

BY THE NUM8ERS

35

The percentage of Western Canadians aged 18 to 24 when they bought their first home.

12

The percentage who said they bought their first home because they were getting married.

72

Nearly three quarters of those surveyed said their first home was a single-family house, not a condo.

31

The percentage who felt buying a home was more expensive than they realized.

Source: TD Canada Trust

Room with  
A VIEW

# Great room paints a thousand pictures

MARTY HOPE  
CALGARY HERALD

Painter Paul Van Ginkel works hard at his job, but he's quick to admit he still has much to learn about art.

Best known for the western themes he brings to his paintings, the 49-year-old artist ([www.PaulVanGinkel.com](http://www.PaulVanGinkel.com))

has received many awards and distinctions for his work.

They include four Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Best of Show awards.

A fine-art painter, Van Ginkel has been specializing in western themes since 1990.

Born in St. Boniface, Man., he moved with his family to Calgary in 1973. In search of change and new stimulation,

he moved to Vancouver in 1996, returning to Calgary in 2001.

Prior to earning a Master of Fine Arts degree from Syracuse University in New York, he was educated at the Alberta College of Art in Calgary.

He is a member of the Oil Painters of America and was awarded the commis-

sion to paint the 2007 Calgary Exhibition and Stampede poster.

The home he, his wife Kristin, and soon-to-be four-year-old daughter, Isabella, live in faces west, providing spectacular mountain views.

Called Casa Van Ginkel, the home is a "tribute to the Spanish way of life" the couple loves, he says.

It is also where Van Ginkel pursues his career, spending his working hours in a modern, two-storey studio.

**Question:** Which is your favourite room?

**Answer:** The main floor great room.

Our great room essentially encompasses the kitchen, dining room and living room.

However, our focus is the living room because from there, we can enjoy the entire room most effectively.

**Question:** Why?

**Answer:** Because it's large, has a warm and welcoming ambience, is elegant and eclectic in its decor and showcases our breathtaking mountain view.

**Question:** Who designed it?

**Answer:** Kristin designed it. She worked in Calgary as a commercial architect for 20 years be-



Leah Hennel, Calgary Herald

Paul and Kristin Van Ginkel in the great room — their favourite room in the home.

fore retiring to become a stay-at-home mom.

**Question:** What did you want and need in the room?

**Answer:** We wanted the room to be our feature living space and showcase our home furnishings and art. We needed enough square footage (and ceiling height) to accommodate our heavy furniture, heroic fireplace, abundant use of woodwork, and to provide an appropriate platform to view the majestic mountains.

**Question:** What makes the room special?

**Answer:** It currently reflects the personality and passions of Kristin and me.

**Question:** Do you think of it as your room?

**Answer:** I feel the room belongs to whoever occupies it. We want our guests to feel as connected to it as we do.



Calgary Herald Archive

The room has an ironstone fireplace with a petrified wood mantel.

**Question:** If you were to do it over again, would you change anything in the room?

**Answer:** We wouldn't change one thing.



Calgary Herald Archive  
An antique door in the great room.



Calgary Herald Archive  
The 2007 Stampede poster designed by Paul Van Ginkel.



All acreages are not created equal.

[www.springbankcreek.ca](http://www.springbankcreek.ca)



A LICENSED ALBERTA BROKERAGE

Springbank Creek understands that there are many reasons you'd love to live in Springbank. But unrelenting yard maintenance, water and septic issues, and barbed wire fences probably aren't among them. That's why we designed this one-of-a-kind community with expansive open green spaces, plenty of trails, manageable lot sizes and a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment system that eliminates the need for costly, individual septic fields. Experience acreage living as it was meant to be: refined, restorative and decidedly relaxing. **Have a question? Visit our website or call 403-261-5828.**

This is not an Offer for Sale. An Offer for Sale can only be made by Purchase Agreement and accompanying Disclosure Documentation available from Devonian Properties Inc.