

leave the towels, steal

WITH THE RISE OF HOTEL CHIC AND—OBSERVE, PLEASE—A WAVE OF CHIC WESTERN CANADIAN HOTELS, SUDDENLY THERE'S MORE TO TAKE HOME THAN THE TOILETRIES.



the look

BY JANET COLLINS

DANA BUDNYK'S TWO-STOREY STARTER HOME may be situated in the Tuscany neighbourhood of Calgary's northwest quadrant, but it is quickly becoming a model of a chic hotel. "I used the Metterra Hotel in Edmonton as my inspiration," says Budnyk, a frequent Met visitor. "The hotel feels like home to me, so why not incorporate its design into my own?" A pharmaceutical company employee, Budnyk is on the road 75 percent of the time and has become something of a connoisseur of hotel design. "I like the dark brown wood," says Budnyk, "and the combination of brushed- and

polished-metal finishes. The look is fresh but not so trendy that you need to wear designer-label clothes to feel comfortable walking in the door. It has a timelessness about it. I don't want to have to redo the look of my home every couple of years, so incorporating a similar style in my residence seems to make good sense."

Budnyk's experience illustrates one of the most important trends in resi-

dential design—the rise of what is sometimes called hotel chic or the five-star look. It also points out another trend, one that sees people choosing where they stay based on the aesthetics of the room they expect to stay in. Some even think of a night in a hotel as valuable research with the added benefit of a mini holiday. It's a way to see what designs and styles work or don't.

Chances are you won't jump at the industrial-strength broadloom but many features of hotel design do lend themselves to a private home. "The platform beds are very popular in residential design right now," says Pat Roth of Edmonton-based Dingman Design Group, interior designer for the Metterra on Whyte Hotel. "The library wall, bedroom suite and water wall are other features that guests ask about. They want to know where they can get the same thing."

The ability to visualize hotel décor in the home is aided by a growing trend toward



A guest room in Edmonton's Metterra on Whyte Hotel, soon to be replicated in a home in Calgary NW.