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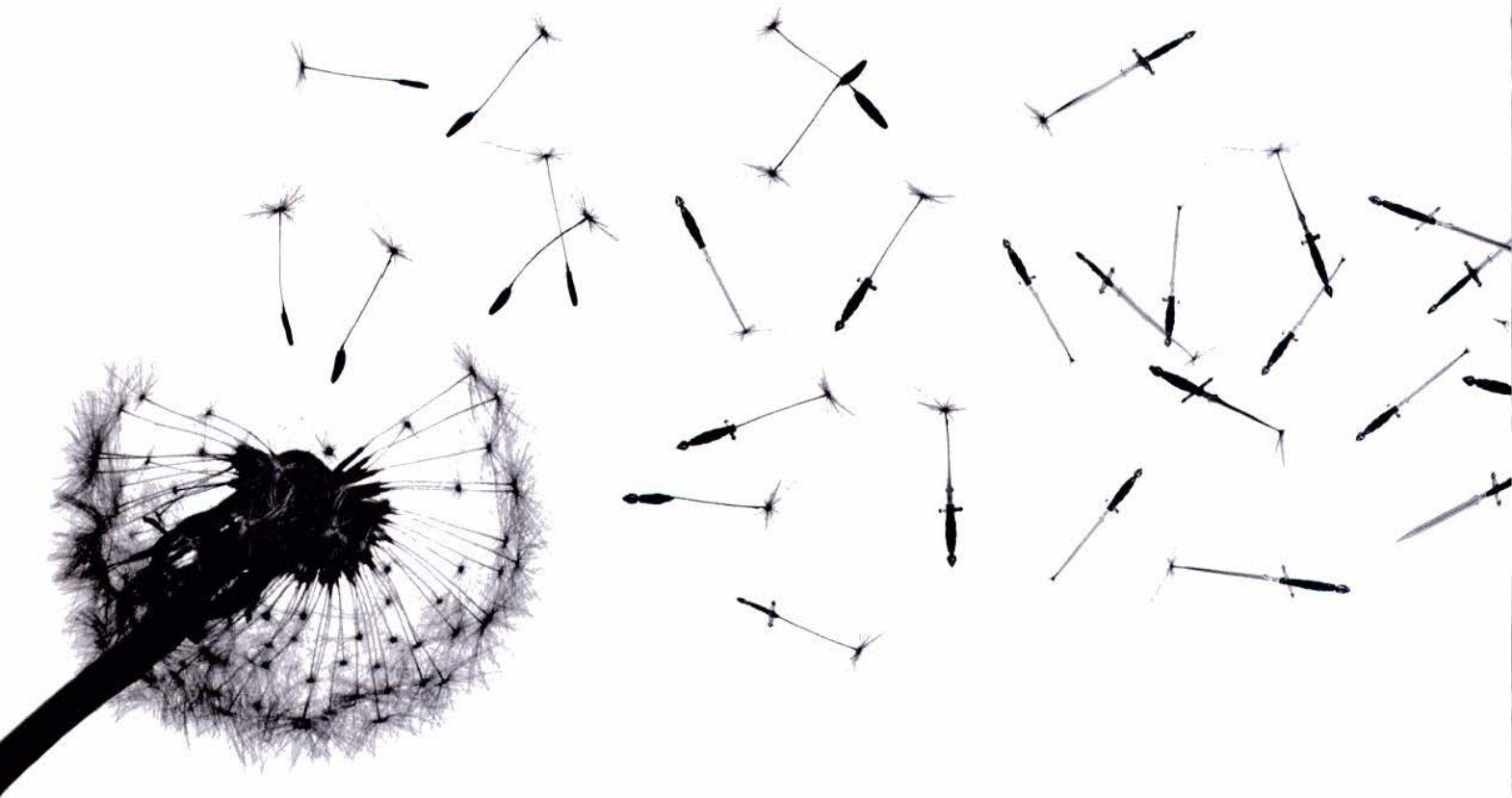
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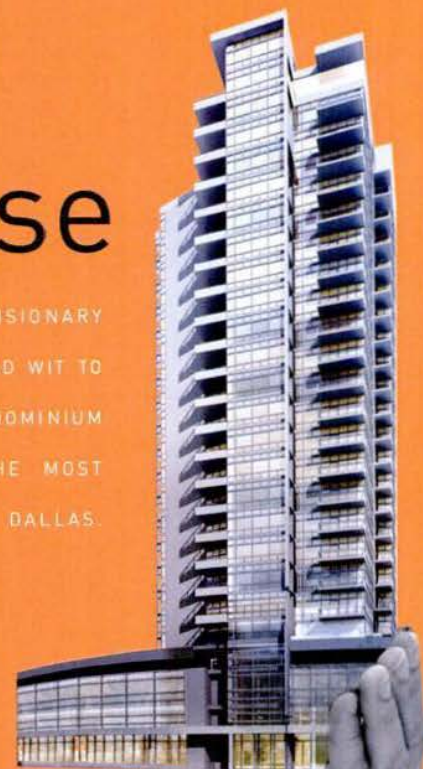
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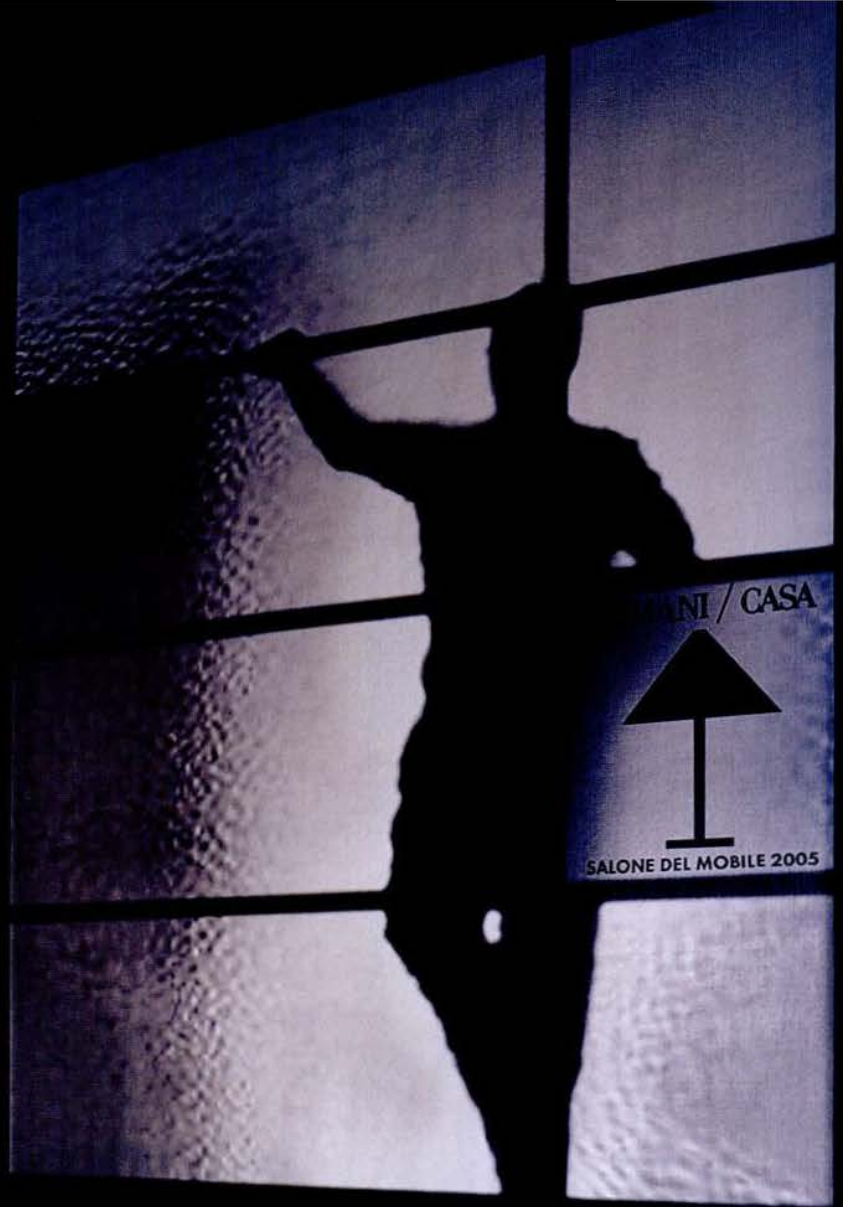
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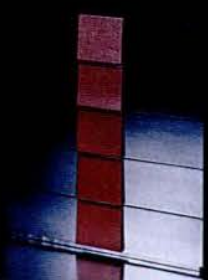
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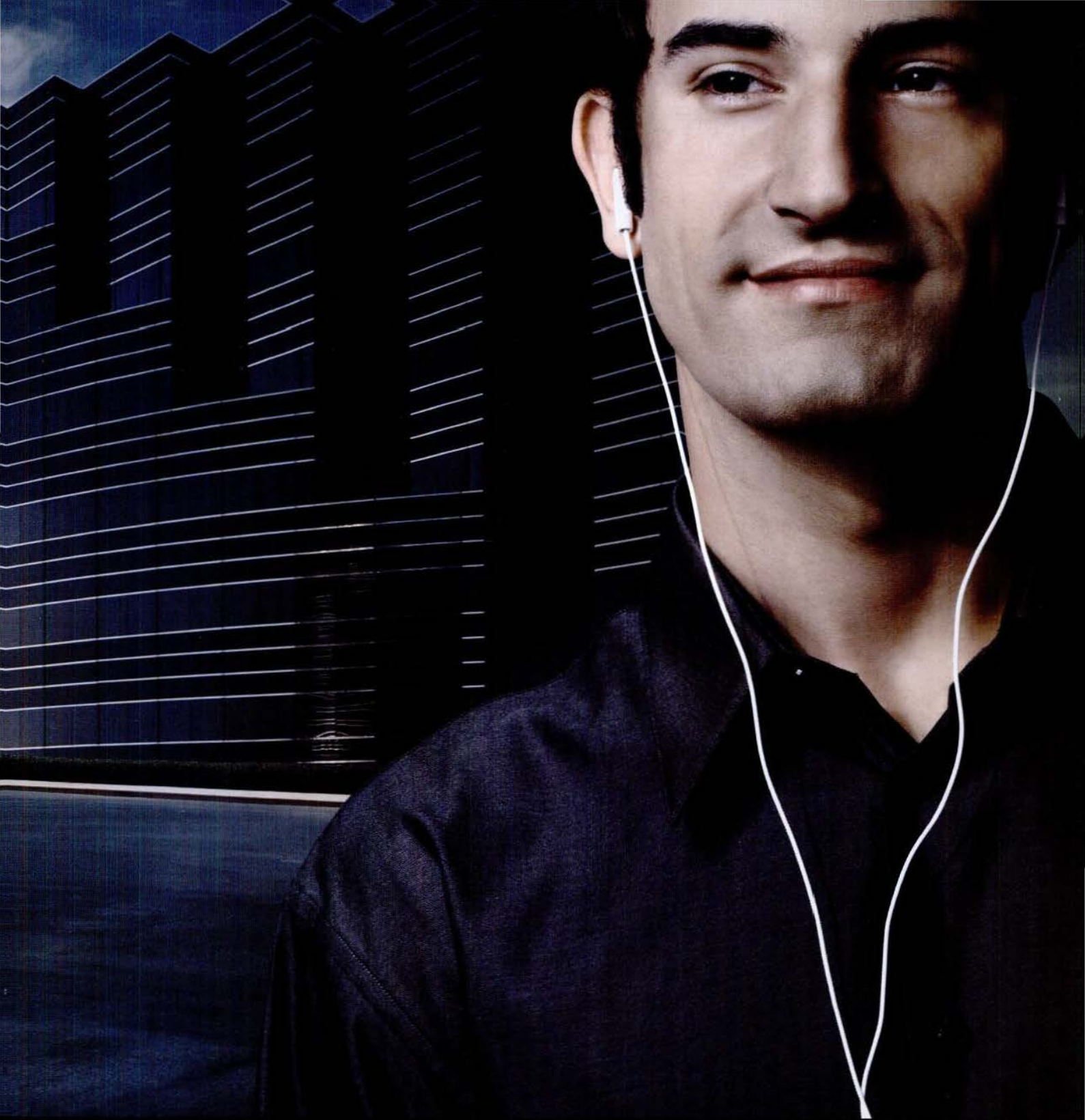





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Do you love the clean, sleek styling of contemporary leather furniture but have trouble making the comfort connection? A short trip back in time to the Southern Italian port town of Taranto will go a long way toward raising your comfort level.

Get ready to **rethink** your contemporary leather **comfort zone.**



Pasquale Natuzzi and team discuss the finer points of design and comfort.

A comfortable and stylish new introduction from the Urban Collection.

In 1959, Pasquale Natuzzi opened his tiny workshop in Taranto, crafting armchairs and sofas for the locals – people whose appreciation for Italian design and craftsmanship was rivaled only by their passion for comfort. Ever since, this patriarch of Italian leather furniture and the company he built, have been creating sofas, chairs and sectionals that are as much about comfort as style.

Natuzzi's supple leather seating offers inherent comfort. But it's what's inside that truly makes you not want to get up. Although they've always been as pleasing to the body as to the eye, Natuzzi pieces now feature an improved internal comfort system. They've combined the best down feathers with a special polyester silicone foam in a 70/30 ratio, for enhanced comfort that impressed Pasquale Natuzzi himself.

Natuzzi "ultra comfort" runs through all their collections – Casual Esprit, Urban Feel and Vintage Mood. Even in the sleekest contemporary designs, comfort is king. But the comfort quotient doesn't end there. Slumber on a Natuzzi sofa bed or relax in a manual or electric recliner and feel for yourself. Be sure to try one with the multi-massage function.

Comfy yet? Hopefully any misconceptions you might have had about the contemporary leather = comfort equation have been dispelled... and now you can move on to the real fun – exploring your own Natuzzi style. ■



Vintage Collection leather chair in "Golden Honey."

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Allison Arieff muses about design inspiration and the story behind the objects and buildings we love.

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Story by Amara Holstein / Photos by Larry Sultan

“Philosophy is not one truth, but thousands of truths. You don’t have to believe in just one thing. When you choose one idea, you close yourself to the rest.”

—Marcel Wanders

Cover: Marcel Wanders, page 142

Photo by Oliver Chanarin and Adam Broomberg

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The new Saab 9-5 Sedan.

Saab was founded by 16 aircraft engineers and their spirit lives on. Introducing the new, redesigned 9-5 Sedan, with an EPA estimated highway fuel economy of 29 mpg. While inside, there's a whole new class of

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Powder Room, "The Green Home"
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Architect: James Chuda
Photo: Christopher Ray Photography



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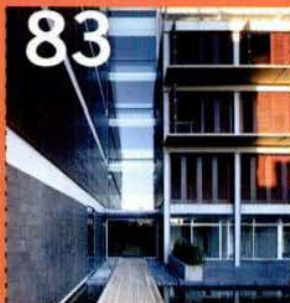
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Model Glam
design Marco Pareschi & Partners

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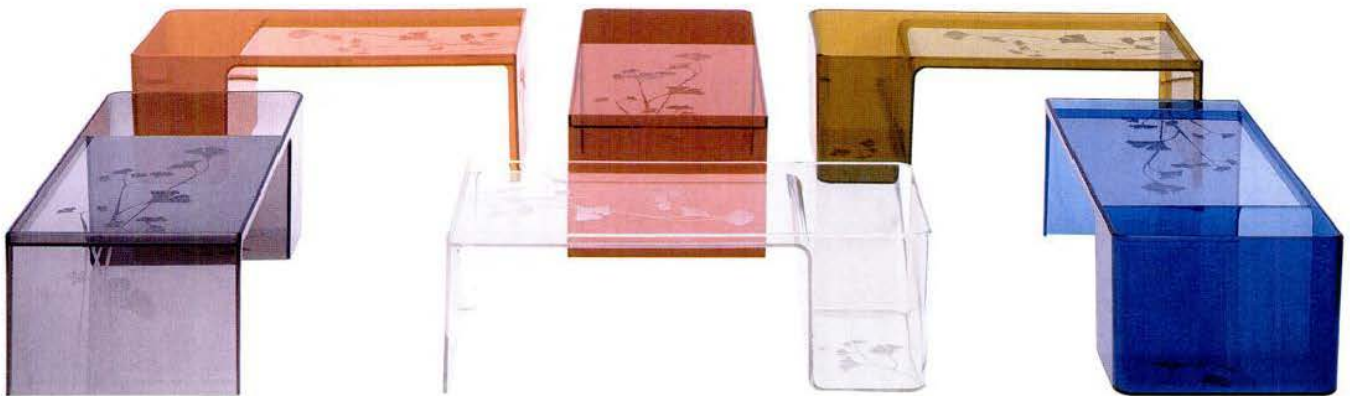
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mademoiselle chair design philippe starck **usame coffee table** design patricia urquiola

What a delightful surprise on page 123 of the February/March 2006 issue ("Row House Revival"). The photograph of young Jonas Ogrodnik-Bardin was beautiful and brightened up a gloomy winter day. Kudos to photographer Craig Cutler for capturing Jonas's expression of wonder, and kudos to the design department for knowing how this photograph should be played—by filling the page. This photograph reemphasized for me that I look to *Dwell* not only to educate on interior and exterior design, but to be a thoughtfully designed publication as well.

