

Kitchen Party



HOMES Until now, researching the best layout, appliances, finishes and furnishings for your kitchen renovation meant zig-zagging around town to get inspiration and source products. *Western Living* has packaged an insider's tour of some of Vancouver's top kitchen showrooms—Custom Millwork & Kitchen Solutions, Lonetree Kitchens & Bathrooms, Merit Kitchens, V6B Design Group and Paradigm Kitchen Design (at left)—for Saturday, June 13. Fifty fortunate passengers will explore the latest in professionally designed kitchens and meet the experts who create them, travelling in style (by limousine, with wine and gourmet tapas). Suddenly, the hurdles to assembling your own dream kitchen disappear, along with the potential traffic and parking hassles.

—Marie Belmont

Tickets \$54.70, 604-684-2787, westernliving.ca



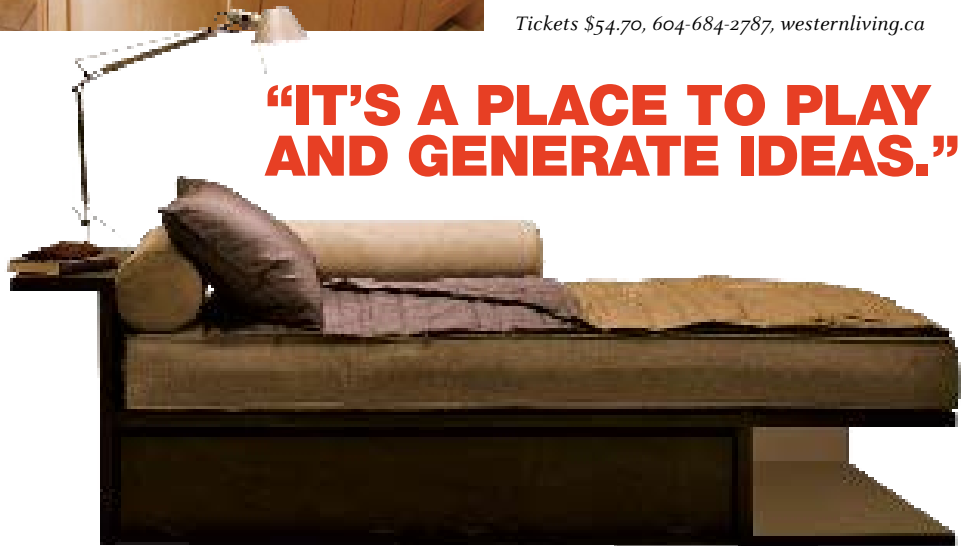
Stepback in Time

DECOR “The basic idea is that everything is nostalgic,” explains Chris Switzer of his Vancouver store Stepback. Along with his wife, Robin Muxlow, Switzer curates a careful selection of new and vintage “quality things.” Old suitcases, maps and furnishings are displayed with gallery-style care; nifty “re-cover journals” (above) make notebooks out of old novels. You can stock up on the Fruits and Passions Cucina line for your kitchen here, too.

—Emma Ruthnum

3026 W Broadway, Vancouver, stepback.ca

“IT’S A PLACE TO PLAY AND GENERATE IDEAS.”



Behind the Scenes

DESIGN The P & A furniture space, an offshoot of the work of eco-savvy Vancouver designer Shelley Penner, gives shoppers a chance to see what they ordinarily wouldn't glimpse. Located in a heritage building, it's a resource centre containing gorgeous furniture and providing a window on working designers. “It's a place

to play and generate ideas,” says the company's Nancy Grenier. The store also features small luxuries like soaps and hand towels, chosen for their eco-cred. The furniture is made in Calgary and materials are kept as local and sustainable as possible.—Emma Ruthnum
159 W Hastings St., Vancouver, 604-255-2089, pafurniture.ca