR: PAMELA FIEBER 403-235-7299 FAX: 403-235-7379

WWW.CALGARYHERALD.COM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2009



## EXOTIC FLAVOUR

Indian and Italian theme  
at heart of Elbow Valley  
kitchen renovation

ROBIN SUMMERFIELD  
CALGARY HERALD

One never knows when inspiration will strike. For Calgarian Melene Mattu, that moment hit in 2005 at a light store in Venice.

While browsing the boutique with her husband she spied a dark green light fixture.

She immediately fell in love with the lights, which look like two pieces of thick, frosted glass folded over each other into a rectangular box. Black geometric squares are accented within the green glass. Mattu didn't know when or how the lights — a happy marriage between art and functionality — would fit into her home, but she was determined they would.

She bought three and had them shipped to Calgary.

Those lights, made by Murano, ultimately became the starting point for the approximately \$150,000 renovation and redesign of the kitchen in Mattu's Elbow Valley home.

Today those three lights hang over the three-metre long Verde Borgogna granite countertop from Active, the focal point of Mattu's completely renovated kitchen.

From the moment in 2002 when they moved to the 3,000-square foot, early '80s home, Mattu wanted to redo the kitchen.

It was small, closed in, outdated, dark and uninviting.

The L-shaped countertop cut the space in half. The breakfast nook had become a storage space. Layers upon layers of paint on the kitchen cupboards completed the sad look.

For Mattu, who loves to cook and host dinner and cocktail parties for family and friends, the kitchen was in dire need of a makeover.

"I didn't like anything in here," says Mattu, who works for Air Canada in the company's reservation department.

Yet, it would be two years before Mattu and her husband could agree on the fundamental elements of a redesign.

That time came in 2007 while the couple vacationed in Los Angeles. While there, they visited the Pacific Design Centre and Mattu walked into her dream kitchen.

SEE KITCHEN, PAGE G2

Adrian Shellard, Calgary Herald

Melene Mattu's kitchen was inspired by the unusual, frosted glass lights that she found in Italy.

## AROUND THE HOUSE

### Get your own in-suite laundry

**LAUNDRY** • For those with small wardrobes but a big commitment to going green, come two new laundry innovations from The Laundry Alternative. The company's Wonder Wash and Spin Dryer clean and dry clothing in compact and affordable machines that save customers space and money, as much as \$150 to \$250 per year, according to a news release. The Wonder Wash uses 90 per cent less water and detergent than conventional washing machines and sits easily on any countertop. The Spin Dryer can cut a household's annual energy use by five to 10 per cent, making this new dryer over 100 times more energy efficient than a traditional tumble dryer.

The main drawback to these green machines is their size: both have a capacity of just 2.3 kilograms (five pounds).

But it's an option for people who do not have access to conventional washers and dryers in their homes, such as apartment dwellers, college students, campers.

The Wonder Wash retails for \$42.95 US and the Spin Dryer is \$139.95 US. Shop online for them at laundry-alternative.com.



The mini-spin countertop dryer.

### Chill out with a four-door fridge

**PRODUCT** • When the french door fridges debuted years ago, homeowners were intrigued but skeptical. Three doors? No built-in water and ice dispenser? Forget it!

Designs have evolved as times have changed and LG is pushing the envelope again with its new four-door french door refrigerator.

This clever unit not only has Energy Star qualification, a water and ice dispenser and recessed LED lighting, it's added a second freezer door. The EveryDay top door provides quick access to most-used frozen items, such as juices, berries or veggies. The bottom drawer is for larger, lesser-used frozen goods, such as roasts or for items the homeowner is trying to avoid (ice cream?).

The main selling feature is its top doors — when open, they take up less space for better manoeuvrability in the kitchen. Plus, more cold air stays inside since only one side is opened at a time. Go to Lg.ca.

