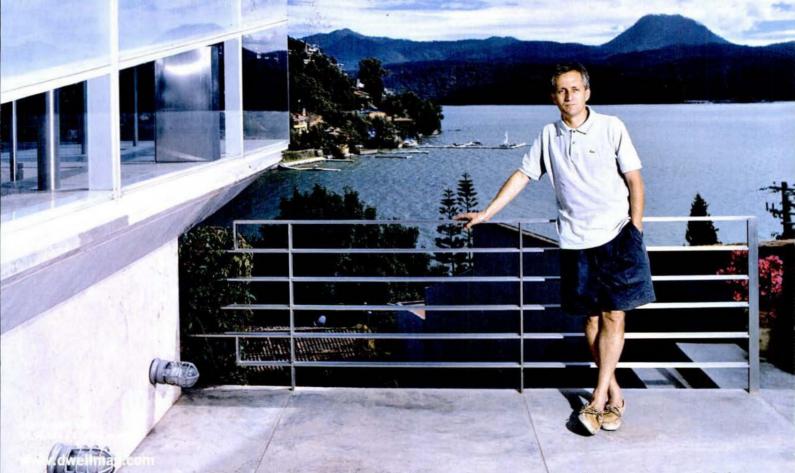


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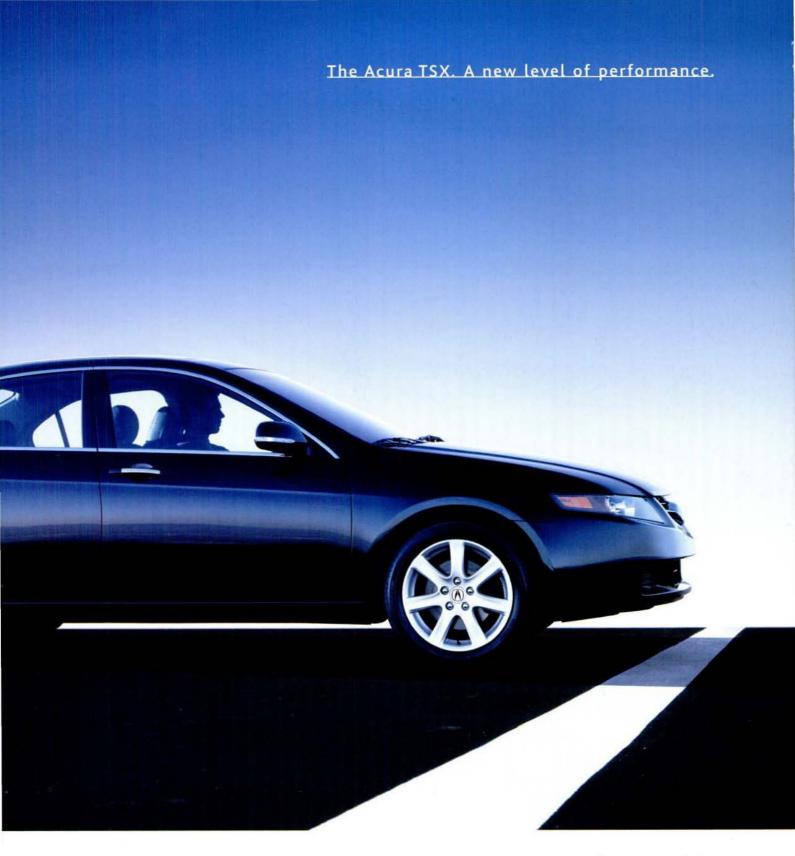
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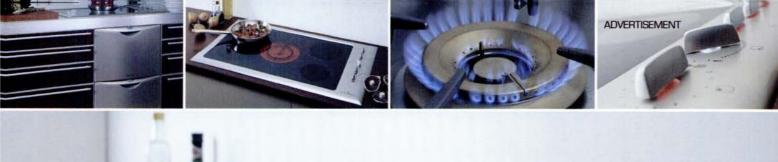














Back in the old days, when folks ate only gruel, it made no difference what kind of stove or oven they had in their kitchen. But cooking today is a more sophisticated affair: If you like to entertain, you probably enjoy exploring a whole world of cuisine, from simmering French sauces to sizzling stir-fry.

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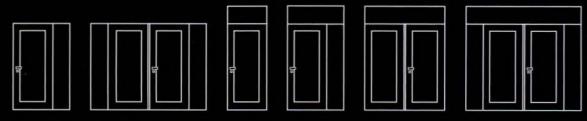


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"In the city, the fire and building codes practically design the building. Here, nature allows an exploration of an architect's talents."—Satoshi Okada, page 112

31

Editor's Note

Mountaintop? Backyard? Beachfront? Trailer park? Allison Arieff considers the best way to truly get away from it all.

101

Outlaw Architect

Architect Mark Mills made his way to Big Sur in the 1960s to create some of California's wackiest beachfront houses. Alastair Gordon reports on the architect's renegade spirit and cliff-defying designs.

Cover

Architect Bernardo Gomez-Pimienta soaks up a little atmosphere in Valle de Bravo, Mexico. Photo by Paco Pérez



Dwellings





On Holiday

From East Hampton to the Swedish countryside, Mt. Fuji to upstate New York, we present a diverse and inspired quartet of vacation homes that will make focusing on your work today that much harder.



Reflections on a Lake

For his lakeside retreat just outside Mexico City, architect Bernardo Gomez-Pimienta designed everything from the house to the chairs and the china. Story by Ana Guerrerosantos / Photos by Paco Pérez

My Father, The Architect

Dad was a deconstructivist? His grown-up progeny might just live in a Tudor mansion. **Andrew Blum** finds the latent, or not-solatent, modernist tendencies in architects' offspring. **Photos by Jeremy Murch**

July/August 2004 Contents:

Breathtaking Vacation Houses

five-star penthouse with wood imported leather and brushed aluminum incredible 360° views concierge always available with in-room movies close to restaurants and shopping perfect for weekend getaway or month-long retreat no shuttle required





In the Modern World

Whether it's Jørn Utzon or a sandwich maker, the latest from Phaidon or the newest from the U.S. Postal Service, the wide world of design has plenty to offer this summer.

My House

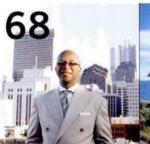
Bringing their do-it-yourself savvy to a Lower East Side apartment, two Manhattan photographers made the most of 980 square feet, to share with each other and their new puppy, Moses.

Off the Grid

Most Texans think airconditioning is a must. But Billy Johnson opted against the constant hum of forced air, building a house complete with breezeways, fans, and a water recycling system.

Dwell Reports

If eyes are the windows to the soul, windows might just be the windows to your house's soul . . . or something like that. Architect Colin Cathcart selects the best from five types of casement windows.











Nice Modernist

Entrepreneur Wayne Perry never had a mentor, but by establishing an architectural education foundation, he became one.

Elsewhere

A South African couple can't decide between their urbane digs in Cape Town and their Pringle Bay beach retreat-and for now, why should they?

What We Saw

Between caipirinas, we observed the Brazilian design scene; a Milanese motorino ride was the best way to get to Salone; and we skipped the game at Wrigley to see the latest in kitchen and bath.

Invention

New York City's dense urban fabric is a threedimensional maze that can overwhelm visitors and residents alike-but now there's Dynamap, a multilayered navigational guide to the city.

Archive

Ski cabin, party house, strip club, or eccentric's lair: Whatever its use, the UFO-like Futuro house attracts legions of fansand will soon be displayed in a museum.



Dwell Labs Dwell Home

Cowed by clutter? After At long last, the modules researching a plethora of are built-and we have the systems guaranteed to pictures from the factory to prove it.

Landscape **Architecture 101**

No, not everything you wanted to know about container gardens but were afraid to ask. Instead, five inventive case studies that might help you make the most of your own backyard.

Sourcing

Wondering how to find the architects, designers, and products on our pages? Your life just got easier with our sourcing page.

Houses We Love

A boathouse delivered by truck? It's not just possible-it's built on the shores of Lake Austin in Texas.



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Letters



Because of your love of prefab, we thought we'd send you a photo of our house. It's a Sears prefab from 1990. We just had the pool and the fence put in.

Our motto: Take the "pre" out of prefab and make it just fab!

P. David Ebersole and Todd Hughes Los Angeles, California

Inspired by Dwell, I am putting up a prefab

house near Malibu. I have been working on this for some time, with a limited budget, and feel I have a lot to offer regarding the process—what to do and what to avoid. I have been blessed, after two false starts, with an amazing realtor who has been a total help. Finding the right piece of land is far more important than I ever guessed! My first insight is: Just start. The second is: Align yourself with people who really know what they are doing.

I am an assistant art director in the commercial film business and live in an apartment in Santa Monica. I have long wondered if I would be able to afford my own house in this current market. Now it appears I will be building one ... on a hill with an ocean view in a pastoral setting. Wow! With the inspiration of Dwell and my love of modern design and prefab, my dream of owning a great home is becoming a reality.

Harrison P. Richardswise Santa Monica, California

I fully support your efforts to bring modern,

affordable, and architecturally pleasing home designs closer to the style-hungry audience. I am very interested in the whole concept and am a subscriber to Dwell, which I think is fabulous. I would like to closely follow your Dwell Home realization, but there are not enough updates or information on how the project is progressing.

What I would like to see are the pictures, from the site and the factory, and comments from the builders, owners, and architects. I want to learn as much as I can from this venture. I want to know what problems they've run into and how they have solved them. I want to follow their decision process on choosing

"creating, is seeing things from a unique and special reality, and then wanting to give that to someone else". Paul Fank



Letters

the materials and components for the house, accompanied by the respective process and manufacturers.

I want to build my own prefab home one day and I want to know everything on how to go about it. Please keep us more informed on the realization of the Dwell Home project.

Vladimir Pezel

Newton, Massachusetts

Editors' Note: We want you to have that information, too! We are pleased to publish photos of the Dwell Home in the factory this month (see p. 98). Publication deadlines can hinder our timeliness in publishing photos and information, but rest assured that we will share the whole process with you, from factory to finished house, in our September and October issues.

I appreciated the article highlighting the debate

over what should be done with the Winton Guest House in Minnesota ("Gehry Guest House Drama," April/May 2004), but I think James Dayton's comment about everyone in Minnesota being "pretty conservative" and not knowing the difference between Frank Lloyd Wright and Frank Gehry really isn't accurate. As the following list of new building projects shows, the Twin Cities have a very active community of progressive modern design supporters: a Herzog + de Meuron addition to the Walker Art Center, the new Guthrie Theater designed by Jean Nouvel, a new Minneapolis Public Library by Cesar Pelli, a Michael Graves addition to the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the new architecture school at the University of Minnesota by Steven Holl, not to mention Dayton's own Minnetonka Center for the Arts that clearly shows his debt to Gehry. Perhaps an article highlighting all of these projects would be interesting to Dwell readers.

Devin A. Colman Winooski, Vermont

I have been an avid reader of Dwell for years—it is the only periodical in which I read every bit

of text. I am a philosophy major from Wesleyan University in Connecticut. About to graduate, I am beginning to realize that I would like to be a part of an organization that supports green architecture or a program that supports modernist homes for low-income families. I often read about such programs in the magazine. Do you know whom I could contact for info?

Katie Schoendorf

Middletown, Connecticut

Editors' Note: You could start by checking out Bryan Bell's (Nice Modernist, September 2003) Design Corps (www.designcorps.org). The site is a fantastic source for the type of information you seek. Bell's book, Good Deeds, Good Design (Princeton Architectural Press), is another great resource. Good luck!

I am part of the Seattle Modernists, a little

group of like-minded Dwell subscribers who have gotten together through the Dwell online community. A few of us are developing a small project: Buy some land together and build a group of modern houses/condos. We are in the process of identifying property now. Soon, Seattle's land-use code will allow Cottage Developments (higher-density housing in residential zoning) and we are getting set up to take advantage of new zoning when it comes online. It will be an innovative project, and a great example of affordable modernism.

Matthew S. Hutchins

Seattle, Washington

Editors' Note: Readers, for more info, log on to the discussion board at www.dwellmag.com.

Imagine my surprise: Here I am flipping through the pages of your magazine when I catch a reference to *How to Live in a Flat*, the book that inspired me as a child, living in post–World

Flash forward 45 years to a day trip to Mendocino, California, and the fortuitous discovery of a bookstore that promised to find ►

War II England, to become an architect.

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In Memoriam: Pierre Koenig—Architect, Modernist, Teacher

If ever there were a house to convert a skeptic about the appeal of modernism, Pierre Koenig's Case Study House #22, with its simple, elegant structure and breathtaking vistas of Los Angeles, is it. Indeed, Julius Shulman's iconic photographs of this house helped define modernism in our collective consciousness. So it is with great sadness that we report the passing on April 4, 2004, of Pierre Koenig,

one of the youngest of the Case Study Program architects, a staunch modernist, and a tireless promoter of steel in the design and construction of homes.

"Pierre Koenig never wavered from his beliefs," says Robert Timme, FAIA, the current dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Southern California, where Koenig was both a distinguished alumnus and professor.

"Even now, after we've gone through historicisms and overcomplexities built into projects, people are appreciating a more simple expression of architectural space and human aspiration."

We would like to express our condolences to Koenig's family, and we encourage readers to attend a retrospective exhibition of Koenig's work, which will be on display at USC this fall.

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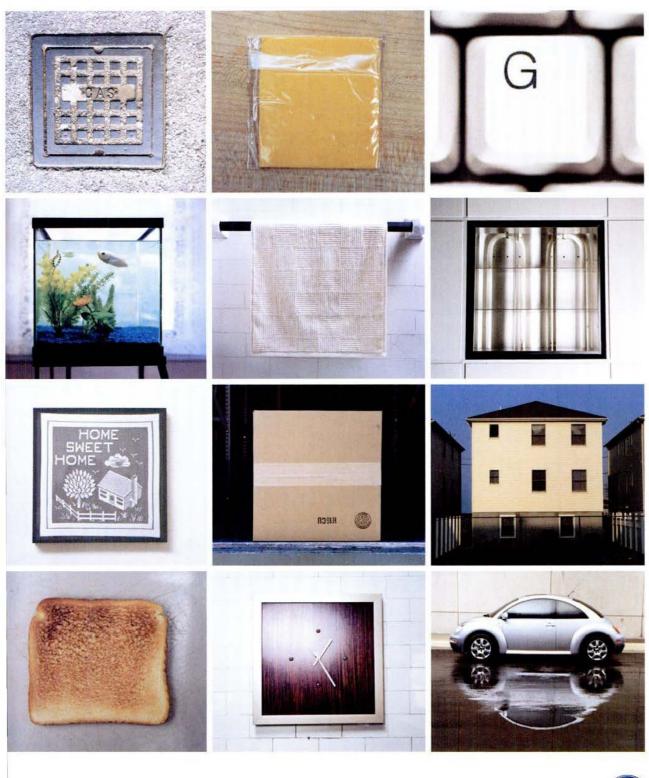
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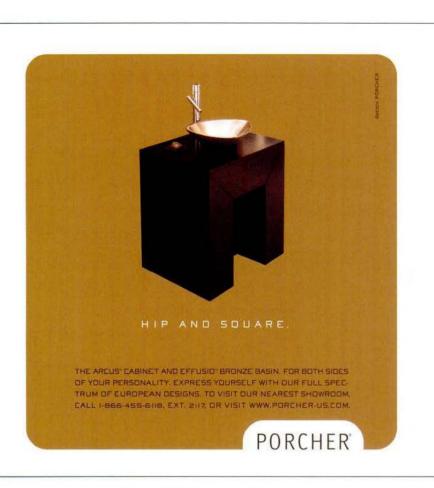
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Contributors

Deborah Bishop (Landscape Architecture 101, p. 138) is Dwell's Francisco contributing editor and the author of StyleCity San Francisco (Thames & Hudson).

Christian Bjone ("Unfolding House," p. 118) is a designer for the architectural firm SBLM in New York City, and the author of a book on American postwar houses First House: The Grid, the Figure and the Void (Wiley-Academy)

Andrew Blum ("My Father, The Architect," p. 130) writes about architecture for Architectural Record, Metropolis, and the New York Times.

Anthony Cotsifas ("Photo Finish," p. 49) specializes in architecture and still-life photography. The New York native shoots for clients such as Nike, Sony, and the New York Times magazine.

Kerryn du Preez ("Pringle Bay Getaway," p. 70), is the editor of Elle Decaration, South Africa.

Dwell's New York contributing editor, Alastair Gordon ("Outlaw Architect," p. 101), is currently working on a book titled Kiss the Sky. Building the New Utopia 1950-1975, which will be published and year by Abrans. Ana Guerrerosantos ("Reflections on a Lake," p. 120) is the editor of the cultural section of El Informador, Guadalajara, Jalisco's leading journal.

Patricia Heal ("Photo Finish," p. 49) is a New York-based commercial photographer. She shares a studio with her husband, fellow photographer Anthony Cotsifas.

Durban-based fashion photographer Warren Heath ("Pringle Bay Setaway," p. 70), quickly realized he was more Inspired by Cape Town's many beautiful locations than by models.

Maggie Kinser Hohle ("Shadow House," p. 112) writes for Grephis, Communication Arts, Print, and Edizioni Press, which published her book, John Ciardullo Associates: Architecture and Shright this past spring

Brent Humphreys ("The Triplets of Bulverde," p. 56) is a Texasbased photographer who specializes in location work with people, from squirrel hunters to Fortune 500 CFOs.

Freelance screenwriter and journalist Marc Kristal ("Right-Side-Up House," p. 108) is a recipient of a 2003 MacDowell Colony fellowship and is currently completing his first novel.

Vriter Eric Lawlor ("The Triplets of Bulverde," p. 56) lives in Houston. He is writing a book on colonial Africa to be published by farperCollins (London) next year.

London-based photographer Jeremy Murch ("My Father, The Architect," p. 130) shoots for i-E magazine and a wide range of clients and magazines in both Europe and the United States.

Fashion photographer Paco Pérez ("Reflections on a Lake," p. 120) is a frequent contributor to Marie Claire, Seventeen, and Quo. He is presently working on a fashion and anthropology project on the indigenous peoples of Mexico.

Kate Powers's I*Teen Building, p. 68) photographs have appeared in Glamour, Health, Travel & Leisute, and Parents

Photographer James Silverman ("Holiday House," p. 114) ventured to Sweden only a year and a half ago and has found both the design and nature fascinating.

Jane Szita i Back to the Future," p. 90) is Dwell's contributing editor in Amsterdam.

me a copy of this brilliant but elusive work resulting in my now owning a copy of the book that started it all for me. Quite prescient, don't you think?

ian Birchail

San Francisco, California

I am a new subscriber to Dwell and am enjoying

it. There are too few sources for those of us who appreciate (covet) contemporary, or at least nontraditional, dwellings and buildings. For me and many others, practical usually equals beautiful. Give me solid, rugged, articulated, visible elements, and materials and structures that tread lightly on our tender planet. My eyes could not miss the article about the Rudolph guest house ("The Lonely Little Cannon Ball," March 2004). I hunger for information about this cleverly designed structure and others like it.

Jeffrey Ostrer

Boxford, Massachusetts

I recently left off reading my new issue of Dwell halfway through and left it folded on the table

along with another modern shelter magazine. When I picked up Dwell a few days later to continue my perusal, I found myself becoming increasingly agitated as I read the bland stories and vapid pull quotes describing showy, irrelevant, bourgeois interiors. Finally exclaiming my disgust (why is Dwell printing this?!), I discovered I had picked up the other magazine by mistake. A new revelation of what a singular publication is Dwell.

Amy Mattix

Chicago, Illinois

Dwell has changed my magazine ritual. It used to be a Saturday-morning treat shared with the cat. The cat has been supplanted by the keyboard as I try the Web links to the amazing companies.

Anne Hillman

via email

I enjoyed the reminiscing in the June 2004 Editor's Note "Objects of Affection." I too ha

Editor's Note, "Objects of Affection." I too have several furniture pieces I made a long time ago that are starting to show their age. Like the edi-

tor-in-chief's father, I can't consider getting rid of them yet. They mean too much to me. Having never been a pack rat, they are known as the velveteen rabbits of our house.

Also, you and your folks moved to "hot and humid Killeen, Texas," not "Kilene, Texas." Having said that, I think Dwell is a terrific magazine.

Ryan Britton

Austin, Texas

Allison Arieff replies: Oops! I only lived in Texas as an infant, so never had to write the city name while I lived there. But that's no excuse for misspelling it now. My apologies.

The June 2004 Dwell Labs article, "Heat Your

Feet," seemed a little glib and smug, especially since it failed to discuss one of the most significant drawbacks to radiant heat: the lack of "radiant cool" systems. So, large parts of the U.S.—the Southeast, lots of the East Coast up to at least Washington or Philadelphia, and even some of the desert Southwest—must have forced-air cooling. Those areas do not cool off enough at night or are too humid to introduce outside air. Thus, if you put in radiant heat, you have to double your cost to have air-conditioning that blows, as you say, a substantial part, even a majority, of the year. A discussion of this aspect of radiant heat installation would have been welcome.

Jim Thomassen

Austin, Texas

I want to put a grass roof on my yet-to-be-built shed. Any suggestions on where to look for a material list? FYI, I am a carpenter and am primarily interested in a cheap way to support the soil. Thanks.

Brian Murphy

via email

Editors' Note: Check out the Sustainability 101 feature in our upcoming October/November issue for information on green roofs and other green building techniques. You may also want to look for the book Planting Green Roofs and Living Walls (Timber Press, 2004), by Nigel Dunnett and Noel Kingsbury. You might also try posting your query on our discussion board at www.dwellmag.com.

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If I Had an Acre ...





Who among us doesn't dream of what we would build if only we had a little patch of land somewhere? Joe Sabel found his spot in a Northern

California trailer park, designed this simple structure with its sturdy steel frame, and voilà—the perfect hideaway.

In the 1940s, when utility poles were installed within the sight lines of Taliesin West, Frank Lloyd Wright didn't just get mad. He filed a formal complaint with the powers that be in Scottsdale, Arizona, who acknowledged his beef and ignored him. Subsequently, he got mad at the federal government, which similarly acknowledged his beef, asked Wright to consider the somewhat more serious issues at hand (i.e., World War II), and ignored him. Instead of admitting defeat, Wright relocated his dining room at Taliesin, which had faced south, and redesigned it so that it now faced north, capturing the spectacular view of the mountains behind Taliesin. And he purportedly never paused to take in the aforementioned blight again.

I don't need to add another paragraph to the voluminous word count on Wright, and I don't have to tell you that it's getting harder and harder these days to truly "get away from it all." Even the innovative shelters created by Taliesin apprentices today are sited just minutes from what can best be described as "Europhile with a hint of Southwest"—style condo developments (such as the one called "Madrid," near Taliesin West's entrance).

