

OTTAWA CITIZEN

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ROMANCE ISSUE

With Valentine's Day on the horizon and love in the air, it's time to ponder all of the possibilities.

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EGYPT CELEBRATES

Mubarak out at last, A3

Hope for future, A4

Dispatches from Egypt, B3



JOHN MOORE, GETTY IMAGES

Anti-government demonstrators celebrate in Tahrir Square upon hearing the news of the resignation of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Friday in Cairo. After 18 days of widespread protests, Mubarak, who has now left Cairo for his home in the Egyptian resort town of Sharm el-Sheik, announced he would step down.

Road to democracy could be rocky

'President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak has decided to the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces to manage the state's affairs.'OMAR SULEIMAN
Egyptian vice-president

BY STEVEN EDWARDS
military coup, Egypt's high command moved to succeed Hosni Mubarak on Friday after more than a million demonstrators took to the streets, the culmination of an 18-day uprising in the Arab world's most populous country.

The news whipped rapidly across Cairo, sparking an eruption of joy and joyous chants of "We the people

have overthrown the regime!"
vision after an extraordinary national outpouring of rage brought vast crowds into the streets across the country.

"President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak has decided to leave the post of president of the republic and has tasked the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces to manage the state's affairs," Suleiman said.

In Washington, President Barack Obama's new man in the strongman's shoes is Field Marshal Mohammed Hussein Tantawi, chairman of the military council and a 75-year-old veteran who has always been considered a close Mubarak ally.

The statement appeared to bring an end to constitutional rule in Egypt and invest power in a group of generals representing a military

that has long been the power behind day retreat at Sharm el-Sheikh, his ruling party said.

As news spread, cries of "Allahu Akbar" — God is greatest! — and howls of victory rang out across the capital, firecrackers exploded, dancing broke out and women ululated their joy.

See DEMOCRACY on page A2

Bollywood by the Rideau

BY DON BUTLER

When Wilbur Sargunraj — billed as India's first YouTube star — came to Ottawa last Sunday, he gamely donned ice skates for the first time and sunk his teeth into his first Beavertail.

But the 33-year-old Internet sensation also left something memorable behind: an infectious music video called The Canada Song, rambunctiously

Watch Wilbur Sargunraj's The Canada Song video at

OTTAWACITIZEN.COM

recorded last weekend at such landmark sites as Parliament Hill, the ByWard Market and the Rideau Canal Skateway.

The four-minute music video, set to a propulsive Bollywood beat, was released on YouTube and other sites Wednesday and had already

been viewed more than 3,000 times by Friday afternoon.

It celebrates the virtues of Canada and particularly Ottawa.

Sargunraj, sporting shades and a goatee, sings the praises of Beavertails and the "first-class super nice" canal skateway — even though his attempts at skating were less than triumphant.

See VIDEO on page A8



CITIZEN PHOTO

Wilbur Sargunraj, 'India's First YouTube Star,' released The Canada Song on the website. The four-minute music video, accompanied by a Bollywood beat, was recorded last weekend after he visited Ottawa landmarks such as Parliament Hill and the Rideau Canal Skateway. It had been viewed more than 3,000 times by Friday.

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Cloudy with flurries.
High -4, low -15.
Sunrise: 7:09 a.m.
Sunset: 5:25 p.m.
SEE PAGE H8

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HOMES

BY DESIGN DANIEL DROLET

Four scorching trends

Think about bling, black, bespoke and all things British

TORONTO What's hot in interior design this year? Last week's Interior Design Show in Toronto highlighted four scorching trends:

1. BLING

The show was awash in glitter and gleam. Crystals, often Swarovski, were embedded in bathroom fixtures, sprinkled on window blinds and wallpaper, sparkling as ember beds in gas fireplaces and twinkling as buttons in upholstered furniture. What wasn't decorated with crystals was shiny, as in gleaming glass kitchen counters, polished surfaces and flashy accessories.

"We treat faucets like jewelry," says Robert Calabrese of Aquabross (aquabross.com), a Concord, Ont.-based distributor whose new line of bathroom faucets called AquaCristal brings bling to the bathroom. Calabrese says his company's products are available in Ottawa at Preston Hardware.

