

# Décor

EXTRA

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## On the half shell

**A NEW SPIN ON DENMARK'S CLASSIC EGG CHAIR/G8**



### rites of spring

6 FRESH IDEAS, JUST RIGHT FOR YOUR HOME/G2

### FEELING SHAGADELIC?

MISSONI LAUNCHES HOME DECOR/G4

### UNSTUCK IN TIME

A TOUR OF MAUS PARK ANTIQUES/G6

LET'S GO ANTIQUING, FIND FABRIC, TAKE STUFF TO THE DUMP, PICK UP NEW CHAIRS, GET A FLOOR LAMP, BUY DRYWALL, RE-DO THE DECK, GET ARTICHOKE GREEN PAINT, RETURN ARTICHOKE GREEN PAINT AND GET ASH GRAY OR MAYBE CHOCOLATE BROWN OR MAYBE OCEAN MIST OR MAYBE BLOOD ORANGE.

LET'S GO



CHEVROLET

## BRIGHT IDEAS

## Spring fling

Seize the day and invite spring into your home. Here are six upbeat ways to rid your house of winter ballast and create a lighter, more spacious environment.



## 1 CRYSTAL CLEAR

Cut crystal, formerly the staid dowager of the china cabinet, is chic this spring, now that designer Marc Jacobs has included it in his new line of tableware for Waterford Wedgwood, in stores this June. Impress your guests with an elegant bouquet of tulips, freesia and other spring flowers. Cathy Cox, director of horticulture for the Toronto Botanical Garden suggests bringing in branches pruned from apple or other fruit trees, placing them in water and watching the blossoms unfold.

## 2 THE OFFICE

Revitalize and expand your workspace with a great new chair, like the Dialogue, whose broad arms provide a perch for a laptop, lunch tray or the hefty report you're ploughing through. Inspired by retro design, particularly the Womb, designed by Modernist icon Saarinen in 1948, and featured in this Norman Rockwell painting, left, it's elegant enough for the living room as well. And unlike Rockwell's hapless-looking fellow, the elevated seat height is supposed to encourage the user to sit slightly forward, and maintain better posture. The Dialogue is available in fabric and leather at UpCountry, 310 King St. E., Toronto, 416-777-1700 or Vaughan Mills mall, 905-760-8108. Prices start at about \$2,700, and for matching ottoman, \$850.



## 3 IN THE BEDROOM

Lighten up your bedroom with a new set of sheets in a contemporary floral design, such as Au Lit Fine Linen's new Swedish Collection. With its restrained cherry-blossom motif, this breezy blue bed linen is made from 250 thread-count cotton-percale, and is available at Au Lit (2049 Yonge St., Toronto, aulitfinelinens.com, 416-489-7010). A queen-size duvet cover sells for \$283, a flat sheet, \$141; a fitted sheet, \$136; standard and queen pillowcases, \$77 a pair.

KEITH BEATY/TORONTO STAR;  
STYLING BY FLORIS FLOWERS, FLORIS.CA



## 5 COLOUR YOUR WORLD

Bored with cool spa colour schemes? You're not alone. Melanie Rice, colour advisor for Para Paints and a member of the Color Marketing Group, which tracks colour trends internationally, says consumers are moving away from neutrals. "People want a punch of colour, especially clear, clean colours that are evocative of nature." So go ahead, add a jolt of spicy red or warm yellow to your interior landscape. If you're wary of strong hues, start with subtle shades, like Para's Cream Custard and Ming Gold, in a powder room. Or go big and bold by painting the family room in deep shades of red. Try Para's Paris Red washed with Heart's Desire.

## 4 UNCORK IT

Celebrate the season by sharing a bottle of wine with friends. Serve in a decanter, such as Reidel's new Colori, \$80, at William Ashley. Wine snobs may debate the merits of decanting, but Konrad Ejebich, author of *A Portable Guide to Ontario Wines, Wineries, Vineyards & Vines*, says they're useful when you want to aerate a wine, filter sediment, or simply put together a pretty tabletop. His only caveat: Don't leave wine in the decanter overnight. If there's any left when the party's over, he advises pouring into the smallest bottle or jar possible, and saving it to cook with — or drink — later.



