

Home, Lawn & Garden

Affordable luxury flooring

Who says you have to pay a lot for that luxury floor featured in all of those high-end decorating magazines? Don't believe it!

Today's technology affords us the benefit of getting the floor we want at a fraction of the price. Let me introduce to you a bold new direction in laminate floors.

First - What is a LAMINATE floor?

A laminate floor, basically, is an underlayer of high-density fibreboard (HDF), providing excellent structural stability. The underlayer is bonded with a photograph - yes photograph! - of the natural material being simulated. The surface is treated with a special finish for superior stain, scratch and moisture resistance.

When laminates first came on the scene in the late 80s for both counter tops and floors, they were an instant hit. Strong, durable and easy to clean, they were great for active lifestyles. The only drawback was an aesthetic one - laminates back then tended to look and feel ... well, like a laminate.

Bold, new directions in LAMINATE

Two decades of engineering technology have since pro-

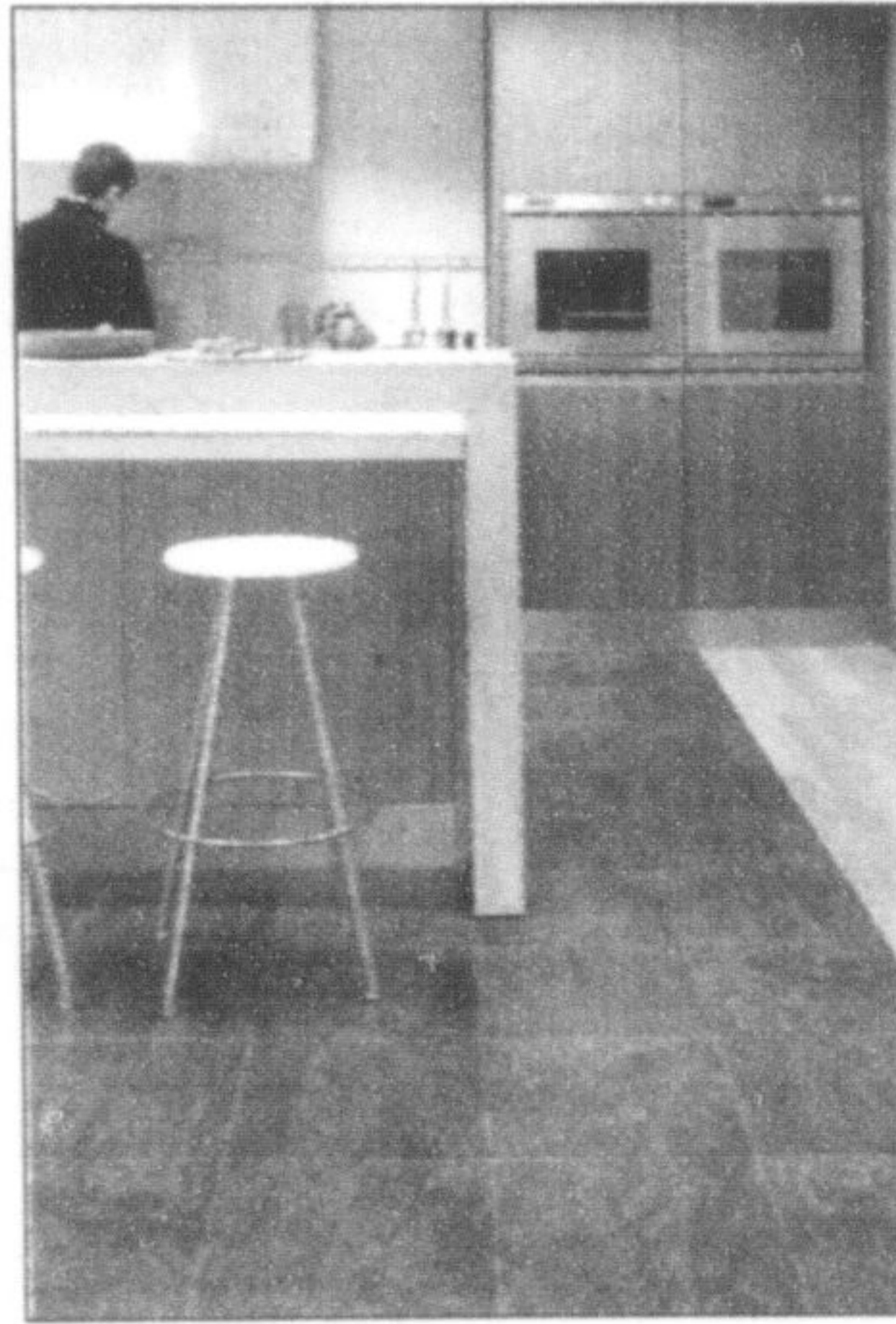
duced a new generation of laminates that have the look of natural wood and stone, with all of the luxury features of a high-end floor. Adding to the look of authenticity are pattern-match embossing, natural matte finishes and unique plank or tile sizing. The natural-looking results are quite amazing.

From hand-scraped rustic WOOD to elegant SLATE

Canadian flooring company TORLYS (www.torlys.com) recently introduced a magnificent, 15-inch slate-tile laminate called STEPS Quadra Slate, in four rich colours including the one shown. It's called "Prato". As you run your hand across this floor, you can actually feel the soft, natural ridges of the slate embossing.

Cheryl Grant is a Canadian design and décor consultant who works with leading North American companies in the home furnishing industry.

- News Canada



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Appealing to the eye and comfortable under foot, new STEPS Quadra Slate is the most perfect alternative to real slate tiles.

TERRA Trends

GREENHOUSES

Fall in Love with Planting

Don't put that garden shovel away just yet fall is the best time to plant. Not to mention the most important time of the year for fertilizing cool-season grass lawns. Our garden centres have a great selection in the fall and most of them are good-sized plants with a full season of growth behind them.

Start this weekend and do a little something each week as an ongoing project. Many garden centres are winding down this time of year but TERRA is bringing in fresh stock for fall planting to support this trend.

Plants planted in the fall benefit from cooler air temperatures, not to mention soil temperatures still warm enough to encourage good root growth. After a winter of dormancy, fall-planted trees and shrubs practically shoot out of the soil the following spring.

Planting in the fall ensures your plants get off to the best possible start.

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The new, unique STEPS Eligna Country Surface emulates the look of wood-plank floors that were once hand-scraped by craftsmen. The floors have a top wear surface that has undulating layers of differing heights and colour saturation, emulating differing levels of wear. The floor shown is Wild Maple Natural. Laminate floors offer maximum design value - a near-perfect, natural floor for less than half the price of the real thing! So if you're in the market for new flooring, you owe it to yourself to look into laminates - one of the hottest "natural" flooring products on the market today.

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