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in Islamorada, Fla.

Register for chance at dream home

You can register daily through Feb. 19 for a chance at this year's HGTV Dream Home in Islamorada, Fla. The colorful, tropical style home overlooks Florida Bay -- and there's an entire room dedicated to fishing. In addition to the 3,500-square-foot house, the grand prize includes a 2008 GMC Yukon Hybrid. The 2006 dream home, you might remember, overlooked Lake Lure in the N.C. mountains. For an online tour of the 2008 Dream Home, or to register, visit www.hgtv.com. The winner will be announced in March. -- Allen Norwood

greensboro company

Protect yourself from a scalding

Here's a quick way to protect kids and seniors -- and everybody else -- from accidental burns from hot water in sinks, tubs and showers. HotStop anti-scald faucets, tub spouts and shower heads automatically shut the water off when the water temperature gets too high. Then, when the water is adjusted and cools, the flow starts automatically. HotStop products are from a Greensboro company, American Valve, and are available at Lowe's. Products are UL approved, and install without special tools. Priced from \$24 to \$39. Information: www.h2otstop.com. -- Allen Norwood

sponges and cloths

Cleaning gear with European style

Twist cleaning cloths and sponges blend stylish European design with **biodegradable**, environmentally friendly materials. The products include the Euro **Sponge** No. 10 (\$1.99 apiece), the anti-bacterial Loofah **Sponge** No. 50 (\$4.99 for two), and the Euro Cloth No. 20 (\$3.99 for three) that offers the absorbency of a paper towel and the reusability of a **sponge**. What's more, makers say, packages can be converted into little bird feeders. Available in Charlotte at Talley's and Home Economist; for information and other retailers, visit www.twistclean.com. -- Allen Norwood

from Adrienne Chinn

Book has 180 interior design plans

Who wouldn't like to have an interior designer pick out the colors, fabrics and flooring for your rooms? Adrienne Chinn essentially does that in "The Home Decorator's Color & Texture Bible" (Firefly Books, \$29.95). Chinn has compiled 180 decorating schemes, each including paint colors, specific fabrics and flooring choices that work together and evoke a certain mood. They're arranged according to flooring type, because Chinn believes it's most effective to work from the ground up. For more adventurous types, she also provides brief guidance for pulling the elements together yourself. The volume is a hardcover, wire-bound book. -- Akron Beacon Journal

Got photos? Think outside the frame

Frames are fine, but there are lots of other ways to show off your favorite photos, especially in today's digital age.

The January issue of Martha Stewart Living provides examples:

Make an accordion-style gallery, perfect for display on a buffet or room divider. Paint the edges of 5-by-7-inch art boards, then use decoupage glue to attach one photo to one side of each board. Link the boards with small hinges.

Size a photo to fit in the bottom of a vintage tray. A glazier can cut a piece of glass to fit atop the photo and protect the image. These trays look stylish holding jewelry on the vanity table or drinks when entertaining.

Dress up a plain clock by converting its face into a photo. Pick the clock carefully, because you'll have to partly disassemble it, remove the face, trace around the face onto the photo, cut out the photo, tape it onto the face and reassemble the clock. -- McClatchy Newspapers

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