Janet Fry Schneider
Indianapolis, Indiana

I was very excited to see the article about Cologne in the December/January 2006 issue ("Curating Cologne"). It happens that I have been living here in Germany for the past three months while completing a short-term assignment for my employer (I work in automotive design). One of the significant personal benefits of this assignment has been the opportunity to explore Europe on the weekends. However, the December/January issue found me entering the final two weeks of my assignment, and feeling too tired for any additional weekend travel. But Martin Kudlek's suggestions regarding the interesting things to see and do in Cologne reinvigorated my sense of adventure and convinced me that perhaps I should take just one more weekend trip. Cologne did not disappoint—it was a truly enjoyable city and a wonderful experience. Thank you for providing me with a much-needed dose of motivation!

Jim Turney
Portland, Oregon

I've appreciated your aspirations to do more than just produce a beautiful magazine, which you do very well. Your work on prefab, green architecture, and things like Samuel Mockbee and the Rural Studio projects provide excellent and inspiring information we can use more of.

However, I was startled by the icky feeling I got from your photo of an 11-year-old girl in a shower on page 72 ("Sustainability in Stages") of the December/January 2006 issue. Objectification and/or sexualizing of young girls has no place in our society, and certainly no place in *Dwell*.

As for Hurricane Katrina suggestions ("Letters," December/January 2006), how about having every major advertiser in *Dwell* "adopt" one family in need? Advertisers could donate the money and expertise needed to help families make use of some type of semipermanent housing. Some families are being made repeatedly homeless, waiting to no avail for FEMA money

and being evicted when it doesn't arrive, or being sent from church basement to community shelter and state to state over and over again. With no coordination of locations or schedules, kids are missing school and money is being wasted on shunting people around haphazardly. Until new, permanent housing is available, better use of temporary housing is desperately needed.

Trina Porte
New Lebanon, New York

I have been devouring your magazine for nearly a year and have found each issue to be inspiring and engaging. I am a contemporary artist in Kansas City and much of what I create is inspired by certain elements of design, many of which I find in your magazine. As I am sure that many of *Dwell*'s readers are well aware, there is an important relationship between modern art and design, and I for one would love to see more features in your magazine highlighting this unique relationship (e.g., features about art galleries worldwide, homes whose art collections are as impressive as the architects who designed them, artists who are contributing to the world of design and architecture, etc.). I understand that this topic can seem a little ethereal and non-definitive, but I am sure that if it is approached with a practical, down-to-earth viewpoint, it will be widely enjoyed and beneficial to all.

Joel Sorge
Kansas City, Missouri

Editors' Note: Hope you caught "Curating Cologne" (December/January 2006), featuring gallery owner Martin Kudlek. In this issue, take a look at the article about artist Charles Harper on page 122, and in May look for "Art Collecting 101." We love art and artists and feature them whenever appropriate. Thanks for reading and for writing.

I'm very interested in modern architecture and design, and dream of one day having a career in the field. The trouble is, I am afraid of math. Any suggestions or anecdotes would be appreciated.

Nathan O'Daniel
Goleta, California

Editors' Note: Architect Howard Leist, architectural design director at HLW International in New York, offers the following: "Mathematics is a part of architecture on an applied level rather than a theoretical level. Meaning that while you will certainly be dealing with measured length, area, and volume, you are not solving complex equations or proving theorems. In practice, most complex math as it pertains to architecture is performed by engineers and consultants. While it

is important to understand the concepts behind what your engineers are doing, mathematical resolution of those problems themselves is usually not required. That said, don't give up on math. If you stick with it, eventually things will click. An underpinning of mathematical theory is present in how we perceive proportion. The golden section, the Fibonacci series, and others are mathematics precepts that manifest themselves visually, and can add to architectural richness."

I am an eighth-grade student and a regular subscriber. I have noticed that certain aspects of the homes featured in *Dwell* could add considerable cost to the building/purchase price of the house. Are these homes really in a consumer's budget? It would be helpful to include prices of these homes and the features in them. By including costs of houses in your articles, readers could see different ranges of what these types of homes cost and determine if they are realistic for the reader to consider for themselves.

Max Wilson
Salt Lake City, Utah

Editors' Note: We endeavor to include the budget whenever possible. Often, homeowners choose not to disclose this information. In the end, we make our selections based not on budget but on quality of design.

I was reading about the Dwell Home II and its use of sustainable materials in the December/January 2006 issue ("Long-Term Investments"). I was particularly interested in the reference to pervious concrete and was wondering what made it so. How durable is it? And where can I locate a source for it? I have a home in Seattle and it is located in an area the city refers to as ECA (Environmental Critical Area) due to its location on a hillside. We are trying to redo our driveway, and the city has said that even gravel or crushed rock is considered impervious. We are trying to broaden our options for acceptable driveway material, and I would very much like to know what this product is.

Linda Farrell
Seattle, Washington

Editors' Note: *Dwell Home II* project architect Bojana Banyasz says: "Like regular concrete, pervious concrete is created by mixing cement, sand, aggregates, and water. Because there is very little (if any) sand used in the mix, pervious concrete contains about 15 to 35 percent by volume of interconnected voids that allow for the percolation of rainwater through this material.

"In addition to percolating water into the ►

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underlying soil, gravel, or other sub-base, pervious concrete will filter the rainwater runoff from pollutants such as motor oil, car-washing detergents, etc. that would normally be quickly washed into a municipal storm drain. Depending on the slope and specific mix used, pervious concrete has the ability to absorb enough of the rainwater to prevent runoff from its surface during most rain events.

"For more information, go to www.perviousconcretecalifornia.com, www.ecocrete.com, and www.invisiblestructures.com/GP2/grasspave.htm."

Thank you for devoting the entire December/January 2006 issue ("Green Is Good") to eco-oriented design and architecture. At a time in which we are bombarded with news of destruction and devastation around the globe (and bleaker predictions for the future), it is heartening to learn about people who are actually saving the planet by acting locally, even at home. I was amazed to learn about the advancements in green technology for the home thanks to the creativity of designers, architects, and manufacturers. Seeing active families make solar power part of mainstream living and how designers are creating functional and attractive salvaged and biodegradable products across the board has changed my perspective as a consumer. The future is looking brighter already.

Jeanne Simon
New York, New York

In response to Jason George's letter questioning the importance of interior designers ("Letters," December/January 2006), the architect builds the house; it is the interior designer who makes it a home.

Ernest F. McGray Jr.
San Francisco, California

Jason George's letter jumped out at me, as I have been suffering a similar dilemma. After finishing an interior-design summer program at Parson's in New York, I came away with the same feeling of inadequacy, and actually decided that I would like to get an architecture degree, although I can't afford to do that for several years. Meanwhile, I have started several interior projects, mainly for residential spaces, and I am convinced that there is a lot that an interior designer can do. You can have an enormous impact in the choices you make. I have been trying, in my work, to choose low-energy appliances, create a lighting system that can use low-energy lightbulbs, and avoid high-VOC paints and carpets or plastics that are created with or emit toxins. I have tried to support companies

that are committed to environmentally responsible practices. I am trying to find soft furnishing fabrics that are organic and have not used toxic dyes, and to recycle by buying and refurbishing secondhand furniture. The list goes on.

I strongly believe that you can make a difference, not only in committing to making these kinds of choices, but also by setting an example to the clients you work with and showing that a stunning, luxurious interior/lifestyle does not have to come at the expense of the planet. Think about it. I have often heard the saying "the consumer is king." You are the "consumer" on behalf of your clients, and you can consume ethically and responsibly. You can make a difference, so get out there and start working.

Elizabeth Doughty
New York, New York

Surely Sam Grawe ("Sign of the Times," December/January 2006) meant "gas-powered" and not "gas-guzzling" when he referred to the nonhybrid Civic. Not everyone can afford to pay a premium for hybrid technology. A hybrid was out of reach, but for the sake of environmental responsibility I bought an ULEV with excellent fuel efficiency. To date I'm averaging 35 mpg in my 2006 Civic. Save the derogatory labels for vehicles actually deserving of such.

Sharyn Lais
Sacramento, California

I'm a bit perplexed by a comment calling the regular-engine Honda Civic a "gas guzzler." Owning a 1998 Civic that gets 42 mpg highway, and noting the 2006 Civic achieves 40–50 mpg, I find it quite funny to refer to a Civic as a guzzler. On a trip through five U.S. states this summer, we noted our southern neighbors' strange obsession with large SUVs, most struggling to attain 18 miles per gallon. Would these vehicles not be the true gas-guzzlers?

Rob McConnell
Ottawa, Ontario

Editors' Note: *The article's author, Dwell senior editor Sam Grawe, responds: "This writer admits he is prone to hyperbole. I agree that the Civic is more of a gas sipper than guzzler. You have both fulfilled your Civic duty by speaking out."*

We were pleased to see Leger Wanaselja's Dwight Way project ("Sign of the Times," December/January 2006) published in Dwell. It definitely turned our heads when we first saw the project about two years ago—so much so that we hired [architects] Cate Leger and Karl Wanaselja to design a home for us in the Oakland hills.

They've done an amazing job designing a

1,600-square-foot home for us. The design really minimizes impact to the site, keeping excavation to less than 50 cubic yards, which is especially impressive given the unusual shape and steep slope of the lot. As with all their designs, green features are incorporated throughout. And we're excited to say, we've just broken ground this week.

Jim and Nina Meehan
Oakland, California

I meant to wish you a happy birthday on time (October 2005), but got slightly distracted. Let me explain. One of the reasons I did not have a chance to write to you on time has to do with a renovation project that I have recently started in France. Renovation is not even the right term, as the starting point is a farmhouse from 1860, currently occupied by about 20 cows. At any rate, I just received the December/January 2006 issue with "Renovation 101," and let's just say that this could not have been more timely.

I've been a Dwell reader and subscriber for many years, and your publication has had a tremendous influence on my desire to undertake this project, so thank you, and I will keep you posted on the progress.

So good luck for the next five years and beyond!

Frederic Billou
San Francisco, California

Your "Renovation 101" is a new and welcome reminder of options available beyond the confines of simple painting and hardware replacement. The inspired renovations to the brownstone in the Bronx and train depot relocation in our beloved Austin were sources of renewed vigor in our efforts to "hip-ify" our 1969 home. Thirtysomethings, take note! The structure itself is the least of our obstacles. The imagination is where we get stuck!

Fritz Reinig
Austin, Texas

We were very pleased to read "Community of Vision" (October 2005), about Hollin Hills' architect Charles M. Goodman, a prominent contributor to the efforts of the National Association of Home Builders. We own one of Goodman's aluminum show homes designed for Alcoa Aluminum Company. Built in 1957 and named Alcoa Care-free Home, it proudly claimed to satisfy the Women's Congress on Housing requirements in setting the pattern of the perfect house. We understand there may be half a dozen or so homes like it in the U.S. We would really appreciate finding the other homes like it. When we purchased the house three years ago from ►

TODD OLDHAM
BY

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the original owner, we didn't find much written about Mr. Goodman. Now he and his work seem to have made a comeback. Like the Wilson family in your story, we plan to add more space without losing the feel of the original house. We really feel it is an almost ideal living space. Thanks for writing about architecture, the architects, and the owners that create and preserve these works of art.

Dawn Palmer and Richard Gammack
Lincoln, Massachusetts

After reading multiple letters to the editor in your December/January 2006 issue, I see that many folks have interest in finding modern home communities in the Washington, D.C. area. I have only heard of two, and you listed one of them. I wasn't sure if you knew of the other. Moving here a few months ago, and although not specifically looking for a modern home, I am happy to say that my wife and I found and now live in the Truro subdivision. It offers a great location in a friendly community with nice neighbors. There are nice parks and wooded trails. As for the house, even though it was built in 1968, it has withstood the test of time.

Mike Zinngabe
Washington, D.C.

I loved your Hollin Hills piece. It's such an overlooked gem, and you captured what makes it amazing and special. I grew up there, and it (and its legacy) are why I became a design writer. I only wish that today more architects and designers were following that ethos.

Jennifer Kabat
Margaretville, New York

In response to Jim Powers's query about houseplants ("Letters," October/November 2005), they are a vital component of a healthy house. Certain houseplants work hard to scrub toxins out of the air. The foremost authority on this subject would be Dr. B. C. Wolverton, whose life work with NASA led him to identify 50 houseplants that do this job well. In his book *How to Grow Fresh Air: 50 Houseplants that Purify Your Home or Office*, each plant is not only rank ordered, but is identified by the specific toxin it removes. Sorry, Jim, but the palms and ferns are at the top of that list for the exceptional work they do.

Beth Akin
Houston, Texas

Editors' Note: For more on this subject, take a look at *Dwell Labs* on page 134.

I've been reading Dwell since it started. Having renovated two houses and having experienced

"new" houses built on slabs, I am convinced that a house built with a basement is much more comfortable and energy-efficient than one without. Hence, I would not buy a house, nor build one, without a basement. Most of the articles in *Dwell* mention little if anything about what is under any of the houses you feature. I would like to suggest an article on basements. They are easily ignored, but loom large in the comfort level of a house.

Dan Zibman
Princeton Junction, New Jersey

Editors' Note: Thanks for the suggestion. You might want to take a look at the book *Ideawise Basements and Attics: Inspiration & Information for the Do-It-Yourselfer (Creative Publishing International)*, by Matthew Paymar.

I have read your magazine and am so happy to see all of this green building going on. I live in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, where no one seems much interested in solar, geothermal, etc. I built a passive solar home in 1981, and we also have a ground-source heat pump. There was not much information then, but we stumbled through it and achieved a fairly energy-efficient house.

I recently purchased a building in our downtown, and my jewelry store is on the first floor. We did some minor remodeling on the outside. We have two apartments upstairs that are ready to be worked on. My goal is to redo the apartments so that they will be energy-efficient without spending an arm and a leg. I would like to install solar panels to take care of the whole existing building—about 7,500 square feet—and/or put in a ground-source system. (There is a 25-year-old heating system downstairs.) Is that a possibility?

I also like the idea of radiant heat, but what can be done with air-conditioning that is efficient? I know that solar panels are expensive but the payback is great. Are there any grants available to help in this renewal? I do not know where to look for help, but I do not think it will be in my town.

Dayna McCoy
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Editors' Note: Probably the best place to start would be www.usgbc.org. Good luck!