The vacation houses featured in this issue take such inevitable challenges on the chin and do so with flair. In Mexico, Bernardo Gomez-Pimienta creates spaces that direct one's gaze to the dramatic views of water and sky—not to the oh-so-close neighbors on either side. In the McMansionized Hamptons, a family bucks convention and restores what others would have purchased as a quaint teardown, understanding that functionality and good design can trump sheer square footage any day of the week. And in Texas, some common-sense ideas like screen porches and breezeways gleaned from neighboring farmers allow a family to put their dollars into their triplets' college fund, not their July air-conditioning bill.

But vacation houses aren't—and shouldn't be—all about practicality. They're about taking greater risks and having more fun with design. They're about creating an interior space that plays well with the outdoors. They're about simultaneously encouraging outdoor cookouts while facilitating solitary pursuits like reading. They're about expressing the context of where they stand. They are, we hope, not too much about flat-screen televisions.

These days, I rarely have a conversation with a friend or colleague that doesn't drift off to the idea of just a little bit of land on which to build. A number of recent projects all serve to make that fantasy seem more attainable: Edgar Blazona's Modular Dwelling, Rocio Romero's DIY Fish Camp, Michelle Kaufmann's prefab Glidehouse, and Joe Sabel's stereotype-defying mobile home (at left). Of course, there's the requisite German shepherd behind a chain-link fence elsewhere in the trailer park where Sabel built this beauty, but like Wright, Sabel just made sure it wasn't blocking his view.

ALLISON ARIEFF, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF allison@dwellmag.com



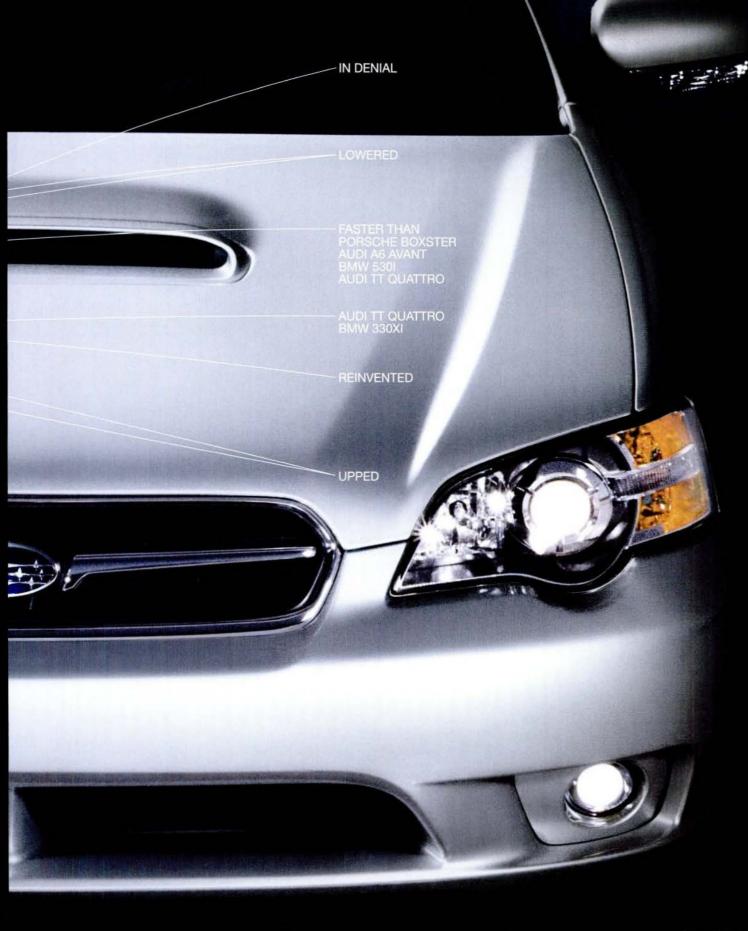
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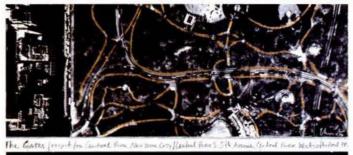
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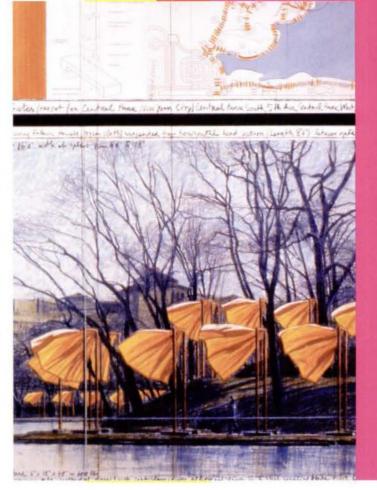
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Christo and Jeanne-Claude / 6 Apr-25 July / The Metropolitan Museum of Art / New York, NY / In anticipation of the completion of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's *The Gates*, the Met is exhibiting drawings, collages, photographs, maps, and technical diagrams of the epic undertaking. The collaborating couple's first project in New York City is to be composed of 7,500 gates, each made of two 16-foot-tall vinyl uprights and a vinyl crossbar draped in a saffron colored cloth, and will snake its way through 23 miles of walkways in Central Park. After a 22-year delay, *The Gates* will finally rise in February 2005. All involved hope Christo's vision of a "golden river appearing and disappearing through the bare branches of the trees" will bring a whole lot of happiness to the dreariest month of the year. With the cost projected to reach about \$20 million, all of which is being raised through the sale of the artists' work, it's safe to say they're banking on it. www.metmuseum.org



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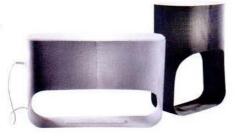


Jack Lenor Larsen / 28 May–29 Aug / The Museum of Arts & Design / New York, NY

Not to be confused with Jack Hanna, wildlife raconteur of the Johnny Carson show, or Gary Larsen, creator of *The Far Side*, Jack Lenor Larsen is, in fact, one of the 20th century's most prolific modern textile designers. With credits that include textile designs for the 1952 Lever House and interiors for the short-lived Braniff Airlines, Larsen's bold and colorful work has suffered no shortage of public success. Here, 50 of his textile designs have been paired with 75 objects collected by the designer over the past 50 years. www.madmuseum.org

Bague / By Patricia Urquiola and Eliana Gerotto for Foscarini French name, Spanish design, Italian manu-

French name, Spanish design, Italian manufacturer—Foscarini's new table lamps are nothing short of a glowing European union. Formed out of a single sheet of molded silicon-coated metallic mesh, the only impedance to the lamp's ringed shape (bague is French for "ring") is a stethoscopelike power cord. The lamps are available in three variations of size and color: black, white, and aluminum. www.foscarini.com



MAC (Modern Appealing Clothing) / 387 Grove Street / San Francisco, CA

"We were going for that '70s New York art loft feeling," says Chris Ospital of the airy, brick-walled Hayes Valley boutique she curates with brother Ben. A trail of fern-sprouting river stones made from spun rock by Surface Design leads to an area devoted to the pairing of fashion and art. In a safe left behind by previous tenants the Vorpal Gallery, shirts by the edgy Belgian designers MAC favors flank a desk formerly owned by Bernard Maybeck.

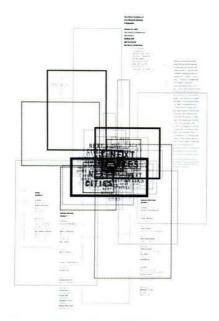
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AMPANAS

Campanas / Eds. Hélio Rosas and Roberto Cipolla / Editora Bookmark / \$60

Anyone who has spent hours amused by bubble wrap will appreciate the ability of the São Paulo, Brazil-based Campana brothers to capitalize on the innate novelty of the most banal of materials. Using a library of scavenged, synthetic, or sustainable stock, with the occasional found object, the designers have alternately woven, pinned, pinched, contorted, inflated, and illuminated their arresting yet carefully crafted designs. This album of their work includes concept sketches, process shots, and studio portraits. www.editbookmark.com.br



The Art of Design: Selections from the Architecture and Design Collection / 26 Feb-7 Aug / SFMOMA / San Francisco, CA

Commercial posters are one of the most widely accessible and publicly displayed forms of visual art. On display at SFMOMA are a vast array of posters—from proletariat psychedelic-rock posters of the '60s and '70s by Wes Wilson and Stanley Mouse to the high-art typography of Michael Bierut (shown above) and Tadanori Yokoo. www.sfmoma.org



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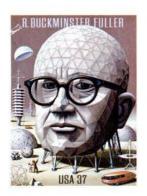


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Yves Klein: Air Architecture / 12 May-29 Aug / MAK Center / Los Angeles, CA

In his short life the conceptual artist Yves Kein became best known for his controversial creations, such as this photo of a man apparently flinging himself from a second-story window, or performances of nudes writhing in his trademarked International Klein Blue paint. But Klein also created a lesser-known, equally intriguing series of drawings he called Air Architecture. Focused on the ideal of immateriality and space, Klein's imagined structural utopia is a place where people roam nude in climate-controlled areas separated by transparent walls while always remaining in direct contact with the natural environment. www.makcenter.org



Bucky Fuller Stamp

Coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the patent for the geodesic dome and what would have been Bucky's 109th birthday bash, the U.S. Postal Service, a.k.a. snail mail, celebrates with a stamp for collectors and compulsive writers of letters to architectural magazines. Available in July in sheets of 20, the 37¢ stamp highlights Fuller's lifetime of inventive achievements—the geodesic dome, Dymaxion car, and Dymaxion house. www.shop.usps.com



Sandwich Maker / By Constantin Grcic for Krups

It's hard not to blush and murmur that this is the most attractive sandwich maker we've ever seen. And we're not the only ones getting hot: Krups's device can grill two four-inch-fat sandwiches in minutes. It's refreshing to see a sandwich maker that looks like a sandwich maker but rethinks certain old design standbys—like the awkwardly shaped bottom and the stainless steel, here replaced with black matte Bakelite. www.krups.com



Michael Graves Designs: The Art of the Everyday Object / By Phil Patton with Michael Graves Design Group / Melcher Media / \$24.95

Whether or not you appreciate the aesthetics of Michael Graves's products, it's impossible to deny that, hand-in-hand with Target, he is greatly responsible for America's blossoming design consciousness. Grave's Princeton, New Jersey, product design studio has churned out a vast universe of items for the home, to which even this book, packaged in Graves's now-iconic colonial blue, belongs. Perhaps due to the nature of the joint authorship, the book, although well-written, sometimes veers into the realm of high-production-value brochure. www.melcher.com



Feng / By Didier Gomez for Ligne Roset

Ligne Roset, purveyor of contemporary furnishings par excellence, enters its 21st year of importing designs to North America. If this is cause to uncork the bubbly, count on the presence of Didier Gomez's latest incarnation of the chaise lounge to provide respite from the celebration. With Feng, you can sink into a well of positive energy—setting your mind, as well as your body, at ease. Shui sold separately. www.ligne-roset-usa.com



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Copperfield Storage Mirror / By Henrik Kjellberg for David Design

It's not enough for a product to have just one function anymore: Beds double as desks, cell phones take photos, and minvans are turning into mobile movie theaters. This vanity storage space is a fitting entry into the multifunctional market, allowing you to preen while providing a place to stash keys and a day's assortment of receipts and gum wrappers. www.daviddesign.se



Skia Sunshades

Everyone deserves a tan, but no one needs a sunburn. However, when it comes to the modern aesthete, not much is available in the way of a stylish patio umbrella. Enter Skia, the new German sunshade manufacturer that offers a range of innovative and high-quality designs to keep your epidermis, or egg salad sandwich, from overheating. Although distribution in the United States has yet to be secured, those seeking a unique solution to their backyard shade-control needs should take note. www.skia.de



Bearings: Landscape Works from the IMMA / 27 Apr-17 Oct / Irish Museum of Modern Art / Dublin, Ireland

Landscape has become central to the way much of art and architecture are designed. Sometimes the site is nice, and sometimes there's nothing to do but bulldoze the place, plant some trees, and start over. This exhibition shows the ways artists respond to their surroundings—from a plowed rice field to dense urban sprawl.

www.modernart.ie



Drink Selector Mug / By Suck UK

Tired of office minions getting your beverage order wrong? Suck UK's new mug, Drink Selector, will set them straight without an exhaustive diatribe (valuable time you could be using to delete the spam in your email inbox or updating your weblog). Just turn the stainless steel bands to reveal your desired drink—we'll leave it at coffee, black, no sugar, thanks. www.suck.uk.com



Space: Japanese Design Solutions for Compact Living / By Michael Freeman / Universe Publishing / \$29.95
It's little wonder we turn to Japan, with its population of 127 million on a land mass slightly smaller than California, for inventive ways to maximize our living spaces. More than 200 photographs and drawings illustrate how floor-level living and tea-ceremony rooms can harmonize spaces that otherwise might be too close for comfort. www.rizzoliusa.com

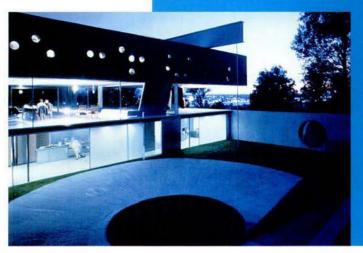
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Content: Rem Koolhaas and OMA-AMO / 27 Mar–29 Aug / Netherlands Architecture Institute / Rotterdam / The Netherlands

Rem Koolhaas has become one of architecture's most recognizable figures—equal parts researcher, radical, and rock star. As the pace of commissions accelerates for his Office for Metropolitan Architecture and reverse-acronymic research wing AMO, this exhibition provides insight into the brains and brawn of the toughest boss in Rotterdam. www.nai.nl



Synthetic Six Series / Perfume by Comme des Garçons

Japanese designer Rei Kawakubo, who has made a career out of creating deconstructionist fashion for Comme des Garçons (think unisleeved sweaters and inside-out jackets), now has fitting perfumes to accompany her clothes. More tough guy than tender, there are six different scents in the series, including Garage, Dry Clean, and Tar; in each bottle, ingredients such as ozone, town gas, and nail polish mingle with Chinese cedarwood, bay leaf essence, and bergamot. Though we haven't yet sniffed, we're already sold. www.synthetic-parfums.com

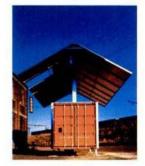




Assouline Mémoires / Various authors / \$18.95 each

You could plunk down \$9,500 for the Assouline Trunk, a limited-edition set of 100 Mémoires books housed in a monogrammed miniature trunk, or you could just pick up a few of the latest entries in this series. Each book (in this case, Jean Cocteau, Gauguin's Noa Noa, Robert Indiana, and Eileen Gray) features a well-informed introduction and roughly 60 pages of images—a sort of Cliffs Notes coffee-table book. www.assouline.com





Future Shack / 14 May-10 Oct / Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum / New York, NY

Landing at the Cooper-Hewitt is one Aussie architect's off-the-wall solution to housing for refugees and the homeless. Future Shack, designed by Sean Godsell, is made from a shipping container and sundry materials, can be built in a day, and looks really slick. The shack won Architecture for Humanity's 2001 relief housing competition. ndm.si.edu



Parisian installation artist Pierre Huyghe combines architecture, social commentary, and simulations of natural phenomena like rain, snow, and fog in his work. Viewers find themselves interacting with its moving parts in unexpected ways. Among the works on display in Fort Worth is 1999's *The Third Memory*, a rethinking of Sidney Lumet's 1975 film *Dog Day Afternoon*. www.mamfw.org



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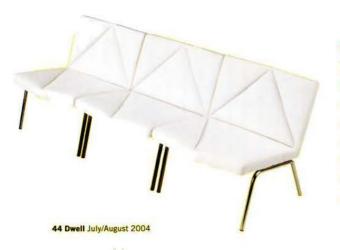
Jean-Michel Othoniel: Crystal Palace / 28 May-31 Aug / Museum of Contemporary Art / North Miami, FL

Fresh from his creation of the glass *Kiosque des Noctambules* for the entrance to the Palais-Royal metro station in Paris, this summer Jean-Michel Othoniel returns to balmy Miami Beach. Notable displays in this exhibit are the *Unicorn*, a delicate blown-glass sedan chair that presides royally over silver trestles, and *My Bed* (shown at left), which fuses glass and metal with a collection of 20-foot "necklaces" inlaid with golden leaves, silver beads, deep amethysts, and amber that almost floats overhead. www.mocanomi.org



Unbuilt Chicago / 3 Apr-16 Jan / The Art Institute of Chicago / Chicago, IL

Chicago is full of architectural highlights, with buildings by Mies, Wright, and Johnson. Into this eminent mix the Art Institute tosses a host of hypotheticals, showing more than 90 sketches, plans, and models of buildings for Chicago that never made it past the drawing board—including proposals by Eliel Saarinen, Helmut Jahn, and Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. www.artic.edu





Corvettes to Cuisinarts: Six Decades of Diversity in Design / 15 May-31 July / Pratt Manhattan Gallery / New York, NY

For the past 60 years, the Pratt Institute has been churning out eager graduates from its industrial design program, many of whom have gone on to become luminaries in their respective professions. From jewelry designer Ted Muehling's creations to Bruce Hannah's furniture for Knoll to Tucker Veimeister's Cuisinart coffeemaker (shown here), this exhibition's vast array of toys, furniture, appliances, and other goodies will give you plenty to prattle on about at your next dinner party. www.pratt.edu

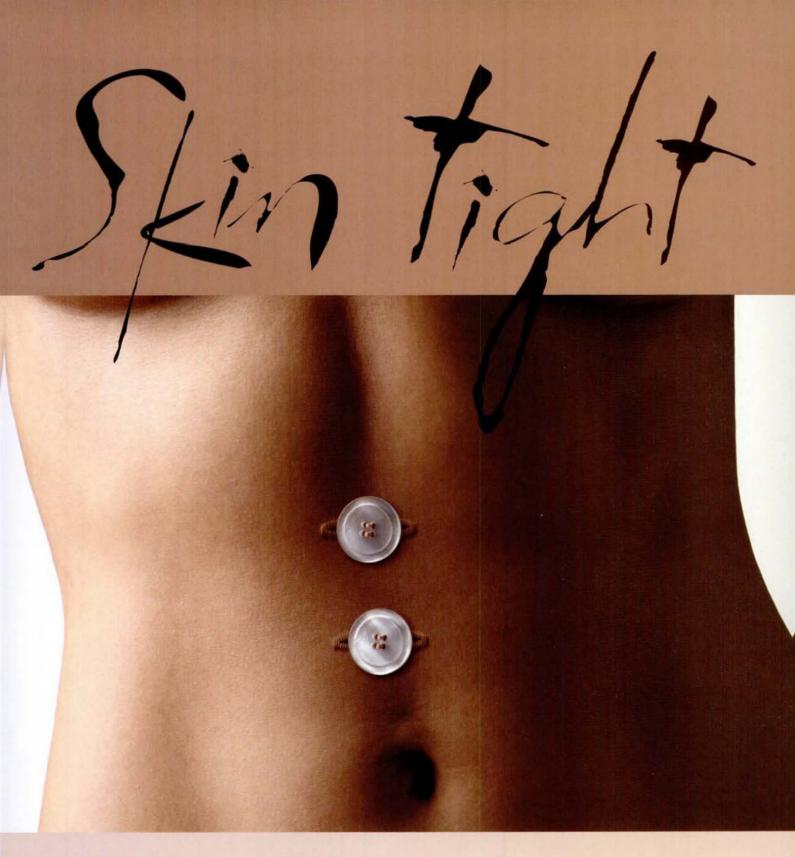


Sustainable Homes: 26 Designs That Respect the Earth / By James Grayson Trulove / Harper Design International / \$29.95

The future may look rosy for those with an eye to developing the red planet, but for those of us still banking on Earth real estate to supplement our 401(k)s, this book documents 26 residential projects that demonstrate both environmental and design sensibility. Projects featured range from the conventional (low-e glass) to the remarkable (a house constructed entirely from junkyard salvage). www.harpercollins.com

Fold / By Mårten Claesson for Swedese

If a sheet of paper is meticulously folded into an intricate animal or floral shape, then carefully unfolded and smoothed out, all that exists as a reminder of the origami incarnation is a series of creases and lines on the paper. With Swedish architect and designer Mårten Claesson's elegant birch easy chair (which can be joined together to make a short or long couch), the folds in the seat and its lean steel frame shape make us think that it might have spent its previous life as a long-limbed Scandinavian crane. www.swedese.se



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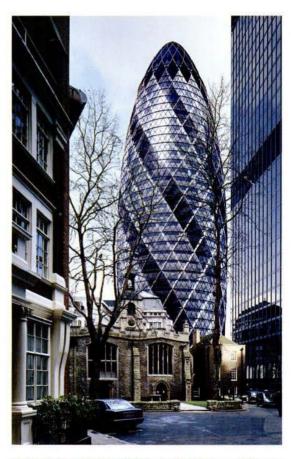
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Jørn Utzon: The Architect's Universe / 2 Apr–29 Aug / Louisiana Museum / Humlebaek, Denmark

Jørn Utzon, last year's recipient of the Pritzker Prize, is responsible for one of the world's most instantly recognizable buildings (hint: *Don Giovanni* down under), but the rest of his work remains somewhat elusive in non-Danish-architect-devoted circles. This exhibition, organized by Denmark's premier modern art museum, should shed some light on Utzon's oeuvre, focusing on not only his institutional work but also his residential projects and furniture designs.

www.louisiana.dk



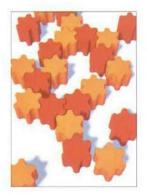
Tall Buildings / 16 July-27 Sept / The Museum of Modern Art, Queens / Queens, NY

"Tall buildings . . . cast long shadows; they darken streets and suck life from them," said the ever-upbeat Prince Charles in a 2001 address, calling for a new kind of sky-scraper that incorporates public space, use of light, and sustainable concerns. Perhaps heeding this royal call to architectural arms, MoMA is exhibiting a series of 25 towering structures—some completed, some conceptual—that explore recent technical and aesthetic innovations in building upward. www.moma.org



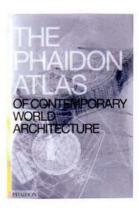
No Fruit / By Anthony Duffeleer for Dark

If lamps were needed in the land of the Lorax, the No Fruit lamp by Belgian company Dark would look right at home swinging in Dr. Seuss's Truffula trees. This oversized light shifts color from bright red to orange, purple, green, and blue; its softly glowing orb protrudes from a skinny stem that can be affixed to any overhead surface—and will look just as good over a Flokati rug. www.dark.be



Flower / By Eero Koivisto for Offecct

"Flower Power" usually brings to mind sundappled hippies of yore, but with Eero Koivisto's latest design for Offecct, it could take on a whole new meaning. Designed for "the meeting places of today," these interlocking tables and stools could serve as intermediary brokers in the power meetings of the future. They are produced from a soft material used in hospital mattresses that's firm enough to support a herringstuffed Swede, www.offecct.se



