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HOMEFASHION 

HAVE YOU HEARD THE BUZZ about the DIY mag called ReadyMade? It features all kinds of ingenious projects, and has gathered something of a cult following. You can find it at many Chapters and Indigo stores. Metro Vancouver News Services

READYMADE HAS ALSO collected an excellent group of bloggers (including indie gardening guru Cayla Trail), so check out the mag's website at readymademag.com. Metro Vancouver News Services

Longing for a sleeker electronic setup

URBAN dweller.

CARLYN YANDLE
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Seems like everyone's noticing the beauty in form after a winter of soggy semi-hibernation.

We're no longer cowering under dark umbrellas but looking up at those bloomin' crazy cup-and-saucer magnolia trees along side streets and the riot of cherry blossoms at the Burrard SkyTrain station that almost make up for the overloaded transit system. (I said almost.)

With all that colour and texture exploding outdoors, my indoors feels dull and congested in comparison. The place hangs heavy with newspapers and computer cables and all the other beige bits that make up my nest.

That ol' urge for a purge is coming on strong, beginning with that mess behind the tired, hulking pine armoire that I seemed doomed to live with.

The bulk of TV is starting to get to me, and for the first time in my life I find myself jonesing

for the latest high-end electronic innovation: the wall-mounted flat panel TV. (No surprise — stats show this is the one area of electronics consumption led by women.)

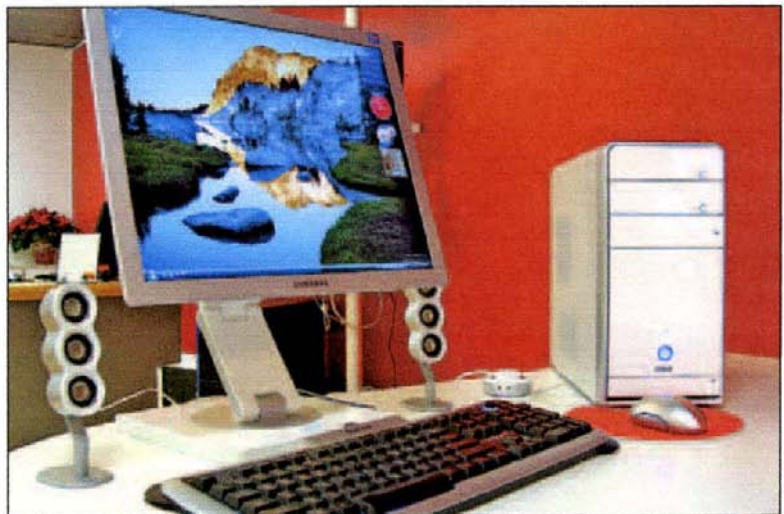
The "mini" stereo, purchased about five minutes after cassette tapes became obsolete, is jammed in there with the DVD player and the ugly printer/scanner/copier.

Naturally the armoire doors are always open, which defeats the whole purpose of having doors in the first place, so the major focal point in my living room is messy electronic entrails of wire and cables, piles of DVDs and paper.

An archeological dig through the debris could unearth my old Cure and New Order tapes, although I'm not curious enough to bother, so I spend a lot of time closing the doors, then opening the doors to play a CD, then closing the doors, then opening the doors to watch House, then closing, then opening...

I curse this era in history, when an affordable 1,800-square-foot Vancouver condo is sheer fantasy but the electronics are space hogs.

The future holds the sleek,



A new Cambie-area store is answering the demand for style-conscious electronics.

wireless promise of a tidy command-centre keyboard and a picture-frame screen that serves both as monitor and TV, all music and video downloaded on demand.

Until that uncluttered future becomes reality, the best I can do

is find that comfy compromise between form and function. New stores like Kube at Cambie and West 13th, www.kubecomputers.com, are answering that need, with functional electronics pretty enough to have out in the open.

At least that would take care of the need for the massive, double-fridge-sized "entertainment unit" armoire.

Carlyn Yandle is a Vancouver journalist with her own room-planning business, Home Networks (www.homenetworks.com). She tweets on urban-home issues every Thursday in Metro.

KUBE COMPUTERS