

B.C. HOME AND GARDEN SHOW

If I had a million dollars ...

Couldn't drag yourself away from home renovation shows long enough to check out the B.C. Home and Garden Show this weekend?

Thought so. As usual, the show had a little bit of everything, from handy-dandy vegetable slicers to burly-man barbecues. There were, how-

ever, a few booths with something special to offer - here are 24 hours' of Home Show highlights.

- Robyn Stubbs, 24 hours



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Carl Isaak, son of Retroline owners Ron and Marilyn Isaak, shows off a blast-from-the-past kitchen.

Time for a soda?

A sign of the times is a trip to the past - "if it's in New York and California, it'll come here too," says Retroline owner Ron Issak (www.retroline.ca). These guys have hooked up with the companies that built the original products back in the day and custom-build the cabinets with birch plywood for a truly authentic look and feel.

But, just because it looks old doesn't mean this funky retro look comes cheap: The fridge and stove alone will run you in the range of \$8,000.

That being said, the interest in the business has been "phenomenal," especially with heritage homeowners or people with second properties, said Isaak.



- Robyn Stubbs, 24 hours

The mother of all coffee makers - this Dacor system does it all, at the touch of a button.

One lump or two?

Who needs a Starbucks when you've got the Dacor fully automatic coffee system happily brewing in your own kitchen? Growing popular with contractors looking for a high-end kitchen toy and available at Coast Wholesale Appliances, the Dacor system has a pre-plumbed option and height-adjusts to brew right into a travel mug.

On top of making regular coffee, it brews single and double espresso shots (long and short), steams milk and comes equipped with heated storage for those very important, tiny white cups.

Cost: \$4,000. At \$3 a piece at a coffee shop, you'd have to make 1,333 cappuccinos before you break even on this coffee investment.



Relaxing in real style

The masterminds behind many of the Vancouver Aquarium's unique outdoor pools are making a splash in residential backyards with their custom-made rock spa and pool designs.

With tucked-away private areas, multi-layered water "rooms," warm waterfalls, and self-cleaning features, "most

people can't believe it's a hot tub," says Raincityrock and Waterscapes creative director, Mark MacIsaac.

This is not your average spa - and not your average price.

One of these luxurious soakers will set you back \$60 to \$80 per square foot, but relaxing in its cave-inspired design is "like having a vacation in your backyard," says MacIsaac.

Did we mention they also make wine cellars?

Check it out at www.raincityrock.com.

- Robyn Stubbs, 24 hours

Raincityrock and Waterscapes stole the show with their innovative backyard spa treatment.

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