I have a confession to make: I don't understand most of what is discussed in your magazine. I have been a reader-turned-subscriber for several years now—but still cannot get my arms around the Who's Who of architecture and design around the world. *Dwell* touts and throws around names like I'm supposed to know who these people ▶

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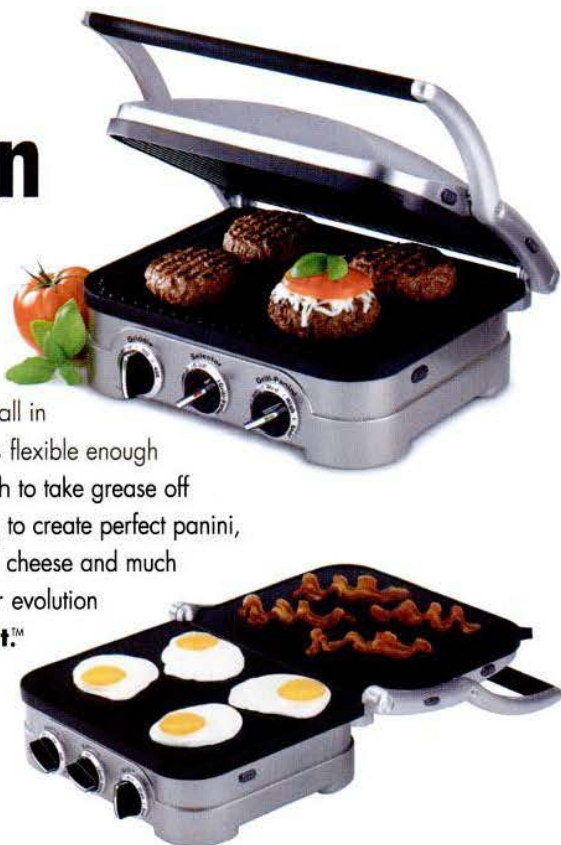
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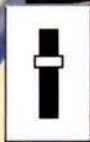
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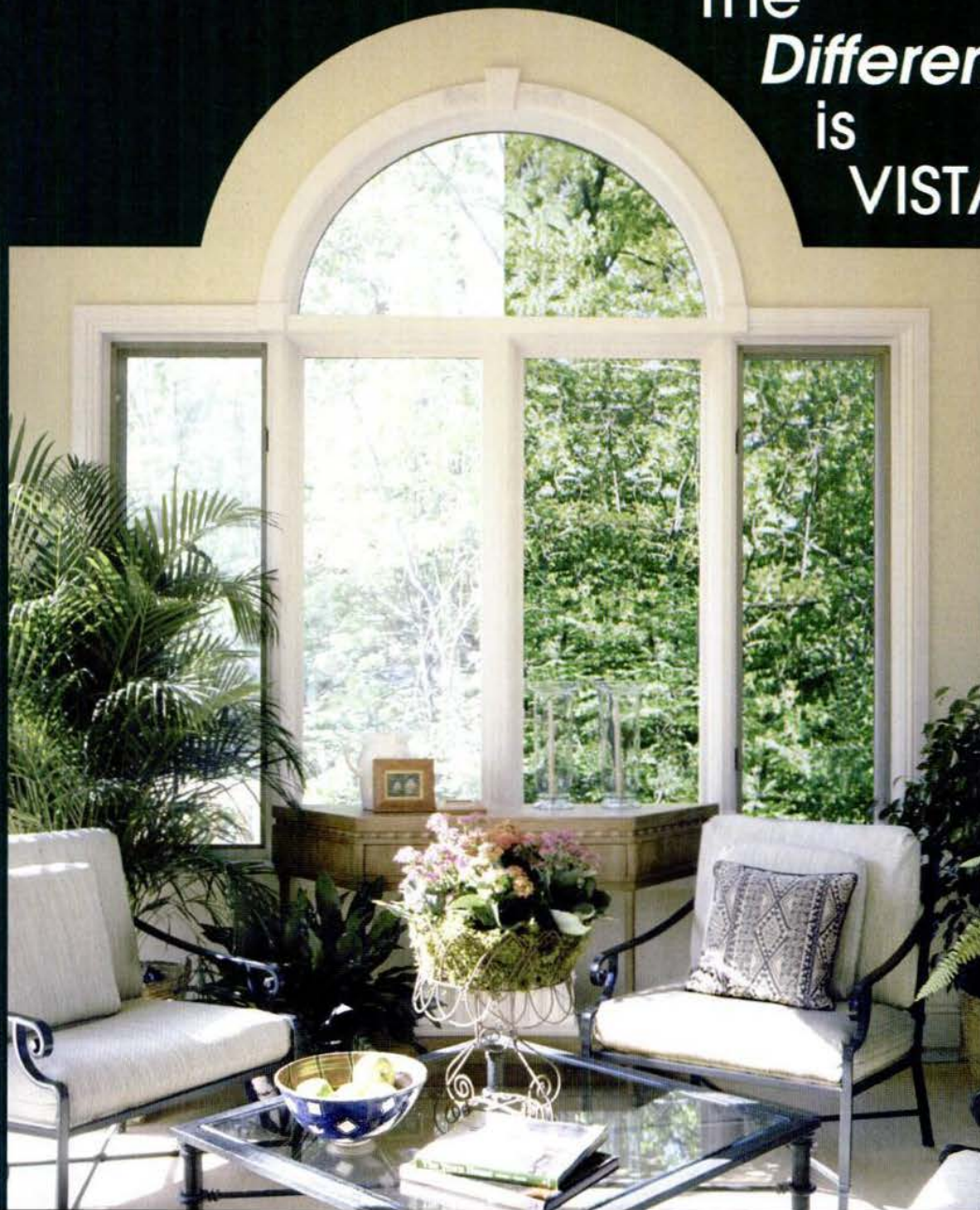
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Letters

are. You guys think they are important, and I want to think they are important too. I just need some context.

So this is what I'm asking from Dwell. Maybe a little series called "The People of Architecture & Design 101" for us nondesign folk. You give a little history of people and why you would mention them in an article, etc. That way, when I read a name like Charles Eames, I can sit back with my cup of coffee and say to myself, "Ah, yes. I know him."

John McClain
Roeland Park, Kansas

I have a 1940s-era California bungalow in New Orleans that was flooded following Hurricane Katrina. I will likely rebuild in the future, but would like to take the opportunity to remodel as well. I would like to rehabilitate my house with simple modern design concepts, but do not have a huge budget for an architect or expensive furniture. As a lay modernist, it would be helpful to know the basics of modern design. Would Dwell consider doing a primer on modern design in an upcoming issue?

Jennifer Ruley
New Orleans, Louisiana

Editors' Note: John and Jennifer: Over the years we have presented special sections on *Architects 101*, *Modernism 101*, and the like, and will continue to do so in the future. In the meantime, we will aim to be a little more reader-friendly in this regard. We'd also suggest you take a look at our *Dwell Labs* on "Essential Readings in Modern Design" (February/March 2006) to help get you up to speed.

I'm a new subscriber and when I got my bank statement I noticed I had sent two checks to Dwell. I called customer service and they confirmed receipt of the checks. They said my subscription ran to 2007 but I could cancel the second check and have the subscription run to 2006. I replied that I was only too happy to have my subscription run to 2007. I think the thing that really hits me hard about Dwell is the professional feeling it has. It is not just a general publication but a professional journal—that is what makes Dwell so special.

AJ Buttacavoli
Oakland, California

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Contributors

Deborah Bishop ("Density Down Under," p. 83, and "Landscape Architecture 101," p. 178), a contributing editor to Dwell, ventured to Auckland, New Zealand (lamentably, by phone), to investigate a fresh approach to apartment living and to Oakland, California, as part of a larger look at the world outside the windows.

Julian Broad ("Byoung Cho," p. 152, and "J. Abbott Miller and Ellen Lupton," p. 162) is a photographer based in London and New York. "Byoung Cho is the most inspiring person I've met this year," Broad says. "I have to say, it was pretty unusual to be guided around real cowboy country by a Korean. But his mind and imagination are guides to the overlooked buildings of the hill country. Bozeman, Montana, and his students are very lucky to have Byoung exploring what could be in their town."

Adam Broomberg and Oliver Chanarin ("Marcel Wanders," p. 142) spent a rainy day in Amsterdam photographing Marcel Wanders. Wanders bought them cheese sandwiches for lunch. They got very wet feet.

Hillary Geronemus ("Notes from the Underground," p. 96), a Boston-based writer and former editor at *Travel + Leisure*, had never had a pen pal until she met Malcolm Wells, the pioneer of underground architecture. After a lovely meal with Malcolm and his wife, Karen, at their charming Cape Cod home, she not only learned everything there is to know about sustainable building but had her handwriting analyzed.

William Lamb ("The Spirit of St. Louis," p. 115) writes for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Reporting on the St. Louis architect Harris Armstrong gave him a newfound appreciation for the boxy U-Haul self-storage facility on South Kingshighway Boulevard he's often wondered about.

Matthew Stadler ("Aloft in the Trees," p. 71) is a writer who, like his profilees Stefan and Nicole Andrén, lives amid the trees in Portland, Oregon.

Larry Sultan ("Rethinking Senior Housing," p. 172), the recipient of several NEA and Guggenheim fellowships, has exhibited at the MOMA, SFMOMA, Corcoran Museum of Art, and many other galleries and museums around the world. The images featured in this issue are from his book *Pictures from Home* (Abrams, 1992).

Jane Szita ("Marcel Wanders," p. 142), Dwell's Amsterdam-based contributing editor, has followed Marcel Wanders's career since the first Droog Design show—when he was clearly already a star in the making. Jane failed to buy up the entire contents of the exhibition, and so missed the chance to have probably the most significant collection of modern Dutch design in existence.

Monica Zerboni ("Tree's Company," p. 212) is a journalist living in Rome after a long-term stay in Germany, where she corresponded for Italian design and architecture magazines. She fell so deeply in love with the tree houses she wrote about for this issue that she is planning to have one built in her own garden.

Corrections

It's a "Shane" that we missed the "Mark." In "ReBuilding Community" (December/January 2006), we misidentified the portrait subject on page 168. It is Shane Endicott, the founder of the ReBuilding Center, who is pictured. He was misidentified as Mark Lakeman, the center's designer and a cofounder.

We failed to credit the photograph featured in "Partners in Design" (October/November 2005) of the world's biggest ball of string to Ellen Land-Weber.

On page 54 of "In the Modern World" (February/March 2006) we stated that the Georgia Museum of Art is located in Atlanta, Georgia. It is, in fact, located on the University of Georgia campus in Athens, Georgia. On page 56 of "In the Modern World," (February/March 2006) we misspelled designer Omer Arbel's name.


We regret the errors.





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KENNETH COLE
REACTION



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Show and Tell

Snot.

It's not a typical source of creative inspiration, but it so fascinated Dutch designer Marcel Wanders that he designed not one but five vases around the substance expelled by a robust sneeze.

To appreciate Wanders's Airborne Snotty vases, you don't need to know that their form derives from such an unlikely source. But these objects are undeniably more intriguing (or elegant or repugnant, depending on your point of view) when this sort of built-in narrative is attached.

Exploring the narrative behind design has been integral to Dwell's approach since the magazine's inception. We've always been interested in not just showing but telling. Sure, a low-slung modern house might be nice to look at, but learning that it's in rural Wisconsin and was commissioned by a retired narcotics detective and his forensic chemist wife makes it a story.

This month, we decided to push this approach even further and even break format a little. Rather than showcase the end result of a designer or architect's creative process, we wanted to delve into that process itself. We selected practitioners from different yet interconnected disciplines, approaches, and locales. Some of the things we were interested in discovering were: How do designers' environments influence their work? From what sources does their inspiration come? How do their unique philosophies of design inform their creative output?

We traveled to Bozeman, Montana, to experience architect Byoung

Cho's primary source of inspiration. Of the agrarian vernacular styles that inform so much of his work, Cho, who runs a practice in Seoul but teaches at Montana State, explains, "I don't believe in designing a building for status; my heart is more in the back alleys of Bozeman."

In Baltimore, Maryland, we spent time with a pair of prolific design collaborators: J. Abbott Miller and Ellen Lupton, who write, design, discuss, curate, critique, and cochair. "I'm more of a formalist, fascinated by a chair or a building. I don't expect people to understand why I'm interested in design," explains Miller, while Lupton wants "everyone to hear the good news." Miller and Lupton's disparate design agendas meld into one of the more influential bodies of work in the field. "We complement each other," Miller says, "and it's been like that from the beginning."

Finally, in Amsterdam, we meet Wanders, the multifaceted designer who grapples with design's dual obligations to beauty and functionality. "I don't want to make furniture that's not functional," he says. "But the problem with modern design is that it defines functionality too narrowly. The more functional a chair, the less we feel it in our butts. The 'I don't know it's there, so I don't have to care' approach is fine with a pacemaker. But a good chair you feel in your heart."

Design is a subject of endless variation, and fodder for limitless exploration. In presenting these three very different profiles, we hope we've offered compelling narratives that—like that good chair Wanders refers to—you'll feel in your heart. ■



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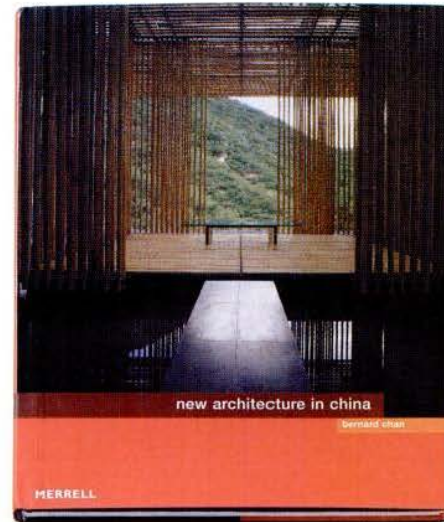
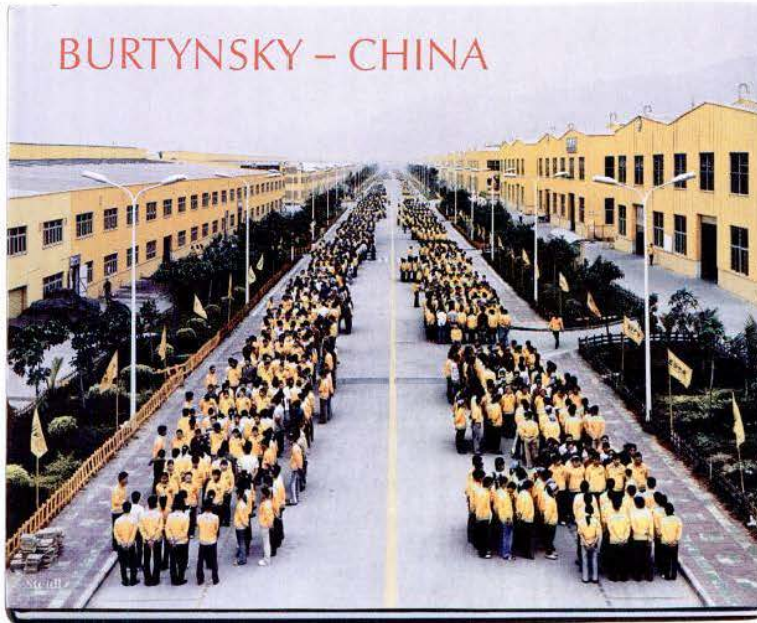
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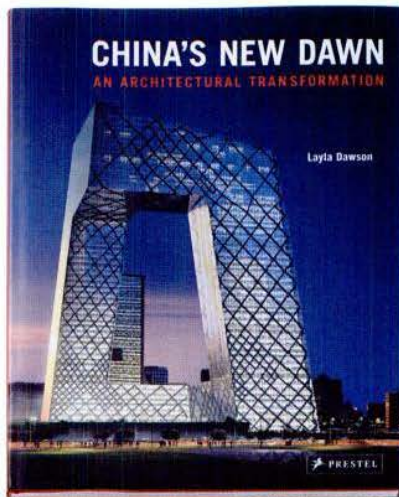


Fjord design Patricia Urquiola. Photography inside the Nordic Countries Pavillon at Giardini di La Biennale di Venezia.

MOROSO



Great Walls / When you're hot, everyone wants a piece of you, and China is no exception. European investors are sizing up opportunities, American universities are courting talent, and foreign architects and designers are looking to make their mark. These three books document China's growth and the übermodern architecture that accompanies it.



