

# Ready for a reno?

## Highlights from the 2012 Calgary Home + Garden Show

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CALGARY HERALD

I'm a little concerned about spending time at the 2012 Calgary Home + Garden Show, on through Sunday at the BMO Centre and Corral.

Barely a year ago, I finished a major reno of my basement, complete with blood, sweat and tears — not to mention money invested, too. I'm not sure I'm ready yet to be inspired by visions of the main-floor kitchen-to-be, or the newest in floor and wall coverings.

Because I know that's what will happen. Vision, inspiration and, all too soon, a plan that will launch me into another round of renos. Perhaps I should start saving those pennies now. . . .

If you're similarly inspired by your home's potential, the show is the place to be. To make the most of your time, here are five of our highlights (among many):

### Renos — Bryan Baeumler

Fresh off Canada's Handyman Challenge and Leave it to Bryan on HGTV, Baeumler promises tips for prioritizing the process of designing and carrying out home renos. Learn from this pro, and you'll choose the renovations that maximize your home's safety and worth. Appearing Sunday.

### Decor — Alykhan Velji and Rosalyn Lazaruk

These two designers, based in Calgary and Edmonton respectively, have a wealth of expertise for putting rooms together. They'll share the top six style trends for 2012, and walk you through creating a mood board that will help guide your decor project. Appearing Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

### Furniture — Tara Jamieson

Calgary's own furniture reno expert, of Lauren Lane Decor, is appearing at the show for the first



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Interior designer Alykhan Velji sits in his living room in the basement of his home in Calgary.

time. She specializes in transforming old pieces of furniture — taking those once destined for the landfill and making them look good in your living room. Appearing Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

### Food — Corbin Tomaszeski

Be warned: Canadian chef and Dinner Party Wars food expert will be pulling participants from the audience for a live dinner party war. It promises to be both fun and full of passion for good food. Appearing Friday and Saturday. (And don't miss the Calgary food trucks that will be at the show for the first time, in Food Truck Alley.)

### Gardens — Sheldon Gessell

Growing your own food is a huge trend right now, and Gessell

## Spotlight

The 2012 Calgary Home + Garden Show runs today from noon to 9 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Today is Calgary Herald day; buy tickets online with the promo code HERALD and you'll get 2-for-1 admission today only. For online tickets, a full schedule and \$3-off admission coupons for any day, visit [calgaryhomeshow.com](http://calgaryhomeshow.com).

(who's the owner of Dirt n' Grow Wholesale and Manufacturing) offers to take you from an amateur to a pro in five easy steps. Growing food in your own home? Perfect. Appearing Friday and Saturday.

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## Rushing into marriage



ELLIE  
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**EXCLUSIVE**  
To your Calgary  
Herald newspaper



**Q:** My best friend met a guy during our vacation. She's been talking to him daily, for two months, through different social media. But we're all worried — can someone really know a person this way? He's decided to visit her for one week. He believes she's "the one." He wants to move here and live with her. She said they'd have to marry. Her parents believe their relationship isn't going to work.

She now says she wants to marry him in city hall — by eloping secretly — when he's here (happening soon), and have a big wedding with family and friends once they've saved enough money. Her friends and I think she's acting crazy and irrational. I feel saddened and hurt. She claims she values her family and friends, but this decision doesn't reflect that at all.

How do we persuade her not to get married?

— Upset

**A:** Stop making this about you and the other friends feeling "hurt," or not listened to. All this pressure adds to her reasons for wanting to succumb to the romantic image he presents. Social media can give you an idea of someone's character, if they're being honest and open. But you're all correct that she has no certainty of this.

Talk to her about the positive support you'd like to give her. Suggest she visit him after their week in her environment, so she can meet his family, friends, know how he lives, spends his time, where he works, etc. Say how this will reassure her family and all who care about her. Once you show some acceptance, she might confide her own concerns.

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Courtesy, HGTV

Bryan Baeumler, host of HGTV's new home reno series, Leave it to Bryan, will appear on Sunday.