Phaidon Atlas of Contemporary World Architecture / Phaidon / \$160

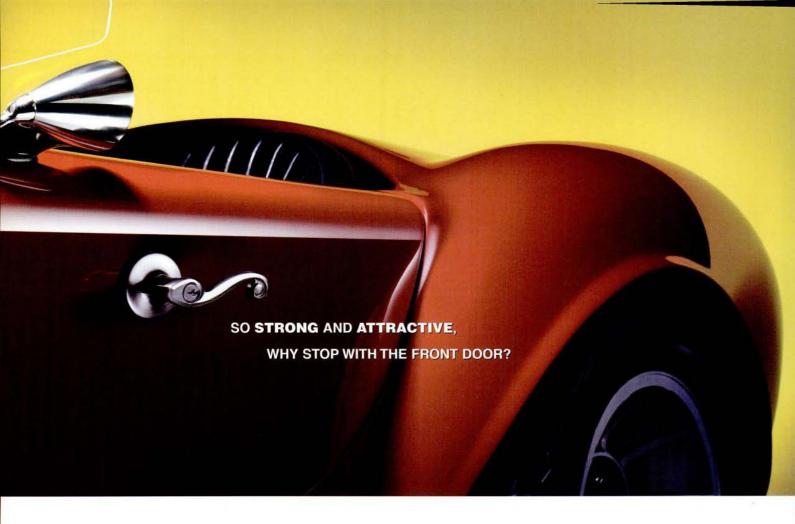
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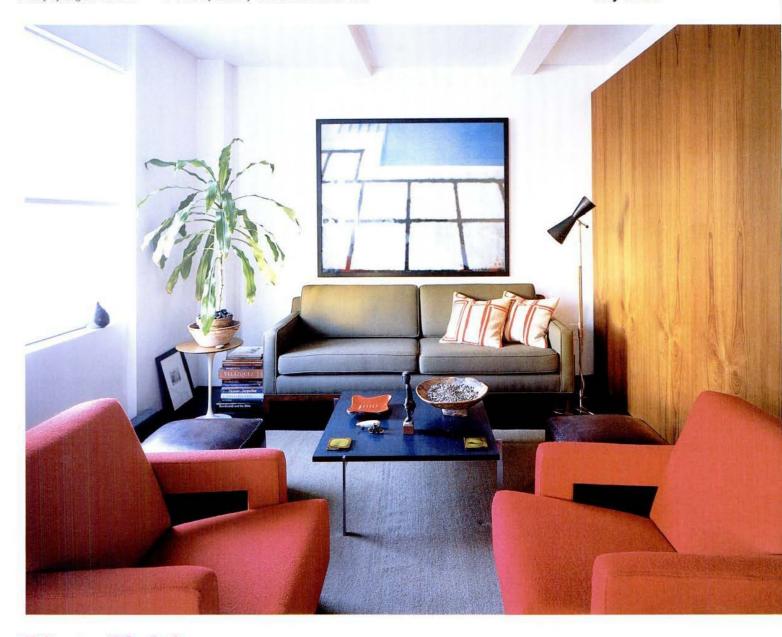


Photo Finish

There's nothing new about the New York story of white-walled apartments with turn-of-the-century trimming, rusty radiators, and teeny kitchens getting chic interior makeovers, only to remain hidden by hundred-year-old façades. It's the sort of juxtaposition New Yorkers are used to, no more surprising than walking from one eclectic chapel to another in the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, and less startling than the dioramas in the city's American Museum of Natural History, where dark deco-era walls encapsulate vivid scenes of steaming jungles and arctic nightscapes. America's leader in the urban triumvirate of population, density, and age is also the most prone to interior transformations with radically altered senses of space and time.

Crossing the threshold from the building hallway to the apartment of photographers Anthony Cotsifas and Patricia Heal is a transition that inspires them. As Heal explains, "There's a discretion to having this complete contrast; it makes our apartment like a sanctuary. We thrive on the juxtaposition." Heal and Cotsifas, married since 1991, are fond of visual comparisons, as evinced in their work, which often takes the form of diptychs in which harmonious images collide and the eye explores the relationship between the two.

As photographers, these two are perennially at the intersection of art and commerce, which, when it comes time to build your house, is a good place to be. "Through the industry we've gotten to know so many skilled people," says Heal, "stylists who work with ▶



Moses (above) enjoys warm hues in the living room (top), on Rietveld chairs which the couple reupholstered in red.

My House

prop houses, furniture people, restorers. It gives us a sense of what resources are available, and ideas of ways to do things." One such resource was William Walter, a designer with whom they sometimes work on photo shoots. As they planned their renovation, Walter played a key role, brainstorming and coming up with construction drawings. "Our exposure to designers, set builders, and stylists has had a major impact on our aesthetics," Cotsifas adds. "Working with talented people rubs off on you."

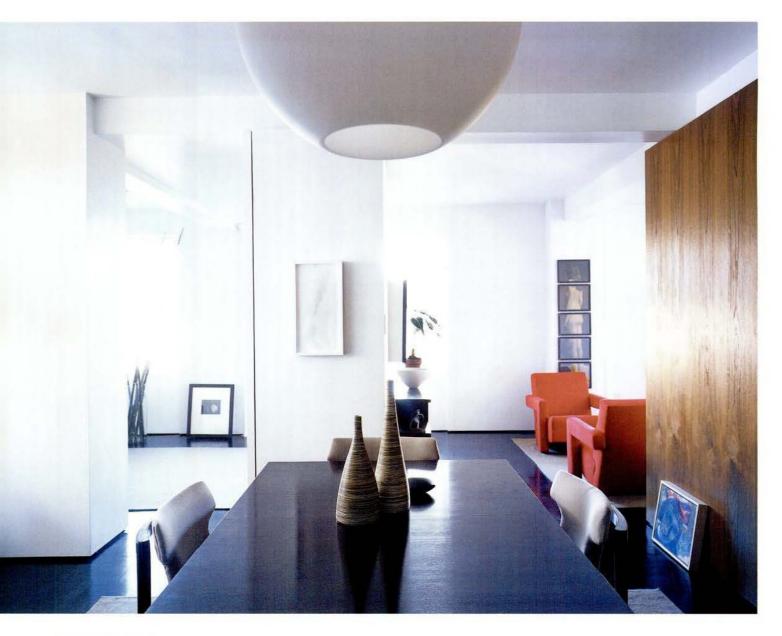
While their renovation project was under way, the couple lived in an apartment across the street and would monitor the contractor's progress over daily morning coffee. As any architect knows, close attention to every aspect of a project gets the best results. "We were very lucky with the contractor," says Heal of Marek

Szmacinsky, a Polish contractor they learned about from the owner of a SoHo furniture store. "Anthony and William are perfectionists, so Marek was challenged, but he rose to the occasion, which was lovely."

A safe assumption to make about commercial photographers is that they love to control space, and thanks to clever tricks of the trade, this creative pair made their 980-square-foot apartment feel remarkably ample. A strong feeling of connectivity links the living room, dining room, and bedroom around the entry hall, where a plastic panel wall transmits light from the study. Teak wall panels extend flush from the floor to ceiling, doors have hidden hinges, the floor is a uniform deep black; all these smooth-veneered surfaces have a broad, even flatness that makes them appear expansive. The same applies in the bathroom, which is clad entirely in white tiles.

From the dining room (below), the living area's open layout provides views into both the study and the living room.

Cotsifas is proud of the glossy black floor, which is ordinary hardwood, ebonized with a rich, dark finish.



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Kaden sectional in Bison Moss



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In between the living room and study, they opened a space in the existing wall, the remaining portion of which now houses a Murphy bed, allowing the study to double as a spare bedroom. "We turned that wall into a kind of unit," Heal explains, "with the foldout bed, the linen closet, and all the stereo equipment." On one side of the wall, the bed descends into the study when needed; on the other, a plasma screen TV and surround sound can beam entertainment into the living room. Heal has useful advice for anyone in search of a stylish Murphy bed: "Custom is the way to go. You buy the mechanism and build your frame around it. It's very affordable."

In the study, three Paul Rudolph–inspired floating bookshelves are mounted into a hidden track in the wall above a teak desk. Cotsifas, who recalls growing up with Knoll furniture and Flokati rugs, cites other influences as well: "Eero Saarinen, Mies van der Rohe, and Louis Kahn. I'm totally drawn to their simplistic use of space."

Not long after the work on their place was completed, Cotsifas and Heal acquired an English bulldog puppy, Moses, who likes to lounge on the living room's red chairs. "Moses has adapted very well," says Heal. "He's very respectful of the place." Soon Moses will have a new destination for romping: the 1857 farmhouse the couple purchased in upstate New York. Never tiring of contrasts, Cotsifas and Heal will create an altogether different environment in the country house. "We're thinking of making it more layered," says Heal, "crusty with Louis XIV chairs that are a bit tatty."





How to Make My House Your House

Making space in a small kitchen

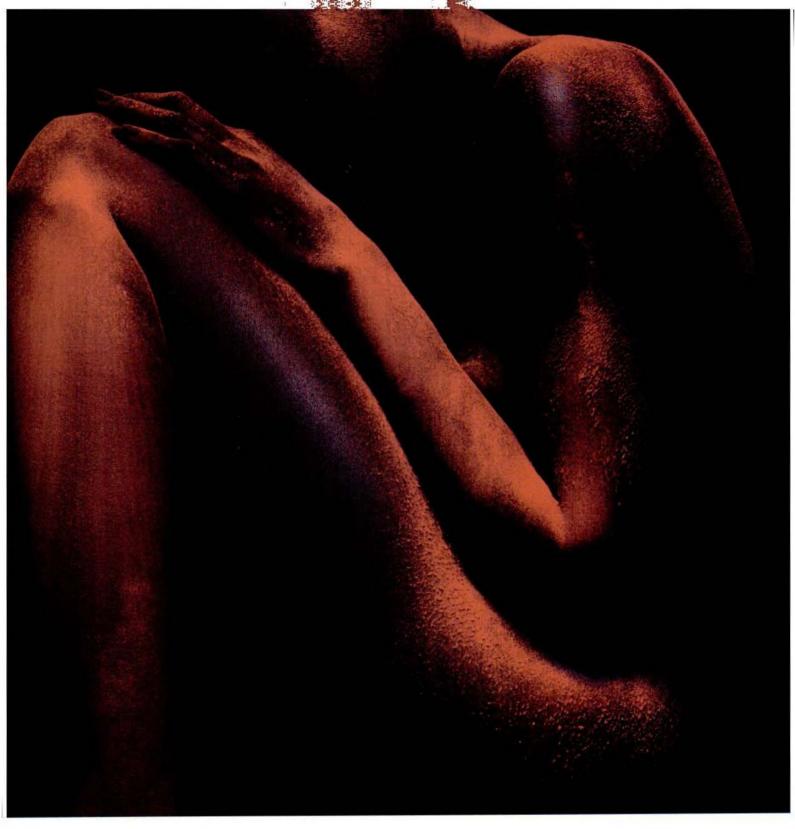
Cotsifas and Heal love to cook. "It's very therapeutic for me," says Heal. Another frequent kitchen occurrence is Moses climbing into his bowl to eat his food, a habit he'll soon be too big to continue. In any case, they could never make feasts here without their convertible stovetops. Gaggenau's matte stainless steel lids lower onto the burners, creating counter space when the stovetops aren't in use. Ample teak cabinets also maximize use of wall space, not to be squandered in such a small cooking space. www.gaggenau.com

Paul Rudolph floating shelves

Currently housing Cotsifas's large collection of comic-book figurines, three shelves are mounted on tracks that hide behind the wall—one sees only a narrow vertical crack. Their cantilever is strong enough to support the weight of not only wood but also Spider-Man and the Incredible Hulk. Cotsifas, above, got the idea for these shelves while shooting a Paul Rudolph house in Sarasota, Florida. "They appear to float on the wall," he says.

Murphy Bed wall unit (not shown)

With help from William Walter, Cotsifas and Heal got in touch with a Murphy bed parts manufacturer, the Murphy Bed Center of Staten Island. After buying the bare-bones metal device and bed platform, they were able to customize the bed's casement. The custom option meant they could add other features to what became a sort of bed module: The same casement houses linens and stereo equipment. In a city full of weekend visitors and shoebox apartments, custom Murphy beds can be indispensable. www.murphybedsystems.com



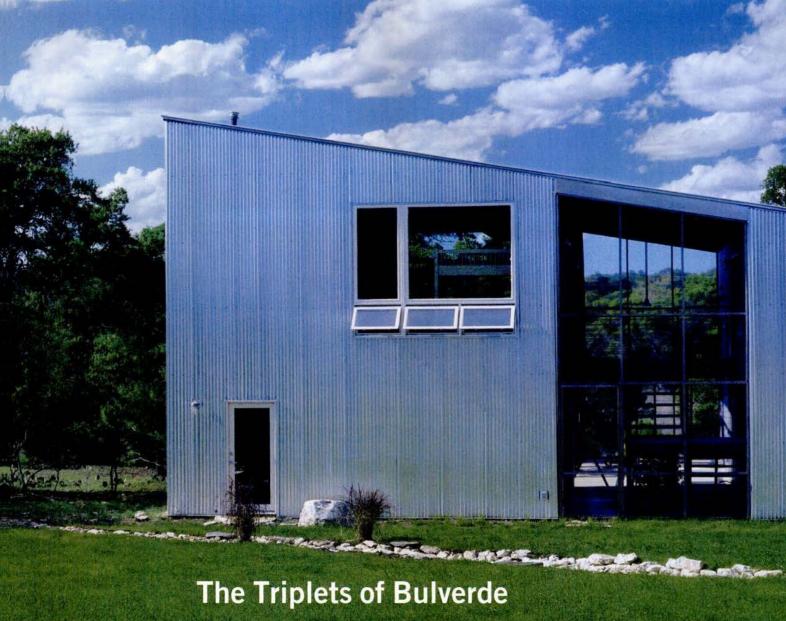


TOGO designed by Michel Ducaroy. The Togo Calection crades the body like an ambrace.

Offered in mixing copies, faprice, and configurations. Togo is a true cut classic.







The exterior of the house—which uncannily resembles a slice of cake wrapped in foil—has few windows on the main façade. This decision was part of designer Billy Johnson's passive cooling strategy for his home, along with multiple breezeways and ceiling fans.

What would you do if, after nine years of marriage, you learned you were going to become the parents of triplets? When Billy and Janette Johnson found themselves in this unexpected situation, they sold their home in San Antonio and built a house on a seven-acre spread surrounded by cattle ranches in the Texas Hill Country.

The couple was already tiring of city life when their three boys came along, and Billy, who fondly remembers boyhood fishing trips with his father, decided that a return to nature was just what his family needed. So, in November 2002, they headed to the small town of Bulverde, 20 miles north of San Antonio, for a life in the great outdoors.

For his new home, Billy, a project manager with the architecture firm Lake/Flato in San Antonio, drew his

inspiration from the vernacular structures he saw around him: the barns, tractor sheds, and corrugated-metal silos used by the local farmers and ranchers. "This is an agricultural environment," he says, "so why not build a rural-looking building?"

Facing south, his house sits in a landscape of retamas, prickly pears, and juniper trees. The wedge-shaped exterior slopes precipitously. It does so for a reason: This region of Texas gets 33 inches of rain annually, and the Johnsons store and reuse every drop of water that runs off their roof. Most of that rain, though, falls in May, which means that for the rest of the year they must rely on a well, the digging of which was a nightmare. To reach the water table, a contractor had to bore through 800 feet of limestone at the hefty price of \$16,000.



One of the home's greenest and most admirable features is an aerobic septic system (see illustration, below), which processes sewage in three underground tanks. The first functions as a septic tank. The second breaks down the raw sewage, and the third cleanses it with chlorine tablets. The "washed" effluent becomes clean water again, and all of it is recycled. "It goes from the well to the house to the septic system to the garden," Billy explains, "in one big circle."

Self-effacing to a fault, the southern aspect of the house suggests a small industrial space. Inside, however, the mood lightens. The capacious kitchen/living area, painted a barely perceptible green, overlooks a low valley filled with live oaks and blocks of limestone. But the heart of this house is an 18-foot-high screened porch running the length of the building that gives the illusion that one might be outdoors. The porch does service in another way as well. When summer comes—and, in Texas, most of the year is summer—it and two other breezeways combine to lessen the impact of the debilitating heat (see sidebar). To further keep the temperature low, Billy drew on other passive solar strategies like natural ventilation and shade from the garden's many trees.

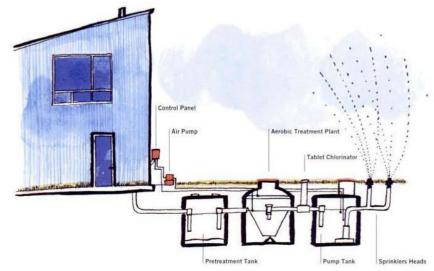
Still on the drawing board are plans for a pergola, a terrace, and a tree house handily equipped with a photovoltaic panel. (When the boys sleep in the tree house, they're going to need a light source.) But Billy's most ambitious project involves a creek—dry for now—which he hopes to turn into a pond. To do that, though, he's going to have to cull some of his many cedars, a species that guzzles every drop of water it can get. "Once I thin them out," he explains, "there should be enough water for a nice little pool."

The couple is entirely delighted with their brood-filled home. "We built our dream house, and we have these wonderful kids," says Billy. "This move was never about us. It was always about them. When they came along, they changed our lives forever." Janette agrees: "I love it here," she says. "It reflects our way of life perfectly."

The garden surrounding the house is kept a healthy green by the hardworking aerobic septic system (shown at right), a series of three tanks that turns sewage into reusable water. This system

is hidden underground, so that the only view the triplets see as they roam through the house on their tricycles is of the many retamas, prickly pears, and juniper trees outside.







Courtesy of Billy's breezeways, the family stays cool on even the steamiest summer days.

Southern Comfort: It's a Breeze

In Texas, people will tell you that there are two seasons: summer and February. And that's certainly how it seems; the heat here is often lacerating. To help combat it, Billy Johnson followed the example set by the neighboring farmers, whose homes all incorporate porches. As Billy explains, "The porch acts as a breezeway, and because it's cool, that is where people hang out."

Taking this simple ventilation innovation one step further, Billy built his home around three breezeways, which suck in air, circu-

late it until it's warm, and then replace it with cooler air. As a consequence of this, the family used the air conditioner just twice last year—on two consecutive days in August. The rest of the time, the breezeways, with assistance from ceiling fans, keep the home a manageable 85 degrees in the summer months. And then there are the economics to consider. Without those breezeways, Billy estimates the family's air-conditioning bill for the months of June, July, and August would have been a dizzying \$1,500. —E.L.



Winning Windows

Deciding on windows for your home?

Robert Luntz, of Resolution: 4 Architecture in New York City and winner of the Dwell Home Design Invitational, designed the prefabricated house using Loewen windows. Don't underestimate the importance of windows, "one of the pure building blocks," Robert says. They can have a dramatic impact on the look and feel of your home. He shares with Dwell readers the strategies he and his partners use to find the best windows for the buildings they design.



COMFORT & VENTILATION

"Function is a very important issue for us. We like casement windows (which open from the side on hinges like a door), as they offer the largest, unobstructed glass area—and potentially the best views. Some people value visuals most; they never open their windows. Others want the breeze to blow through the house. For ventilation, we use awning-style windows with hinges on top that open up."

DESIGN

"We look at all the profiles, shapes, and materials available. Some manufacturers only offer specific sizes, but we seek out companies like Loewen that will customize their products. It saves us money if we can choose among a wide variety of types and sizes and get exactly what we need."

DAYLIGHT

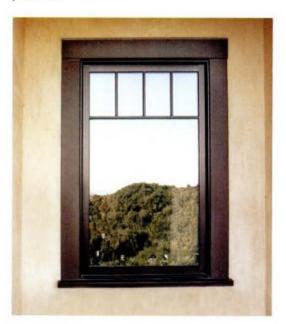
"How much you want to see the light depends on your personality. Some people long to connect to daylight and the outside world. For others, light is more functional—it's a tool for them to see what they're doing. Your preference can help you determine what type of windows to use."

THERMAL PERFORMANCE

"We always select energy-efficient, insulated, and low E (to minimize ultraviolet radiation) windows. They do their job year-round, keeping your house warm in winter and cool in summer—and reducing your energy costs year in and year out."

SECURITY

"We choose windows that come with quality hardware and that operate smoothly. If we include a security system within the window, we want the system to be as discreet and unobtrusive as possible."



"In the end, budget is always an issue, but since windows are so essential in creating a design, I always put in the best ones I can afford."

Loewen Casement window with Craftsman style Simulated Divided Lites





Design.

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A Note on Our Expert: As a founding partner of Kiss + Cathcart Architects, Colin Cathcart has worked on numerous residential and commercial projects, which include integrated photovoltaics as well as (surprise) windows. The windows of the New York City Transit terminal train shed in Coney Island (pictured) are coated with a photovoltaic film that not only creates shade as it darkens and absorbs sunlight but also produces the energy to power the station's lighting (which, Cathcart notes, "is equivalent to a whole street of houses").

Imagine, very briefly, a world without windows. It's almost as impossible to comprehend as a world without reality television. When it comes to basic importance in architecture, windows easily rank right up there with walls, ceilings, and floors. However, when it comes to sensuality (that is, inciting your senses), windows are a step ahead. As proof, look no further than your local record store. There's only one album about a wall, but the online All Music Guide points out over 600 songs with window in the title—chalk it up to windows offering views, light, and breezes, not electrical outlets.

Beyond the world of popular music, windows have long inspired technical achievements in building. Back in the Middle Ages, flying buttresses freed up wall space so unenlightened illiterates could look at larger, more colorful pictures of Bible stories in stained glass. More recently, steel-framed, glass-curtain-walled skyscrapers allow companies to stack workers into 100-story office cubes (reserving the greatest views for the top brass).

The good news is that when it comes to windows for our homes, there are a staggering number of possibilities—and the last 20 years have seen remarkable improvements in efficiency. To make sense of the world of frames, sashes, and panes (not to mention solar heatgain coefficients), Dwell enlisted the help of architect Colin Cathcart. His firm, Kiss + Cathcart, which he describes as "early technology adopters," was among the first to experiment with photovoltaic window systems. "Windows should be part of the energy strategy

for any building," says Cathcart, "or you're missing a tremendous opportunity. It's free energy, free heat, and free enjoyment."