In *China's New Dawn*, Layla Dawson offers an unsentimental view of the nation. Dishing up a short version of China's incredibly complex history, she sets the stage for over 30 projects that echo her thesis: Until China develops a renewed confidence in its own culture, it's simply "wearing western camouflage."

Bernard Chan takes a more sympathetic stance in *New Architecture in China*, painting the picture of a country on the verge of discovering self-confidence and a true architectural voice. Of recent developments, Chan states, "China's own architectural talents are proving that they now have the edge." The projects showcased—private residences, schools, office towers, and sports facilities, by both Chinese and foreign architects—indicate that the melding of cultures is beginning to blossom into something completely unique.

Architecture becomes an afterthought when confronted with Edward Burtynsky's photographs, which capture the less glamorous side of a rapidly remodernizing nation—from the overwhelming construction zone of the Three Gorges Dam (estimated to displace upwards of 1.9 million people by 2009) to images of factory workers that recede infinitely into the horizon. One can't help feeling that for all the wonders economic prosperity may bring, there's always a hefty price to pay.

China / By Edward Burtynsky / Steidl / \$85 / www.steidlville.com
New Architecture in China / By Bernard Chan / Merrell / \$49.95 / www.merrellpublishers.com
China's New Dawn: An Architectural Transformation / By Layla Dawson / Prestel / \$49.95 / www.prestel.com



See Jane Run: Contemporary Art About Childhood (and Other Cozy Things) / 30 Apr–25 June / Bedford Gallery / Walnut Creek, CA / If you think straws are best squiggly and beds are made for jumping, then you might feel a certain kinship with the 25 artists featured in this exhibition. www.bedfordgallery.org



Jazz table lamp / By Diego Fortunato for Vibia Fully lacquered from top to bottom, this particular Jazz is more smooth than bebop. While most days we'd take Art Blakey over Kenny G, when it comes to tabletop lighting, we'll acquiesce. www.vibia.es



Intento 1 / By Vanessa Eckstein and Davide Tonizzo

Some say that form follows function, but this new line of ceramics proves that form can not only impact function but improve upon it. With details like an elongated, slightly depressed lip for holding condiments and irregular interior shapes and wide rims to mitigate surface temperatures, this line of tableware certainly shows intent in its conception. www.objectcollection.com



Living in Motion: Design and Architecture for Flexible Dwelling / 1 Feb–7 May / Institute of Contemporary Art / Boston, MA

For those who couldn't make it all the way to the Vitra Design Museum in Weil am Rhein, Germany, for the May 2002 debut of this exhibition, now's your chance to catch one of the most exhaustive compendiums of nomadic design ever assembled. Bringing together hundreds of objects and illustrations, "Living in Motion" spotlights modern design's fascination with, and exploration of, flexibility and mobility in domestic life. With the ICA soon moving locations, perhaps we won't be the only ones taking notes. www.icaboston.org



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 we welcome any diversion the museum
 throws our way—particularly the Biennial.

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Amy Blakemore
Jill in Woods, 2005
 Chromogenic print, 19" x 19"

Lucas deGiulio
Can Barnacles, 2005
 Aluminum can, barnacles,
 4½" x 3"

Pierre Huyghe
 Production still from *A Journey
 That Wasn't*, 2005

Billy Sullivan
1974–2005 (detail), 2005
 Three-carousel slide projection,
 color, silent

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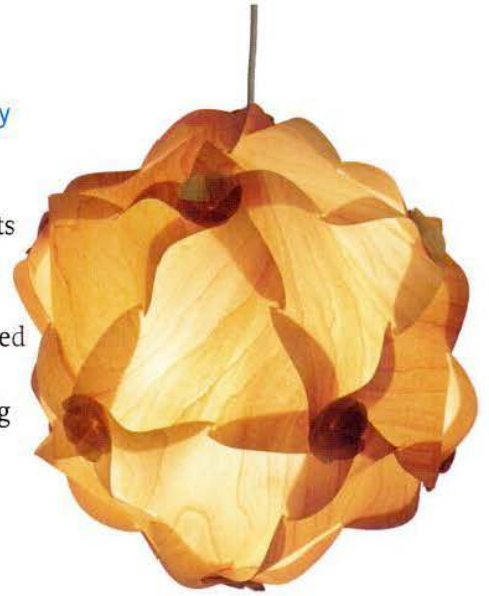
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Mokusei lamp / By Asahi Plywood Industry

Kids of all ages enjoy puzzles, which is exactly what the Mokusei lamp presents itself as upon arrival. Each package consists of 20 cherry wood–veneered pieces of a roughly triangular shape. It's up to you to bend and lock the segments into the desired shape. (Shown here is a lamp using all 20 pieces, technically an icosahedron—using fewer yields a less spherical design.)
www.tortoiselife.com



m1 / By Katja Hettler and Jula Tüllmann for Red Maloo / The 100-percent-wool-felt m1 laptop sleeve proves that despite neoprene's ubiquitous presence in the world of computer transportation, it is best left to the scuba set. www.malooproducts.com



Beyond Green: Toward a Sustainable Art / 2 Feb–7 May / Museum of Arts and Design / New York, NY

If you've read this magazine before, then you've heard the term "green design." But what about green art? If this phrase is about as comprehensible as your grandpa's mystifying adages like "bearding the lion in his own den," then here's your opportunity to grasp this emerging genre. "Beyond Green" features artists and designers from all over the world, like (P)LOT (left), who "use sustainable design strategies for metaphoric, practical, critical or even playful ends."
www.madmuseum.org



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Ellsworth Kelly in St. Ives / 28 Jan–7 May / Tate St. Ives / Cornwall, England

American painter and sculptor Ellsworth Kelly once stated that he “noticed that the large windows between the paintings [in the Musée d’Art Moderne] interested [him] more than the art exhibited.” This is altogether unsurprising, as Kelly has long been a champion of the modernist school, choosing essential form and color above all. This exhibition features pieces from the Tate’s permanent collection alongside loans, some of which include later plant-inspired lithographs and drawings.

www.tate.org.uk

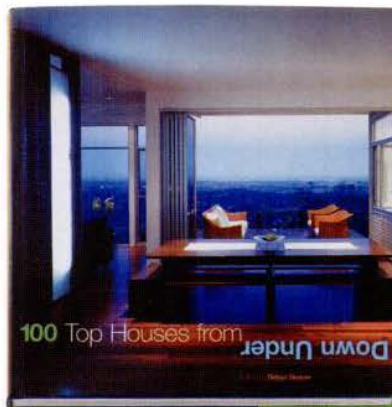


Vynil / Various designers for Domestic

In conjunction with Habitat, Stéphane Aurribergé and Christine Montard launched Domestic in 2005 with the aim of creating user-friendly collections devised by designers, graphic artists, and artists. Vynil, “an alternative to wall-paper,” is the publishing house’s first project, and includes works by designers like Matali Crasset and Geneviève Gauckler (left). www.domestic.fr



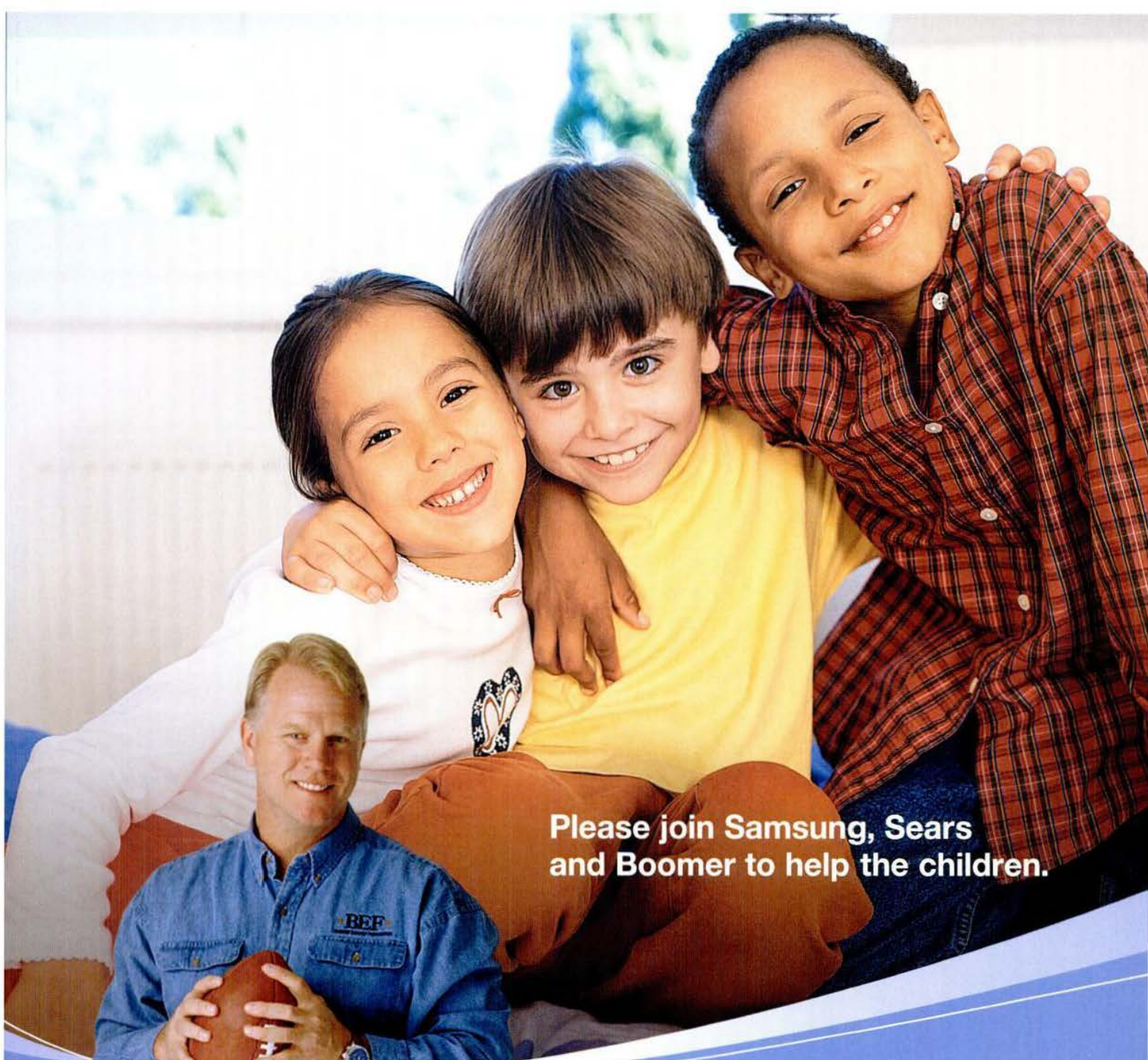
Fold coffee table / By Eric Manigian / Andy Rooney once spent his entire *60 Minutes* commentary waxing nostalgic about a solid walnut-flitch desk he made himself, reliving all the special moments he and his work companion had shared over the years. While you might not be able to construct a piece with such weighty personal importance yourself, Eric Manigian Studio builds handmade furniture out of walnut-flitch (and other woods) that has the stature to create a similarly significant relationship. www.ericmanigian.com



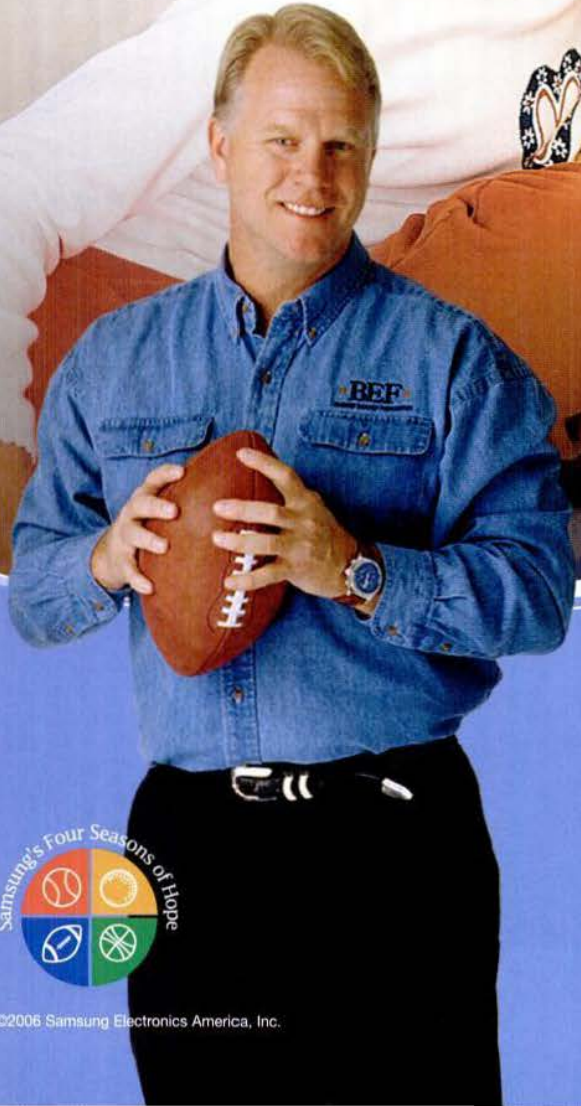
100 Top Houses From Down Under / By Robyn Beaver / Images Publishing / \$60

As this lavish volume demonstrates, Australia fosters (pun intended) a bevy of progressive architectural talent. The country’s unique environmental factors have demanded a continual exploration of sustainable practices, while also managing to push aesthetic boundaries. www.imagespublishinggroup.com

PHOTO BY PETER BELANGER (BOOK)



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Feeding Desire: Design and the Tools of the Trade 1500–2005 / 5 May–29 Oct / Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum / New York, NY

Many Manhattanites might have a hard time fathoming the late-16th-century practice of carrying one's own flatware to dine out, as it's unlikely they even have a complete matched set to call their own. But just as cuisines have migrated and fused, so too have the tools employed with which to eat them. This exhibition will explore the development of eating utensils from the 16th century to the present. www.cooperhewitt.org



By Its Cover: Modern American Book Cover Design / By Ned Drew and Paul Sternberger / Princeton Architectural Press / \$29.95

English students might balk at the assertion that the cover design of James Joyce's *Ulysses* is as rich and complex as the text itself, but Ned Drew and Paul Sternberger present a convincing argument and set the tone for an engaging look at literature and the progression of American design and typography. www.papress.com



Ringo / By Wayne and Geraldine Hemingway for Graham & Brown

UK-based home-decor company Graham & Brown has released four new wall coverings designed by husband-and-wife team Wayne and Geraldine Hemingway, proving that while wallpaper is always sticky, it doesn't have to be fussy. www.grahambrown.com

Organic Botanical Objects /

By Krislyn Custom Floral Couture
Bonsai can take hundreds of years to reach manicured gnarled perfection, but for those who simply don't have the patience, or are interested in something a little more fanciful (Turquoise Feather Tree, anyone?), Krislyn's logically named Organic Botanical Objects are just the ticket. Part Dr. Seuss, part Mr. Miyagi, these chimerical delights are available from Krislyn's Melrose Avenue showroom in Los Angeles. www.krislyndesign.com



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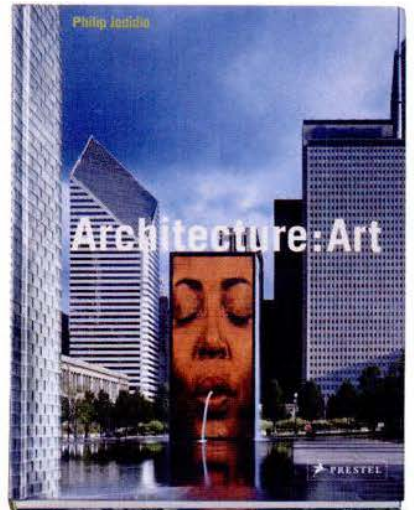


Slotted scarf / By f + bp / A subsidiary studio of Fung + Blatt architects, f + bp's debut product line is a collection of felt accessories harvested from and inspired by industrial castoffs that offer a structural reprieve from the standard knit and purl. www.fungandblatt.com