— Compiled by Lisa Kadane, Calgary Herald



The action plan  
that moves you.®

403.247.5555



www.kirbycox.com

Greenview - 83, 420 Grier Avenue - 2BR townhouse, great starter.....\$199,988	Edgemont - 260 Edgehill Drive 3BR+loft, new floors, backs on ravine.....\$559,900
Rocky Ridge - 114 Rocky Vista Terrace - 2BR townhouse w/garage.....\$299,900	Edgemont - 140 Edgebank Place 4BR two storey w/out, huge yard.....\$599,900
Marlborough - 48 Marcombe Place - huge bungalow, cul-de-sac.....\$349,000	Varsity Estates - 619 Varsity Estates Cres - 5BR two storey, best value.....\$599,900
The Hamptons - 14 Hampstead Green - townhouse, 2 car garage.....\$369,900	Edgemont - 9167 Edgebrook Drive 4BR+den, w/out on ravine.....\$639,900
Panorama Hills - 107, 10888 Panorama Hills Blvd 3BR villa on golf course \$374,900	The Hamptons - 105 Hampstead Heath 4BR+den two storey.....\$639,990
Edgemont - 224 Edgehill Place 4BR+den two storey, great value.....\$379,900	Royal Oak - 58 Royal Ridge Mt 3BR+bonus rm, two storey w/out.....\$649,900
Rocky Ridge - 426 Rocky Ridge Cove 2BR two storey, w/out on ravine.....\$429,900	Hawkwood - 84 Hawkmount Heights 4BR w/out bung, on greenbelt.....\$699,900
The Hamptons - 242 Hamptons Park 3BR+den bung villa.....\$439,900	The Hamptons - 32 Hamptons Heights 4BR w/out bung, golf course.....\$738,900
Hawkwood - 250 Hawkland Place - 4BR two storey, huge yard.....\$469,900	Scenic Acres - 305 Scenic Acres Dr 4BR, 3 car garage, on ravine.....\$749,900
Hawkwood - 113 Hawkhill Road - 4BR+den two storey, vacant.....\$485,000	Edgemont - 77 Edgeview Road 4BR walkout bung, mtn views.....\$779,000
Royal Oak - 81 Royal Birch Hill 3BR, bonus rm, hrdwd, maple kit.....\$499,900	The Hamptons - 13 Hamptons Manor 4BR+den, w/out, great value.....\$789,900
Edgemont - 88 Edgemont Estates Drive 4BR+loft, w/out, ridge lot.....\$549,500	Arbour Lake - 50 Arbour Vista Terr 4BR, mtn/city views, ridge lot.....\$999,900
Arbour Lake - 75 Arbour Glen Close 4BR+den, w/out on park, views.....\$549,900	Bearspaw - 84 Gray Way 7BR+den, 217 acres, 6800+sqft.....\$1,799,000
The Hamptons - 165 Hamptons Gardens 4BR+den, huge pie lot.....\$549,900	Eau Claire - Princeton Grand, 15th flr, 3165sqft of luxury w/river views.....\$2,650,000

Open House: Saturday February 21, 1 to 3pm

Hawkwood - 221 Hawkmount Close 3BR two storey, walk to school.....\$394,900
Citadel - 144 Citadel Meadow Bay 3BR two storey, cul-de-sac.....\$469,900
Citadel - 133 Citadel Crest Park 4BR w/out, backs on greenbelt.....\$469,900
Mount Pleasant - 3105 - 5 Street new 3BR infill, 2 car garage.....\$589,900

Open House: Sunday February 22, 1 to 3pm

The Hamptons - 110 Hampstead Terrace 3BR two storey w/out.....\$449,900
Mount Pleasant - 3105 - 5 Street new 3BR infill, 2 car garage.....\$589,900

Visit [kirbycox.com](http://kirbycox.com) for details on these fine homes.



Sleek, maple wraparound cabinets were custom designed.

## FROM PAGE G1 KITCHEN: Pillars from Buhran

The kitchen featured a green granite countertop, a breakfast bar and contrasting dark walnut and maple cabinets that framed the room.

"We both loved it. It was an epiphany," says the 50-year-old mother of three grown boys. She took some covert photos on her cellphone and then sketched out the layout of the model kitchen, complete with details about the countertop, the colour scheme, the cabinetry and wood, and all the other ideas she wanted to pinch for her own kitchen renovation, inside her notepad.

Then she came back to Calgary and called Arlene Ladner, an interior designer with Bronco Gray Design. Working with the couple, Ladner helped realize their vision.

Deep green (one of Mattu's favourite colours) became the anchor hue in the new room and they started from there.

The renovation began at the end of October 2007 and after seven-months-worth of Crock-pot and microwave meals it wrapped up in May 2008.