We also learned that function trumps aesthetics in window selection. As Cathcart points out, "There are almost invisible criteria that you have to put right up there with the lifestyle choices—energy management issues, material systems, environmental responsibility, and, frankly, maintenance." For a novice, perhaps the best place to start learning about some of windows' "invisible criteria" is by deciphering the National Fenestration Rating Council's label, which can be found on every window. The NFRC tests a window's U-factor (insulating value), solar heat-gain coefficient (how well a window blocks heat from the sun), and visible transmittance (how much light the window lets in). According to Cathcart, all of these factors can be positives or negatives depending on where you're building, or what direction the window is going to face, so study up.

To make our tests a little more manageable, we decided to focus on the casement window—a design that dates from the rith century but will still meet the Sea Ranch's design guidelines. Of the casement, Cathcart concurs: "It's the window we all think of when we think of a window." Having selected a range of standard models, both affordable and formidable, Cathcart points out a difficulty in assessing specific products: "The companies all make competing windows so the rebuttal for each is going to be, 'We can make that, too.'"

Window Shopping

The humble window provides many of life's simple pleasures—from cooling breezes to the sun's radiant heat. But when it comes to looking at windows instead of through them, there's more than meets the eye. To make sense of it all, Dwell enlists the help of a techie 'tect to case out the latest in casements.

Anderson 400 Series Casement Window

Wood frame and interior constructed from water-treated clear pine, exterior clad in seamless vinyl. Glazing options include high-performance low-emittance double glazing with argon blend-filled interior. Sizes and hardware options vary.

Expert Opinion: This is a mass-produced window for a middle-class market. This one is vinyl clad, a questionable material considering it's a carcinogen when burned. I don't like the top of this window—it appears as though water could get in. That said,

the geometry of the detailing is not bad.

What We Think: This might not be the rose window at Notre Dame de Paris, but it's not the world's worst window either (in fact, even with average—according to Cathcart's stringent standards—NFRC ratings, it's most likely a far better insulator than its Gothic ancestor). The mechanisms, such as the crank and lock, seem solid and reliable, if a little pedestrian from a design perspective. Kind of like the Chevy your contractor rode in on.



Dwell Reports









☑ Pella ProLine Casement Window

Pella's most affordable window is made of wood and clad in Hassle-Free™ aluminum. Glazing options include standard or double-paned argon-filled low-emittance glass. Also features a folding integrated crank. Sizes vary.

Expert Opinion: The ProLine is a good, solid window. Pella tends to take much more care than other manufacturers in where their

windows go and how they are installed because they sell directly to the end buyer. Also, aluminum is a better material all around than vinyl—I've never seen an aluminum-clad window fail. You only get three choices of color, but most people don't want their windows to be fuchsia, so it's not a big factor.

What We Think: Pella windows hail from

the insurance-rich state of lowa, which may account for their healthy Midwestern sensibility. However, we wish that the ProLine was compatible with Pella's unique features such as remote-controlled blinds between the glass and the signature Rolscreen retractable insect screen. After all, they were known as the Rolscreen Company from 1925 to 1992.

■ Jeld-wen Caradco Casement

Constructed from western pine, the exterior is weather treated and ready to paint, or clad in aluminum. Glazing is argon-filled low-emittance insulated glass. Sizes and hardware vary.

Expert Opinion: This is just a small step above a vinyl window. However, Jeld-wen, the parent company, has more expensive and respectable lines, like the formidable Pozzi windows, that are really a cut above. Every company has some windows that shine in NFRC tests and some that are dogs. Their dogs should be hounded out of the marketplace.

What We Think: While we were aware of Jeld-wen's other lines, we chose the Caradco

for its no-frills design (and before Cathcart schooled us on the U-factor). However, even with insulated argon-filled panes and double weather stripping, it scores in the average range on the NFRC's tests—so you may want to heed Cathcart's advice of examining a window's technical criteria ahead of its fashion.

■ Loewen Push Out Casement

Manufactured from Douglas fir and clad in extruded aluminum (36 color choices). Four glazing options are available, including sound reduction (more air space between the glass) and triple-paned. Sizes vary.

Expert Opinion: You're going to pay more for this window and you're not going to regret it. The cladding has an air space behind it,

which gives you a greater degree of moisture protection because it's internally drained. I appreciate the multiple glazing options. Frankly, if you're designing a house from a responsible environmental standpoint, you would have to be an idiot to have the same kind of glass on the east and south sides of a house as you have on the west and north.

What We Think: We like the idea of not having to spend half the afternoon cranking windows open just so we can feel the summer breeze. Leave it to those crafty Canadians to create a window that is both supremely energy-efficient (which can undoubtedly be attributed to frosty Manitoba winters) and mindlessly easy to operate.

Marvin Casemaster

Available in pine, mahogany, cherry, white oak, or Douglas fir—with or without extruded aluminum cladding. Glazing options range from standard single glaze to double argonfilled insulating glass. Folding or crank handles available, as well as motorized PowerDrive hardware.

Expert Opinion: Marvin is 100 percent

custom. They'll make any window any shape and any size. You get lots of options and lots of possibilities. If you're an architect and want to do interesting things, they are the easiest to work with. They also have very high environmental possibilities in terms of their glass performance. This is a high-performance wood window.

What We Think: Marvin is like the Burger King of windows—you can have it your way. However, the chances are that at our house, these windows will last a lot longer than a Double Whopper. We appreciate Marvin's range of options (before heading to the store, design your own virtual Casemaster online) and fuss-free appearance. ■



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Teen Building

When Wayne Perry was growing up in Richmond, California, he possessed an avid interest in architecture but had no one with whom to share his creative inclinations. So when Perry graduated from college and returned to the Bay Area to start his engineering and technology consulting firm, Cornerstone Concilium, he also established the Cornerstone Foundation for Educational Advancement (CFEA) in order to become the mentor he never had.

From its humble beginnings 18 years ago as a series of weekly meetings with a single student in a small, cramped office, CFEA has evolved into a program for teenagers that provides scholarships, 12-week-long workshops, and meetings with industry experts. Last year, working in partnership with Alameda County, Perry expanded his program to include nonviolent juvenile offenders. "I saw an opportunity to help some kids who were really disadvantaged," Perry explains.

CFEA's rigorous training teaches teens about architecture from conception to completion. During the first eight weeks of class, Perry focuses on the basics of real estate development, engineering, and design. Then students put their new knowledge to work: After being presented with a site to survey, they brainstorm and build scale models of buildings based both on the specifics of the proposed site and the needs of the surrounding community. Past projects have included condominiums, a community day-care center, and a recording studio topped by a bar. The program culminates in a graduation ceremony, where students proudly unveil their models for family and friends.

As Cornerstone Concilium continues to grow, with offices in Seattle, Washington D.C., and Atlanta, Perry sees no reason for CFEA not to tag along. "Wherever Cornerstone Concilium has a long-term presence, we should have one of these programs," says Perry.

Wayne Perry founded the Cornerstone Foundation for Educational Advancement to become the architectural mentor he never had. Nearly 20 years after CFEA's founding, the hands-on Perry still interviews prospective students himself for the rigorous 12-week program.





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Pringle Bay Getaway

Arguably one of the best-looking cities in the world, Cape Town, South Africa, has become an international destination for those seeking a laid-back lifestyle and a Mediterranean climate. Colonized by the Dutch in 1652, it's a city with a strong European tradition and accordingly has long been a home away from home for those Europeans snapping up bijou properties in the old neighborhood of de Waterkant, beach bungalows in Clifton, and hilltop fortresses above Bantry Bay.

The city's immensely powerful natural landscape, starring towering mountain ranges and both the Indian and Atlantic oceans, exerts a strong influence on both its citizens and the architecture. Here, life is spent outdoors and governed almost exclusively by the weather. Bountiful light, stunning sunsets, and views in every direction are lapped up by modernist houses on the slopes of the mountain, lofts in the city, and terraced apartments that tumble right onto the beach at Clifton. Architecturally, everything in Cape Town is read against mountain or sea, with the city skyline of glass high-rises, scrambling high-

ways, and a busy harbor dwarfed by Table Mountain, Lion's Head, and Signal Hill. This spectacular positioning has made the city's property prices as legendary as its population of beautiful people; consequently, locals wanting to live near the ocean can barely afford to buy in the city, let alone along the Atlantic seaboard.

It was this conundrum that confronted entrepreneur Peter Little and his wife, Pat, a few years back when they found themselves with a large house in the suburbs, an empty nest, and a deep desire to live near the sea. Being anything but average fifty-somethings, this born-and-bred Capetonian couple decided to trade one house for two. While most South Africans in this age group—and income bracket—would opt for a gated residential community outside the city, Pat and Peter bought a loft in the inner city. A little too far from the water for their liking, they also built a glorious beach retreat, designed by Cape Town—based Meyer and Vorster Architects, across the peninsula in Pringle Bay, an hour outside the city. Dwell spoke with them about their two enviable living options.

"When we are at Pringle Bay," explains homeowner Peter Little (shown with wife, Pat, above), "not having direct access to the city can be frustrating. But being able to walk from our front door right onto the beach at any time of day or night is incredible. There are not many places in the world that afford that kind of access."

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Elsewhere







West Elevation

North Elevation

After leaving the suburbs for the city and the sea, what have been the most significant changes for you?

Pat: We have the best of both worlds now. The loft offers convenience, little responsibility, and security, and it's incredibly quiet at night. In contrast, Pringle Bay offers a total escape and a different sort of quietness—it's actually noisier here than in the city with the roar of the sea and the crashing of waves on the rocks.

Do you miss Pringle Bay when you're in town and vice versa?

Peter: We do find that we want to be in Pringle Bay more and more. It's home for us now. The loft is for those moments when we want to go into the city, see friends, eat out, see a show, and see our children. It's more for our business, whereas Pringle Bay is definitely our preferred lifestyle.

What was your design directive?

Pat: A contemporary house with a steel frame and curvy roof. Part of the concept was for a separate guest wing or unit that connected to a shared central living area and, of course, our private wing.

Peter: I knew I wanted a steel-frame house, so Pat drew a plan, and I did a rough model with two curved roofs. Then we said, "This is what we require. See what you can do." Architects Tiaan Meyer and Jan-Heyn Vorster came up with a modular idea, and we liked it immediately.

Why the curved roofs?

Peter: We wanted something different and had seen something similar by Australian architect Glenn

Murcutt. Pat's always loved Australian decorating and design magazines and had seen a lot of his work there. I love that so many Australian houses utilize local materials and are designed to suit their surrounding climates and ecological environments. The fact that the design of our house's roof is perfect for this windy climate is serendipitous.

With all the glass, do you feel overexposed to the elements?

Peter: No, we were lucky in that the views are in line with the house's northern orientation, so a large glass frontage area was possible. During summer, the curved roof cuts off direct sun, while in winter the sun penetrates deeply into the space. Even the harsh horizontal sun on the west and east sides has been controlled by means of smaller apertures and shutters.

What's your favorite part of the house?

Pat: Originally, the guest wing, because that's where we lived until they finished our wing. It's self-contained—not too big, not too small. It's just a really comfortable space with good energy. Peter loves the deck, but he's also often in the garden or the garage tinkering with his sports cars. We've found that we can spend up to four days here without leaving the house and not even notice it.

Do you think this is where you'll spend the rest of your days?

Pat: I never say anything's for life. I believe life dictates its path as you go along, but it certainly does have everything we need for life—and a very good life at that. ▶

The architects used a steel frame, which allows for the large expanses of glass throughout and helps minimize corrosion from the sea. The steel structure—all 23 tons of it—was manufactured, galvanized, and assembled entirely off-site.

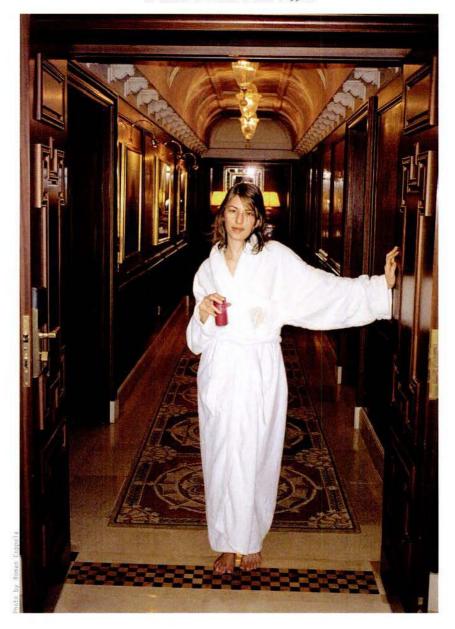




N° 001

Sofia Mini tastes a little bit like fresh juicy pears, a little like summer melon, a little like refreshing citrus and honeysuckle. It has a little zest, a little spritz, perhaps a little glitz.

It tastes a little bit... bigger.











Cape Town Capers

■ East of Eden / Shop A17, Cape Quarter, 72 Waterkant Street, Greenpoint / 011-27-21-425-9147

A colorful store in the heart of the flamboyant de Waterkant neighborhood, East of Eden is a spin-off of the successful—and equally colorful—homegrown fashion label Icuba. Here you can snap up local streetwear as well as homeware and decor accessories inspired by Asia.

■ Crush / 100 St. Georges Mall, Cape Town / 011-27-21-422-5533

Living up to its mantra of "Fresh Food Fast," this inner-city eatery churns out favorites such as Chermoula chicken salad, Thai butternut soup, Bobotie (a classic spicy Cape Malay dish), and springbok carpaccio on a daily basis. Its bright and breezy interiors are just as fresh.

☐ Table Mountain

Pack a bottle of wine and some nibbles and walk up Table Mountain for ringside seats to a magnificent sunset.

Olympia Café / 134 Main Road, Kalk Bay / 011-27-21-788-6396

Organized chaos prevails here in a quaint fishing-village setting with a great daily menu. The Sunday brunch is fantastic, but get there early or prepare to wait, and wait some more, in long lines.

Mosque on Signal Hill / Signposted from Kloof Nek Road

High up and away from the city, this beautiful mosque is worth visiting on your way to view sunsets from Signal Hill.

South African National Gallery / Government Avenue / 011-27-21-467-4660

Set in the historic Company Gardens with access from the oak-lined Government Avenue, which leads to Parliament, the National Gallery is a must-see.

District Six Museum / 25a Buitenkant Street / 011-27-21-461-8745

This well-curated museum tells the sad story of the African neighborhood of District Six in the city center, and how it was bulldozed to make way for a white neighborhood.

95 Keerom Street / 011-27-21-422-0765

Dine among exposed-brick walls that are quite something, considering the building is some 300 years old, or upstairs in a glass box, in which an indoor olive tree takes pride of place. Oh, and the Italian cuisine is good, too.

Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens / 011-27-21-799-8899

Take an energetic walk along one of the numerous mountain trails, enjoy a gentle stroll through the grounds, or settle in for a cup of tea at the coffee shop. ■

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Movel infantil Roda / By MLD Design / mlddesign@ig.com.br



BYO Aluminum Table / By Luigi Macheroni for Cinex / www.cinex.com.br

At Movelsul Brasil

Bento Gonçalves, which has hosted the biannual furniture fair Movelsul Brasil since 1977, is not an easy place to get to. Though the city is small and remote, the furniture industry presence there is huge, with more than 150 companies employing about 60 percent of the workforce. The fair is still somewhat provincial, but it proves there are great things happening with contemporary Brazilian design.



Yoko Modular Sofa / By Michel Ducaroy for Tok&Stok / www.tokstok.com.br





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No trip to Brazil would be complete without a stopover in Sao Paulo, the world's second largest city and home to splendid design wizards the Campana brothers, as well as Notech Design, a collective comprising ten of their former students. A few nights at the Hotel Fasano, designed by Isay Weinfeld, couldn't hurt either; nor would an afternoon lounging by the 21st-floor pool in extremely rare—and incredibly comfortable—Flag Halyard chairs by Hans Wegner.



Wegner chair, poolside at the Fasano / www.fasano.com.br



Quadrado tapestry / By Carla Tennenbaum for Notech Design / www.notechdesign.com.br



Espelho-luminária Caracol / By Carol Gay for Notech Design / www.notechdesign.com.br







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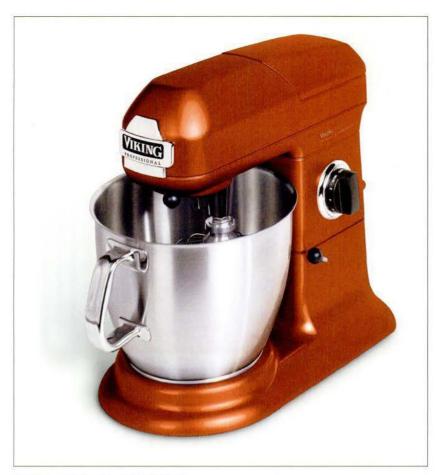


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At the Kitchen/Bath Industry Show (K/BIS)

The show was truly a spectacle, with models in bikinis suggestively posing alongside faucets, trapeze artists dangling over bathtubs, and oven salesmen hawking their wares. But from Villeroy & Boch's inventive entrée into the bath world to a sleek built-in coffeemaker from Küppersbusch and new cooking technology from GE, there was plenty to gawk at besides scantily clad women.



Hype faucet / By Dornbracht for Villeroy & Boch Bath, Kitchen, and Tile / www.villeroy-boch.com



Chipperfield Pedestal Sink / By David Chipperfield for Porcher / www.porcher-us.com



Heath tile / By Heath Ceramics for Ann Sacks / www.annsacks.com





Colored Drops / By Rolf Sachs / www.rolfsachs.com



Refolo / By Charlotte Perriand for Cassina / Rerelease from 1953 / www.cassina.it

At the Milan Furniture Fair

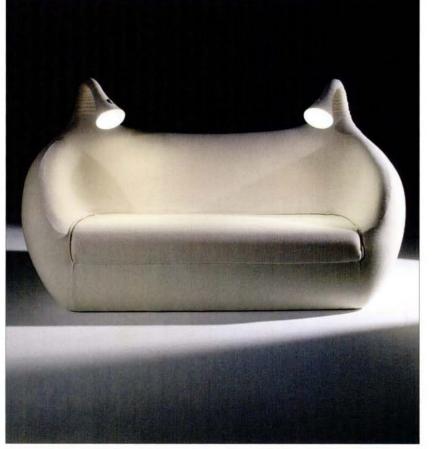
Ornament wasn't a crime in Milan last April. Even the more austere designs, like Cassina's rerelease of Charlotte Perriand furniture, enjoyed a dose of warmth through subtle organic curves. In what looked like a radical revival of the Eames DSR chair, Marcel Wanders spun together intricate carbon cords to form an incredibly lightweight seat. Rolf Sachs filled a showroom with eccentric eye-candy lanterns.



Coulheur clock / By Bettina Dedon for VIA / www.via.asso.fr



Carbon chair / By Marcel Wanders for Moooi / www.moooi.com



Morfeo / By Stefano Giovannini for Domodomenica / www.domodomenica.it



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What We Saw . . . Milan



na13 kitchen / Carlo Columbo for Varenna / www.poliform.it



Ladrillos / By Javier Mariscal for Magis / www.magisdesign.com



Single kitchen / By Alberto Colonelli for Boffi / www.boffi.it

In new European kitchen lines from Boffi, Bulthaup, Snaidero, and Varenna, form met function with a harmony that put most American companies in a humbler place. Among the hordes of new furniture, a children's collection for Magis dubbed "Me Too" made visitors of all ages want to set up a playroom. Fresh ideas came to the world of booty rests from Edra, with Francesco Binfaré's ocean-inspired, groupfriendly modular sofa, and from Moroso, with Konstantin Grcic's conelike foldable chair.



On the Rocks sofa / By Francesco Binfaré for Edra / www.edra.com



Dummy chair / By Konstantin Grcic for Moroso / www.moroso.it

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What We Saw . . . Milan



G. Box kitchen / By Giuliano Giaroli for Schiffini / www.schiffini.it



Loop chair / By James Irvine for Thonet / www.thonet.de



Eileen / By Antoni Citterio for B&B Italia / www.bebitalia.it

Though the "pretty is in" discussion didn't seem so new to those of us who've long admired baroqueand botanic-inspired designs like Jurgen Bey's Light Shade chandelier or Tord Boontje's Wednesday light, such talk did infiltrate the fair—both in the huge fairgrounds, and at the show's more visitorfriendly satellite venues in showrooms scattered throughout the city.



Avalon bed / By Eero Koivisto for Living Divani / www.livingdivani.it



Urban 1 hand-tufted rugs / By Jose A. Gandia for Gandia Blasco / www.gandiablasco.com



Tab chair / By Alain Berteau Designworks for Wallonia Export / www.wallonia-export.be



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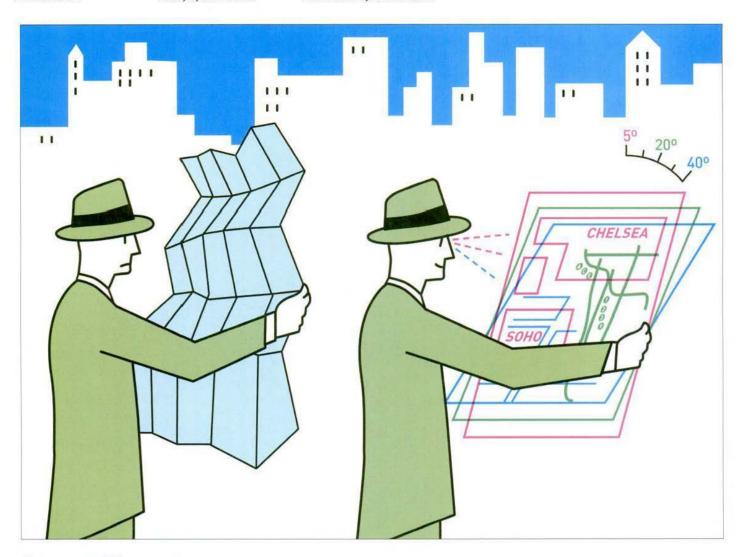


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Street Smarts

Conceived in 2001 by Ian White, Urban Mapping's

Dynamap of Manhattan possesses some cunning advantages over its competitors—namely, that the handheld guide offers three simultaneous levels of information. Its lenticular display—think winking Jesus—shuffles between streets, the subway system, and landmarks with neighborhoods (the navigation of which, to a Big Apple novice, is as baffling as "standing on line"). While this isn't new technology, Urban Mapping applies it in a way that would make visual explainer Edward Tufte proud.

"I don't reference the L word," says White, referring to "lenticular." "If people actually know what it means, they think of Britney Spears going from a wedding dress to a bikini. Nobody's used this material to convey anything of utility or value before." Marketing experts might disagree, but the Dynamap definitely trumps its lenticular ancestors for functionality.

