

Fall Home Show was fun, and I learned something too



EDITOR'S NOTE

As an editor, I often get asked what piques my interest and what is it that gets me out to events.

The official response I give is that it should be 'newsworthy' — meaning it will be something our readers need to know or should care about.

To be honest, it also helps if I can learn something, and even better yet, have some fun while doing it.

I got thinking about this after returning from the Fall Home show this past weekend.

This year's show, held Oct. 1 to 4 at the Better Living Center, was themed around 'Embracing Your Space,' whether it's big or small, a house or a condo.

It was an excellent starting point for a show like this where there is no shortage of ideas, whether on the show floor or seeking out some good, free advice from a designer.

Indeed, several of our columnists could be seen on centre stage including Carson Arthur giving tips on making the best use of your outdoor space; Evelyn Eshun on making the best use of small spaces; upcycling expert Leigh-Ann Allaire Perreault on how to spot a diamond in the rough at a yard sale; or Jamie Alexander, conducting "design interventions" for decorating enthusiasts and neophytes.

Lots of great advice, free and

there for the asking, but what made it also worthwhile, to be completely honest, is the fun I had.

I made it to centre stage myself as part of a media challenge organized by Fusion Paints.

At this event, I got to compete against representatives from Global, City-TV, 680 News and Hot Toronto.

The assignment: Take a plain wood crate, paint it up and add a creative touch using stencils.

It was fun listening to Jennylyn Pringle of Fusion Paints give us a 'paint pep talk' (anybody can do it, she says, all you need to be is creative), which is partly true.

First things first, the paint was very good, there was a terrific assortment of colours to choose from, it went on easily enough and looked good at first brush.

The problem had to do with my technique as I found myself racing to finish in the alloted time, and to be honest,

not very happy with the fianl result. (See photo).

So what did I learn here aside from the fact that my painting skills are limited and I should be hiring a professional for my next paint job?

Plan your time and think ahead to what you want to do, rather than just getting up there, winging it and hope for the best results, which is what I did

And no, I did not win (congrats to the guy with the coffee crate) but it was fun, and as importantly, I learned from it.



There was lots of good, free advice to be found as New Homes and Condos columnist Carson Arthur gives an audience tips for improving their garage and outdoor space.



Bigger is not always better, says New Homes and Condos columnist Evelyn Eshun as she prepares for her session called "Making Your Small Space Appear Larger."



At this year's Fall Home Show, Jennylyn Pringle from Fusion Mineral Paint (far right) challenged members of the media to show their creativity by dressing up a one-of-a-kind wooden crate.



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