Sun Glow Window Coverings of Canada (mysunglow.com) is adding Swarovski trim and pulls to some of its window blinds for what the company calls "delicate shimmer."

"It's a fun decorative element," says Sun Glow's Diane Nevins of the crystal, adding that the bling is particularly popular with young people — "a generation of bling and everything that sparkles."

2. BLACK

Black is still a big neutral. IKEA, for example, cast aside its Swedish reserve and presented an all-black kitchen that positively radiated edge: black counters, cupboards, sinks, faucets, pots, pans and backsplashes, even a black stove (well, anthracite, actually).

"Black is sexy and cosy," says IKEA's Andrea Mills, explaining that with its black kitchen, IKEA was trying to "kick it up a notch and show the maturity of IKEA's design."

Anna Portanova of Frini Furniture in Woodbridge, Ont., says black speaks to glamour, which is coming to the fore as we shake off our recent economic funk. It is also — along with white and grey — part of a palette of neutrals that can be used to show off textures, geometric patterns and shapes, and be a base for bursts of colour.

Things may be black, but they are often shiny, or accompanied by gleaming mir-



IKEA's booth was a 980-square-foot, dramatic and sexy all-black kitchen. The showstopper was a 25-foot-long island topped with leathered granite.

rors, metals, Plexiglas and acrylics. (See above under Trends, Bling).

3. BESPOKE

The word means custom made, and it speaks to the sense of luxury that is finding its way back into design.

Paul Smith of Kravet Canada (kravetcanada.com), a firm that sells fabrics and furnishings, talked of "quiet sophistication and understated elegance" in the new fabric designs, which include linens, silks and ethnic motifs.

He also talked of a return to colours, including lilac, mauve, and strong greens and blues.

Strong colours were in evidence at Elte (www.elte.com/Furniture), a Toronto furnishings company whose Second Life rugs combine the green mantra of 'reduce, reuse' with cutting-edge appeal and unique products.

Second Life rugs are Persian carpets that are 40 to 80 years old, explains Elte's Ken Metrick. The carpets are stripped of their initial colour and redyed in vibrant contemporary hues.

Metrick explains that people are buying neutral furniture and using the carpets to give their rooms a colour pop.

As for carpets that are too worn to be reused in whole, they get cut up and the pieces are sewn into patchwork carpets and redyed.

Also very distinctive — and high-end — were gorgeous textured wallpapers by Roya Manufacturing and Supply Canada (royacanada.com). Roya's Prime Walls wallcoverings (primewalls.com) includes its Shardana collection featuring embossed metallic surfaces and

hand-placed beads. (Did I mention shine was a trend?)

4. BRITISH

One of the most visited collections at the show was of British-inspired furniture from UpCountry, a furniture store at 310 King St. E. in Toronto (upcountry.com). A traditional-looking sofa upholstered to render a Union Jack attracted a lot of attention — and so did travel trunks with the same design.

UpCountry's Andrew Ward says the wedding this April of Prince William and Kate Middleton is stirring up interest in all things British.

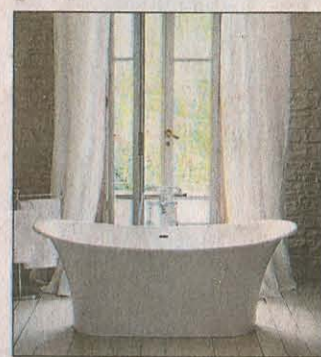
There was a vintage feel to the British collection, and it made use of several reclaimed or repurposed pieces. (Repurposed or reused pieces were everywhere at the show).

Like so much else, the UpCountry collection — however traditional in feel — was set off by shimmering crystal lamps.

That British appeal wasn't limited to the living room: Victoria + Albert (vanda.com) is a British company that was in Toronto to present a new line of luxury bathtubs and sinks. Made of South African limestone, the tubs and sinks are actually a mix of powdered rock and resin crafted in slim, fluid forms. The company's Jonathan Carter says the rock and resin mixture is naturally warm to the touch and as a result these sleek bathtubs (available in Ottawa through Boone Plumbing and Preston Hardware) keep their heat longer.

After a weekend at the show, a nice hot bath sounded like a fine idea.

Daniel Drolet is an Ottawa writer.