The Maharam Memory Game / By Maharam

Instead of spending all your time protecting your Maharam upholstered sofa from the kids, why not furnish them with an enriching diversion? Maharam's design-oriented take on the classic game of memory features tiles inspired by Maharam designs by Hella Jongerius and Alexander Girard, among others.

www.maharam.com



Architecture: Art / By Philip Jodidio / Prestel / \$65

Though this exhaustive compilation contains in-depth information about some of the world's most striking structures, its very existence is a reminder of the unwelcome divisions that still exist between art and architecture. But it can also be seen as a sign that the brightest architectural minds and artistic thinkers are constantly breaking these boundaries, bringing inspired works and ideas to the four corners of the globe. www.prestel.com

TV Off / By Aforest-design

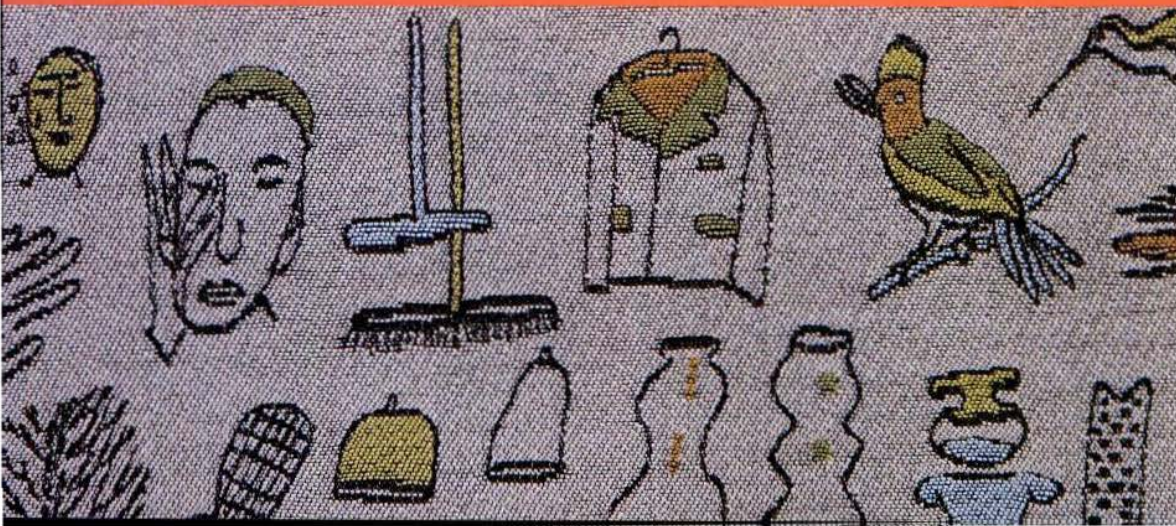
Using the television's downtime (signal tests, emission interruptions, color scales, shades of light, and RGB tests) as their inspiration, the Lisbon, Portugal-based design collective Aforest has created a limited edition of knitted accessories like bags, hats, gloves, belts, and scarves called TV Off. While it's unclear if a new scarf will "get people questioning the role of TV in their lives," as the group states, these new mittens are sure to keep you warm and looking swell during moments of heavy existential examination. www.eforest-design.com



PHOTOS BY PETER BELANGER (SCARF, BOOK, MAHARAM)



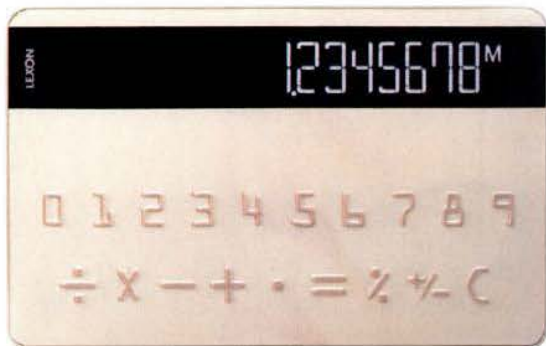
THE STORY OF MY LIFE BY MAIRA KALMAN





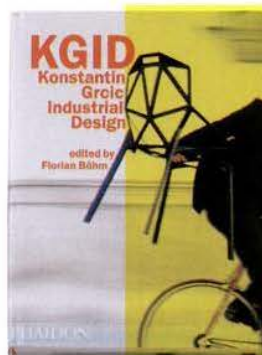
Late sofa / By Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec for Vitra

The brothers Bouroullec continue their exploration of microarchitecture (smaller than buildings, bigger than furniture) with this new modular sofa that incorporates miniature tables, Algue pieces, and the Lantern lamp (manufactured by Belux), in addition to a classy surface upon which to repose. www.vitra.com



Credit calculator / By Industrial Facility for Lexon

Cell phones and PDAs threaten to render the pocket calculator obsolete, but there are still attractive options out there—like Lexon's solar-powered cuties, which easily fit in a wallet. www.lexon-design.com



KGID Konstantin Grcic Industrial Design / Edited by Florian Böhm / Phaidon Press / \$69.95

Despite a last name that defies pronunciation, industrial designer Konstantin Grcic boasts a body of work that's pronounced by his idiosyncratic approach. From the plastic revival of the '90s to more recent explorations in concrete and cast aluminum, *KGID* gives firsthand insight to the designer's process—leading the reader through the various stages of product development with sketches, renderings, and photographs. Grcic's work often takes a little while to wrap your head around, but his affable commentary does not. www.phaidon.com



Eskilstuna stool / By Graeme Findlay and Carmel McElroy for IKEA PS 2006

This is by far our favorite design from the IKEA PS 2006 collection; unfortunately, it looks like it might also be kitten's favorite. But at \$14.99, it might not be as painful to watch it become an impromptu scratching post. www.ikea.com/ps



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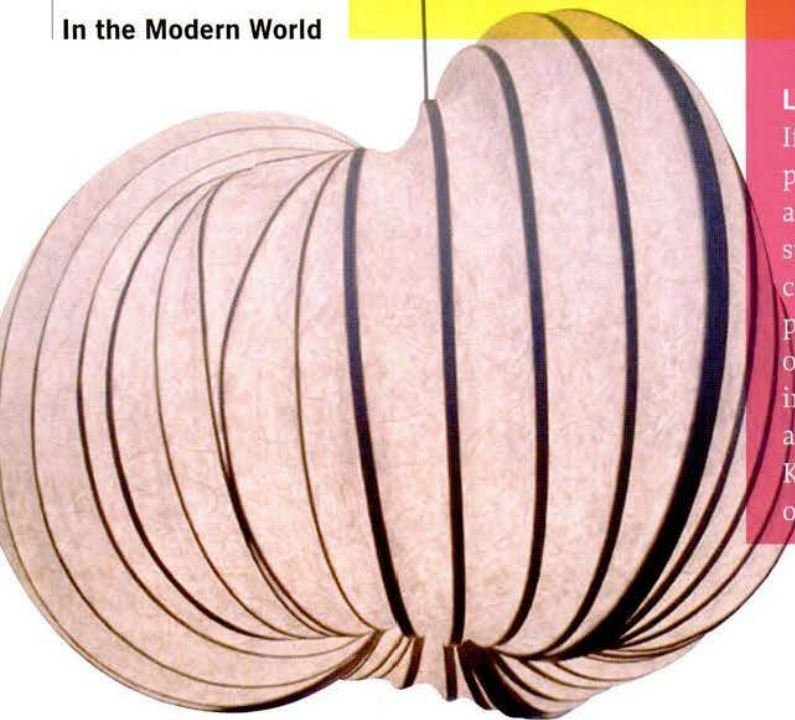


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Luminescence / By Stephen White

If George Nelson's Bubble lamps strike you as a tad too pedestrian, Stephen White's sculptural lights offer a one-of-a-kind alternative. Each lamp is handmade, starting with a unique wood skeleton, which is then covered with a laminated paper skin (sort of like the papier-mâché you learned in grade school, only without the messy bubbles and newsprint). White was influenced by the techniques employed by Japanese artisans, and while the resulting forms (such as Kaimana, shown here) differ greatly, the soft glow of light is timeless. www.emmersontroop.com



Frank Stella 1958 / 4 Feb–7 May / Arthur M. Sackler Museum / Cambridge, MA
Few can imagine an entire museum exhibition dedicated to one's life—let alone a single year of it. But leave it to the hallowed halls of academia to get esoteric. This exhibition explores Frank Stella's first year out of school, a prelude to the monumental, iconic black paintings for which he is best known. www.artmuseums.harvard.edu



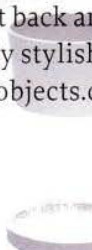
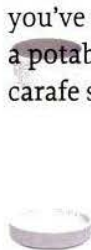
Tortoise / Venice, CA

Taku and Keiko Shinomoto came about opening Tortoise in a slow manner, but, as the fable tells us, this is often the best way. This patience and thoughtfulness translates into the objects they sell: classics by Sori Yanagi and Masahiro Mori alongside newer finds like glass pieces by Takeshi Tsujino. While their wares are likely to gain popularity, it's good to know they're not about winning the race. www.tortoiselife.com



Sum / By Helen Kerr for Precidio Objects

Helen Kerr's new line of melamine nesting containers comes in a variety of sizes and understated colors, making it easy to nest all your stuff in almost any space. And after you've cleaned, you can sit back and enjoy a potable from her equally stylish acrylic carafe set. www.precidioobjects.com



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Kartell Louis Ghost chair by Arno

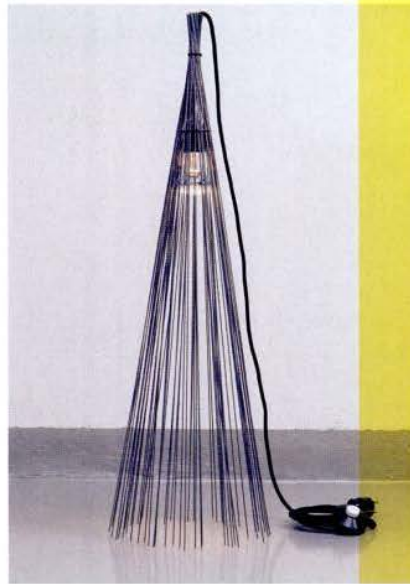


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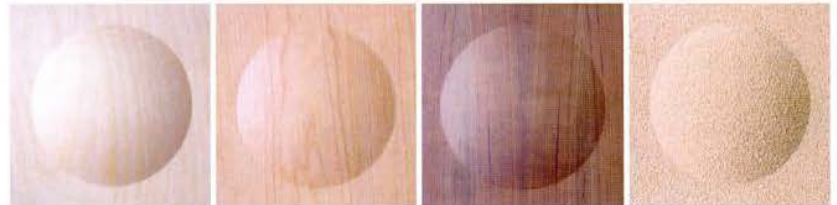
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In the Modern World



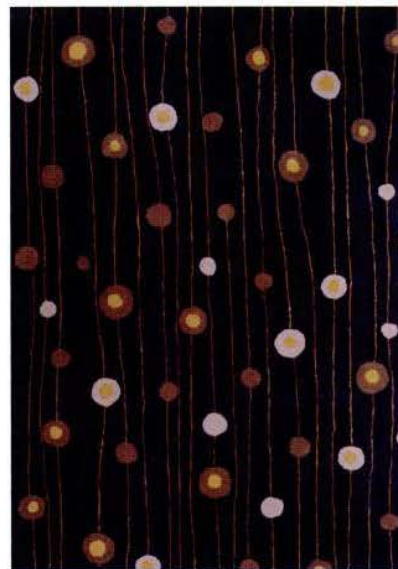
Walker lamp / By Frank Neulichedl for Frankie

The handmade Walker floor lamp brings a certain funkiness to any interior with its uncanny resemblance to an old-school broom. But the Walker's intrigue is more than skin deep: Give this three-foot-tall light sculpture a swift kick and watch it not fall down, as you might expect, but skirt across the room, unscathed, on its spindly iron legs. A perfect pastime for you and your guests when you tire of all the small talk. www.frankie.bz



Pop Interior Panels / By Brainwood for Hightower

Wood wall paneling is generally viewed as an eyesore and a nuisance—the first thing to be demolished in most renovations—and thus is in dire need of an update. These modular panels from Finland (now available in the U.S.) should provide inspiration, not irritation. Available in light birch, warm cherry, rich walnut, and sound-absorbent cork, Pop, with its slightly bulbous profile, comes in two standard sizes. www.poppanels.com



Endo / By Helen Yardley

If you like Klimt but can't stand the ubiquitous Kiss print, this rug might be the perfect compromise, as the artist's gilded patterning is reflected in the pure hand-tufted wool. While Helen Yardley would probably claim that she is inspired more by seeds than by the Secession, you'll likely never see her designs on a coffee mug or desk calendar. www.helenyardley.com



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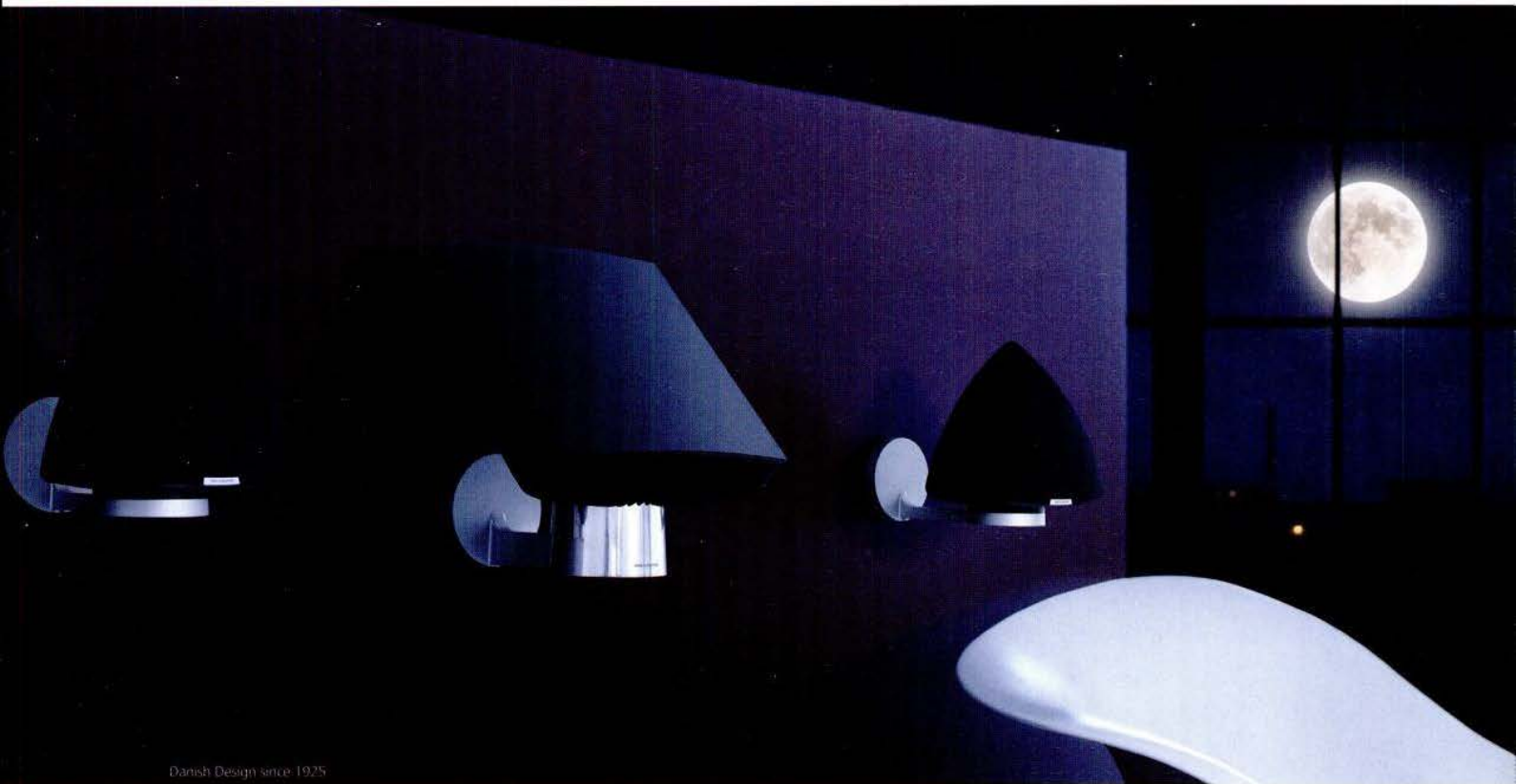
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Aloft in the Forest

Among the many problems of urban living in Portland, Oregon, are raccoons, deer, and falling trees. It's not just that woods and forests persist inside the city limits but also the fact that a city was densely built amidst them. Despite such hazards, Stefan and Nicole Andréu built a sleek modernist loft nestled in trees atop a forested ridge that snakes behind the city's downtown. The setting is urban, in a Portland kind of way. And Stefan and Nicole enjoy the woods just as a downtown loft dweller might enjoy the street scene: Perched on the roof deck, they gaze down at the busy deer and rustling leaves, sipping cocktails with friends who've made the short drive up from Portland's heavily developed Pearl District. "We never go into the forest," Stefan explains. "It's much nicer on the deck. And that means the deer aren't afraid to come out." ▶

Uninspired by the loft options in downtown Portland, Oregon, the Andréus opted to design and build their own freestanding version in the hills just minutes from the city.