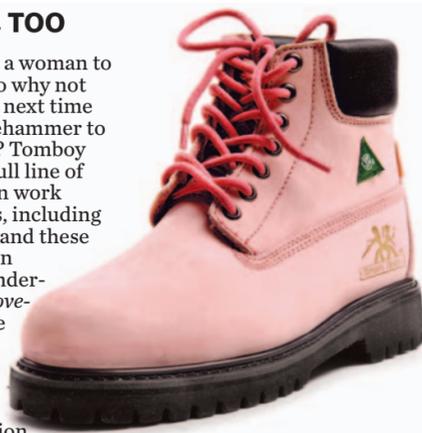
## DIY corner

## A GREEN RENO

If you're planning a spring renovation and are eager to know more about living light on the planet, the Kortright Centre for Conservation in Woodbridge is offering a series of seminars on environmentally friendly resources, technology and practices for the home. Topics range from concepts for green living, to a hands-on workshop on how to install a renewable energy system. For more information, visit kortright.org or call 905-832-2289.

## THINK PINK, TOO

They say it takes a woman to do a man's job, so why not look like one the next time you take a sledgehammer to the kitchen wall? Tomboy Trades offers a full line of made-for-women work clothes and tools, including toolbelts, gloves and these pink construction boots. Pamela Anderson, *Home Improvement's* Tool Time Girl, would have loved them. Check tomboytrades.com for buying information.



KEITH BEATY/TORONTO STAR

## 6 RAY OF LIGHT

Replace heavy winter drapes with sheer drapery panels. If the view is more urban grit than bucolic splendour, cover them with a translucent, reusable decorative window film, such as Artscape's Bamboo or Magnolia designs, both \$27 for a 24- by 36-inch roll. Artscape products are available at The Home Depot stores and at homedepot.ca.

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## NEW LOOK

# Missoni goes home, again

## THE ITALIAN LABEL RETURNS TO ITS ROOTS WITH HOME FURNISHINGS

BY DERICK CHETTY

The fashion runways and home interiors have always had a lot in common. The trends from your wardrobe, sooner or later, find themselves splashed about your house. So it's no surprise that more fashion designers are expanding their brand and capitalizing on their esthetic with home collections.

But as the list of designers-turned-interior decorators grows, a few of these fashion brands get lost in translation. Let's just say some designers' distinctive signatures and brand identities seem more tailor-made than others for the home arena. (Can you picture what bedsheets from the über-hot but difficult-to-wear label Balenciaga might look like?)

But one contender whose strong fashion vision seems just right for home décor, is the venerable Italian label Missoni.

Known for its colourful graphic print knits, the family business actually started in textiles a century ago, providing home



Now you can wrap yourself — and your living room — in designer stripes from the newly launched Missoni Home line.

furnishings like linens, sheets and hand embroideries. It wasn't until almost 50 years later that it entered the fashion domain, with T-shirt designs.

And those famous zigzags and lines were born. But it was no major design feat. The knitting machines back when they start-

ed the company couldn't do anything else but simple stripes.

Today, those knitwear prints prove to be architecturally pleasing lines — they work wonders on small spaces by giving the illusion of height and width.

Returning to their roots a few years ago with a home décor

line, the company has just launched Missoni Home in Canada. The 2007 collection features an expansive lineup that includes textiles for upholstery for sofas, home linens, rugs and furnishings. The home collection also takes the company's rich mosaic of colours to the

outdoors with fabrics that can be used for cushions, hammocks and patio furniture that would be perfect for upscale cottage country or to add some glam to a poolside deck.

But lest you think it's all about those famous eye-popping colour bars, less adventurous home

### Stars in stripes

The Missoni Home Collection can be found at:

★ Missoni Home Gallery at Castlefield Design Centre. 1400 Castlefield Ave. Toronto

★ Finn Boutique 1 Yorkville Ave. Toronto

★ Nord Sud Home 20 Hazelton Ave. Toronto

★ Prima Lighting 51 Jevlan Dr. Woodbridge

decorators can find other patterns such as herringbone, plaid and some luscious florals. This cacophony of prints can be anchored by the range of solids also offered in the line.

And it looks like this colourful fashion company's brand will be further expanded. Up next on the design horizon: Hotel Missoni. The company will be launching its first hotels in Dubai and Edinburgh by next year.