Part of what makes the map's layers of information particularly useful is the ghosting effect of the lenticules. Traditionally, measures would be taken to avoid making

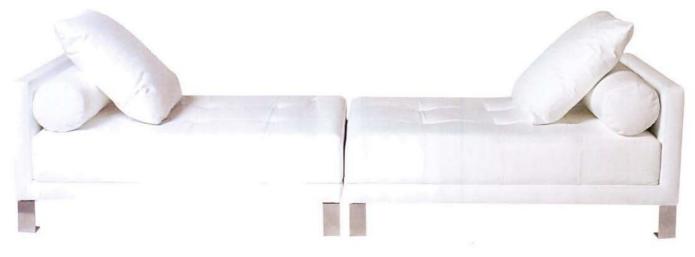
Britney's bikini visible at the same time as her wedding dress, but with Dynamap subtle transitions between the layers were engineered.

Prototypes were tested for the perfect amount of ghosting, color contrasts, legibility of type, and line orientation. The latter is a reference to the process of designing for lenticules. "There are roughly 100 lenses per vertical inch, and under each lens you have three images, so each image is about 1/300th of an inch," explains White. Using an algorithm developed by Urban Mapping, the three separate images are fused into a fuzzy 1/300th-inch stew, finally legible under the Dynamap lens material.

Before long there will be Dynamaps for more cities, each with many layers of information. As White explains, "In Washington, D.C., it would be great to include the taxi zones on the same level as the Metro, while for San Francisco we could include a topographical layer. I've even got a fog map." The possibilities seem endless, and the Dynamap's paper-and-plastic interactivity is already bridging the gap between high- and low-tech.

Bee Market





San Francisco / 3030 Fillmore St. 94123 / Tel: 415.292.2910

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Back to the Futuro

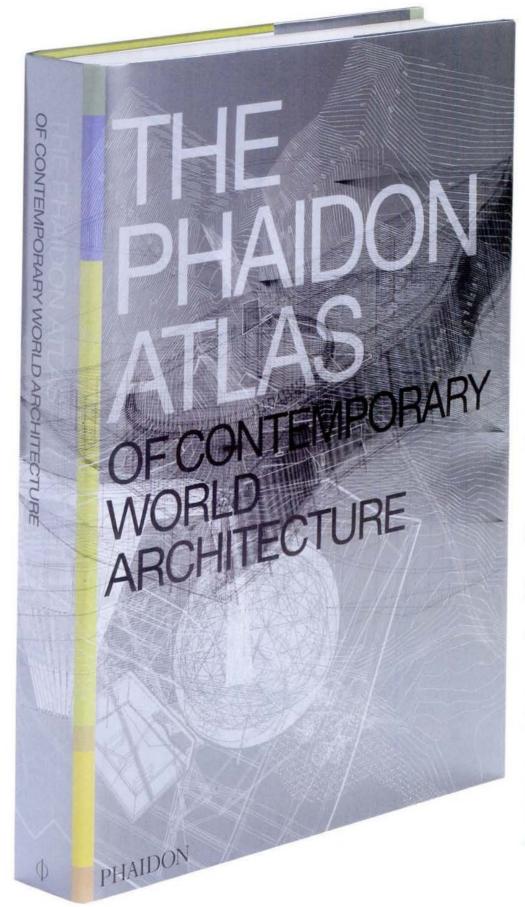
Squatting in the neo-Gothic cloister of a Dutch museum like a strange mechanical mushroom with spidery legs, Matti Suuronen's UFO-like Futuro house seems strangely, and surreally, at home—like one of the bizarre contraptions in the hallucinogenic medieval landscapes painted by Hieronymus Bosch.

But then, the Futuro is a modern icon—archetype, almost—whose elegant but eccentric elliptical presence

(whether it happens to be in the Centraal Museum in Utrecht or printed on a Japanese miniskirt) is always unexpected, and yet instantly familiar. Its curiously visceral, even erotic, quality perhaps explains why, back in 1969, *Playboy* found it "the ideal bachelor lair." Shortly after, it surfaced in a Swedish porn magazine shoot.

But Futuro started life as a Finnish ski cabin, commissioned for an inaccessible mountain spot. Suuronen ▶

It came from outer space.
Well, actually it came from
Finland, but few pieces of
architecture appear as galaxybound as Matti Suuronen's
Futuro House, designed in
1968.



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"A wonderful resource on architecture." Bob Emmerson, Chairman, Arup Group

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In addition to functioning as a party pad and prime fashion-shoot accessory, the Futuro helped pioneer the notion of modern nomadism nearly 40 years ago. The spherical shack was easily transportable and mass-producible, but rising plastic prices caused by the '70s oil crisis kept it from fulfilling its potential in the realms of freedom—and free love.



designed the transportable, 16-section building to be put together onsite, and to balance on a steep slope. "The height-to-width ratio is 1:2," he says. "The Futuro is pure mathematics."

It's also a self-contained miracle of poetic geometry. Just 27 feet in diameter, it rises to a gracious 13 feet tall—giving the interior an almost mystical quality of space that you'd never guess at from the exterior. At the same time, the total absence of angles creates a feeling of wholeness and containment. "It's like a womb," says former owner Matti Kuusla—an effect enhanced by the choice of shockingly carnal colors in deep-purple walls and a blood-red shag-pile carpet.

Architecturally, its obvious antecedent is Buckminster Fuller's similarly saucer-shaped Wichita House (1946), which never got beyond the prototype stage. (Presciently, Bucky's building preceded the first recorded UFO sighting by a year.)

International interest was huge after Futuro starred in the 1968 exhibition *Finnfocus*, a showcase of Finnish design (think Marimekko and Eero Aarnio) in swinging London. Manufacturing licenses were sold in 25 countries. A Philadelphia businessman founded Futuro Corp., and the *New York Times* reviewed the house on July 20, 1969—the day *Apollo 11* landed on the moon.

Despite a flood of 20,000 inquiries, today perhaps no more than five Futuros survive in the United States. During the 1970s oil crisis, plastic costs suddenly soared, and only an estimated 60 Futuros were ever produced worldwide. About half can be accounted for today—last spring, Dwell reader Michael Dennis spotted one that's currently home to a strip club in Tampa, Florida.

Fortunately—given the Futuro's potential for gimmicky remodelings—Prototype ooo, long in the possession of the architect himself, is being restored to its former glory in the Netherlands. In one case, at least, the Futuro's geometric integrity will survive uncorrupted, preserving what curator Ranti Tjan calls its "air of innocence, of unsullied optimism."





This summer, B&B Italia London is delighted to host an exhibition preview of Christie's Pop Art Auction, "Pop Art 1954-1974," a selection of 140 works.

To honor the occasion, B&B Italia will offer a limited edition of iconic design pieces, representing the company's own contributions to the Pop Art movement: the UP 5 and UP 6. Designed by Gaetano Pesce in 1969, the UP series comprises seven ergonomic pieces which were hailed in their time as sensational expressions of contemporary design. This limited-edition chair and ottoman set will be upholstered in special fabric: a green-and-beige striped jersey based on the original design. Gaetano Pesce will attend the opening party on June 2nd and will sign the pieces, which will then be on sale exclusively at B&B Italia London. The exhibit will run through June 24th, 2004.

Opening times: Monday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm, and Sunday, 12pm to 5pm. The auction will take place at Christie's on Wednesday, June 30th at 2pm.

www.bebitalia.it





Closets Close-Up

Dear Dwell,

My boyfriend saw the inside of my closet recently and said it was messier than the motel scene in *Scarface*. Help!

-Molly Olsson, Wilton, CT

Don't get mad, Molly. Get organized. There's a staggering variety of closet management systems. The trick is to choose one that feels right for your clothing, storage, and budget needs. Then, adopting a thick Cuban accent, you can tell your boyfriend to say hello to your little . . . organized closet.



Atmosfera closet / Poliform

Soft, glowing light emanates through a sliding glass door in the ultra-mod Atmosfera closet, creating an ethereal effect. Designed by Italian minimalists Dell'Orto and Cattaneo, the freestanding closet has doors that can be customized with either glass or wood, with an aluminum or wood profile. Particularly useful if you have a monochromatic wardrobe. www.arredamentibertola.it

We'd put it in an art gallery, but then, no one cooks there.



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Stanley Design Solutions Deluxe Closet System

This practical yet attractive closet system was originally designed in the U.K., where people eschew walk-in closets the way they do light beer and dental insurance. The ingenious structure has a vertical support

bar, tower kit, and adjustable shelves that can function as a standing closet, or easily adapt to your existing walk-in. And the European look and adjustability accommodates your wardrobe's ascent from Wet Seal palazzo pants to Yves Saint Laurent couture. www.stanleyworks.com



Custom shoe storage / California Closets

Some people take Polaroids of their shoes and stick 'em on the outside of their shoe boxes, but that's mainly people in Polaroid commercials. California Closets offers customized open shoe shelves, mini and maxi bins, and adjustable shoe racks, so every pair of shoes is visible and within reach. Just as they valiantly solved the conundrum of Jessica Simpson's shoe pile, California Closets will build the most efficient design based on number of shoes and shoe size. www.calclosets.com



Clos-ette Closet System

For the truly discerning closet connoisseur, Clos-ette offers an extensive in-home consultation, a detailed questionnaire, and a "closet edit," during which such items as your "Free Winona" tank top and pleated khakis are quietly discarded.

Then a shadow team of architects and creatives converge to design a closet to your exact specifications. Featuring custom wood, innovative designs, and a complete line of hangers, sweater folds, and other closet-related products, Clos-ette does it all. www.clos-ette.com



Swivel wardrobe and mirror / Design Within Reach

This space-saving storage unit has a clever two-sided build. One side houses five deep shelves, the other features a full-length mirror. Even cooler, a ball-bearing swivel mechanism allows the thing to spin

360 degrees, providing quick access to either side. Made of solid ash with finished edges, this may well be the best-looking thing in your bedroom. Apart from you, of course. www.dwr.com

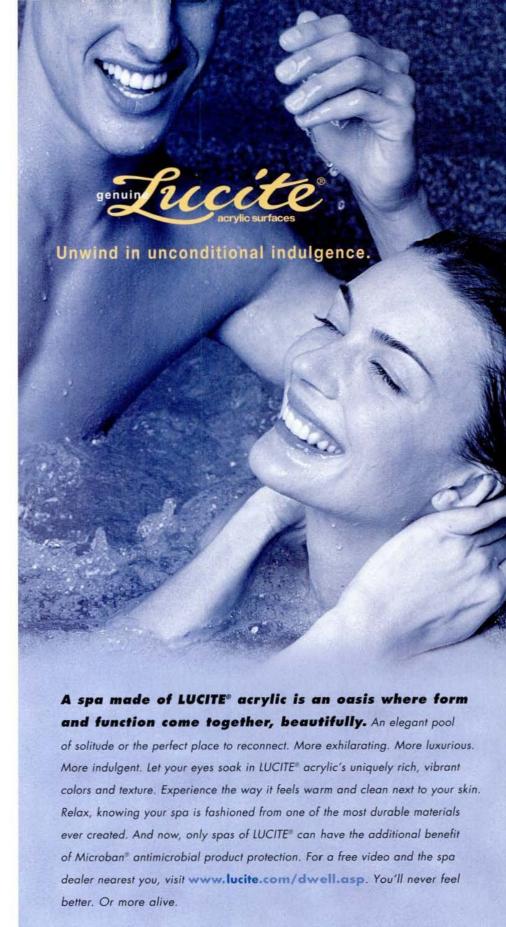
Dwell Community Events and Promotions



David Carson Takes a Trek to the Edge

Experimental by nature and intuitive by design, Carson's lush work draws on his diverse experiences, from lecturing on the international graphic design circuit to working with illustrious clients such as Nine Inch Nails and Quiksilver. *Trek*, his first book in five years, features recent work that exploits a unique combination of typography, design, and photography with explosive results.

For further information: David Lopes Gingko Press, Inc. (415) 924-9615 david@ginkopress.com







"None of the modules were completely finished [at the factory]," explains architect Joseph Tanney. "But the proportions and sense of space were there even though you had to experience the house as a series of unrelated fragments."





At CBS's 17 work stations, everything from framing to plumbing, ceilings to weather-proofing, is undertaken. The vinyl siding station got the week off.





At left, Tanney inspects one of two roof modules; insulation and framing are installed at right. The exterior cladding, finished floors, doors, appliances, and fixtures will be installed onsite.

Dwell Home in Full Effect

On Tuesday, April 6, after months of arduous preparations, the home-building team at Carolina Building Solutions (CBS) began work on the Dwell Home at their factory in Salisbury, North Carolina.

On the CBS factory floor, there are 17 work stations. One hundred and twenty workers divide their tasks among these 17 stations so that there are approximately seven specialized workers per station. The work done on the five base modules and two roof modules of the Dwell Home was divided among three of these stations, with all three operating simultaneously.

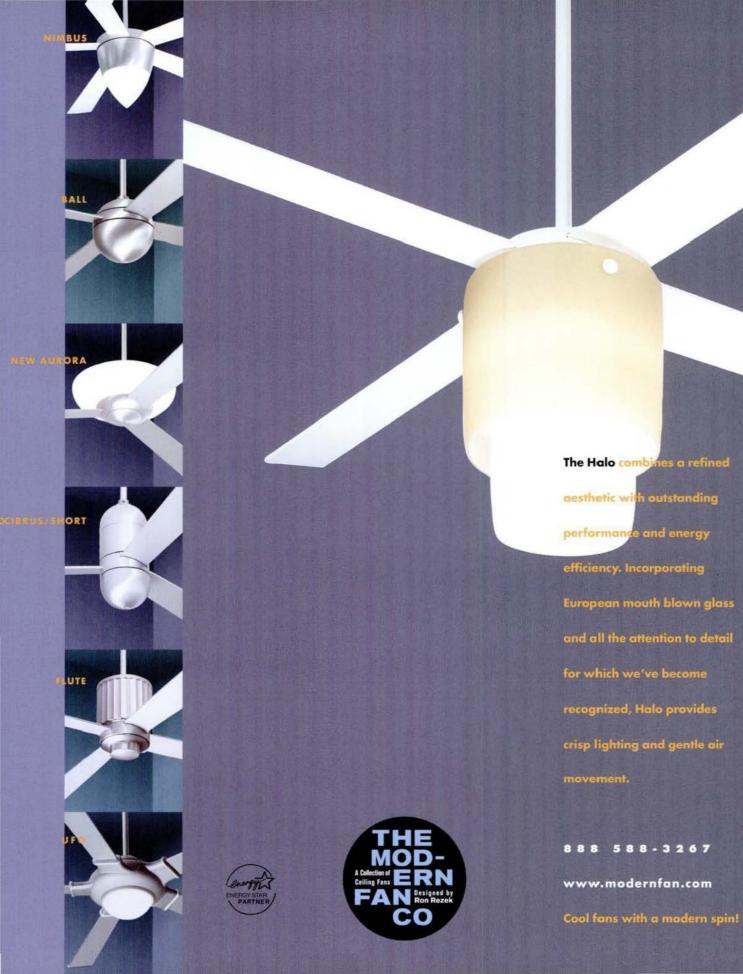
In just under five workdays, CBS constructed the framing, and installed insulation, sheathing, rough plumbing and electrical, 80 to 90 percent of the Sheetrock, windows and trim, weatherproofing, cabinets, and stairs. By April 13, the factory work was complete. "It was quite a day, as if a huge weight had been lifted off our shoul-

ders," says Dwell Home architect Joseph Tanney. "It was exhausting... a little like watching the birth of your baby, relieved yet primed for what's to come."

Seven flatbed trucks, each with its own police escort, delivered the modules on April 20, 21, and 22, from Salisbury to Pittsboro without incident. The modules were set onto the foundation on the 22nd, and the roof was put in place the next day.

Stepping into a finished module, explains Tanney, was "exhilarating. We made a series of calls to friends, family, and colleagues while in the boxes! We kept running in and out of one, then in and out of another. We were happy like little kids."

In our next issue, we'll share exciting photos documenting the transport and installation of the modules. In October, we will publish—drumroll, please—the finished Dwell Home. ■







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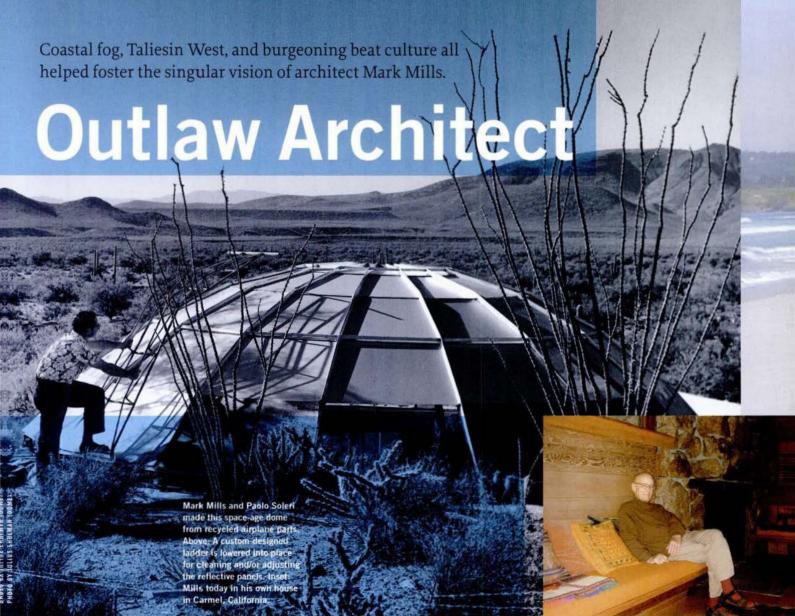
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Eighty-three-year-old architect Mark Mills is as freespirited and prickly today as he was when he and kindred spirit Paolo Soleri were banished from Taliesin West in 1947, "Frank Lloyd Wright got the idea we were stealing his clients and he said, 'Scram!' recalls Mills, who now lives in Carmel, California, where he still practices architecture. "Paolo and I were thrown out at the same time," Mills continues, describing how the two young architects found their way to a desert hideout on the north slope of Camelback Mountain near Scottsdale, Arizona.

Like Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, they lived in the open among the sagebrush and cactus for the next year. "We were living up with the squirrels," says Mills. "We scrounged dates from the date trees and then the skunks came along. The skunks sprayed on the dates and we ate skunk dates."

Their encampment consisted of little more than a tent, but eventually they built a more permanent shelter. "It was a little demonstration cone with a hexagonal base made from concrete block and a roof made from triangular pieces of plywood," explains Mills, who has had a passion for hands on building since childhood.

Mills and Soleri's exile on Camelback Mountain had all the elements of biblical legend: fleeing society, breaking ranks with the deity-like Wright, living with the animals in a desert wilderness, taking time for reflection, and returning to the world with a visionary message. Soleri would sit quietly on a rock and draw imaginary structures by stenciling ephemeral veils of watercolor onto paper. "It was the landscape that penetrated my semi-impermeable wrapper," observed Soleri. Then, in 1948, the outlaw architects came down from their mountain and rustled up a client.



Dwellings

Mills and Soleri concocted an intimate relationship with the desert environment of Cave Creek, Arizona. The house they created was an early experiment in passive solar/thermal thinking.

Near right: A fire burns in the rustic hearth of the Dome House. The water seen on the floor was deliberate and meant to facilitate passive cooling.

The transparent part of the dome could be opened in the daylight hours. The thick stone-and-concrete retaining walls retained heat throughout chilly nights. The reflective part of the dome could be rotated on a steel track to deflect the heat of the sun during the summer months.

Nora Wood hired Mills and Soleri to design a small desert getaway in Cave Creek, Arizona. For a little extra, they agreed to build the structure themselves. "We told her that if she bought us \$300 worth of tools, we would go out and build her house and she agreed," recalls Mills.

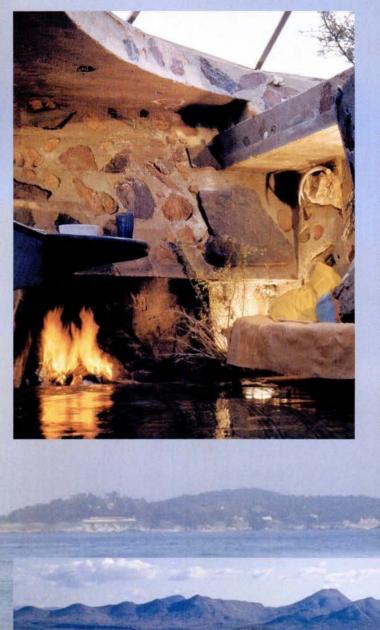
The concept for the house was based on a drawing by Soleri called "Turnsole," which depicted a domed structure embedded in the desert floor. Its glass roof could rotate to follow the sun's path across the sky. "The idea was already in Paolo's head," says Mills. "And when Paolo got an idea, it didn't leave his head until he had built it." Mills is characteristically humble about his contribution to the project. "I mainly did the grunt work," he says. "I couldn't change any of Paolo's ideas so I just grunted."

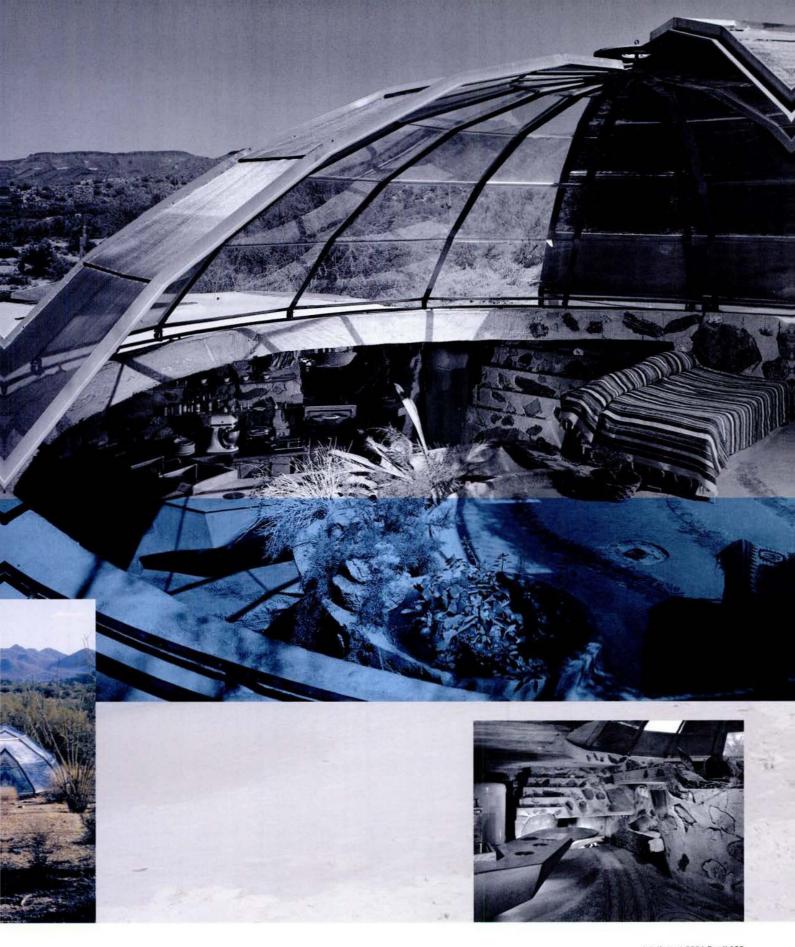
The pair excavated the entire foundation by hand, using only shovels, pickaxes, and an old wheelbarrow. Mills and Soleri got occasional help from the client's attractive daughter, Colly (whom Soleri moved in with soon after).