Mattu's new kitchen must-haves included a wine fridge, an under-the-counter, built-in recycling centre, and flush counter-tops. Mattu also got a large built-in appliance cupboard to keep the food processor and other cooking accoutrements off the counters and eliminate the clutter.

A four-door full pantry, a pass-through to the couple's adjacent dining room, a brushed stainless steel double sink with built-in

water purifier, a Sub-Zero fridge, a Wolf stove top with an overhead LG microwave covered off the necessities.

Urban Millworks cabinetry company created the contrasting maple and walnut cabinets while contractor Stan Swiatek of Swiatek Homes handled all the construction.

Travertine marble tiling was installed throughout the front foyer, dining room, kitchen and the family's library and sitting room.

The wraparound kitchen countertop and cabinets below presented some finicky design measurements.

"It took a few visits to make sure we got all the angles right," says Ladner. "We made sure we used every inch," she adds.

That mantra accounts for the wee, wedge-shaped corner cabinet near the sink which holds Mattu's candle holders and vases.

"With Arlene, she knew what I wanted and it was great that she could do it," Mattu says.

As a designer Ladner wants to make sure every drawer, cabinet and special feature she designs makes functional sense, she says.

"I love to help the client live properly," Ladner says.

The show stopper in the Mattu renovation actually sits in the adjacent foyer.

Two massive antique rosewood pillars from India with carved teak headers, granite bases and brass bands stand at the entrance to the nearby family room.

The two pillars, each weighing (best guess) hundreds of pounds



Photos, Adrian Shellard, Calgary Herald  
Interior designer Arlene Ladner, left, with homeowner Melene Mattu in Mattu's recently renovated kitchen.

had to be carried in, assembled and then installed.

Purchased from the Buhran Gallery, the pillars make an impressive statement and fit in nicely with the dark walnut used as an accent in the kitchen.

"There's definitely an Indian/Italian theme going on here," says Mattu.

For her part, Mattu is delighted with the outcome and since the renovation has happily hosted many dinner and cocktail parties, impromptu girls nights in, and even an Indian cooking class at the helm of her dream kitchen.

A few months after the approximately \$150,000 renovation was complete, Mattu was at work in her new kitchen.

"I caught this reflection in the window at night and I was looking at this girl in that fabulous kitchen," she says with a laugh. "Then I realized it was me."

RSUMMERFIELD@THEHERALD.CANWEST.COM



The extra-long kitchen island is great for entertaining.

## House bling adds whimsy and sparkle



MARNI JAMESON  
AT HOME WITH MARNI

What is she doing? Dan, my husband, pulls me aside in the kitchen and sounds panicked.

"Shhh! She'll hear you," I scold, then, to explain why the lanky ponytailed woman is atop a ladder in our dining room, whisper, "She's embellishing."

"She's gluing cheap jewelry on our ceiling."

"It will look good. You'll see."

The ceiling jewelry was my friend Susan's idea. I wanted to punch up the faux stencil I'd recently painted on my dining room ceiling around the light fixture. Susan called in artist Liza Whitaker.



Courtesy, Marni Jameson

Faux gems add sparkle to a simple light fixture.

"Is she a Gypsy?" Dan asks.

"No, she's an artist."

Liza had resurrected an underwhelming hanging light fixture in one of Susan's bathrooms. Talk about needing oomph. Until Liza worked her magic, the fixture looked like someone pinned a brooch to the ceiling. She painted a gem-encrusted design around where the fixture attached. The design echoes the fixture's lines; the fake gems glimmer when the

light turns on, and the fixture looks twice as large.

I try selling this concept to Dan. No luck. Like a lot of guys, Dan doesn't get the power of bling. He's a wedding band and a wrist watch kind of guy, and would never wear neck chains or earrings. But I love bling for me, and for my home.

The ceiling stencil needed more mass, more texture, more dimension, more hubba hubba. Liza and I spent the next 30 minutes rummaging through a box of faux jewels, brass baubles and polished glass stones. We laid our favourites on the table in patterns, then moved them around like chess pieces. Then she set to work affixing gems and stones along strategic points of the stencil using Clear Liquid Nails.

Every time I checked on her I squealed. And Dan groaned. "We can get them off, right?"

My daughters cycled through, and I slipped them each a five to tell their dad how awesome they thought the ceiling was looking.

The sun goes down. The light

goes on. And the ceiling looks like fairies live there. "See!" I say. "It's like the room has a tiara."