Lovers of Italian design can also look forward to Fendi, when the fashion powerhouse launches its home line in Canada later this year.

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# Divide & multiply

## THE MODERN DIVIDERS CREATE NEW ROOMS WITHOUT LOSING LIGHT

BY VICKY SANDERSON

One of the biggest emerging trends in home decor has no shape, colour or texture. Despite that, it's going to have a huge influence on the way we live in our homes, says William MacDonald, a Toronto-based interior designer.

"Creating privacy in architecture and design is a trend that's really strong in Europe and New York," says MacDonald. "I think it's partly a reaction to an Internet world, in which everything is out there for everybody to see."

It's also partly in response to the widespread elimination of interior walls that occurred over the last few decades, as homeowners embraced the open-concept design. MacDonald thinks the same homeowners — especially ones with noisy children or a family member with a messy home office — are discovering that walls and doors have advantages.

The urge for some room of one's own is behind a resurgence in the use of room dividers and screens, which were originally invented to prevent drafts, or to hide entranceways, especially those used by servants. Now, they have a new task — to delineate space.

While space needs to be carved into livable chunks, most people don't want to sacrifice one of the grandest benefits of an open-concept plan — lots of light. That means unlike their sturdy ancestors, room dividers are now showing up in semi-opaque materials, such as glass and paper.

Toronto glass artist Lucy Roussel has already noticed growing interest in the glass panels she makes. Frequently used as room dividers, Roussel's pieces are constructed from cast glass about an inch thick, into which she incorporates natural elements, such as large fern fronds, poppy blossoms or spent milkweed pods, or industrial materials, such as steel mesh or sheeting. Available in a variety of dimensions, from countertop height up, prices start at about \$800 for smaller pieces and about \$3,000 for larger.

They're especially popular with those living in lofts.

"People want to create room divisions without obstructing the light," says Roussel. In smaller condominiums and apartments, she adds, homeowners want to define areas without producing a maze-like effect.

Furniture maker Rob Brown makes room screens inspired by

Japanese shoji screens, which are typically constructed with a wooden grid frame, to which a layer of handmade paper is attached.

The paper can be left plain or decorated with calligraphy, paintings or other material, such as paper collage. Brown combines both methods in his Mosaic Shoji, prices for which start at about \$77 for an unadorned folding model.

Ikea offers many affordable options for dividing space: There are the Agen, a simple rattan room divider, about \$90, and the Orgel lamp, which functions as a short, semi-opaque room divider by day and accent lighting in the evening.

It features a paper shade and sells for about \$60. Another option is to hang a light and pretty fabric panel from a track attached to a ceiling.

Roussel's work is on display at Material Matters at 215 Spadina Ave. (materialmatters.ca or 416-977-3387), and the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga (1-888-805-8888 or livingartscentre.ca). You can also get further details on lucyroussel.com.

For more information about Rob Brown's work, check out equinoxinteriors.ca or telephone 1-888-815-9663.

Privacy act. These glass panels by Lucy Roussel, interlock as dividers, and bring the outdoors inside.



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## ANTIQUES

## The time traveller

**ANTIQUES DEALER DOUGLAS STOCKS IS DRIVEN BY THE THRILL OF THE HUNT AND THE STORIES BEHIND THE FINDS, REPORTS DONNA YAWCHING**

Douglas Stocks greets me at the door of Maus Park Antiques with a welcoming smile. At 58, he cuts a courtly figure with his thick silvering hair and well-cut tweed jacket.

He would make a convincing lord of the manor, and indeed, he very nearly is one. Next door to the huge interlocking barns that house his extensive antique collection, Stocks' home — a 22-room, 1850s-era stone farmhouse — is as classic as he is, dignified and gracious.

Set in the countryside on the outskirts of Paris, Ont., Maus Park offers, according to its proprietor, "the largest display of formal 18th- and 19th-century furniture and accessories in Canada." His regular clients are not deterred by the store's location; they fly in from Montreal, Florida, Connecticut and even Texas.

"People find it worthwhile to come out here," says Stocks, who in the past has displayed his treasures in various places, including Toronto. "It's so big, it's a destination place. It's one-stop shopping. I can't have this kind of space in the city."