While it's easy to see Wright's imprint, the Dome House suggests a more personal and sensual interpretation of Wright's "organic design": a one-to-one communion with nature; a place for reflection and personal transformation. At once a cave, spiderweb, and sky dome, the house combines eclectic influences from the Southwest, like Native American kivas, with an offbeat kind of sci-fi imagery. (The region was experiencing a high level of UFO sightings at the time.)

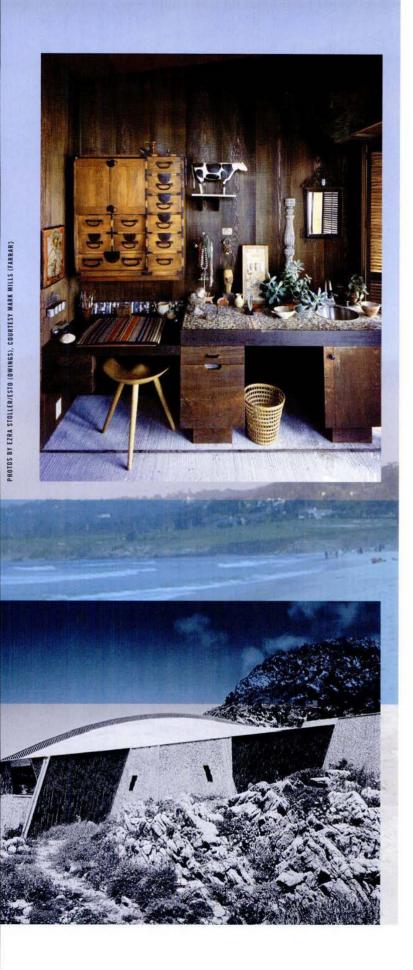
Such anomalous sensibilities—outer space and back-to-the-land—would be reconciled in the alternative architecture of the 1960s, helped along in part by the cosmic parity provided by LSD. The Dome House was published in *Architectural Forum* in 1961 and, along with R. Buckminster Fuller's geodesic domes and Friedrich Kiesler's Endless House, became a touchstone for young designers wishing to break from the soul-withering grid of corporate modernism. Mills and Soleri were, in a sense, proto-hippie architects, two of the pioneering fathers of the hands-on, design/build movement that swept North America in the following decade.

After finishing work on the Dome House, Soleri went back to his native Italy—he would return to Arizona in 1956 and start the alternative communities of Cosanti and Arcosanti—while Mills moved west to California









Opposite: Wild Bird (1961) was the name of the A-frame house that Mills designed for Nathaniel Owings of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. The main living area spilled through a triangle of floor-to-ceiling glass that looked out over the crashing waves, redwoods, and rugged terrain of Big Sur.

Near left: The house was filled with an accumulation of driftwood, seashells, and other objects collected from the Owings' frequent travels. Wild Bird was perched on a narrow ledge. Two-thirds of the structure was cantilevered out over the cliffside.

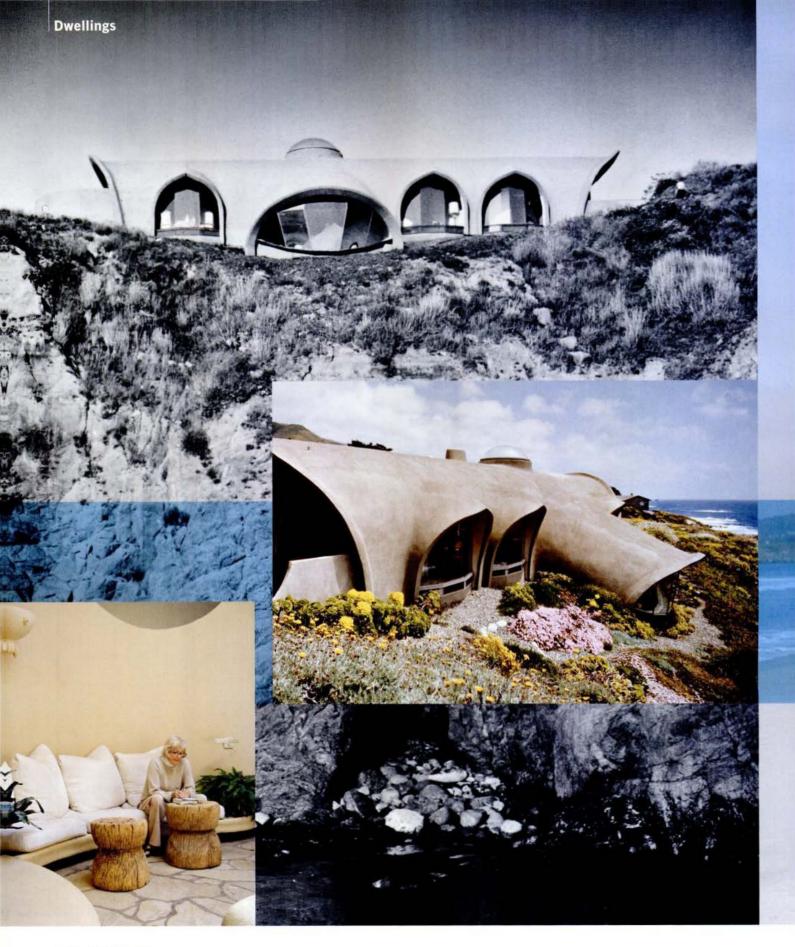
The Farrar House (below, near left), also known as Far-A-Way (1966), was built among the jagged rocks of the Carmel shoreline, with thick concrete walls that were bushhammered to give them a prehistoric roughness yet also catch the changing light.

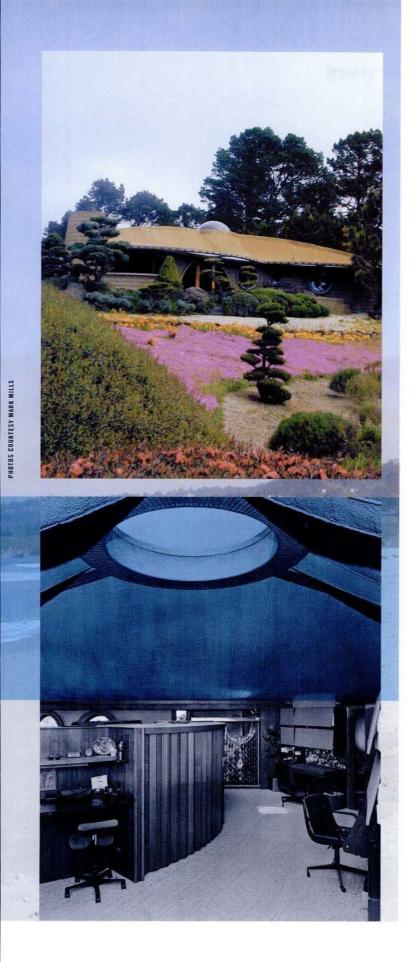
and settled in Carmel. The Big Sur area was already established as a bohemian outpost. Henry Miller was there and so was Ansel Adams, along with a colorful mix of artists, poets, vegetarians, and back-to-nature eccentrics. Miller used to come to dinner regularly at the house of Mills's mother-in-law, Louisa Jenkins, a mosaic artist who, Mills remembers, "used to stand on her head naked." It was in this setting of fog and beatnik glory that Mills established his own independent practice and designed a series of more than 30 one-of-a-kind houses for an equally free-spirited group of clients.

One of Mills's first projects was for Nathaniel Owings, a partner in the architecture firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, who needed a place to escape his high-pressure career. He bought a property in Big Sur where the rocky outcroppings of the Santa Lucia mountain range cascade into the Pacific Ocean. "We wanted to build a house that would become part of this rugged shoreline," Mills recalls. "Our aim was to disturb as little as possible." They chose to position the house on a seemingly unbuildable precipice that dropped 600 feet into the ocean. "We fitted the house into the windswept line of bay trees, which were clustered on the extreme end of the point," said Owings in 1961. Two-thirds of the structure was cantilevered out over the cliffside. The Owings family chose an appropriately poetic name, Wild Bird, for their aerie.

It was such an intimidating, windswept site that Mills made the entry sequence low and cavelike so as to embrace the visitor upon arrival. A narrow footpath leads down terraced stone steps and between rough, rustic rubble walls. This tight, subterranean effect is a preparation for the explosion of panoramic views that follow.

While the sloping roof of Wild Bird was meant to evoke an elemental sense of shelter, the Farrar House (1966) was more suggestive of living, biomorphic forms. The site for Far-A-Way (a play on the client's name) was as sea-washed as the Owings' site, but even closer to the ocean's fury, nestled in among the jagged rocks of the Carmel shoreline. Mills designed it to be as tough as a barnacle, with 9.5-inch-thick steel-reinforced concrete walls that sloped outward at a slight angle and gave the structure a bunkerlike profile. Odd, trapezoidal windows and doors added further to the pillbox effect. "If there >





The groin-vaulted structure of the Hass House (1969) in Carmel could be described as a snail clinging to the edge of the cliff, but Mills prefers to call it the "Limp Penis House." The exterior surface was coated with elastic neoprene coating mixed with crushed walnut shells to give it a rough texture.

Far lower left: Mrs. Hass, in a recent photograph.

Near left: Mills designed this turtle-like house in Monterey for Dr. Bela Janko in 1977. The photograph was taken earlier this year. The house has a domed roof (center photo) and porthole windows made from concrete drainpipes. The bottom photo shows the house's curvy interior.

is another war," said Betty Farrar in 1967, "I suppose we can just knock out the windows and stick some big guns in." Every opening offered close-up views of ocean and rocky shore.

"[Far-A-Way] is theater more than home," wrote Robert Wernick in *Life* magazine in 1967, "a proscenium arch opening onto the perpetual drama of the Pacific."

Sadly, the Farrar House was demolished in the 1990s, but the ingenious Hass House (1969), also in Carmel, has been relatively well preserved. This 1,950-square-foot house responds to its site in the most organic way imaginable, literally dropping over the edge of the cliff to capture intimate views of the crashing waves and rocks below. Its groin-vaulted structure can be interpreted as the body of a giant snail clinging to the edge of the cliff, but Mills prefers to call it the "Limp Penis House." (He designed it for a widow soon after her husband died, but let's leave the psychosexual inference to the readers' imagination.)

Mills went on to create more adventures in domestic living, but he made a point of never repeating himself: "Everyone I ever worked for was completely different," he says. "They didn't want the same thing." There was the Fan-Shell beach house, built in 1972 on a sand dune along 17-Mile Drive in Pebble Beach, with four radiating concrete vaults set between an almond-shaped swimming pool and the ocean. Then there was the turtle-like house he designed in 1977 for Dr. Bela Janko in Monterey, with a domed roof and porthole windows made from concrete drainpipes.

Today, the inventive Mills remains something of an anomaly, just as he was nearly 60 years ago when he left Taliesin for the wilderness. He remains the consummate outsider, self-effacing and humble about his contributions to architectural history. While his individual projects were published on occasion, he seems to have gone out of his way to shun all forms of self-promotion and thumbed his nose at conventional architectural practice.

Mills's architecture defies easy categorization. It doesn't fit into the mid-century-modernist mold and he certainly had no visionary aspirations like his old friend Soleri. An American original, Mills pioneered his own school of anthropomorphic regionalism.



Opposite page: Fernlund and Logan's renovation of an East Hampton summerhouse expanded the upstairs living room, eliminating a pre-existing deck, and adding a Cinemascopic row of eight-foot-high windows that bends around the house's corner.

Below: Owners Ursula and Richard Foulser and their two children enjoy the living room's light, air, and views. The Tulip table and chairs are by Eero Saarinen.

"It's not what people think of as the Hamptons," says

Neil Logan of the vacation house he and his wife and business partner, Solveig Fernlund, designed for a young English couple and their two small children. Logan is referring to the architectural monstrosities overtaking eastern Long Island like a blight, but not so long ago, the area was synonymous with a relaxed modernism, and Fernlund and Logan's East Hampton renovation fits squarely into that tradition.

An affected irrationality typified the original structure, which they suspected was built in the 1970s. "There were all these setbacks and recesses that didn't make sense," Logan recalls. Nor was the design functional.

"It's very strange to live in an upside-down house," says owner Richard Foulser, recalling the old layout—two bedrooms with baths and a cramped common area below, a kitchen/living room and master suite above. "In summer, we live downstairs—we're always cooking, we've got the table out on the deck, and the kids are in the pool," Foulser explains. "So it was a nightmare having

the kitchen upstairs"—a nightmare compounded by an enormous, second-story deck. "It made a big separation from the outside," he recalls. "You'd be upstairs sitting in the living room, and the kids might be out drowning." Foulser says he and his wife, Ursula, wanted "a house we could love every inch of." But with young children and a steady stream of visitors, they also sought an unfussy retreat from their Manhattan life, where kids could romp while grown-ups relaxed.

Fernlund and Logan's design answered both desires. The architects extended the house in front and back, enclosed most of the deck, and elevated part of the roof, creating a simple volume that exudes a snug mystery on approach and recalls a glassier variant of Le Corbusier's Villa Savoye in the rear. A third of the house became a sleeping wing, with two small but light-filled bedrooms (and a bath between them) on each floor. The rest was devoted to two public spaces: a ground-level kitchen/dining room overlooking the pool through a panoramic wall of sliding glass doors, and an open living room on the

Asking the question, "What makes a house?" architects Solveig Fernlund and Neil Logan offer a crisp response: light and shade, form and functionality, volume and view.

Right-Side-Up House





Architect: Fernlund + Logan Architects

Project: Foulser Residence Location: East Hampton, New York



"As it's a summer-house, we thought it made more sense to have smaller bedrooms and larger public areas for the living room and kitchen," says Logan of the altered floor plan.

The original façade featured a window that revealed the stair. The architects replaced it with a new upstairs window and a horizontal indentation over the sliding glass doors on the ground floor.

second floor. To maximize the light, air, and views upstairs, the architects built transparent barriers in front of three eight-foot-high glass sliders; with these opened, the living room transforms into an elegant tree house.

The home's spareness is enhanced by the use of exposed lightbulbs as fixtures, minimalist hardware, and a near-total absence of closets. Even the house's quirks evince a refined asceticism: a "bed wall" features two birch plywood shelves that can sleep four children, the guest bath has an unenclosed shower, and the fireplace—a square cut into the wall—is lined with stone from the old sculpture garden of New York's Museum of Modern

Art. Yet the effect is unexpectedly welcoming, the structure's idiosyncrasies born of the Foulsers' embrace of family and disdain for pretense—indeed, Richard painted the entire house and built some of the furniture—its pulchritude the result of Fernlund and Logan's grasp of form and proportion. "The house has a lot of aspects of life; it's not a museum or showcase," Logan observes. "I'm really pleased with how simple it is."

"For the money we spent, we probably could have built one twice the size," Foulser adds with amused directness (though, at just over \$200,000, the renovation budget is small by local standards). "But I just love it." ■

Foulser Residence Floor Plan

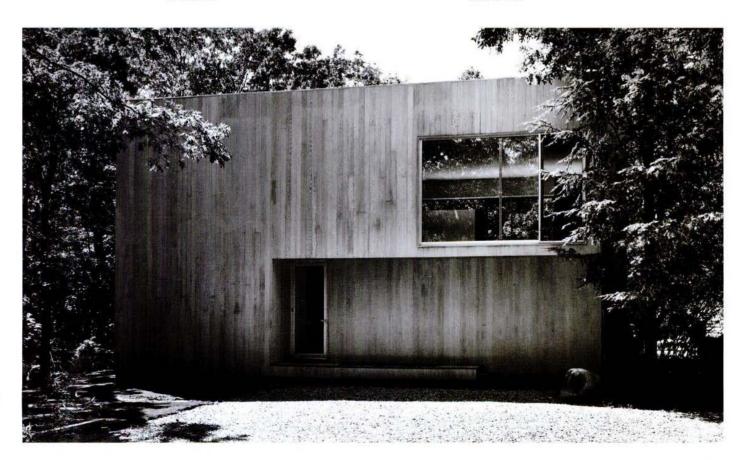
- A Living Area
- B Bedroom
- C Bathroom
- D Kitchen
- E Entrance Deck
- F Dining Area
- **G** Exterior Deck
- H Pool

Existing floor plan before renovation.





Second Floor



All 1,500 square feet of the dramatic Tomiyama residence respond to the needs of the Tomiyamas and their guests: A wide-open, oak-floored living room encourages large latenight parties, and an eight-mat tatami room on the other side of a diagonal dividing wall awaits the sake-drinking part of the evening as well as futonlounging guests.

"A shadow in the trees" is how Japanese architect

Satoshi Okada describes the vacation house he built at the base of Mount Fuji for a retired couple, Shunsuke and Hiroko Tomiyama, and Hiroko's 91-year-old mother, Sei Torii, a design-savvy orchid enthusiast. Standing tall and dark in the 200-year-old broadleaf forest that has developed since Fuji's last eruption, the structure lurks between the arboreal canopy and the deep turf, soft with fallen foliage.

The Tomiyamas gave Okada very few parameters—all having to do with how they and their guests could most comfortably enjoy weekends at the house, in the woods, and on the half-dozen prestigious golf courses in their resort community. "For our vacation house," Hiroko says, "we wanted something different—and some space." She had vacationed in this area as a child, but, she says, "Our former 'villa' was a typical Japanese cabin, with lots of tiny rooms and no view to speak of. We'd come all the way out here and then spend our meals looking around the kitchen!"

Despite its differences from the original house—which was demolished to make way for the Tomiyamas' new home—Okada explains that "while this solution seemed unusual at first, it doesn't stand out, because I base a building's geometry on the environment." The exterior is Japanese cedar, stained black, "because the surrounding forest is really dark." To further obscure

the structure, Okada matched the slope of part of the roof to that of the road.

Mount Fuji is an active volcano, and the undulating landscape of the Tomiyamas' 1,160-square-foot lot was formed by the flow of lava and water. When their three small grandchildren visit, the Tomiyamas take regular walks through the lush greenery, where they tramp through accumulations of the peculiar "Fuji sand," black lava pellets two to three millimeters in diameter.

"Besides costing a lot, leveling this rugged landscape would have destroyed the very element that makes it appealing," Okada says. The architect tucked the structure into a small hollow and followed the environmental protection regulations of the national park, where felling trees is not an option. He opened up the house to the forest and its dappled light through vast windows and a skylight.

The Tomiyamas have been using their Fuji vacation house for three years now, mostly on summer weekends, thoroughly enjoying the contrast to their "Americanimport house" in Tokyo, just an hour away. "Urban houses are all of a mold," Hiroko declares, exasperated. "There are no more good Japanese houses. But we come here with two or three families, and it's fun!"

"In the city," notes Okada, "the fire and building codes practically design the building. Here, nature allows an exploration of an architect's talents."

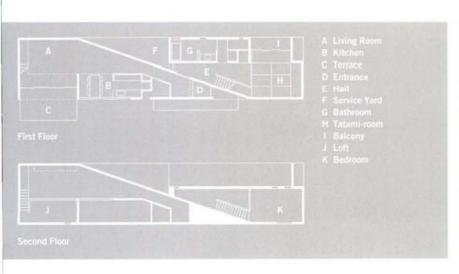
Set on a lava flow among the trees in a national park, this Japanese vacation home was inspired by its striking surroundings and unpredictable neighbor, Mount Fuji.

Shadow House

Project: Tomiyama Residence Architect: Satoshi Okada Architects Location: Mount Fuji, Japan









Story by Amara Holstein

Photos by James Silverman

Landscape architects Natur Orienterad Design (NOD)—who share Stockholm offices with architects Gert and Karin Wingårdh—created the pensive surroundings for this former mill house. Surrounded by verdant hills and beech forests in southwestern Sweden, a tiny house sits on an old farm-turned—holiday compound. Along with the multiple other buildings on the property, the minute space serves no other purpose than to foster relaxation for its retired owners, Johan and Gunnela Dieden.

The Diedens bought their 3.7-acre former farm near the town of Båstad as an escape from their primary residence in the city of Malmö, just about an hour's drive up the coast. Working with architect Gert Wingårdh (with assistance from wife and architect Karin) of Wingårdh Arkitektkontor, the Diedens renovated or rebuilt five of the six buildings on the site (the main house was left relatively untouched) for maximum delectation: A storage shed for tractors and equipment became a guest house with nine bedrooms, a dilapidated barn was transformed into a dance and banquet hall, a sheep shack

became a high-tech catering kitchen, a swimming pool acquired its own abode for people who need a nap after a long afternoon in the water, and an old mill house became a quiet place for Johan to hang out with friends.

For this mill structure, the smallest space on the property, the Diedens decided on a flexible budget to "make it a pearl," as Johan puts it. Formerly a decrepit building that needed to be torn down, the new structure, according to Johan's specifications, had to include a sauna and a soaking tub. "The main building is done in a very feminine way, with lots of patterns and stuff," notes Gert. "Johan wanted to have a retreat that was influenced more by his tastes in architecture and decoration."

Built out of oak and lime-plastered concrete blocks, with sliding doors on two sides that fully open onto a meticulously manicured garden, the compact 740-square-foot home is "about the size of a Japanese tea >

When Johan and Gunnela Dieden decided to turn a former Swedish mill house into a space to take friends to sauna and soak, they enlisted the aid of trusted architects Wingårdh Arkitektkontor and got their ideal retreat.

Holiday House

Architect: Wingårdh Arkitektkontor Project: Dieden Residence Location: Båstad, Sweden





Dwellings

Says Johan of his proclivity for spending time in the sauna (below left), "I bring friends here, and we talk and drink beer." If people get drowsy after the heat, a sleeping loft (below right) and living room (opposite page) provide places to lounge.

house," says Gert. In the uncluttered space, surfaces are made of natural materials and kept intentionally simple.

There is a sleeping loft upstairs, and a kitchen, glass fireplace, living room, and bathroom downstairs, but Johan's favored spot is the sauna, which prominently occupies a little less than a quarter of the house's floor plan. The seating is made of hibachi wood (which stays cool, preventing grill marks on reclining legs), and the sauna comfortably fits eight people. "It's quite common for men to withdraw to have a sauna—it's like taking your cigars to the drawing room," Gert explains.

