



# HOLMES

March/April 2010

THE MAGAZINE TO MAKE IT RIGHT.

## Before & After

Best kitchen and bath renovations

## PAINT

- TOP TRENDS
- GREEN UPDATE
- HIRING HOW-TO

IS YOUR WATER SAFE?  
WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

THE EXPERTS  
YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

COOL TOOLS  
FOR PROS

MOULD  
SOLUTIONS FOR  
YOUR HOME

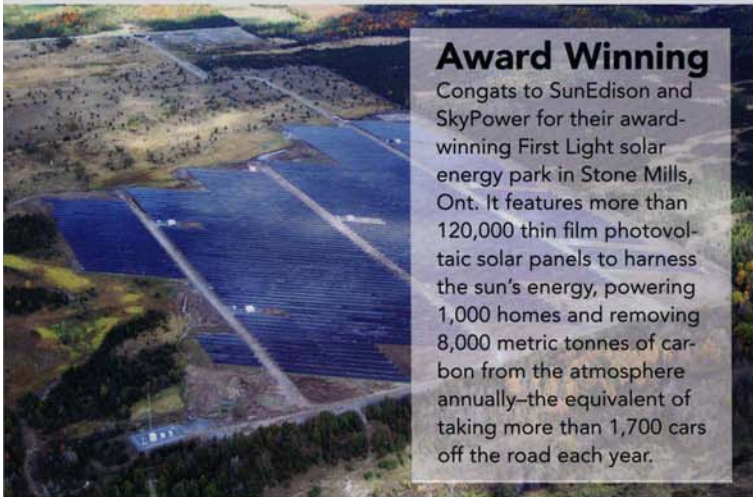
# SPECIAL

KITCHEN AND BATH ISSUE  
floors • fixtures • appliances + more!

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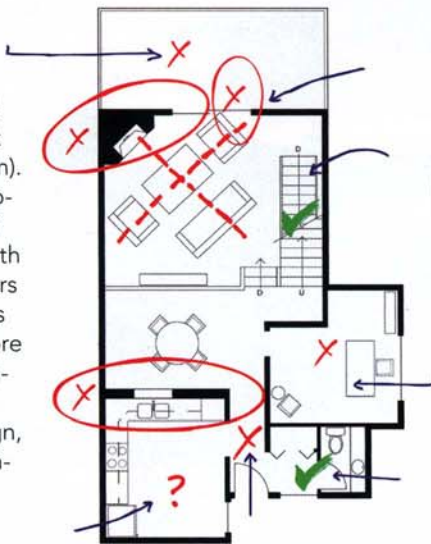


### Award Winning

Congrats to SunEdison and SkyPower for their award-winning First Light solar energy park in Stone Mills, Ont. It features more than 120,000 thin film photovoltaic solar panels to harness the sun's energy, powering 1,000 homes and removing 8,000 metric tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere annually—the equivalent of taking more than 1,700 cars off the road each year.

### DESIGN CHALLENGE

Test your green skills at The Slow Home Project ([www.theslowhome.com](http://www.theslowhome.com)). The Calgary-based website posts floor plans of homes from across North America and asks visitors to recommend changes that will make them more livable and environmentally friendly using the principles of slow design, which promotes sustainability and renovation over new builds.



### Clean Air

For a natural way to clean the air of pollutants, look to houseplants. Researchers at the University of Georgia have identified five super-plants—the purple waffle plant, English ivy, variegated wax plant, asparagus fern and purple heart plant—that can clean the air of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) like benzene, toluene and octane. Easily grown in a home or an office environment, these plants were found to be the top five of 28 plants studied for their ability to remove VOCs from indoor air, which can be 100 times more polluted than outdoor air.

### CHILD'S PLAY

Jaga Climate Systems' Play is a new radiator specifically designed for schools, nurseries, daycares and kids' bedrooms. Featuring a rounded shell that's always cool to the touch, it protects curious fingers and guarantees energy savings and higher-efficiency heat output thanks to its unique technology that operates on lower water temperatures and uses less water than conventional radiators. [www.jaga-canada.com](http://www.jaga-canada.com)



**TERRACYCLE**  
Natural All Purpose Cleaner  
Non-Toxic  
Biodegradable  
Environmentally Friendly

**GREEN STARS**  
Canadian company TerraCycle has united with global partners to turn everyday trash into useful items for the home. The result is an all-purpose house cleanser made of pop bottles and a trash can made of computer plastics and office equipment waste. So far, TerraCycle has diverted more than one billion units of trash from landfills. [www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net)

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
SINCE APRIL 2009, AN AVERAGE OF MORE THAN 21,000 HOMEOWNERS A MONTH HAVE HAD PRE-RETROFIT ENERGY EVALUATIONS COMPLETED—AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 75 PERCENT FROM APRIL 2008