One of the seven "core appraisers" on CBC television's popular *Canadian Antiques Roadshow*, Stocks has had a lifelong love affair with the world of antiquity. He recalls digging up shards of pottery in his garden in England when he was 5, and being "mesmerized" with visions of treasures and exotic finds.

Unfortunately (or perhaps not), his parents did not subscribe to his early dream of becoming an archeologist; nor, for that matter, to his later one of becoming an artist.

But, he says, "I couldn't avoid my destiny" and by a "circuitous" route, which included a university degree in art and history, he managed to become a bit of both: an antique dealer.

"I love the hunt, the find," he confesses. "When I lose that, I'll be out of the business, because I've never been a believer in doing something you don't like."

His family moved to Galt, Ont., when Douglas was 8. At 13, he acquired his first antique, a "primitive" Canadiana cider press (for \$11), which he paid for over several weeks with money from his paper route. By the time he was 20, he owned so many antiques that he had to start selling them, and at 27, Stocks opened his first store in Plattsville, Ont.

"I've always had the passion," he explains. "I love the whole history thing. It's a big story of people doing things. When I see an object, it conjures up that whole story: of politics, of wars, of aspirations, the spirit of bygone eras."

This passion is what lies behind his success with *Roadshow*. As then-president of the Canadian Antique Dealers Association (he recently stepped down), Stocks was asked four years ago to help develop the program's format, and to audition expert consultants. Not surprisingly, he ended up being invited to join their ranks.

The show, in which people brings in their heirlooms or lucky finds to be evaluated by experts, is taped during a solid month of travelling from one Canadian centre to another. Despite the exhaustion of being on the road for such a long time, Stocks enjoys the *Roadshow* tremendously.

"It's that discovery thing again," he says. "It's exciting because you get to see things you generally wouldn't see. Most of the people aren't planning to sell their stuff, so you'd never see it otherwise. And you get to see the diversity of people who have come to Canada to live."

Every item, he muses, has a story behind it. They speak of people's personalities, their lives, and the different cultures behind these lives. "It's great. People open up to you, they tell you all these histories, about personal relationships... wherever you go, there are these wonderful stories." Some of



J.P. MOCZULSKI FOR THE TORONTO STAR

Douglas Stocks, a dealer in antique furniture, is also an appraiser for the *Canadian Antiques Roadshow*. "When I see an object, it conjures up the spirit of bygone eras."



KEITH BEATY/TORONTO STAR

Raspberry-red drapes and couches and a stunning Oriental vase in the Georgian-style living room.



Many of the pieces that cram the Maus Park Antiques store, near Paris, Ont., are museum-quality, like the 18th-century cabinet, left. Three interlocking barns make up the massive two-storey showrooms, with high-roofed beams and glazed woodplank floors, centre and right.

### A trip to Paris

Paris, Ont., is about a 90-minute drive west from Toronto. Those in a hurry will opt for the 401, but a far more pleasant experience can be had on the smaller rural roads. Highway 5 runs through picturesque farm country complete with barns, horses and rolling fields.

Charming country villages and the occasional museum offer possibilities for exploring, and on the outskirts of

Paris, the White Horse Restaurant is a popular rendezvous point. Its renowned buffet is pure Canadiana.

Maus Park Antiques is on the far side of Paris, at 289 Pinerhurst Rd. (formerly Highway 24A). Look for the landmark flags. It's open Saturday and Sunday, 11a.m. to 5 p.m., or by appointment. For further information, go to [maus-parkantiques.ca](http://maus-parkantiques.ca) or call 519-442-7500.



J.P. MOCZULSKI FOR THE TORONTO STAR

A French neo-classic bust of Zeus, foreground, ages gracefully alongside a terracotta Austrian-Hungarian emperor.

# ANTIQUES

## Object lessons through the ages

► **Object** From G6

them, like the pine travelling trunk of a little Irish orphan girl, still leave him emotional. (see Tales sidebar at right).

Not everything that's brought into the *Roadshow* is a treasure, but even when it's not, Stock insists, "it's not junk. What you have to do is tell the people what it is and why it looks like that. You listen to the people, they tell their stories, and really, it's that great thing of sharing."

