

CANADIAN

# INTERIORS

Energy Alberta  
a blossoming design scene



Images of endless summer  
from patio dining to sleeping in trees

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Trend reports from Paris and Toronto





Matthew North, of Calgary's design/build firm Housebrand, turned a disused warehouse into an elegant facility for the new home of **Heaven's Elevated Fitness**. The project, completed in the spring of 2005, offers members three floors, each with a distinct identity. The first floor evokes peace and tranquility, housing a yoga studio, massage and physio area and a juice bar. The mood is calm, floors are covered in dark cork, open spaces are divided with bamboo screens. Inset lighting is used and there are displays of meditative objects. The second floor is more classic gym utilitarian, featuring lockers and cardio, personal training and warm-up areas. It's the third floor that emphasizes the Heaven's Elevated name. Everything here is oversized: the windows are large, grand black and white photos of stormy weather, with large mirrors and a 16-foot cloud image hanging on the walls. Much of the original brickwork has been exposed, and the overall scheme utilizes high-contrast colours.

The West Edmonton Mall's **Rain Salon and Spa** offers shoppers a tranquil retreat from the hyper stimulation of the mega mall. In-house mall designer Jennifer Jordan used fluid lines, glass walls, soft lighting and a palette of varying shades of green to give the 2,650-square-foot salon a restful ambience.



The atmosphere of Edmonton's **Passatempo** wine and cocktail bar is eclectic and bohemian, its long narrow space casual yet posh, lit with candelabras and sparse Edison lighting. Antlers mounted on the wall overlook the bar's sleek Douglas fir Glulam benches and counter; various surfaces are adorned with vintage decals. Eccentric details include period molding, which runs seemingly at random, while cherub arms attached to the wall function as coat hooks. Geoff Lilje, founder of Pure Design and the Object Collection, designed the bar for Brad Lazarenko, also chef and owner of the adjacent Culina restaurant, as a place to "pass some time" before or after a meal.

The **Fruit Cup Clock** runs on two fruit "batteries:" lemons, limes, tomatoes or other fruit with high acidity. An LCD clock is wired into the fruit to create electricity through a metal/acid reaction. This "ephemeral design for sustainability" by Stuart Walker, associate dean (research and international) at the University of Calgary's graduate Faculty of Environmental Design, highlights Walker's research into component decoding in product semantics. With its benign disposable batteries, the product can be assembled and disassembled quickly with little or no waste, and the design can be altered without the need for a new purchase by simply changing the type of fruit. This and other products are highlighted in *Sustainable by Design: Explorations in Theory and Practice*, a new book by Walker to be released in July 2006 by the British publisher Earthscan.