The wooded site allowed for soaring, curtainless windows that the couple couldn't have enjoyed downtown. The 16-foot-high windows are from Milgard. [p. 210](#)



In 2003, Stefan and Nicole moved to Portland from Milan, Italy, taking design jobs as a product designer at Nike and a freelance studio artist at advertising powerhouse Wieden + Kennedy, respectively. They first thought they'd find a loft in one of the city's burgeoning downtown neighborhoods. Tightly coordinated planning and an unusual culture of cooperation between developers and the city have given Portland its biggest housing boom since 1905, much of it concentrated in newly developed neighborhoods directly abutting downtown, such as the Pearl District. But lofts in the Pearl cost upwards of \$300,000. So, as Stefan recalls, "More for fun than anything else, we started sketching on napkins and scrap paper. With quite similar tastes, a house very quickly took shape, so I did a first pass at building a 3-D CAD model. At this stage we were too excited to turn back, so after a significant amount of research, and about 50 CAD variations on the same idea, we had something worth taking to an engineer." Stefan and Nicole (who earned her bachelor's degree in architectural studies) put form to their fantasy by laying out the elements that would make their dream home: guest rooms for visitors well away from the master suite; a high-ceilinged open plan organized around a fireplace; floor-to-ceiling windows opening west, away from the street. "We

approached the house from how it was going to be used," Stefan explains, "concerning ourselves with proximity of spaces related to daily and occasional functions, rather than with the design of a particular room. Once this was worked out, the rest fell into place fairly easily."

Stefan translated their napkin sketches into a CAD mock-up that the two played with for over a year. "We agreed on everything except the front door," Nicole announces. "He wanted it yellow and I wanted it bright orange. In the end we painted it over with chalkboard paint, so it can be anything we like." The CAD mock-up is on Stefan's desktop and a quick tour of it confirms that their imagined home was built exactly as planned, with no significant changes.

The Skybox, named for its site on Skyline Boulevard, turns its back on the two-lane road winding out of downtown. Indeed, the modest rectangle of brown visible from the road suggests a kind of modernist Nordic cabin or a skiers' shelter, belying the spacious geometry of the broad, three-story cube. Clad in darkly stained cedar and punctured with only a few small windows on three of its sides, the house opens up to the west as the steep, wooded slope drops away. Sixteen-foot-high windows wrap the western wall, framing the sparkling lights of nearby Beaverton and Hillsboro, visible through the ►



At some point in time a man switches from
"I'll have what he's having" to "I'll have what I'm having."

Drink Life Deeply



The Andr ns' ingenious use of affordable materials is perhaps best illustrated in their kitchen, where all the cabinets and even the faucet are from IKEA.



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Stefan at work in his studio (above). The house's open spaces are minimally furnished with modern classics like Verner Panton chairs in the dining area (below left) and a Corbu chaise and Eileen Gray end table (below right).

➤ p. 210

thick forest overstory. "We mixed the stain specifically for this site, so the house sort of blends into the trees," Stefan points out. The wood cladding reveals a burnished-aluminum interior wherever the cube's geometry has been disturbed (a tall narrow slice is taken out of one edge) or extended (as where a metal stairway traverses the southern wall, up to the roof deck).

Inside, the 2,250-square-foot volume unfolds in a pleasing sequence of well-proportioned spaces. Between entry area and main living room, the stained-wood floors step up 18 inches, obviating the need for any divider. At the same threshold, the overhanging master suite ends and suddenly the ceiling is 16 feet above you, the room wrapped in high walls of four-by-eight-foot glass panels, slimly framed by two-inch profile steel.

"This is the clean floor," says Nicole. "It's such an easy house, with all the entertaining in this one great open space or out on the deck, and then the bedrooms and study all tucked away upstairs and down."

"We wanted that feeling of an open loft space," Stefan adds, "but with room for guests; a nice, sunny office; and extras like the master suite and sauna." With the right CAD software, a strong design sense, and the willingness to be patient and learn from their engineers and contractors, Stefan and Nicole managed to achieve all their goals while acting as their own architects. "Perhaps our greatest challenge was to come up with a solution within our budget," says Stefan. "But we can honestly say that the house came in not much, but slightly, under our budget." Now they're ready to offer their expertise to others: On the broad white tabletop of their shared office, shadows dapple the outlines of a new house design they're working on for a friend. ▶





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IKEA Pax Cupboards

Stefan and Nicole made a handsome wall of kitchen cabinets using four IKEA Pax cupboards (at right) with standard shelving, including a clever adaptation of the shoe racks. By painting the doors in chalkboard paint, they created a striking and practical backdrop for their elegant kitchen.

www.ikea.com

Bedroom

Interested in plain, elegant functionality, Stefan and Nicole took standard prefabricated interior doors from Western Pacific and hung them on inexpensive industrial rollers from McMaster-Carr. The slim black doors (below left), suspended millimeters above the floor, slide silently on metal tracks with no door frame or molding—so the floor continues in one uninterrupted flow from room to room. www.mcmaster.com / www.westernpacificbuilding.com

Chandelier

A ghostly chandelier (below) installed in the main-floor bathroom was bought for \$99 at Home Depot. Its garish brass and glass disappeared beneath a coat of matte-white spray paint, also used to glaze the \$10 crown molding into which Stefan and Nicole set it. www.homedepot.com

Vintage Bathroom Wall Sconces

Bathroom wall sconces were fashioned from three vintage 1970s Flos Lampadina table lamps designed by Achille Castiglioni that Stefan rewired and mounted directly onto tall, narrow mirrors (below right). This model was reissued as a table lamp—but can be repurposed—and is available in three different colors for around \$100. www.surrounding.com ■



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Many of the Trinity apartments cut straight through the building, from street to garden. Balconies on both sides pull in fresh air and help temper the often extreme humidity.

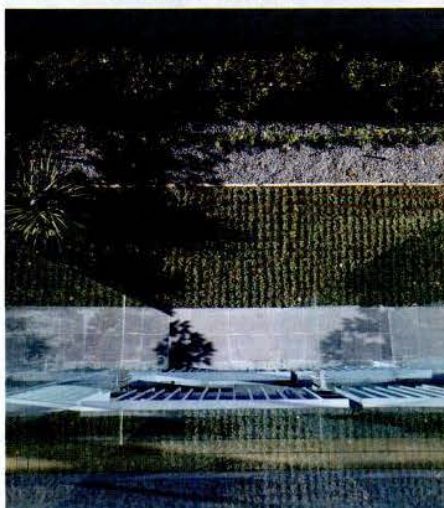
Density Down Under

Six weeks after moving from a “gorgeous custom house with huge gardens” in a suburb of Auckland, New Zealand, into an apartment a few minutes from the city’s central business district, Roz Mawson couldn’t be happier. (Nor could her two children, who had flown the nest until they set eyes upon their mother’s cool new digs.) “It was time to take ourselves out of our comfort zone, to excite ourselves again and try a way of life that doesn’t revolve around the car. Now I walk to cafés, shops, the fishmonger, yoga. And from my balconies I feel part of humanity—I can see joggers, the ferries across the harbor, and people walking their dogs in the Domain.”

Mawson’s perch is from a penthouse flat in Trinity Apartments, a six-story, three-tiered complex that sits atop a ridge in the trendy Auckland neighborhood of Parnell. Facing the historic Holy Trinity Cathedral across the road to the east, and the undulating landscape of the

park known as the Auckland Domain to the west, it’s a breath of fresh air for several reasons. In an upscale area of shops, cafés, galleries, and single-family terrace homes, where precious few apartment blocks have gone up since the ’70s, the site granted lead architect Patrick Clifford of Architectus—a firm known for its environmental sensitivity—an opportunity to reintroduce high-density living with a difference. The concrete, glass, and cedar structure with 32 roomy apartments (ranging from 750 to 2,350 square feet) is not only striking to look at, but engineered to harness natural light, warmth, and an abundance of cooling breezes.

Essential to the year-round temperature regulation is the building’s high thermal mass—“like a monolithic concrete egg crate filled in with glazing,” explains Clifford—which retains heat in winter while deflecting it in summer. In the dead of winter, Mawson has little ▶



cause to turn the heat on during the day. "We keep our huge sliding doors open and Otis, our 14-year-old French bulldog, basks in the sunlight."

In this country of outdoors enthusiasts, meticulous attention was paid to the transitional areas, with unusually large verandas and balconies (325 to 1,075 square feet) that encourage cooling cross drafts and relieve the extreme humidity. True outdoor rooms, these spaces shelter from the rain and intense sun with shading devices made variously of glass, plantation cedar, and aluminum, which not only harmonize with their immediate surroundings but create an interesting horizontal and vertical rhythm around the building. Along the urban street edges, vertical glass louvers are backed with rolling solar blinds; their sculptural, blade-like fins cast beautiful reflections onto the street and provide residents with a subtle privacy screen. Wooden shutters close off

the garden-facing balconies, in keeping with the more domestic feeling in the back. And up top, horizontal aluminum louvers keep the set-back sixth-floor bedrooms cozy. "One of the things that attracted us was the way the building looked," says Mawson, whose former home was a classical 1920s house. "New Zealand got hooked for years on this sort of quasi-Mediterranean style," she continues. "Here there's an understated rawness that will endure; it's both comfortable and alive."

Where most apartment blocks are boxy, fortresslike structures with a single entrance, Trinity is layered in levels, which increases air flow, and has two transparent, timber-paneled lobbies, one of which connects the street to the garden. These throughways also act as huge vents, pulling warm air in and up the light-filled atria, which frame views of the garden and cathedral on each level. "It's a more humanistic alternative to the artificially lit, ▶

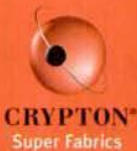
On the street-facing side, glass louvers and panels (top left) hang off the building like a huge piece of light-reflecting sculpture. The temperature inside the airy and open interiors (bottom) is largely regulated by the concrete building's high thermal mass.



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carpeted hallway with white plasterboard," says Clifford. "And it encourages you to take the stairs."

Because the building was taken right to the edge of its two boundaries, says Clifford, "rather than pulled in with the usual line of defense between building and street," it allowed for the largest possible garden within the resulting L shape: an unusual 50 percent of the lot (with underground parking concealed below). One walks straight through the building onto a boardwalk and over a reflecting pool, which, together with the lap pool, helps temper the air through evaporative cooling, as does the presence of so much plant material. Here, too, landscape architect Matthew Bradbury sought to provide a personal

haven for residents that relates to the wider world:

"Gardens are traditionally these private pleasure zones," says Bradbury, "but I think it's also possible to transcend the borders." Oak trees planted on the sidewalk along the front of the building relate to those found in the English colonial-style plantings around the cathedral, while the lawn in the back drops down to a garden lush with many of the native species found in the park beyond: "It's as if the garden were leaping over the fence," says Bradbury.

As for Mawson, the transition from suburban house to city flat has had multiple rewards. "I'm so enjoying culling our furniture. What is it about nesting habits that makes us accumulate so much stuff?" ■

Garden-facing apartments benefit from an evaporative cooling effect off the pools; during hot afternoons, they're shielded by wooden shutters that can be completely closed.

TEQUILA SUNRISE

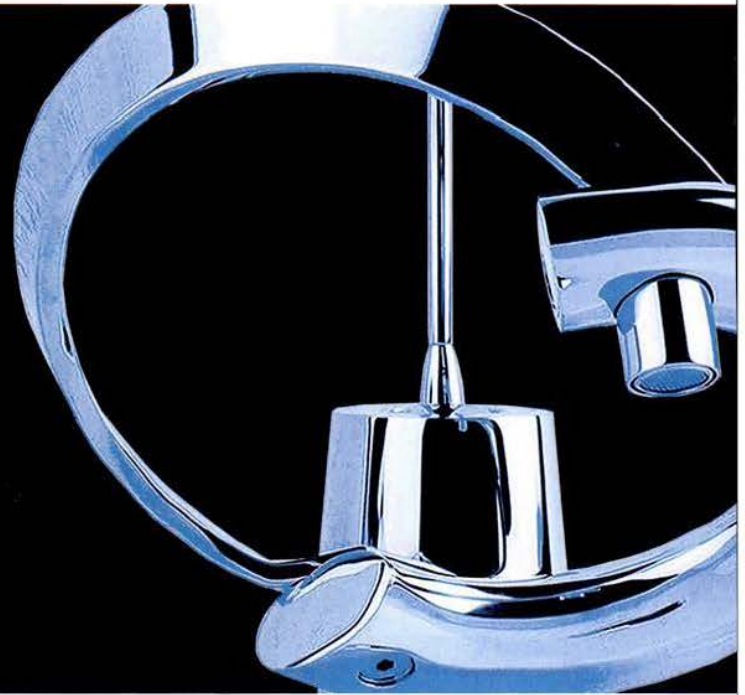
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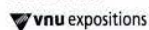


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"A plate tells a lot about who you are and the time in which you're living," says cultural critic Jeff Weinstein. Manic collector of dinnerware, former restaurant critic, and recent presenter of a lecture titled "You Are What You Eat Off Of," Weinstein knows whereof he speaks.

Weinstein, who blanched at the suggestion he might ever eat takeout straight from a container, believes that "dinnerware lifts everything." A good set of plates can make food look tastier and a table more tasteful—but the goal should be for those plates to, like a good dinner guest, complement, not overshadow, their companions. The most successful dinner plates can support either tuna casserole or tuna tartare with ease. As Weinstein explains, "The best plate I've ever eaten off of is the one I eat off of every day."

The plate in question? Tomorrow's Classic by Eva Zeisel for Hallcraft. "I've never found a plate I like better," says Weinstein. "Nothing looks bad on that plate."

As a collector, Weinstein is particularly drawn to color and to decoration, but suggests that those in the market for a new set of dishes may want to stick with basic white. As for china vs. porcelain vs. stoneware, he believes that it's not so much the material itself as the way that material matches your needs and patterns of use. In the end, Weinstein advises potential plate procurers to "buy the best you can afford and the simplest. It will make you happiest in the long run."

After Weinstein had tea in each of the cups and food on each of the plates, we talked about whether any of them could hold a candle to his prized Zeisels.

A Note on Our Expert: Self-proclaimed "dish queen" Jeff Weinstein has been collecting since the 1970s when, as a graduate student, he used to go to junk stores to shop for vintage dishes. Today, he has a house and two apartments to accommodate his ever-increasing collection. This unbridled passion for plates led him to a 17-year stint as a restaurant critic for the *Village Voice*, during which time he ate out five nights a week and made every attempt not to turn the plates over for inspection. After writing on food and the visual arts for the *New Yorker*, *Los Angeles*, the *Advocate*, and *Art Forum*, Weinstein became the fine-arts editor for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, where he still works today.