Self-taught in the field of antiques, Stocks' specialty is 18th- and 19th-century furniture because, he says, "the older the better. The rarity is important. And I like the sophistication of design that you see in that period."

His rural showroom, itself a 19th-century artifact, is a splendid high-roofed space with rough-hewn beams and ancient, highly glazed floorplanks.

Hundreds of period items — Chippendale sofas, Regency chairs, ornate gilt-framed mirrors, exquisite marquetry tables, and "enough lamps to open a lamp store" — are attractively set out amidst rich Persian rugs and interesting artwork. Tchaikovsky plays softly in the background.

Two fireplaces offer cozy nooks for clients to relax and confer. Through the back win-



KEITH BEATY/TORONTO STAR

Stocks' stone farmhouse is a designated heritage site. An extension of the store, most of its contents are antiques, for sale.

dows, a serene little creek glimmers between the foliage. It was silted up when Stocks bought the property 20 years ago, but he's had it dredged to restore its 19th-century flow.

Stocks' farmhouse home is an extension of his showroom.

It's furnished with a choice selection of his inventory and, he declares airily, "it's all for sale!"

His décor, he admits, changes every few weeks. As soon as an

item is sold, it's replaced by another favourite piece from his storerooms.

Some might find this a slightly disconcerting way to live, but Stocks is philosophical.

"We don't ever really own an object, we're just custodians of it for a certain amount of time, before it gets passed on to the next generation.

"I think of antique dealing as the first form of recycling."

## Before you buy: What you should know

Douglas Stocks advises anyone interested in dabbling in the antiques market to spend some time first educating themselves on the basics. Here are a few things to consider before making a purchase:

- Read a bit of history and look at lots of pictures. Learn to identify style and form, patina and structure. "There's a language of antiques," he says. "Doing the academics helps because you understand the hows and whys of the esthetics; then you start to apply it."
- Look before you leap. Making mistakes is all part of the learning process — and "it can cost you money" — so take your time before buying.

► Buy from reputable dealers. It's easy to be fooled by fakes when you don't have the knowledge (China, Stocks says, is doing a wonderful job of producing fake antique porcelain.) Members of the Canadian Antique Dealers Association are required to authenticate and label their goods, providing a level of protection for the inexperienced buyer.

► Try to define your personal style. Even if you can't articulate it clearly, you might find a certain piece too fussy, or too plain; and that helps your dealer help you. "Once you have an idea of the style, you try to apply it to a certain space," says Stocks. "Function, form and es-

thetic appeal all need to be considered."

Novice buyers, he says, tend to enter the market at a moderate price level, upgrading and refining their collections as they grow more comfortable.

Others, perhaps with greater experience, may wait and search for "the very special superb piece."

He recommends rural antique-hunting as a good starting point. "You get to see the countryside," he says, "and you get to meet people. And if you don't know anything about it, you start to learn. It's a great way to get your feet wet."

## Tales from the Antiques Roadshow

The *Canadian Antiques Roadshow* is one of CBC's most enduring successes and Douglas Stocks thinks it's because of the stories. Even the humblest of artifacts has a history, and some of them can still leave him misty-eyed.

He recalls a Halifax woman presenting a photograph of her grandmother, a former slave who married another former slave. All their children grew up to become doctors, lawyers and schoolteachers, a testament to their parents' struggle and determination.

"As a personal history," says Stocks, "it was priceless."

Another man brought in his great-great-grandfather's ornately carved walking stick and a coat-of-arms letter seal, thinking his ancestor might have belonged to a secret guild. The *Roadshow* experts were able to tell him his 18th-century relative had actually



J.P. MOCZULSKI

Stocks examines an English Derby vase, circa 1835.

been the King of Sweden's prime minister and had been presented with these gifts upon his retirement.

But Stocks' favourite story

from the *Roadshow* ("I may cry when I tell you this") has to do with a plain pine trunk, brought in by a woman whose 92-year-old mother had recently died.

She had discovered the trunk while cleaning and sorting out her mother's house.

She said she knew it was old, but that was all.

Taped to the inside of the lid was a list that read: "2 pairs socks, 1 coat, 1 good petticoat, 1 everyday petticoat..."

