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# HOMES

AND REAL ESTATE

**TC D1**

Lynda Reeves, D9  
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A Palladian window — a large, arched window flanked by two rectangular side lights — in the Chapples' living room looks out at a marina.

## HOME & GARDEN SHOW

### Close the door on clutter

Learn how to tackle your room of shame

BY LORI FAZARI  
CanWest News Service

Professional organizer Hellen Buttigieg calls it the room of shame. It's the place where you sweep all the clutter before company comes over, where you hide the mess of things that pile up so easily around the house.

Close the door and it's out of visitors' sight — and your mind.

Even otherwise-orderly people are guilty. But the room of shame can be conquered, Buttigieg said.

Getting started will be the hardest part. Once you do, it'll be easy to keep rolling because the results are immediate and the gratification high, she said.

In Victoria, you can start Sunday by taking in Buttigieg's presentations at the Canadian Home Builders' Home & Garden Show, at Saanich Fairground. She'll give two seminars — at 12:30 and 3 p.m. — in the Poplar room.

Clutter saps your energy and ability to think clearly, Buttigieg said. It's something she notices after purging the messy environments on her HGTV show, *Neat*.

"We walk into the house and it feels different," she said. "You can breathe." Closets can be a constant source of frustration because you need to get ready every day, usually in a rush.

Buttigieg gives advice on how to purge your closets and sort what's left.

Back inside that room of shame: Maybe it's a spare bedroom or closet, the basement or the garage — wherever it is in the house, it has become the dumping ground for things you don't have a place for anywhere else, items of sentimental value or things you hold onto just in case you'll need them some day.

Buttigieg wants people who have a hard time letting go to realize the things they feel so attached to are just that. Things.

Please see CLUTTER, D2

# Much ado about the view

The beautiful landscape that lured Dallas and Len Chapple to the Saanich Peninsula 16 years ago also inspired the recent renovation of their townhome

STORY BY JOANNE HATHERLY  
PHOTOS BY RAY SMITH  
Times Colonist staff

A view is a terrible thing to waste, especially when that view takes in a marina, sailboats and the picturesque Saanich Inlet.

"It's the best feature," says Dallas Chapple of the outlook from the Saanich Peninsula townhouse she shares with husband Len Chapple, a retired television and radio broadcaster.

The Chapples returned to Canada from Seattle in 1990, looking for a waterfront home in Oak Bay. Dallas, now a realtor, says the couple wanted a water view.

"Our realtor brought us out when it was still a hole in the ground," she says. "I didn't want to live all the way out here, so I came dragging my heels all the way in, but now I wouldn't leave for anything. I love it."

As the upscale gated community's show home, the townhouse lacked nothing in charm — for its era. But as the years wore on, the Chapples decided to give their home a makeover that would express a fusion of enduring classical styles and capitalize on the views.

They enlisted Sidney-based designer Cydney Hellier Gray to blend French-bistro, New-York-loft and Hollywood-glamour couture, all to blend with the natural West Coast views outside the unit's wall of glass.

The original floor plan included a dividing wall between the living room and kitchen, while a large fireplace defined the space between the formal living room and dining room.

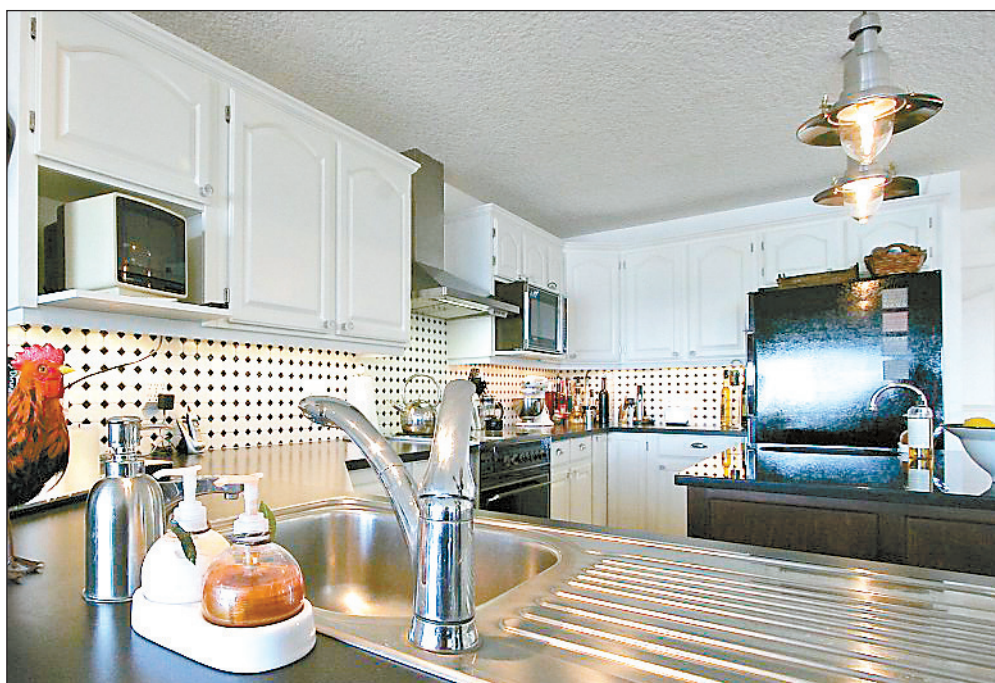
The effect was cosy, but undermined the home's best asset by framing the view into smaller dimensions.

As soon as Hellier Gray stepped into the foyer, she knew the walls would have to come tumbling down.

Please see VIEW, D2



Dallas Chapple, left, enlisted designer Cydney Hellier Gray to work on the townhouse renovation.



Above: During the renovation of the kitchen, the Chapples decided that instead of buying a new fridge to fit the decor, they would renovate the existing appliance, hauling it to an auto body shop where it was repainted.



Left: The view from the dining room window reaches out to the Malahat.



Hellen Buttigieg, host of HGTV's *Neat*, says the best way to start organizing the mess around a house is to break it down into manageable parts.

Handout photo

## HOME SHOW DETAILS

**What:** About 150 companies present products and information for all about the home and garden, as well as cooking demonstrations.

**When:** The show continues today, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Where:** Saanich Fairground, 1528 Stelly's Cross Rd., in Brentwood Bay.

**Admission:** \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors and students, free for children 12 and under.



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