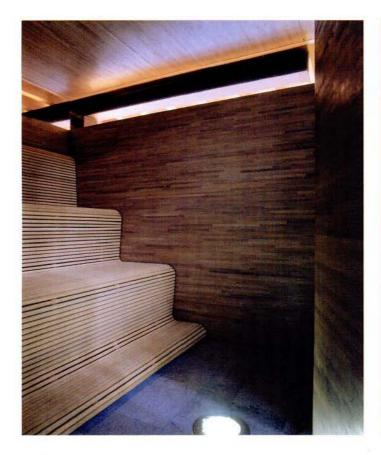
After each sauna, Johan dips himself into the five-foot-deep plunge bath outside. An avid outdoor bather who swims every day of the year, Johan wanted to maintain his ritual during the many winter weekends and summer months that he and Gunnela spend at their vacation property. The small creek next to the house was diverted

by pipes to flow around the house on two sides, first feeding the bathing area, then reconnecting in the front around a small terrace that appears to float on the water. In the summer, as eels traverse the creek on their southward migration to the Sargasso Sea, bathing sometimes involves a wildlife encounter, since according to Gert, "you never know if there is an eel in the darkness."

One of the Diedens' two adult sons has taken up summer residence in the reconstructed mill house. But this doesn't bother the Diedens, who generously like to share their secluded vacation spot with family and friends. "We have had big parties there," Johan says. "We can sleep 35 people at the various houses on the property, which makes the parties much better, because people don't need to think about driving home." That's the kind of responsible vacation attitude all considerate homeowners should promote.

"The main building is done in a very feminine way," notes Gert.

"Johan wanted to have a retreat that was influenced more by his tastes in architecture and decoration."







Architect David Weiner wanted the house he designed for his client "to modestly sit on the land as if it was floating on a sea of wildflowers."

The house's exterior walls are clad in cedar tongue-and-groove wood siding, which stops with a hidden metal edge and transitions to a single-ply waterproofing system. Custom windows were designed and placed to bring in the maximum amount of natural light.

For New York architect David Weiner, the opportunity to design an American weekend house for Fumi Okuda, his Japanese client, presented some unusual questions, such as, How can a house fit as well as a kimono?

He found one answer while visiting an exhibition on the fashion designer Issey Miyake, called "Making Things." There in the Cartier Foundation for Contemporary Art in Paris, Miyake had not only displayed his extreme geometric clothes but also woven in the theme of how they were constructed. Fibers were twisted, crumpled, pleated, quilted and—most important for Weiner—folded, in a complicated puzzle-like assembly. "I was impressed by the computer animation displays that showed a single piece of cloth folding itself up into a volume," Weiner explains. "Without the person inside the clothes, they appeared like an exotic three-dimensional sculpture."

Weiner went back to his studio and developed an idea of a house, constructed, like the Miyake fabric folds, from two continuous sheets of an L-shaped form, in which one side folds up and around to make the major enclosure of the house, and the second arm of the L folds under the main roof and then out the front. These two folding arms organize the building as a simple cross in plan. This places the living space in the center, sharing light from the high clerestory windows and opening, without doors,

to the other rooms. "While working on the image of the house as a single plane folding up and becoming the enclosure," recalls Weiner, "I realized that the subtle angles of the slanted wall meeting a curved roof would echo the gentle rolling hills of the site."

Okuda had discovered the site while hiking near a property in upstate New York that she co-owned with friends. Reaching the top of a hill, she turned to see the landscape reveal itself like a painting: In the foreground was a green bowl of grass dotted with yellow goldenrod, cleanly defined on the perimeter with a mature-growth forest, and beyond, the skyline of the low, blue Berkshire hills. We all know the feeling of seeing a site like this and thinking, What a place for a house, and then realizing that what we mean is, What a place for my house.

Okuda asked Weiner to design for her a small but inspiring home. "I wanted the house to be open to the views and be sensitive to the landscape," she explains. "And also, during the summer nights, to capture the incredible light effects of fireflies and moonlight."

Although there is nothing traditionally Japanese about the house, Okuda feels that some unique connection to her culture has been made, and she finds a great comfort here, enveloped by her small house, where entering each room is like slipping into the elegant sleeve of an unfolding kimono.

For her secluded hideaway upstate, one busy New York resident looked to the material and spiritual culture of her native Japan for inspiration.

Unfolding House

Project: Okuda Residence Architect: David Weiner

Location: Rensselaer County, New York

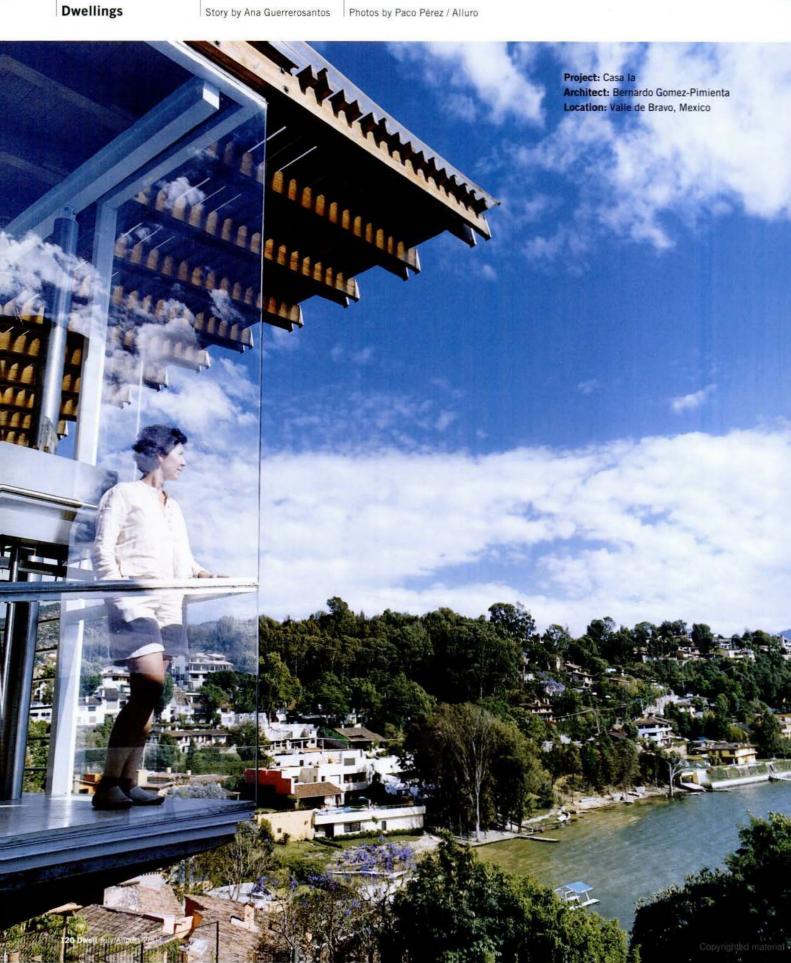


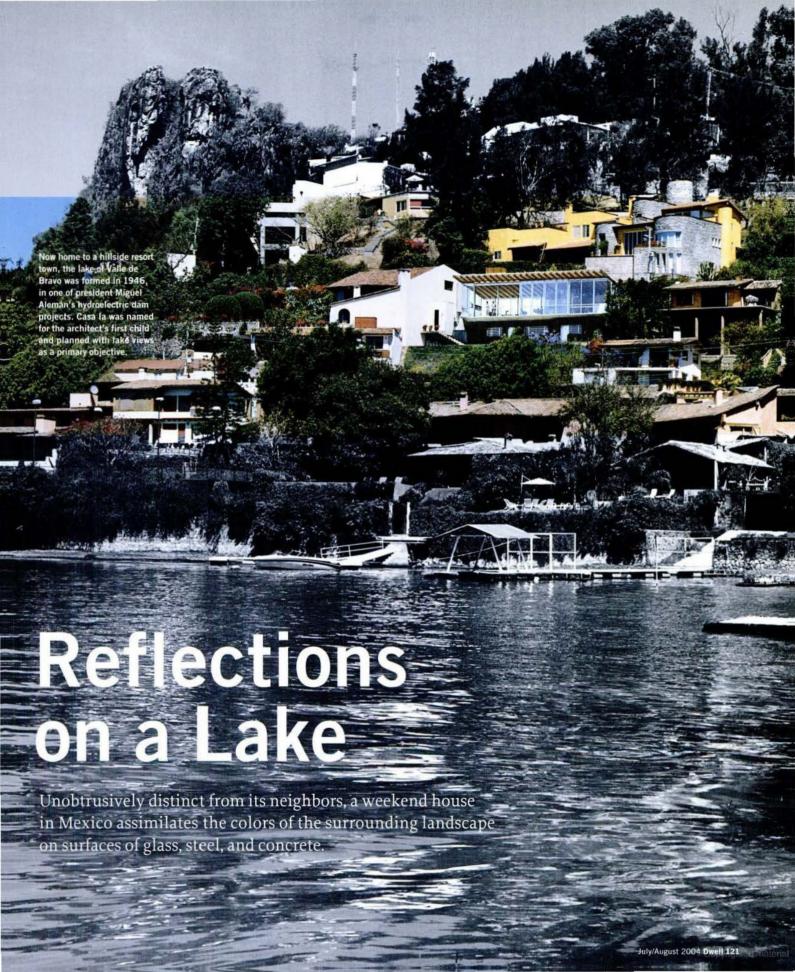


In Okuda's compact weekend house, the bedroom, study, and kitchen are visually connected by maple flooring that runs throughout the inside, with wide openings between the light-filled rooms. The unique geometry of the house reflects the architect's interest in structure and shape.









Dwellings



Above: The house has what some architects would call an upside-down plan, with living spaces upstairs and bedrooms below. The upper story is strikingly transparent; the lower is camouflaged by thick, foliage-covered walls, which keep the sleeping areas cool.

Right: Loredana Dall' Amico reads in the living room, where all the seating was designed by her husband. The floating stainless steel unit behind her is also his design and contains a state-of-the-art stereo system.

In the picturesque Mexican village of Valle de Bravo,

where Spanish-colonial stucco and tile are the norm, a weekend house designed by Bernardo Gomez-Pimienta is proof that the 21st century has arrived. Hardly a newcomer to forward-thinking design, the 42-year-old architect shared Latin America's first Mies van der Rohe prize with Enrique Norten in 1998. Together as TEN Arquitectos (1987-2003), their output included worldrenowned buildings like Mexico City's Habita Hotel and the Brooklyn Public Library in New York. Lesser known but no less beautiful, Gomez-Pimienta's weekend getaway sits on the village's steep mountainside, facing a massive man-made lake where vacationers come to sun, sail, fish, or water-ski. Choosing the site for its lake view and two-hour distance from his home in Mexico City, he conceptualized the house with a single sketch, and built it in just one year. The result is a place where everything-from the architectural schema to the furniture and tableware—is designed by the owner.

A neutral palette of glass, concrete, and stainless steel allows Casa Ia—named after the first child of the architect and his wife, Loredana Dall' Amico—to rest unobtrusively in the landscape, and yet the house has a marked peculiarity. As in many Mexican mountain villages, most rooftops in Valle de Bravo tilt downhill to shed water in the rainy season—a strategy that inherently also blocks the view. Gomez-Pimienta slanted his roof in the opposite direction. "By refining the way the roof is sealed," he explains, "we found a way to have perpetual vistas of the water, the mountains, and the sky." With its broad side facing the lake, a single glass volume embraces Casa Ia's >







living and dining areas, supported by the ground level, where the existing stone walls of an old unfinished structure were transformed into bedrooms.

For Gomez-Pimienta, the house's spatial magic lies in a concept he likes to call "perfect tidiness": "Deep down, this is a big Lego assembly of columns, girders, wood, and glass," he says. "Orifices in the concrete line up with the marble stone lines in the floor, which in turn line up with columns and wood panels. All the materials and details tie together into a cohesive whole." His other guiding design principle was that "all spaces had to see the lake"—a vision that came to fruition throughout the house, even in the master bathroom, where the sink, tub, and toilet all have headlong lake views. In this context, the Lego-minded simplicity becomes something monumental.

Connecting the upstairs living room to the downstairs bedrooms, a stairway descends into a rectangular opening at one end of the marble floor. Encased in thick stone walls, the stair has a stainless steel banister that slopes gently at the top, and culminates in a high-velocity curve. "You can slide down at pretty good speeds," says Gomez-Pimienta, who planned this perk for his children, Ia, now four, and Nicolas, who is three. At the bottom of the stair is an immaculate room with bunk beds. Clad in blue-and-white-striped sheets, six mattresses lie neatly on broad cantilevered wedges of concrete.

Outside, the plan of the property continues to cut against the grain. Most of Valle de Bravo's swimming pools are on the lake sides of houses, and so despite their lake views, they suffer chilly offshore breezes. At Casa Ia, the pool area, where the kids spend long hours with >

Opposite page: The kids and their mother relax in the pool area, their figures framed against a monochromatic background of steel and concrete.

Below: The lake, seen from the pool. The patio doors are held open by rocks that Gomez-Pimienta collected on various pilgrimages: Taliesin West in Arizona, Chateau Neuf du Pape in France, and others.

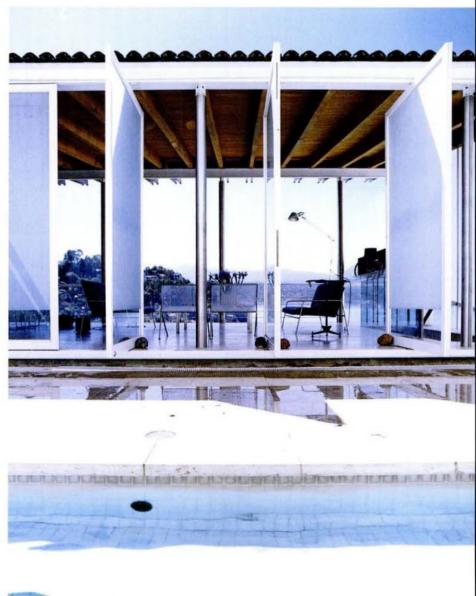


M Recreation Den

N Mechanical & Storage

F Dining Room

G Kitchen





Creating Architecture and Design

Bernardo Gomez-Pimienta is renowned not only as an architect but also as an avant-garde designer. Mexicans refer to him as the creator who goes desde la casa hasta la taza, or "from the house to the cup." The words don't rhyme in English, but the idea is there: He isn't just an architect, he thinks holistically about the universe of design. "It is quite the same to create a wooden chair or a building—all that changes is scale," Gomez-Pimienta observes. "I believe that in archi-

tecture, small details have to relate with the rest of the space, and to remain within a single conception." Therefore in Casa Ia, all objects from tables and lamps to towel racks and stools carry his unique signature.

Sold in some of Mexico's larger cities (Mexico City and Guadalajara), as well as in New York and Paris, his design line, BGP, is perfectly sampled at the house in Valle de Bravo. Because the kitchen, dining area, and living room are a single space where Gomez-

Pimienta kept materials minimal, the individual forms of the objects stand out. The Casa la tableware is that of the Habita Hotel; Java chairs surround the cantilevered concrete dining table; Attu armchairs welcome peaceful moments in the living room. Even the outdoor furniture is meticulously designed: "The easy chairs have a somewhat industrial structure due to the stainless steel, but the knitted plastic gives them a soft and gentle gesture," he says. —A.G.

their parents, fits into a sun-drenched concrete box between the house and the hillside, sheltered from the wind. Best of all, the splendid view remains, unimpeded by the living room's glazed walls.

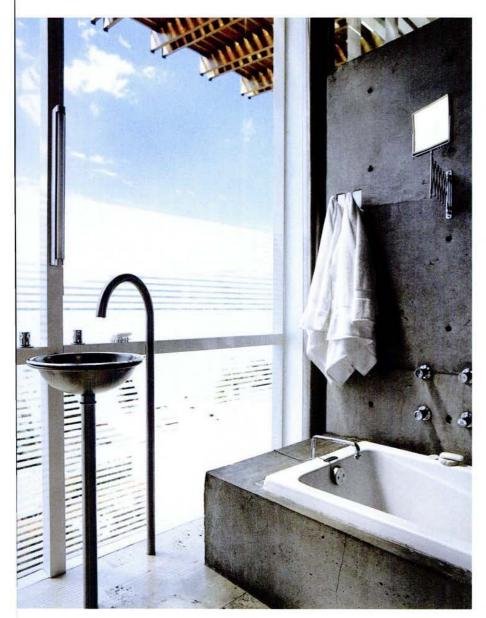
Just off the pool is a solarium, where translucent easy chairs designed by the architect blend into the scenery by color mimesis. This phenomenon is also perpetuated by the use of stainless steel in the living spaces, on columns and balustrades, bath and kitchen fixtures, hardware, and appliances. "Stainless steel is a great material," says Gomez-Pimienta, "because it reflects its surroundings and disappears, enhancing the light and color that enters from outside: sky, clouds, water, and trees."

Upstairs, the living areas are warmed, cooled, enlarged, or shrunken, simply by adjusting the glass doors on the house's lake and pool sides. Light and ambience alter

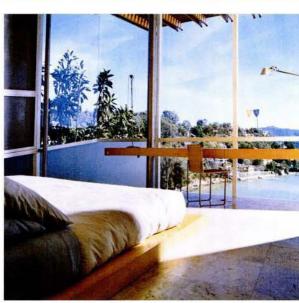
throughout the day, and due to the reflective qualities of steel, glass, and concrete, the house travels with the colors of the lake and sky—from clear blue in the morning to pink, yellow, or purple in the afternoon. With unabashed happiness, the architect declares that "the house can be 200 square meters by night, but it can go from here to the other end of the lake by day."

In a larger sense, Casa Ia's mutability hearkens back to the architect's Lego reference. The family makes the rooms feel big and ethereal when they wish, or, says Dall' Amico, "small and cozy when it's time to cuddle." "What I enjoy the most," her husband adds with more of an architect's tenor, "is that you get to watch the space extend or reduce, and the unceasing variations perpetually make it a different place from one moment to the next."

Below: The rounded steel guardrails on the kids' bunk beds are meant to inspire fantasies of nautical adventures. In the master bath, the architect managed to combine privacy and a view by adding a horizontal-line pattern to the glass wall. On the desk in the master bedroom, two Philippe Starck fly swatters sit aside a Tolomeo lamp from Artemide.







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Story by Andrew Blum

Photos by Jeremy Murch

"So, tell me about your relationship with your father" does not typically count as small talk. But the children of famous architects pictured here know why we might be interested: Because they co-opted their fathers' buildings as playgrounds and were dragged on endless architectural pilgrimages, they've acquired a heightened psychological relationship with architecture—a near instinctual sense for the way it orders our experience.

Nathaniel Kahn recalls in his Oscar-nominated film My Architect that his father, Louis Kahn, "left no physical evidence that he'd ever been in our house, not even a bow tie hanging in the closet." The same can't be said for this group; the houses they grew up in often epitomized their fathers' work. And yet they all would certainly relate to Nathaniel's quest to better understand his father—and perhaps himself—through

his father's architecture. While none of them are architects now (a key criterion for this admittedly haphazard sampling), all recognize architecture as a consistent subtext in their lives.

And yet that doesn't mean their homes are genteel modern showplaces furnished with hand-me-down Barcelona chairs and failed project models. On the contrary, this group exhibits a low-grade restlessness with the spaces of their lives, a calculated introspection about their domestic environments. Having been immersed from an early age in ceaseless architectural searching, they find it a tough habit to break. As a result, the portraits that follow catch their subjects where they are—in the midst of moves, renovations, and domestic sabbaticals. What materializes is a different sort of modernism, not of furniture and line but of vision and personality.

My Father, The Architect

Nicholas Stern says the Central Park West apartment he grew up in never failed to catch the notice of visitors, even teenagers on their way to the kitchen to steal a beer. The 1967 renovation by his father, Robert A. M. Stern, dean of the Yale School of Architecture and eminent historicist architect, was an early expression of the postmodernism just then being defined. "It explores elements of classicism," says Nicholas, "but deconstructs them," with playful shifts in space and plan. His parents divorced, but his mother—who long ago married another architect—still lives there, and its lessons remain with Nicholas. "I learned my theory of architecture from my father, and I agree with it, whether through osmosis or genetics or just plain good taste."

Work is nearing completion on the renovation of a townhouse—designed, of course, by his dad—on a curving street in Greenwich Village for Nicholas and his wife,

Courtney, an interior designer at the architectural firm of inveterate modernist Deborah Berke. Nicholas, who is a vice president at Taconic Builders, a high-end contractor, never even considered hiring any other architect, "not in my wildest dreams." While the project is primarily a restoration—"I can only imagine Page Six of the *New York Post:* Historic preservationist Robert A. M. Stern guts 1847 Greek Revival townhouse for his son, the builder," Nicholas jokes—that hasn't prohibited a few big gestures, like a flowing staircase in the double-height dining room. He only wishes for a larger budget: "Then we could let Bob be Bob and go to the moon."

Nicholas adds: "I am one of my father's biggest admirers—if not the biggest." He was even going to follow in his footsteps, going so far as to enroll at the Yale School of Architecture, although years before his father became dean there. He lasted only two weeks. ▶





"My dad is not somebody who really engages in any conversation on any level that's more than three steps removed from architecture." —Nicholas Stern

Until she was three years old, Julia Eisenman was

dressed exclusively in white, at the insistence of her father, Peter Eisenman, the theorist/ringleader of the neo-Corbusian architectural clique once called the "New York Five." And it wasn't just her—all the walls of their Riverside Drive apartment in New York were white. "At school, the girls had Laura Ashley wallpaper and plush carpeting, and I was like, 'I want Laura Ashley wallpaper!' And my dad said, 'No. No. The most I'll give you is one wall in your bedroom with a color on it.' So I got one bluish-purplish wall. That kind of pissed me off, because I was like, 'Why can't we just paint the whole room?'"

While this was years before she spent the summer as au pair to Richard Meier's children, she understood why, sort of: "I knew that he was crazy. I knew that he was this

architect and things had to be his way, but as a kid I had no idea what was really going on. I just knew that he had a certain aesthetic"—she draws out the word—"but I didn't know what the word meant."

Now a film producer in Hollywood with aspirations to direct (the architect in her, she says), Julia has no misgivings about sharing the story. "If he can't handle this, he shouldn't have given birth to me, because he knows I'm just as provocative as he is."

And she's still fighting her modernist demons. She and her husband, Andy Behrman, the author of *Electroboy:*A Memoir of Mania, recently moved into a 1959 house in the Hollywood Hills. But she resisted it at first. "It wasn't cozy!" she says. "But my growing up wasn't cozy either. Obviously a huge part of me is drawn to that."

