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So much to see and learn at the Seattle Home Show

By: Staff, Journal Newspapers

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Feeling the itch to get going on spring and summer home improvement projects? Find inspiration plus everything you'll need at the 2005 Seattle Home Show, debuting at the Qwest Field Event Center on Saturday, Feb. 19 and continuing through Feb. 27.

Presented by James Hardie Siding Products, the show will once again provide consumers with the opportunity to discover the latest in décor, landscaping and design as the nation's largest and oldest home show.

Show-goers will gather information and product source for home improvements, repairs or even building a new home. Displays of baths and kitchens include the latest fixtures and appliances, and many remodelers and home service providers will be on hand to consult for projects of any size.

"The Seattle Home Show offers everything from windows, doors, floors, roofing and decorating," says the show's managing director, Michael Kalian.

Idea Street returns for its third year. The only exhibit of its kind in the nation, Idea Street, presented by Jorve Roofing, features a "community" of furnished and landscaped model homes ranging from a log home to spacious ramblers. Each home's interior has been decorated and furnished by professional designers utilizing quality materials and special themes.

"The model homes on Idea Street for 2005 will highlight all the special features people are looking for," said Kalian.

The Summit, by Timberland, is one of the featured homes. This three-bedroom, three-bathroom home with a central great room concept has many special features like a morning room off the master bedroom and dedicated study/library.

Designer Pam Saffler of PCS Design has created a color palette to suit the concept of mountain lodge living with earthy green, warm gold and a variety of other complementary colors. Natural stone is used throughout the house with oak floors and sumptuous furnishings. Malone's Landscaping & Nursery designed the exterior spaces of the home.

Other homes on Idea Street include an 1,800 square-foot three bedroom home by Cascade Mountain Log Homes, a 2,428 square foot home by Palm Harbor Homes and a mini-vacation cabin and a selection of outbuildings by Aurora Quality Buildings.

Seminars provide expert help

Many attendees enjoy the free home improvement seminars that are presented each day of the show. With more than 52 seminars planned for this year, there's sure to be plenty of information to assure your project goes smoothly.

Laura Leist, a professional organizer and owner of Eliminate Chaos www.eliminatechaos.com, will help scatter-brained and clutter-hoarding homeowners eliminate the chaos in their homes in a seminar by the same name on Sunday, Feb. 20 at 1:30 p.m. Using a ten step process and real life examples such as kids rooms, garages and kitchens, Leist not only inspires others to be organized, but gives them practical tips to get started and finish strong.

"I always say, organizing is a process, not an event," Leist explains. For the procrastinator, she suggests planning to organize a room by putting it on the calendar and sticking with the date.

Those who still have trouble getting motivated, can begin with something as simple as one drawer - literally dumping it out, separating what needs to be kept from what should be tossed, then purchasing a drawer organizer for what's left.

But don't start with buying stuff, Leist warns, that's one of the two biggest mistakes people make - buying stuff hoping it will solve the problem and not staying focused are the most common hindrances. Leist works with a staff of five consultants who offer not only advice and guidance, but hands on help. They will physically help organize your garage, if needed.

"We have a process that works, and in a day they can see progress ... then apply it to other rooms," she said. "And, we're not attached to their stuff."

Joining Leist on the seminar schedule is Renee Adsitt, a paint color consultant, and founder of ColorWhiz! www.colorwhiz.com. Her seminar, entitled "Eliminate the Guesswork of Color Selection" will surely benefit those who find themselves standing in the paint aisle staring at the rainbow of paint chips, or those who fear stepping out of the old comfort zone of plain white.

"I'm the link between the job getting done and the consumers making a decision," she explained. Adsitt begins by visiting the space to be painted and assessing how her clients see color. She helps them select colors only after a process of determining what color fits the architecture of the space, the psychology of the individuals and their long-term goals.

"Most people begin by going to the store and picking out color chips." But that's actually one of the last steps, she said.

"Color is very emotional," Adsitt explains. "The most important thing is to get colors that will support you in what you want to do in that space."

Thanks to technology, ColorWhiz! clients are able to see what their home would look like as she adds color digitally to panoramic photographs.

Seminar attendees will receive an overview of how to approach color.

Adsitt co-teaches the seminar with her business partner Darylene Dennon, owner of Solid Energy, Inc. After colors are selected, Dennon steps in and completes the actual painting. During the seminar, Dennon shares her expert advice on important factors such as paint sheens and how those can serve you best.

The seminar will be held on Saturday, Feb. 19 at 3 p.m.

Seattle Home Show 2005 runs Feb. 19-27 at the Qwest Field Event Center. Show hours are: Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Monday, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Tuesday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; and Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission: \$9 adults, \$5 seniors (60+), \$3 juniors (7-15). "Too much to see - come back for free." Show visitors can register to return a second day for free courtesy of Kitchen Plus. VISA and MasterCard are accepted.

Parking for the Seattle Home Show will include the Qwest Field Event Center parking garage, Qwest Field north lot, Safeco Field parking garage as well as other lots in the area. Vehicles with four or more occupants can park for free in designated lots, courtesy of Kitchen Plus.

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