Victoria + Albert's Toulouse Tub is a deep, double-ended bath with a streamlined built-in overflow.



A slipper tub for the 21st century, Victoria + Albert's Amalfi features an extended backrest that provides full support for a luxurious soak.



Sun Glow Window Covering Products of Canada Ltd. go for the sparkle with their shade pulls, and boast a 'slow-glide roll-up mechanism.'



UpCountry's traditional-looking sofa upholstered to render a Union Jack attracted a lot of attention.

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What you'll pay for a mortgage

This chart compares rates for residential first mortgages at a sampling of local companies this week. Figures were compiled Feb. 9 at 2 p.m., by CANNEX Financial Exchanges Limited.

LENDER	6 mos. open	6 mos.	1-year open	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years
Alterra Bank	6.300	4.400	6.300	2.950	3.600	3.850	4.040	4.140
BMO Bank of Montreal	6.300	4.450	6.300	3.500	3.750	4.350	5.140	5.440
Bank of Nova Scotia	6.450	4.550	6.500	4.300	4.050	4.350	5.140	5.390
Bridgewater Bank	-	-	-	5.990	5.750	3.590	-	3.990
CIBC Mortgages	6.700	4.450	6.350	3.500	3.750	4.350	5.140	5.440
Canadian Western Bank	6.300	4.450	6.350	3.350	3.600	4.150	4.940	5.190
HSBC Bank Canada	6.200	4.450	6.350	3.500	3.750	4.350	5.140	5.440
ICICI Bank Canada	-	-	-	3.050	3.550	3.890	4.100	3.990
ING Direct	-	-	-	2.950	3.400	3.890	4.090	4.240
Laurentian Bank Canada	6.700	3.950	6.700	3.500	3.750	4.350	5.140	5.440
Manulife Bank	-	4.400	3.800	2.800	3.300	3.700	3.850	4.000
National Bank	6.700	4.450	6.300	3.500	3.750	4.350	5.140	5.440
President's Choice Fin'l	-	6.040	-	2.900	3.300	3.640	3.840	3.940
Royal Bank of Canada	6.300	4.450	6.300	3.500	3.750	4.350	5.140	5.440
TD Canada Trust	-	4.450	6.500	3.500	3.750	4.350	5.140	5.440
AGF Trust	-	4.650	-	2.800	3.200	3.600	3.890	3.690
Concentra Financial	6.700	4.450	6.450	3.500	3.750	4.350	5.140	5.440
Equitable Trust	6.300	-	6.300	3.500	3.750	4.350	5.140	5.440
FirstLine Mortgage	-	4.750	-	3.200	3.500	3.900	4.190	4.290
Investors Group Trust	6.500	4.550	6.500	3.500	3.750	4.350	5.140	5.440
ResMor Trust	-	-	-	3.890	-	3.590	-	4.240
London Life	6.500	4.550	6.500	3.500	3.750	4.350	5.140	5.440
Alterra Savings	6.300	4.400	6.300	2.950	3.600	3.850	4.040	4.140
Caisse Desjardins	6.700	3.750	6.600	3.490	3.750	4.250	4.940	5.190
Comtech Credit Union	8.400	6.600	9.000	2.750	3.490	3.590	3.690	3.890
Your Credit Union	6.450	-	6.450	3.500	3.700	4.200	3.890	3.790
First National Financial	-	4.450	-	2.950	3.350	3.800	4.090	4.140
Macquarie Financial Ltd.	-	-	-	3.000	-	3.600	-	4.240
Dominion Lending Centres	6.450	3.750	6.500	2.640	3.200	3.390	3.790	3.790
G.R. Gauthier Financial	6.550	-	7.000	2.650	2.990	3.490	3.750	3.790
MortgageBrokerOttawa.com	3.800	4.250	3.800	2.500	3.100	3.350	3.690	3.890
MortgageCentreOttawa.com	3.800	4.250	-	2.500	3.100	3.350	3.690	3.890
Ottawa-Carleton Mortgage	-	3.950	-	2.540	3.200	3.350	3.790	3.740
Verico Capital Mortgage	-	3.950	-	2.640	3.150	3.350	3.790	3.590
Verico Lozinski Mortgage	6.550	4.450	6.450	2.750	3.150	3.390	3.740	3.690