It turned out they were the travelling items given to a 6-year-old orphan, sent from Ireland to Canada to be "adopted" into indentureship. The mother had never told her family about her heart-wrenching history. "It was quite an eye-opener (for her daughter)," comments Stocks. "It was very touching. Wherever you go, there are all of these wonderful stories."

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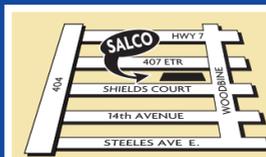
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## ICON

# Fresh Danish

## HOW THE DANES HAVE IMPROVED ON THEIR ENDURING STYLES

BY VICKY SANDERSON

Great design wears well. That may explain why works by Danish designers of the last century are still winning prestigious awards and why design junkies are seeking out Danish home décor and design products with an enthusiasm not seen since the 1950s, when Danish modern (remember teak?) was all the rage.

Probably the most recognizable modern chair designs come from Arne Jacobsen, the granddaddy of modern Danish design. Variations on his "Egg" chair, designed in 1958, have been a staple of homes and offices for more than half a century. Designers, such as Tord Boontje from Holland, are now giving the Egg a new look with specially designed fabrics, as shown on the Décor Extra cover. The Egg is available both in classic colours and updated prints at Plan B Office, (91 Parliament St., Toronto, 416-941-1010 planboffice.com), with prices starting at about \$5,300.

Jacobsen, by the way, was one of the first designers to create a full line of household or industrial products. He oversaw every detail, including the look of door handles and furniture, of the design of the Royal Hotel in Copenhagen, (now the Radisson SAS Royal Hotel), which opened in 1960. The famous Room 606, which has retained much of the original furniture and cool grey-blue scheme, is still rented out—most frequently to fans of Jacobsen's work.

Just how timeless Danish modernism is became apparent when an upholstered wing chair, made in 1960 by the legendary Hans Wegner, was relaunched by Carl Hansen, a Danish furniture maker who collaborated with Wegner as far back as 1949. Called the Ch445, the reissued chair design was shown at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair in New York last year and was given the ICFE Editors Award for Furniture. It, and other Wegner chair designs, are now available in Toronto at several stores, including Hollace Cluny (1070 Yonge St. Toronto, 416-968-7894), where prices for the Wegner series start at about \$6,300. For a full list of dealers, go to carlhansen.com.

Verner Panton, who worked

with Jacobsen, injected the clean lines of Danish modernism with a Mod esthetic. His whimsical Spiral lamp garnered huge attention when it came out in 1969. It, too, is enjoying new-found attention. Sold under the brand name Verpan, the design has become a hot seller at Euro-lite, the exclusive distributor of Panton's designs in southern Ontario (5 Lower Sherbourne St., Suite 100, Toronto, 416-203-1501, eurolite.com). A one-tier

Spiral in white sells for \$1,200.

Panton's Globe pendant lamp, designed in 1977, has white reflectors held by steel chains. In Toronto, it's available at Euro-lite by special order, where the 20-inch model sells for \$3,200.

The current generation of Danish designers is equally intent on creating beautiful, useful objects for the home and houseware market. Take, for example, Lene Frantzen and Eva Helene Rasmussen, partners in Danish design company Zig-zign. Their latest consumer offering, the Slice, marries great design with practicality. The Slice is 100 per cent felt wood that has been dyed and then rolled up and cut, or "sliced."

The richly coloured material, in lush shades of eye-popping red, electric blue and tropical yellow and green, is fashioned

into seat pads, cushions, pillows and hot pads.

The Slice is also environmentally friendly. Its thick surface rejects dirt, insulates, is heart-resistant, muffles sound, and can be easily wiped clean with a damp cloth.

The Slice chair pad will be available soon for \$310 at Kiosk (99 Jarvis St., Toronto, 416-601-1661, kioskmobilia.com). All other items can be ordered online through zigzign.com. The price for the 15-inch table mat is \$52, not including shipping.

The Danes have always been at the forefront of developing alternative forms of energy, including wind power, which accounts for about 10 per cent of the country's energy supply. Consumer interest in high-effi-

The clean linear lines and organic shapes of this Georg Jensen candelabra, and wooden cheese board, left, are typical of contemporary Danish design, famous for simple form and function. The elegant candelabra is brushed stainless steel and emulates a bouquet of flowers, with tulip-shaped holders and six curved stems.