"My dad totally lives in a fantasy world, which I love about him." —Julia Eisenman







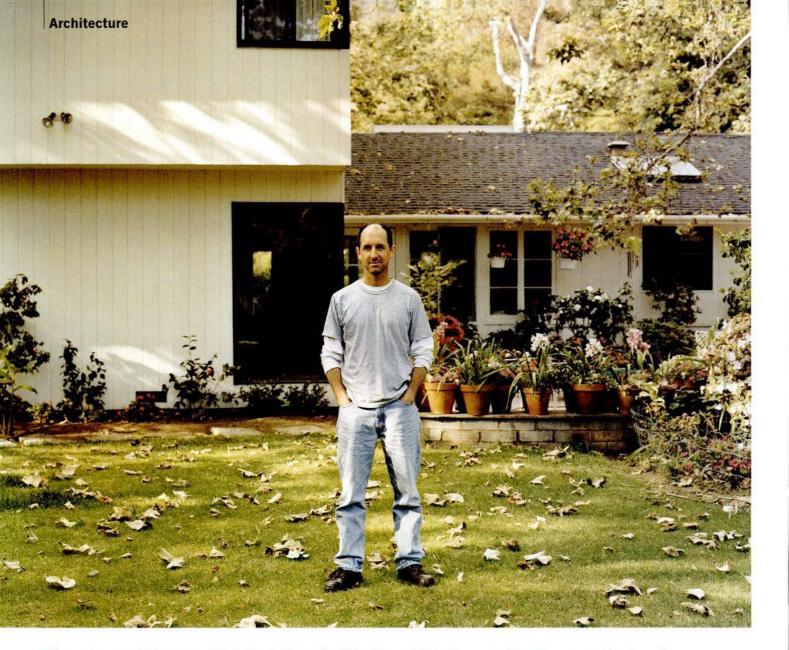
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"Growing up, I knew which buildings he liked, and I'd always take the opposite stand. I'd always like the big Hilton." —Oren Safdie

Oren Safdie grew up in Habitat, the revolutionary apartment building his father, architect Moshe Safdie, designed on the banks of the St. Lawrence River in Montreal for Expo 67. Its chockablock system of stacked prefabricated modules was Oren's first playground and, later on, his newspaper delivery route. "I knew every nook and cranny of that building," he says. After his father moved out, 13-year-old Oren became tour guide to visiting dignitaries.

Habitat, Oren realizes, continues to influence his choice of homes: The New York City shoebox he lived in for ten years had a terrace overlooking the Hudson, like Habitat's terraces overlooking the St. Lawrence. At the moment, he and his wife, M. J. Kang, a playwright and actor, have found themselves temporary residents of the

guest house of a ten-acre Malibu avocado plantation. "It always goes back to the water and the garden," he says.

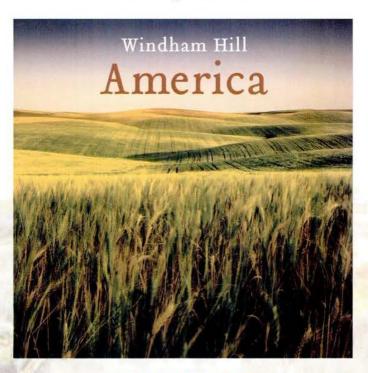
Architecture, in both direct and circuitous ways, remains a part of his life. Oren finished a master's degree in architecture at Columbia, but halfway through he had an epiphany: One summer in his father's apartment overlooking the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, while working on a paper about the father and son architects Eliel and Eero Saarinen ("it's probably telling"), he flipped to the back of his notebook and started writing. The rough novel that resulted became the basis for his burgeoning career as a playwright. Even so, he hasn't stayed entirely away from architecture. His recent play, *Private Jokes*, *Public Places*, produced this winter in New York, is set at an architecture student's final review.

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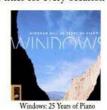
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Architecture

Erica Stoller's father, architectural photographer Ezra Stoller, did as much to disseminate modern architecture as any architect. For many people, his iconic black-and-white photographs of the TWA Terminal, the Seagram Building, and the Guggenheim Museum, among others, are stronger icons than the buildings themselves. But he also disseminated modern architecture to his family, designing the open-plan house in an unorthodox subdivision in Westchester, New York, where Erica grew up. At home, his process worked in reverse: If at work he captured architecture in two dimensions, at home he tried to make every view resemble a photograph. "Everything was just beautifully spotlighted, but the light would always shine in your eyes," she says.

While Erica has never gone in for spotlights, she still insists that the place where the walls hit the floor be visi-

ble—a key detail in bringing clarity to photographic space. And even though her husband, William Ketchum, is a leading authority on American folk art and antiques, she maintains a certain minimalism. "I get pretty nervous when the windowsills have stuff on them," she says.

At work, clean lines come more easily—she's surrounded by modern architecture, or at least its visual representation. For the past 20 years, Erica has run Esto, the photo agency her father founded, and turned it into the leading name in architectural photography. But her attitude about architecture's relationship with its image is strikingly different from her father's—more honest in its dishonesty. "He insisted photography is the only honest presentation, and that talking about architecture is just a lot of hooey," she says. "I, on the other hand, don't think photography is honest at all. Everything about it is manipulative."

"At art museums, I walk along the walls like a spy. I realized I learned that from my father. I'm trying to see how far back you can get the camera." —Erica Stoller



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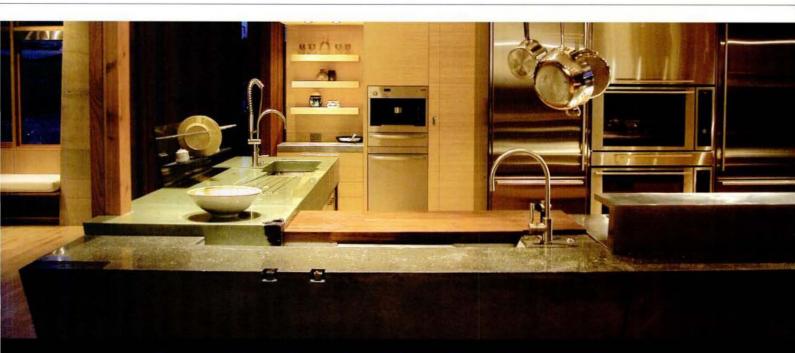
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Extreme Makeovers

When it came time for us to stop gazing out the window and step over the threshold for this issue's landscape architecture feature, the subject felt almost as vast and unwieldy as the great outdoors itself. So in lieu of approaching things from a DIY perspective ("Build a Deck From the Ground Up!") or offering a hurried overview ("From the Garden of Eden to Parc de la Villette—via Versailles and Central Park"), we decided to share five residential spaces whose radical transformations speak for themselves.

These case studies reflect wildly disparate sensibilities, budgets, and definitions of paradise-whether intended for a single family or 400 units—but all share an approach that is more keenly attuned to issues of space, structure, and functionality than to a reverence for botanical material or a nostalgic longing for the pastoral or pristine wilderness. "Most gardeners can't resist creating these collections of plants. I'm not interested in filling in spaces," explains Czech émigré Vladimir Sitta, who arrived in Sydney, Australia, when English cottage gardens were all the rage and then survived the "nationalistic fervor" for Australian natives. Falling firmly into neither camp are Sitta's residential and public works, notable for their structural integrity and extreme individualism.

Manhattan-based Ken Smith prefers to ply his trade in the world's various concrete jungles, convinced that "creating renewable and inspiring urban areas is one of the best ways to limit sprawl and waste of natural resources." Recently, Smith implemented Isamu Noguchi's unbuilt plans and furniture designs for the plaza at New York City's Lever House, an endeavor he considers "part retroactive design, part poetic justice."

"I tend to look at plants more as architectural masses than individual elements—and to think about creating a flow and a connection between the existing architecture and the landscape," says Andrea Cochran, who designed the grounds of the minimalist Hotel Healdsburg in Northern California and collaborated on the Portland Art Museum sculpture garden. "For us, it's not about knowing what plant goes where, but about the poetics of the space, and the scale—whether it's a 15-kilometer highway, a backyard, or a landscape installation in a boutique," offers James A. Lord, an associate at Peter Walker and Partners in Berkeley, California.

Bright colors, surreal scaling, and artificial materials fill the landscapes of Martha Schwartz, who has bent the definition of nature since her now-renowned Bagel Garden took bloom back in 1979. Since then she has found inspiration in everything from Necco wafers to garden gnomes to the Brothers Grimm: "Our democratic and middle-class culture is one of junk materials, and if we are to participate in this culture, we must learn to elevate and love them."

Further Reading

The Minimalist Garden, Christopher Bradley-Hole (The Monacelli Press, 1999): A portfolio of landscapes in which less is more, from John Pawson to Luis Barragan.

Radical Landscapes: Reinventing Outdoor Space, Jane Amidon (Thames & Hudson, 2004): From temporary constructions to less ephemeral manipulations, with examples by practitioners such as Maya Lin.

Small Space Gardens, David Stevens (Harper Design International, 2003): An idea book for diminutive spaces illuminated by case studies in which structure and plantings are given equal consideration.

Reinventing the Garden: Chaumont—Global Inspirations from the Loire, Louisa Jones (Thames & Hudson, 2003): A sort of "best of show" of avant-garde installations from the Chaumont garden festival in the Loire.





Landscape Architecture 101

Red Garden

Vladimir Sitta

"At one point, it looked like some colossal explosion-everything was covered in red dust," recalls Vladimir Sitta, describing the installation of this terra-cotta-colored landscape in Sydney, Australia. The five angled planes, which jut like shards around a primal watering hole, were wrought onsite from sandstone unearthed near Alice Springs. Offering a different view every few steps, the earthly upheaval adds movement and life to the garden and helps increase a feeling of depth on the fairly shallow corner lot.

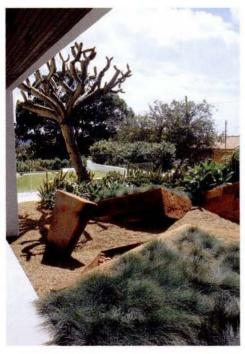
Some of the gravel-covered surfaces sprout native grasses, while others support a colony of succulents, of which the clients are avid collectors. "The smaller stuff was entirely the wrong scale," says Sitta. "I had to edit, but the beauty of a robust skeleton is that it can take any punishment! Right now, the plants are going crazythere's an atmosphere of rampancy-like they're on steroids."

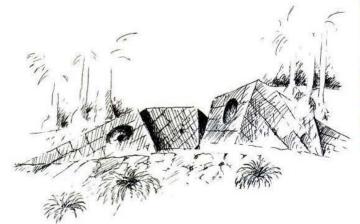
This uniting of aridity, moisture, and fecundity has a counterpart in the Australian outback, with, says Sitta, "these places that are absolutely dry, except for small crevices of water surrounded by plant life you don't find anywhere else." Small gardens are tucked into nooks and crannies around the property, while the longer vistas offer a lush mingling of Australian, American, African, and New Zealand natives that merge with foliage beyond the property line: "You try to both screen and borrow from the distant view-to give people their illusion of a personal paradise." A second, slightly calmer body of water—the swimming pool—was endowed with the same reflective gray-green as the Sydney harbor and strategically placed just outside the doors of the study, encouraging one to practically jump straight from computer to swimming pool.

Although the garden was recently completed. Sitta-who divides his time between public and private landscapes—rather enjoys the fact that residential projects are never quite finished. "Nature makes sure of thatgardening being in some ways an unnatural act. So your clients become your friends, which is the rewarding part. Provided, of course, you don't all end up in court."









"The violence of this earthly upheaval is redeemed by the calming presence of the water," says Sitta of his red garden.

Flotsam from the site was tumbled to make the red pebbles that fill the triangular cache (top left), over which perches a four-foot wedge that, by design, appears to be falling over. "People tend to approach with caution," says Sitta.

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and his team were doing the finishing work on the house, which will be open to the public on Saturday, July 10. For event info, log on to www.dwellmag.com.



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Landscape Architecture 101

Aluminum Garden

Ken Smith

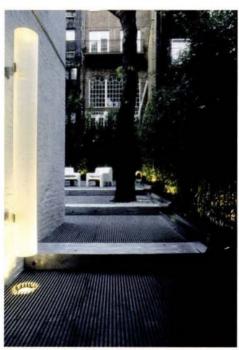
The spirit of Garrett Eckbo hovers over this courtyard on New York's Upper West Side, a friendly nod to the modernist maverick whose 1959 Forecast Garden for Alcoa also incorporated the rustproof material in illuminating ways. Even as Ken Smith composed his elegant, understated Aluminum Garden to be free of the "baggage of metaphor and narrative," it's a reminder that nothing exists in a vacuum.

The decision to build a series of five stepped platforms, however, was prompted solely by a single mature silver maple that Smith found enclosed in a huge oval planter that dominated the space: "We couldn't grade down and save the tree, so we went up eight inches with each level." Instead of using standard decking, Smith laid silvery gray industrial grating over crushed-stone fill for a lighter profile, and marked each tier with a pine structural beam treated with his own concoction of aluminum radiator paint and canyon gray deck stain. The back and one side of the garden are planted with bamboo and an aluminum screen partially obscures the original wooden fence on the other. "When you look out from inside the house," says Smith, "there's this forced perspective that makes the space seem to go on and on."

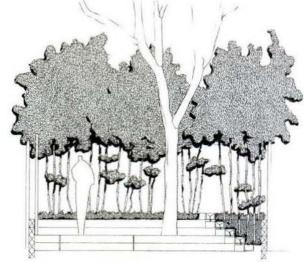
The clients, who craved a low-maintenance yard for living and entertaining, were immediately receptive to the metallic motif. "The interior had just been meticulously renovated using glass, rubber, and steel, and it made sense to extend this approach," says Smith. "I'd passed through my postmodern phase and rediscovered the pleasure of using humble materials in a straightforward way—and aluminum acquires this bloom and patina over time that's just beautiful."

In his quest for planters, Smith wandered through the Bowery and found four huge aluminum restaurant-supply pots more commonly used for the mashing of potatoes. Off-the-shelf marine aluminum provided the material for the fountain, a series of five narrow channels that run the length of the garden. Hearkening to a "skinny little runnel" in the forests of Fontainebleu that Smith has always fancied, its continuous burbling screens out noise, and after dark the water punctuates the night with random, jewel-like sparkles.









The rooftop deck (top) borrows elements from the garden below—from the metallic gray wood decking to the aluminum screen that runs along one side.

A curved pipe in the back bamboo dumps water into a runnel that Smith had machined from marine aluminum he discovered in a New Jersey warehouse, and polished up with steel wool.

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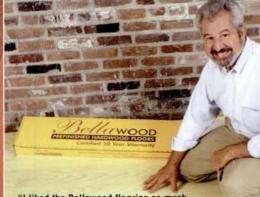
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Landscape Architecture 101

Suburban Zen

Andrea Cochran

Two squad cars pulled up as the first bamboo trees were being planted along the property line of a newly built house on a leafy street of California bungalows in Palo Alto. One neighbor, already perturbed by the house's spare profile, had alerted police to the arboreal intrusion. "It was not an auspicious beginning," recalls Andrea Cochran.

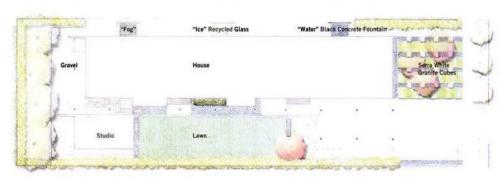
But the planting continued apace, and serendipity drove the rest when someone showed up to offer a stash of huge granite blocks that they thought, Cochran says, "would work really well here." Quite by chance, the house's owner-an environmentally responsible developer—had specified the monoliths as gateposts for a nearby enclave of Craftsman-style homes. "So now we had to do something with them," explains Cochran, who had the pieces split, engraved, and chiseled to catch the light. Using moving boxes, she created a full-scale mock-up as neighbors wandered up to share their curiosity, skepticism, and hostility. Once the pieces were set, Cochran animated the installation with pebbles, tufts of Japanese blood grass, and bands of undulating Irish moss contained in rusted steel, and offset the formal geometry with three red Japanese maples. And suddenly, there was a palpable thaw in the 'hood, "People liked it!"

Perhaps too much, though. As strangers started wandering back to check out the grounds, Cochran was moved to signal the private space with a triptych of steel-framed concrete and acrylic panels that echo the cladding on the house's façade. Like the companion fence, they act as modern shoji screens upon which the calligraphic shadows of the trees are projected. Stepping stones at the back of the lawn lead to a secluded garden room behind the master bedroom, where a foliage scrim of giant bamboo and eucalyptus screens out a looming apartment building, and a retaining wall made from the leftover granite provides seating.

Inside the house, three windows frame snow-globe-like vignettes that Cochran created along the narrow outside border: water dripping into a fountain, ice mountains made of glass shards, and swirling fog. "It's strangely comforting having these illuminated scenes at night," observes the resident, a recent city transplant. "You're not just looking out into pitch-blackness."







Cochran credits architect David Baker's placement of the house on one side of the long narrow lot with creating the unusual volume of outdoor space: "His siting was brilliant!"

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Landscape Architecture 101

Rammed Earth Wildflower Meadow

James A. Lord and Roderick Wyllie

When James A. Lord's sister Cathy bought a "mongrel Tudor bungalow" in a historic district of Long Beach, California, she also acquired a huge pile of dirt and weeds frequented by six feral cats. "We could have hauled away all the dirt," remarks Cathy, an engineer like her father and other brother, "but given the budget, James and Roderick proposed working with the one thing that was in plentiful supply." The sculpted swells of rammed earth that resulted are an abstraction of the nearby ocean, the presence of which at times lends the air a salty tang as gulls shriek in the distance.

To determine the optimal ratio of earth to cement (needing enough of the latter to act as a binding agent, but not so much as to impede plant growth), Cathy cheerfully turned her yard into a test lab, exposing sample bricks to the elements. "Engineers love to tinker," says James. "And since Cathy's usually dealing with skyscrapers, this brought things down to an elemental level."

One holiday weekend, the entire Lord family turned up to help build the forms, pour the mix, and tamp down the earth as if in some modern-day Dionysian ritual. Once the frames were removed, the soil was planted with a mix of native grasses and wildflowers from Rana Creek Habitat Restoration, a 15,000-acre sustainable agricultural center in the Carmel Valley. The 20-by-60-foot meadow attracts birds and butterflies, and the cats (who were caught, fixed, and released) frolic on waves splattered with red and orange poppies. At night, chunks of blue glass glow from a slot that was sliced through the length of a wave to reveal its form. Bordering runnels filled with river stones protect the land mass by draining water toward a row of moisture-loving papyrus, and a plinth overlooking the landscape provides a sunny perch for morning coffee. "It's beautifully lush," says Cathy "and mercifully needs cutting only twice a year-mowing the moguls can be tricky."

This summer, the tweaked seaside motif will continue when an undulating ipe board-walk is installed between meadow and fence—yet another upgrade to the felines' personal playground.







The rolling meadow of native grasses and wildflowers created by Lord and Wyllie is animated by butterflies, bees, and birds as well as the six resident cats.

At the end of summer, the open land between the meadow and the fence will be filled with an undulating ipe boardwalk that embarks from a deck off one of the rooms.



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Landscape Architecture 101

Gifu Kitagata Apartment Gardens

Martha Schwartz

When five women—four architects and landscape architect Martha Schwartz—were commissioned to create a new public housing complex in Gifu Prefecture in central Japan, it was promoted as "an experiment in feminist housing design," the hope being that women might bring a more humanizing aspect to what has traditionally been rows of dark, cramped slabs. Schwartz's challenge was to adapt the long, linear courtyard space to meet the needs of everyone from toddlers to senior citizens, while unifying the disparate styles of the four buildings and providing a discreet place for parking.

Previously a rice paddy, the site's former pattern of raised dikes and lower areas offered a direction for the collection of sunken, selfcontained spaces, many of which were designed to contain water. "Ironically, perhaps, it hearkens to the Italian Renaissance garden, with its series of outdoor rooms and its gardens of delight and surprise," observed Marc Treib in Landscape Architecture. There are places to stroll, play sports, sit, splash, dance (a request of older residents), and make out-the Willow Court conferring privacy with a protective canopy of weeping branches-and children approach their sandbox via slides that are playfully suggestive of escalators.

In the midst of all this open space, some intimacy is afforded by the Four Seasons Garden, a row of rooms enclosed with brightly colored Plexiglas panels that glow like lanterns when lit at night. Winter (blue) contains an austere arrangement of bamboo planted around a pedestal; spring (yellow) is furnished with an S-shaped love seat; summer (green) has lugs for hanging hammocks above the swath of uncropped grass; and fall (red) is filled with shrubs and wooden birdhouses that peek over the top.

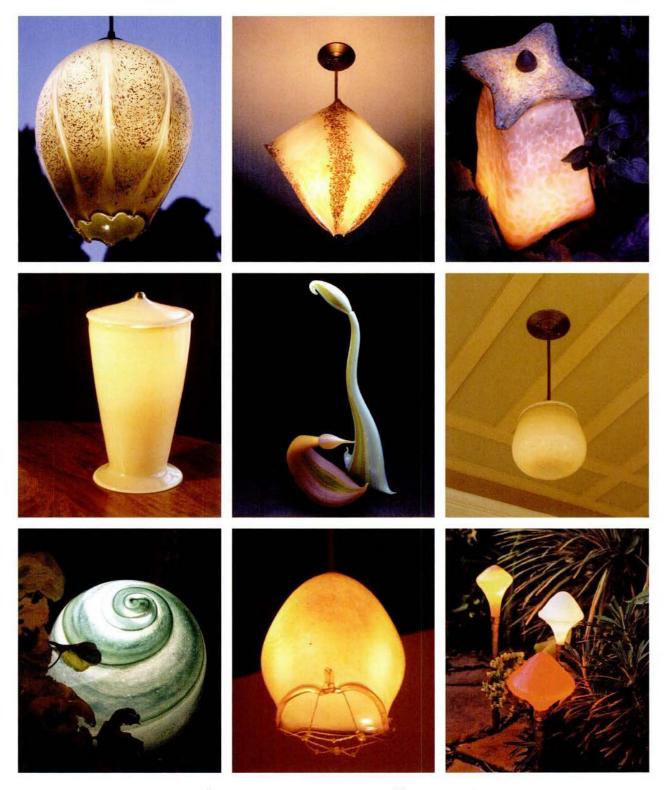
Perhaps the most fanciful destination is the Stone Garden, a large circular fountain whose Pepto-Bismol pink blobs jut up like lingams and spit water at irregular intervals, providing relief on hot muggy days. Although the color was meant to be more muted, the specification for "pink granite" ended up being interpreted quite literally, "a crosscultural misunderstanding that worked out brilliantly," notes Schwartz.







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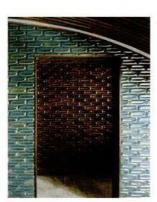


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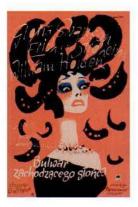
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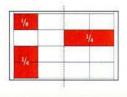
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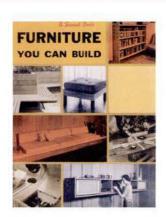
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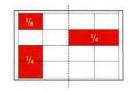




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