All Set

What's on your table says a lot about you. Here are seven stylish dish options that your spoon just might want to run away with.



White Textured by Bodo Sperlein /\$226 / www.tartontheweb.com

4-piece place setting (dinner plate, salad/dessert plate, small pasta bowl, mug). Fine bone china; dishwasher/microwave safe.

Expert Opinion: I've had a lot of fun with this set. I'm not certain I could live with it, but I'd certainly like to date it. It does—and I mean this in a good way—look like the plate has a rash. It's witty and beautiful. It plays with the imperfection of pottery. These bubbles are typically the kind of thing you'd be afraid of in producing china, but these plates play on that. It's very hard to create a humorous plate—Eva Zeisel did—but Bodo has. The attractive cup has a problem, though: It gets so hot with coffee or tea in it that you can only hold it from the very top.

What We Think: In Japanese ceramics, it is the imperfection that is valued above all else. That endears us to Japanese ceramists and to Bodo's bubbling plates too. The replacement cost for breaking one of these plates, though, isn't very amusing.

Black Forest by Bodo Sperlein /\$195 / www.tartontheweb.com

5-piece place setting (dinner plate, salad/dessert plate, bread plate, cup, saucer). Fine bone china; dishwasher/microwave safe.

Expert Opinion: This set is in another class. It's very well-made china, and the design is quite attractive. I wonder, though, if it strikes the right balance between food and plate. It's so assertive that it overshadows the food. In fact, the food might hide the design. The plate wants to be the star. A decision was made to have a mug, not a cup. The coffee mug comes with a saucer. It's an odd combo that I'm not sure works.

What We Think: This delicate place setting is a real work of art and we have to agree with Weinstein that it might be a shame to tarnish it with food. On the other hand, the surprise of uncovering the elegantly rendered tree once you've cleaned your plate might negate that concern.

Moon White-on-White by Rosenthal /\$143 / www.fitzsu.com

5-piece place setting (dinner plate, salad plate, bread/butter plate, coffee cup, saucer). Porcelain; dishwasher/microwave safe.

Expert Opinion: This has some problems. It's beautifully made but somewhat prissy. Its elegance can work against daily use. The pattern is fussy. It makes the food look like it doesn't belong, like it walked into the room in a gauche suit. The cup, especially its finger hole, is too small. This is a good cup for after-dinner coffee, but not for everyday use.

What We Think: We get weary of patterned clothing within a wearing or two and so worry about getting tired of the texture here. The shapes lack the refinement of other Rosenthal offerings (see next page). Like Weinstein, we are less than excited about the cup, which appears to be built to spill. ▶



St. Kitts Collection: Nag's Head

by **Kate Spade** / \$99 / www.katespade.com
5-piece place setting (dinner plate, accent plate, dessert plate, cup, saucer). Fine bone china; dishwasher/microwave safe.

Expert Opinion: I like this set the least.

This is an attempt to be elegant but there is a problem with the shapes. The elegance of the black-and-white doesn't match the shape of the plates, which are ordinary to the point of being cottage-y. It's fighting with its own decoration. I especially dislike the cup. It's got the totally wrong proportion for the rest of the set, and the handle is frilly. It's got an arms-akimbo curve that doesn't go with the black-and-white elegance.

What We Think: Weinstein told us that he looks "at plates the way women look at one another's shoes." This ladies-who-lunch set seems to fit that form of evaluation perfectly. Its petite scale and formality scream, "You can never be too rich or too thin."

Tac 02 Gropius by Rosenthal /

\$130 / www.fitzsu.com
5-piece place setting (dinner plate, salad plate, bread/butter plate, coffee cup, saucer). Porcelain; dishwasher/microwave safe.

Expert Opinion: This is one of my favorites.

It straddles the line between special and daily. It is the potato salad and the pâté dish. It can handle any food with elegance. The cup is the perfect shape for coffee or tea. It has a lovely mouthfeel. It is a chic white that has remained chic and very contemporary. The plate has a slight rise but gives the appearance of total flatness. It is a really cunning design.

What We Think: When registering for our dishes, we were pleased to find these simple, elegant pieces among a sea of gold-rimmed chargers. The flatness, clean lines, and clear tone perfectly convey modernism on a plate. It's Gropius showing his feminine side. ▶



Growing Across North America

This season Poliform has expanded into several new cities and renovated showrooms in the New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, and Long Island markets. Designed by Poliform, with the assistance of architect and consultant Kicco Bestetti Associati, these showrooms reflect the newest representation of the Poliform lifestyle with familiar characteristics of white concrete floors, glass partitions, and brilliant architecture.

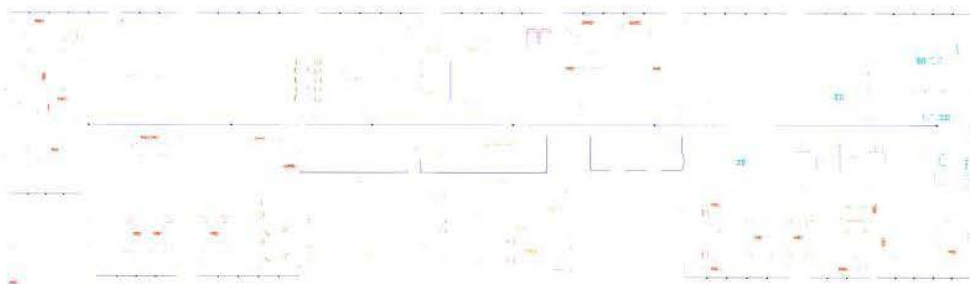
Poliform has been Italy's leading manufacturer of kitchens and home furnishings since 1942, and has approximately 1,000 showrooms worldwide, from Paris to Korea to Los Angeles. After a decade of growth in North America, Poliform has arrived with approximately 35 showrooms throughout the United States and Canada.

Poliform showrooms reflect the concept of the Day Zone and Night Zone.

Day Zone shows kitchens, living rooms, wall systems, sideboards, and dining room furnishings, whereas the Night Zone includes displays of Poliform's famed walk-in closet systems and bedroom furnishings.

Many of these showrooms also feature products from Poliform's design partners.

Flexform sofas, one of the most renowned Italian sofa manufacturers, can be seen intermixed elegantly with Poliform libraries and entertainment centers within the Poliform Day Zone, and offer a broad selection of seating for shoppers to peruse. TrePiù door systems, designed by Antonio Citterio, divide space with sliding glass panels, contributing to Bestetti's vision of the Poliform lifestyle.



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Stoneware by Calvin Klein Home /

\$72 / www.macys.com

5-piece place setting (dinner plate, salad plate, soup bowl, cup, saucer). Stoneware; dishwasher/microwave safe.

Expert Opinion: The chalk white is brilliant. This is a lovely, easy, and elegant set that can be used every day. The matte glaze works perfectly. When the dishes are stacked, the rise is beautiful. They'd set a beautiful table. The bowl, though, looks like a dog bowl. It's an error in an otherwise perfect set. I put my cereal in there and I wanted to go "Woof!"

What We Think: It's not easy to make a place setting that successfully straddles the line between the casual and the formal, but this set does it quite nicely. It also manages to elevate the status of stoneware, which can often be a little too earthy for us. Have to agree with Weinstein on the bowl, though.

Terra by Crate and Barrel /

\$49.95 / www.crateandbarrel.com

4-piece place setting (dinner plate, salad plate, bowl, mug). Stoneware; dishwasher/microwave/freezer/oven safe.

Expert Opinion: It looks very nice. The bowl is a rice bowl with a good lift. The quality that I find interesting is that the plates are rather bowl-like as well. These can be set on an elegant table but are also good for daily use. I like the colors and find the glazes to be elegant. The more neutral, the better; you don't want the dish to upstage the food so a matte or semimatte finish helps.

What We Think: Nice. Reminds us a bit too much of our childhood in Cyra McFadden-era Marin County, but that may be too biased. At first glance, we think "good for brown rice and vegetables," but a fairer assessment would be that it is far more versatile—and attractive—than that. ■





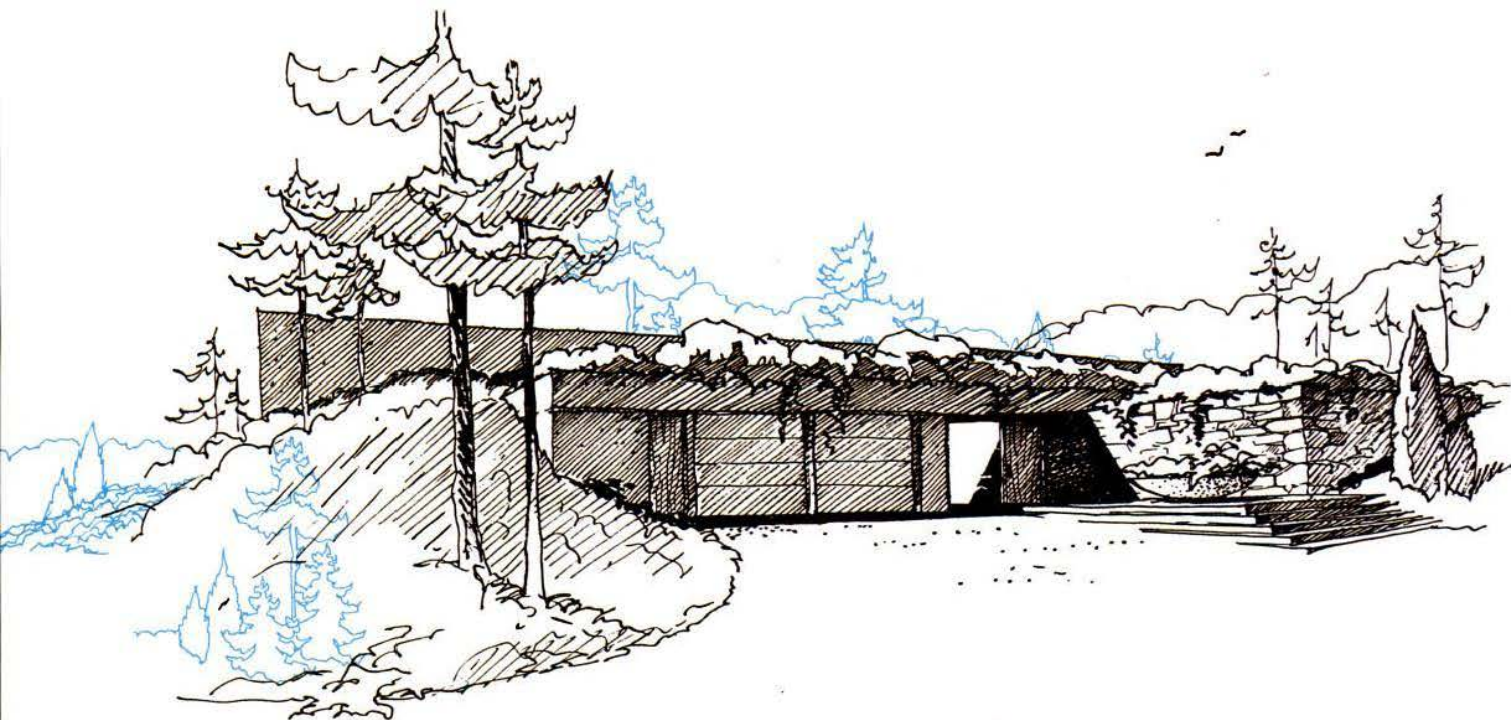
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Notes from the Underground

"I used to care about how buildings looked on the outside," says Malcolm Wells, a charming, self-deprecating man with a bushy beard that is more salt than pepper. "Phew, that was so self-centered of me. Now I care only about the physical effects of architecture."



The Hess house (top) and the Locust Hills project (above) nestle deeply into the earth. Though these structures are almost fully submerged, natural light is a key component.

At 80 years old, Wells is a man ahead of his time. In fact, the architect, author, cartoonist, and sand-castle expert has been so for some 40 years, ever since he turned his back on traditional architecture in favor of earth-sheltered housing. His self-sustaining "underground" buildings are covered in upwards of 200 tons of earth, are waterproofed by a thin membrane of rubber, insulated by plastic foam board, employ passive solar energy via south-facing floor-to-ceiling windows, and, most important, create a natural habitat for wild plants and animals. "Underground buildings answer just about any question relating to a building problem: They're fireproof, hurricaneproof, landslideproof, soundproof, and cost just about nothing to maintain," Wells explains. "It's so obvious, yet our egos get in the way. We want to pop up above the earth and show that we're here, that we're somebody."

How did a man whose *raison d'être* was once office buildings and factories go green? Accidentally. "In the late 1940s, I was just out of the Marine Corps, looking for a job and a way to get dates," he says with a sly smile. "I stumbled into a New Jersey architecture office and was hired as a draftsman on the spot." Years later, Wells was chosen to design electronic giant RCA's entry into the 1964 World's Fair. Then it hit him: In two years the structure would be destroyed, and for what? ▶



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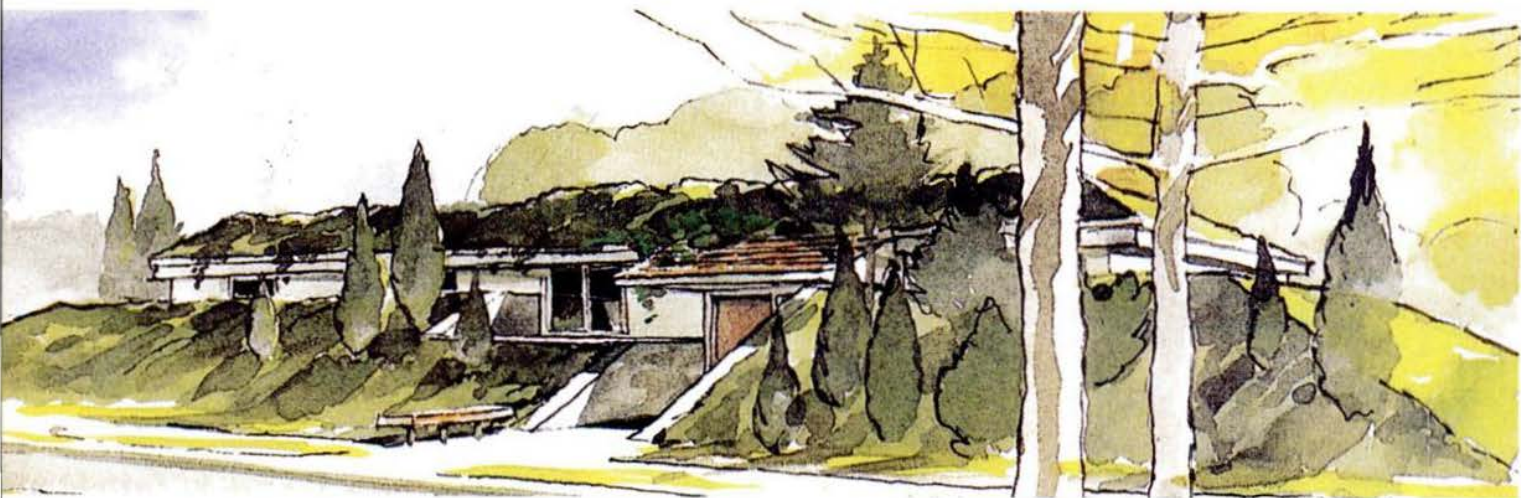
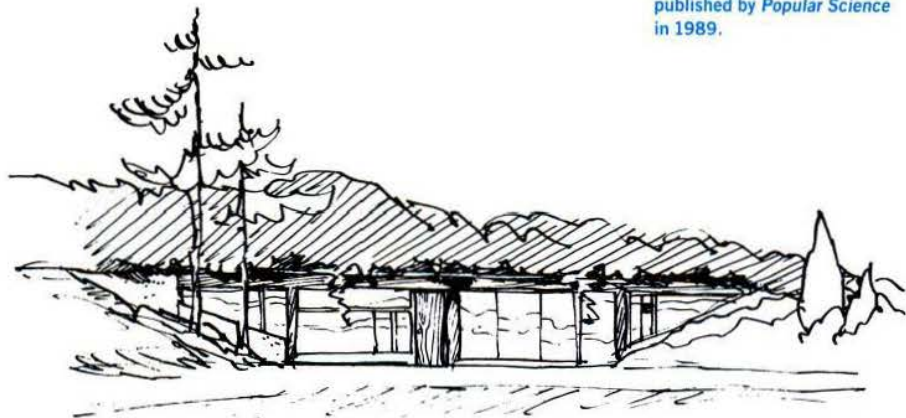
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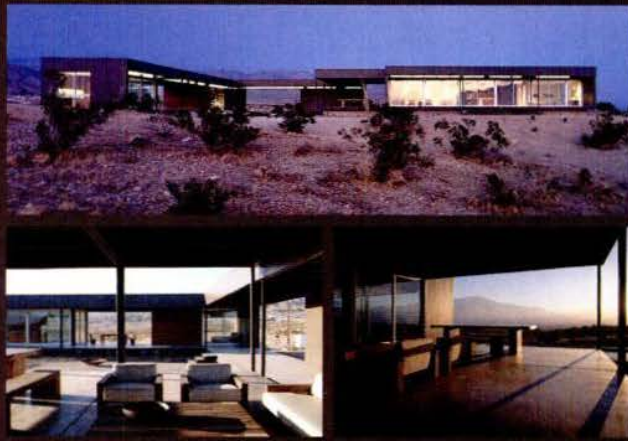
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Glass always plays a big role in Wells's designs, with glass walls (below) often running the length of the south sides. Wells's exterior designs for two houses with the same floor plan (middle and bottom) were published by *Popular Science* in 1989.