Verner Panton's whimsical Spiral lamp garnered huge attention when it came out in 1969.



Verner Panton's Globe pendant lamp, designed in 1977, has white reflectors held by steel chains that seem to float inside the transparent acrylic globe.



The original "Egg" and "Drop" chairs (left and right), in Room 606 of the old Royal Hotel in Copenhagen. The Drop chair never went into production and prototypes are extremely rare.

kitchen cookware. Popular in Denmark and other Nordic countries for the past 50 years, Scanpan is a Danish manufacturer of cookware that's recently come to Canada. The line includes pots, pans, dutch ovens and woks coated with a non-stick ceramic titanium, applied through a casting method that uses pressure of more than 250 tonnes and temperatures of up to 20,000C.

According to its makers, that means the aluminum bottoms of the pans stay flat, and therefore, better heat conduction. The Danish design touch is reflected in the clean lines, and high-end materials. Scanpan products are available in professional and consumer-grade options at most Sears locations, and specialty kitchen shops. Visit scanpan.ca for more information.

The Design Exchange will host "Contemporary Danish Design," from May 15 to June 25, a homage to post-war design. Call 416-363-6121 or log onto dx.org for details.

ciency, wood-burning stoves is also strong, fuelling the growth of Danish companies such as Rais, which has been manufacturing high-efficiency, clean-burning wood stoves since the early '70s. One of the most popular models sold locally is the Rais Pina, which can be accessorized so that it turns 360 degrees, offering a view of the flames from any vantage point. It sells for about \$5,000. Rais wood stoves are available through custom builder and furniture designer Yuill McGregor of North on Sixty, who acts as the Ontario representative for the company. A list of dealers and more product information can be found at northonsixty.ca or by calling 1-877-985-2458. Great contemporary Danish design can even be found in

## PHOTO FINISH



# Collaborating with nature

LEE DAVIS CREAL LOOKS FOR DRAMA AND WHIMSY IN NATURE, SAYS DONNA YAWCHING

Sitting in a bright sunroom in her Danforth home, Lee Davis Creal is surrounded by what she calls "nature's art."

Old Mother Nature may not actually have snapped the neatly matted photographs lying on the couch, but she is certainly responsible for the subject matter: surreal whorls of ice, with glistening striations, formed in sheets along the edge of a river in the wilderness.

"Isn't this amazing? I was just blown away," exclaims Creal, with infectious enthusiasm. "I was just fascinated by the formations. I'd never seen anything like it."

Creal, 61, doesn't consider herself an artist, but she's always had a "strong interest" in art, and this is not the first time her love of nature has taken her in artistic directions.

Her little Sony digital camera is her constant companion. In the past, she has done series of photographs on frogs, sheep, starfish and ancient Scottish stones. "I've always taken photos," she says, "whenever I'm just caught by something."

Most of her past efforts have been turned into cards, or framed for gifts; but the "ice" series is destined for bigger things — literally.

"I'm going to be working with them for awhile," she says. "I want to explore how big I can make them. I think these could be spectacular framed photographs."



AARON LYNETT/TORONTO STAR

Lee Davis Creal creates her own décor with nature photography, much of it taken around Sanctuary North, a rustic holiday escape for refugees in cottage country. Her latest project is a series of photos of ice formations during spring thaw on the lake, top.

There's little doubt that, eventually, they will be a striking wall adornment in her home, amidst her already-impressive art collection.

Creal's affinity for the natural

world is nurtured by a property called Sanctuary North, which she and her husband, retired humanities professor Michael Creal, manage on behalf of a non-profit organization they

started six years ago.

Situated along the York River, near Bancroft, Ont., the small cottage on 40 hectares offers new refugees to Canada the opportunity to "experience the

Canadian wilderness" — during the summer, obviously.

Small groups of refugees and volunteers from five different refugee communities reserve days to visit the cottage, and

help to maintain and develop it. "It's community-building," Creal explains. "It brings together people from all over the world. They just love it. And the food is wonderful!"

The project is run completely by volunteers and with no government funding.