Dan nods.

"I guess it is pretty cool."

A basic interior designer principle says every room should have something shiny and something dull — a suede pillow and a bejewelled picture frame, a velvet chair and a crystal vase. Done well, adding house bling is an inexpensive fun way to add whimsy and sparkle. Here are some ways Whitaker suggests adding some to your home:

■ Put polished stones, shells or faux gems around ceiling fixtures or wall sconces.

■ Border a plain mirror or fireplace. Consider first painting a border around the mirror or fireplace with metallic paint, then stick on embellishments.

■ Glam up a dull lampshade, a boring glass light fixture.

■ Trade out plain dresser or cupboard knobs for cut crystal ones.

WWW.MARNIJAMESON.COM

### REAL ESTATE

## How to get the best mortgage rate out there

KRISTIN GOFF  
CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

Sure, credit markets have gone wonky lately, but the good news for people renewing or shopping for a first mortgage is that the wheeling and dealing days for consumers haven't disappeared.

Mortgage borrowers "still have lots of negotiating power, but you need to know what you can negotiate down to," says Nelly Van Berlo, an accredited mortgage professional and president of the Mortgage Source Inc., a franchise of the Mortgage Centre.

It takes some research, self-evaluation and shopping around to come up with a deal that's right for you. Here are some tips on what to ask and where to find information.

#### Is that the best you can do?

You don't have to be nasty when you ask, but don't be shy either. Asking for a better mortgage rate than the posted rate has become so common that lenders factor it in when they set rates. Yet one common mistake people make is to automatically sign and mail back the deal their lender sends at renewal time. Even if they negotiated a better rate pre-

viously, the renewal document most likely is at posted rates, not the discount they got before, says Van Berlo.

How much of a discount you get will vary. People with good credit histories have more clout. Bigger mortgages with longer terms are likely to get bigger discounts (think one per cent or so) than small mortgages with shorter terms.

Shop at competing lenders or at mortgage brokers, who represent a variety of lenders.

If you find a better deal, ask your lender to match or better the rate. Be careful not to trigger credit checks by potential lenders as you comparison shop. Although it isn't supposed to happen, Van Berlo says multiple credit checks can sometimes hurt a person's credit rating.

#### What flexibility features and fees does the mortgage have?

Go for the product, not just the rate. Some "no frills" mortgages offer great rates, but potentially expensive costs if you need to get out of the loan agreement before the term is up. Ask about flexibility to make extra payments, increase the monthly or

weekly payments.

Also check into fees and penalties. You should refuse to pay a renewal fee if your lender wants to charge you for the privilege of keeping your business. But you may face a fee of several hundred dollars if you want to switch elsewhere. In that case, ask the financial institution you are moving to if they will help offset the cost of switching.

#### What's in your financial future?

Lots of people worry about in-

terest-rate forecasts. They wonder if they should take a longer-term mortgage to lock in today's rates for perhaps five years, or take a short-term approach and wait for rates to fall further.

Consider your personal financial forecast in determining your strategy and what loan features are important to you.

The mortgage checkup should look at all household debts, income, whether job security is an issue, and just how large a payment you can handle.



**SOROPTIMIST**  
Best for Women

Soroptimist International of Calgary  
Celebrating 75 years

of Making a Difference for Women and Girls in the Calgary community and throughout the world.

Find out how you can make a difference:  
403.263.5502  
403.286.8436  
http://wcsoroptimist.org

AA701025

# Century 21

The Local Experts™

The Largest Real Estate Office in the World



## TOP PRODUCERS FOR JANUARY

Century 21 The Professionals  
509-2121



David Crick



Byron Lambe



Ruby Haines-Patterson



Bill Hood



Justin Becker



Julie Vesuwalla

Century 21 Bamber Realty  
245-0773



Tom Gray



Curtis Bebek



Darrell Nowosad



Tom Davis



Herman Ma



Marilyn Jones



Tony Zuczek



Robert Munro



Talia & Rod Dougall



Robert McIntyre & Nadine Beaucage

Century 21 Bravo Realty  
250-2882



Peter Dam



Krishan Goll



Paul Thind

Century 21 Foothills  
652-2121 995-7721 625-5321



Rhonda Anderson



Candace Walker



Don Williams



Douglas Temple & Michelle Furlan

Century 21  
Central  
240-0999