

Contest for free home

Continued from page 5C assistance loans to qualified first-time borrowers. You don't have to purchase one of their sponsored properties to take advantage of their unbelievable low interest rates and Mortgage Family programs.

Remember, the primary goal of the CMHP organization and the home giveaway

program is to help all participants understand and realize their homeownership potential.

If you want more information about the home giveaway contest, contact your local Realtor or a CMHP counselor at (704) 377-HOME or via www.cmhp.org online. The Charlotte-Meck-

lenburg Housing Partnership, Inc believes that "becoming a homeowner takes a plan of action. CMHP is here to help you put that plan together."

Only one home will be awarded to one lucky family, but many applicants will gain a world of home buying knowledge from the CMHP home buying counseling and

training education.

The 2004 Home Giveaway is a win-win situation for all first-time potential homebuyers. If you're eligible, go for it!

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PHOTO/ARA CONTENT

A history lesson in wall glass

ARTICLE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

From square-shaped vases to glass cones, wall glass is being used to bring botanicals back into the home. Uniquely crafted to house everything from fresh cut florals to aromatherapy candles, these hanging glass ornaments can be mounted on the wall, suspended from the ceiling (ideally in front of a window or over a table) or placed on a windowsill.

• Victorian influence

The idea of wall glass can be traced back to the 1800s and the days of horse-drawn wagons and indoor terrariums. Wealthier homeowners, in particular, used hanging glass vessels throughout the home; collecting and displaying botanicals from regions afar was fashionable home décor at the time. With the emergence of personal greenhouses, many homeowners started harvesting their own florals, and then hanging glass vases were used to force new bulbs and grow roots on new cuttings. "This love of botanicals brought about the emergence of wall glass," says Gary Babcock, vice president of fashion and merchandising for Arhaus Furniture. "The trend is purely Victorian, adding warmth to the home with a bit of the outdoors." Similar vases were also used to decorate many horse-drawn wagons in processions — sometimes even funerals. They were fastened to the sides of the procession wagon. "This tradition carried over to modern day as these ornaments came to be called hearse vases," says Babcock. Today, hanging vases are used in similar ceremonial fashions — hung from church pews during weddings and used to adorn the home with everything from tulips to assorted greenery. * Different shapes and sizes From waffle cones to perfect squares, wall glass is available in a variety of shapes and sizes. Arhaus' 25 store locations carry the company's beautifully crafted chunky and rustic-looking hanging glass collections including Hang Squares, Jug Vases and Wall Cones. "Each of our glass ornaments is extremely versatile and can be hung on the wall, from the ceiling or left free-standing," says Babcock. Freestanding vases are modeled after rooting vessels, which were used to start bulbs in the off-season.

• Hand-crafted from recycled glass

Arhaus' wall glass is a top-selling accessory across the country for the retailer.

"It is the newest concept to emerge in the accessories market and has consumers scrambling to get their hands on every piece," says

Stephanie Voss, director of marketing at Arhaus Furniture. The retailer's Hang Square Vases have been the retailer's most popular accessory for some time. Wall glass from Arhaus is hand-blown — each with its own unique characteristics — exclusively for the retailer by glass artisans. Because they

are mouth blown, every piece in the company's collection is different.

"Some of our glass pieces have more bubbles than others, and it's all because they're hand- or mouth-blown and cooled differently," says Babcock. "Our collection is characteristically chunky and rustic. This adds

to the overall uniqueness of each piece." Babcock also points out that the retailer's glass products are typically clear, but sometimes have color variations because Arhaus uses recycled glass to create its wall glass product line. Therefore, each product may take on different hues during the process.

Easy decorating to welcome spring

Continued from page 5C

winter from your home with some redecorating projects that will bring spring inside.

"You don't have to buy expensive new furniture or spend hours repainting to give your home a fresh spring look," says Sandy Moran of Perfect Glue, a consumer line of adhesives from the Liquid Nails brand. "Small projects are an easy way to perk up your home."

No matter what your project, it pays to have the right materials available. Before you get started, make sure you have the basics including a good pair of scissors, several grades of sandpaper, a tape measure and versatile household glues.

"It's very important that you select the right kind of glue for a project," says Moran, who explains that choosing the correct glue for repairs and projects can often be confusing because different surfaces require different bonding agents. "You have to consider the materials you will be bonding, how long it will take the glue to dry, and whether the project is in a wet or dry environment," she cautions.

In order to choose the right glue, identify what the two surface materials are that will need to be bonded, and whether the project involves repositioning or instant bonding. Perfect Glue's Web site provides a surface matching system chart that will tell you which glue is the best for your particular project. Just choose the two materials you are working with, and the matching system will make a recommendation. Once you have the basic materials ready to go, there are all kinds of things you can do to spruce up your home. Here are a couple of suggestions that require only a few typical items you have around the house already, along with some fresh flowers or herbs.

Spring serving tray and vase

You can make an ordinary get-together a spring celebration with this decorative serving tray and vase. Here's what you'll need: Perfect Glue 3 (2 part epoxy) 2 serving dishes that are the same shape, one larger than the other sandpaper fresh flowers water Thoroughly wash and dry serving dishes.

Using sandpaper, roughen the bottom surface of the smaller dish to provide optimal adhesion for the next step. Wipe off any residual dust. Mix Perfect Glue 3 according to package directions. Spread a small amount all around bottom rim of the smaller serving dish. Place inside the larger dish and put pressure on the smaller dish, until epoxy sets (3 to 5 minutes). Allow to cure for 24 hours before using.

For usage, fill the channel between the dishes with water and place cut flowers in the channel. Fill the middle dish with desserts, Easter eggs or candy for a decorative centerpiece that is sure to get attention.

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