Not surprisingly, Creal follows through with her love for natural art even in the midst of the wilderness. She has decorated the cottage walls with a series of framed photographs, taken by a friend, of the wildflowers found in the area.

"It's a way of educating (the visitors) about the environment."

She thinks homemade art is easy to achieve these days — digital cameras offer high-quality images, and the photographs on the couch beside her were printed off her home computer. "It's something you could definitely do yourself, with today's technology."

For Creal, the crucial ingredient to this kind of art is spontaneity — an openness to the beauty that surrounds us everywhere.

"Nature is just full of surprises," she says. "I guess you can create your own images, but when you think of so much that's already there... I think if you actually go out looking for photographs, you don't get them. It just happens."

"It's just about being alert, visually, to what's around you."

## Frame work

PHOTOS ARE NOW A FOCAL POINT FOR HOME DÉCOR, WRITES CHRISTOPHER HUME

Until 20 years ago, when artists started trading in their paintbrushes for cameras, photography wasn't considered art. Now it's the stuff of curators, critics, collectors and dealers around the world.

"I think it's exciting on a number of fronts," says one of those dealers, Toronto's Stephen Bulger. "The surge of activity started when contemporary artists started using photography as a means of delivery. But then people grew interested in other photographers, like Diane Arbus and Robert Frank."

"After that they started to look at work done by European experimental photographers between the two world wars. Now the market is huge."

Though prices for photographs can't match those for Old Masters, Impressionists and Post-Impressionists, one picture, by French photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson, sold recently for \$3 million (U.S.).

In other words, photography is hot.

But as Bulger explains, there's more to the printed image than meets the eye. For example, the same piece by, say, the late American landscape photogra-

pher Ansel Adams, can fetch anywhere between \$60,000 and \$600,000 (U.S.).

The critical factor is the date of the print; generally speaking, the earlier the better. Consider that an unlimited number of copies can be made from one negative, and you can see why connoisseurs prefer vintage. "A vintage print is a photograph made at the same time the negative was made," Bulger says. "A lot of people are interested in the very first photograph. It has more historical significance. Andre Kertesz's vintage prints sell for \$1 million, prints from the 1950s and '60s are \$80,000 and prints around 1980 are worth about \$40,000. But because of its reproducibility, you can always buy an original."

"Vintage prints have an authenticity to them, a patina. But if you're just starting, or working with a lower budget, you can still buy an original photograph. Each is worth its price."

And as demand grows, so does interest in photographers who never thought of themselves as artists. Arbus, for example, took pictures for books and for magazine articles, some of which she also wrote.



These pictures, by the late Canadian photographer Richard Harrington, documented Inuit life in the 1950s. With the interest in the printed image growing, collectors of art are giving the brush to paintings while keeping a keen focus on the photography market.

"Though vintage Arbus works are very hard to find — and very expensive — posthumous prints are now being made in editions of 75.

"It's a much more global market place now," Bulger continues. "When I go to art fairs, 90 per cent of the material I put on the wall in places like New York is Canadian. Fifteen years ago, I would only have put up prints by famous photographers, such as Ansel Adams and Cartier-Bresson.

"Ed Burtynsky is everywhere

these days. He overshadows everyone else in the field right now.

"As for Jeff Wall, whom I don't even consider a photographer, demand for his work is unbelievable. There are people around the world who think he's the best."

The Vancouver-based artist, whose elaborate tableaux are based on historical paintings, is currently featured in a solo exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

One of Bulger's other favourite

Canadian photographers is Richard Harrington. Though not as celebrated as some, Harrington was one of a handful of practitioners hired by the National Film Board's Still Division to document Canada.

Bulger rightly calls him "one of the great figures of Canadian photography."

When he died in 2005, he was best known for a series of portraits he produced in the 1950s that depicted native life in the Canadian Arctic. The pictures, which showed starving Inuit,



caused a national scandal. Half a century later, they have lost none of their power to enlighten, engage, as well as to disturb.

"He was a humanist, and also interested in culture," Bulger says. "He wasn't just a journalist but a social documentarian."

Bulger has organized a retrospective of Harrington's work that will run at his gallery, 1026 Queen St. W., from June 14 to July 21. It will include some of the photographer's famous Arctic pictures, as well as others taken in China and the Far East.

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