From that day forward, he decided to stop being a "destroyer" and instead devote his life to building with nature, not against it. The earth-shelter movement, of which he's considered the godfather, reached its apex during the energy crisis of the late '70s/early '80s, but then, says Wells, bitterly, "Ronald Reagan became president and tore the solar panels off Jimmy Carter's house." Despite this setback, it is estimated that there are more than 2,000 underground structures in the U.S., and even more in Great Britain, Australia, and the Czech Republic.

Though still active, Wells is slowing down. Wells, who retired in 2004 after a stroke, lives by correspondence, receiving and writing letters (always by hand; he's too old-fashioned for computers) to fans as near as the local diner and as far as India and Egypt. And while he is no longer designing per se, he hasn't given up the fight and remains reassuringly optimistic about the future. "Just wait till you're my age," he says. "You're going to see a green America." ■





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The proverbial ivory tower of urban regeneration, Santiago Calatrava's Turning Torso stands proud amid the rubble of redevelopment.



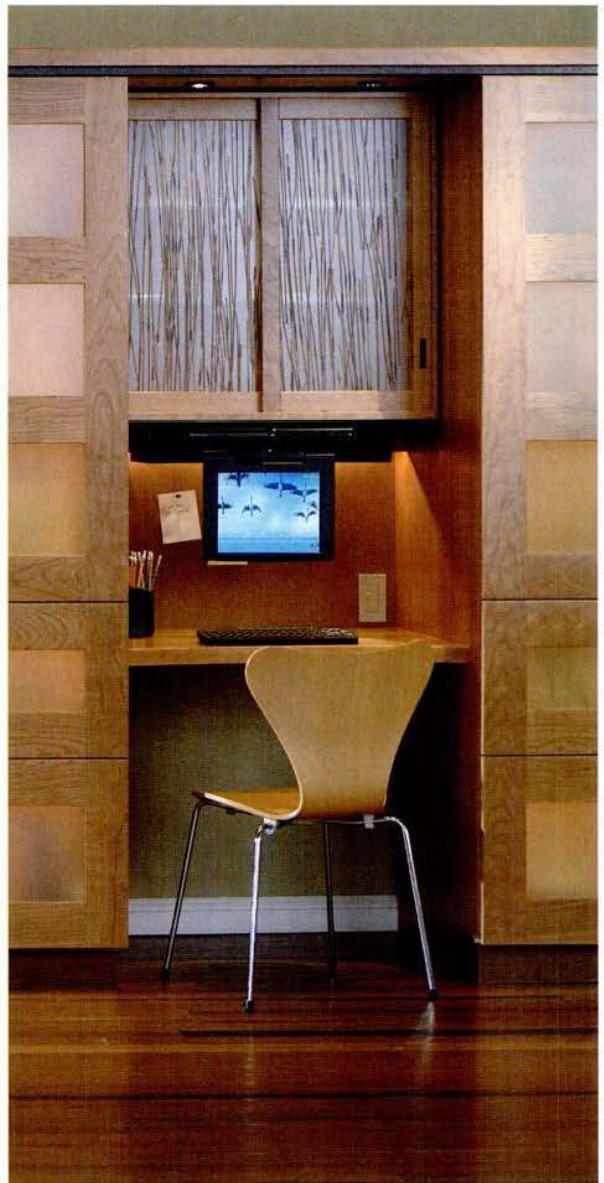
Malmö's Metamorphosis

Approaching the Øresund Bridge from Copenhagen, one is first soothed by whirling turbines and coruscating sea, only to be stunned by the imposing structure that spans, like a mythic albatross, across the Øresund Strait to link Denmark and Sweden. Now a celebrated superstructure, the bridge design initially met with resistance from both Danes and Swedes who feared it would harm, among other things, an ecosystem heavily reliant on the brackish balance of sea and sound water. To mitigate disruption to the water flow and to Saltholm (Salt Islet), engineers deepened the seabed and used the dredged matter to create an artificial island, aptly named

Peberholm (Pepper Islet)—a cheeky moniker that makes the area's early settlers seem about as imaginative as George Foreman.

Now, five years after its completion, not only does the bridge boast the survival and prosperity of preexisting species, but Peberholm is host to a plethora of rare and nonindigenous species—the fruit of seeds long since buried beneath the sea.

Malmö, one of the two cities linked by the bridge, is experiencing a transformation similar to that of Peberholm—a renaissance that is as much manufactured as it is organic, and whose output can be gleaned ▶



Kitchens à la carte by Berkeley Mills

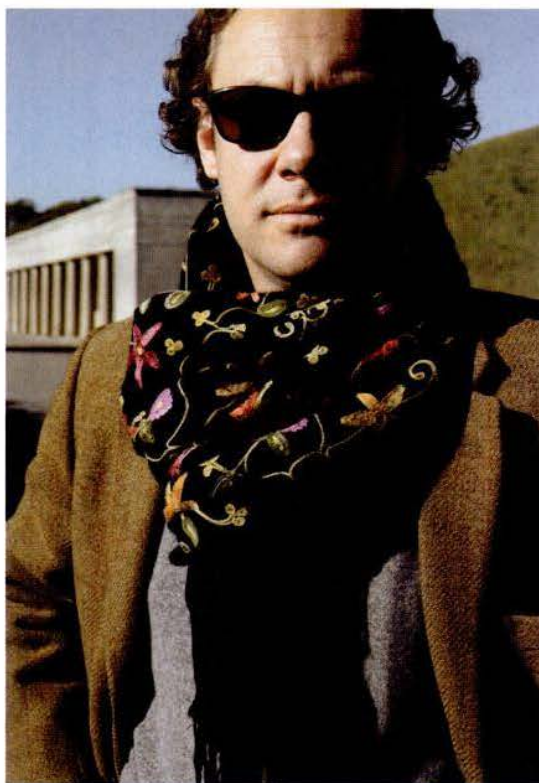
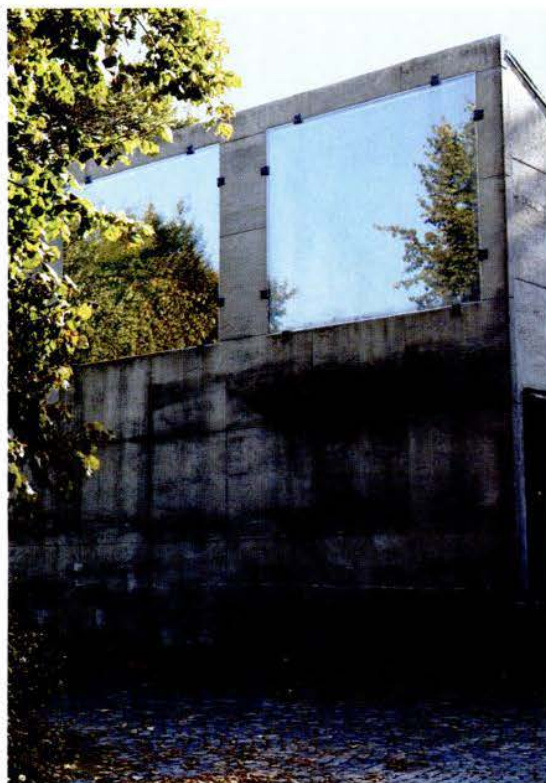
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At left, Östra Kyrkogården (East Cemetery). At right, architect Jonas Lindvall.

from as far off as Copenhagen. From across the Øresund, Santiago Calatrava's Turning Torso looks like the sole survivor of a city devastatingly razed. Of course, this is entirely due to the structure's towering scale, as much a testament to one man's vision as to a city's will to power. Over the course of ten years, Malmö has transformed itself from a working-class, industrial city to a veritable *uberstadt* of the IT, design, and biotech industries.

This metamorphosis has been largely engineered, but if nature teaches us anything, it's that aberrations are what lead to diversity and growth. Today, Malmö is as provincial as it is metropolitan: On cobbled streets lined with bundled hollyhocks, retailers sell the latest in design wares. And with 25 percent of the population born abroad and a flourishing Muslim community, Malmö is among Sweden's most multiethnic cities (along with Stockholm and Gothenborg). The university, which opened in 1998, has attracted an influx of students, who are helping reinvigorate the once-stagnant region.

Architect Jonas Lindvall was born in Malmö and currently runs a small architecture practice there. Having witnessed the change firsthand, he offers an insider's account of this dramatic transition.

Visiting Malmö, one gets a sense of a city trying to reinvent itself. How do you see it?

The city that I grew up in was a city in which you weren't supposed to promote yourself at all. It was part of the *Jentaloven*—this sort of political or philosophical idea where you're not supposed to feel better than anybody else or believe that you can do anything or make a change or make a difference. Now Malmö has changed to a city where it's only about making a change and it's only about promoting itself, you know—you can be a rock star, or you can be a designer, whatever. I'm obviously a grumpy old man, but I do feel there is something about the entire thing that doesn't feel honest.

What areas personify the city's effort to reorient itself?

Västra Hamnen was made in some respect as a sort of haven for the nouveau riche, but what's happened is that in the summertime it's totally occupied by the New Swedes, if you like. Malmö's Muslim community comes here in summer to barbecue. You have the people who live here drive up in their brand-new Mercedes-Benz convertible and then you'll have a family of six or seven putting up their barbecue—it's a fantastic clash, which I think is quite nice. It's an organic transformation. The use of the space is so unlike how anybody had thought it would be—it's cool. ▶

Malmö, Sweden

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Malmö University has played a large role in this transformation as well. What areas have changed most dramatically because of this?

Malmö is going through a tremendous transition from being a working-class city to having a university of 25,000 students. The site of the new teacher's college has become really alive. This building alone holds about 2,500 students and contains a big library that's open to the public as well.

Davidshall is one of the last areas to have really transformed itself. The square was built in the early 1920s. It used to be quite boring, but for the new Malmö, with all of its students, it fills a perfect need for coffee shops and design shops and what have you. It's transformed rather quickly.

Malmö is sometimes referred to as *Parkernas stad* (the city of parks). Where do you usually take refuge?

Klagsham is an abandoned place that I like to go to a couple of times a week. It's just 15 minutes south of the city. I take my dog, Pompe—he's a bearded collie. There are industrial ruins there, an old factory. A family of deer inhabits the place and have become almost tame.

The östra Kyrkogården (East Cemetery) is a lovely place; it marks the beginning and end of one of the great Swedish architects, Sigurd Leverentz. He designed the first chapel in the cemetery in 1916, and his career ends with a flower shop or kiosk that was open in 1979. All the cemeteries in Malmö run on the same north-south axis; it's the highway of death. There's quite a strong axis politically or classwise, I suppose, and it is quite often the case that the west is the most affluent one—at least it is in Malmö. ▶

Jonas Lindvall enjoys the Malmö Konsthall for its dramatic treatment of light—and, of course, its Sunday brunches.

Malmö, Sweden



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Clockwise from left: Mando Steakhouse, the Västra Hamnen neighborhood, and Moderna Möbelklassiker Norra Vallgatan.

Which museums do you enjoy most in Malmö?

Malmö Konsthall is quite a nice building. It's kind of a sanctuary. They mostly show temporary exhibitions. There's a nice restaurant that does very good brunches; it's a good place to meet up with friends and have coffee.

What other restaurants would you recommend?

Brogatan is a bit postmodern, interiorwise, which I don't enjoy very much, but the atmosphere is very good. Most of the actors, musicians, and painters in Malmö go there after gallery openings on the weekend, so you'll have about 300 artists creeping up to the bar—I've both been in fights and had fantastic times there. Also, Mando Steakhouse is totally crazy. It's made entirely of different layers of indirectly lit copper. They had a sort of Kentucky Fried Chicken-type place there in 1968, but now they only really serve beef. It's like moving into a '60s film set of some sort. Most of the furniture in there is by Arne Jacobsen.



Where would you go to purchase something Jacobsenesque?

Moderna Möbelklassiker Norra Vallgatan. It's a shop that sells mostly Scandinavian '30s, '40s, and '50s furniture—it's very blond. ■

Malmö, Sweden

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At High Point, North Carolina's biannual furniture market, visitors have to look hard to find modern design—but it is there. The continuation of unlikely partnerships (Todd Oldham with La-Z-Boy, for instance) is a sign that America's larger and more traditional companies are taking their customers' increasing interest in design seriously.

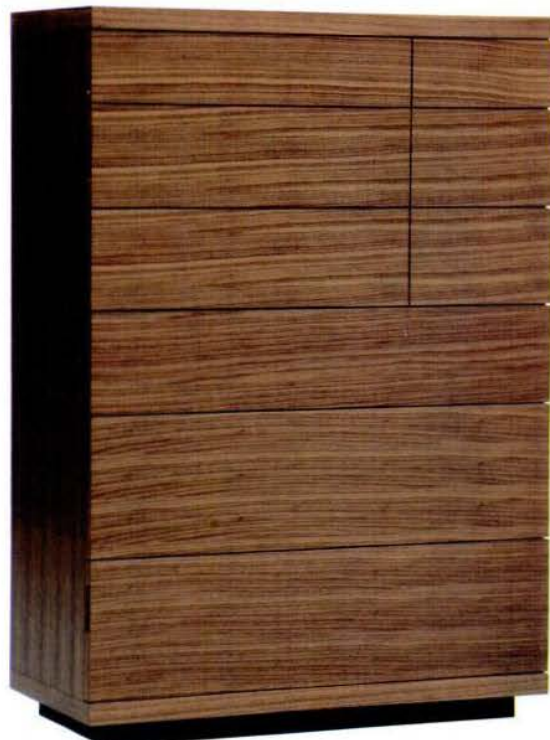





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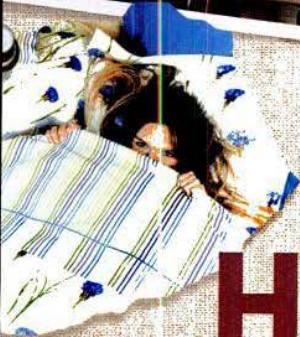
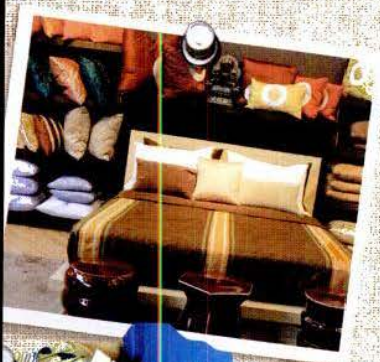
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FORM FOLLOWS LIFE

The exterior and interior of the Magic Chef building as they appeared in a 1948 *Architectural Forum* article.



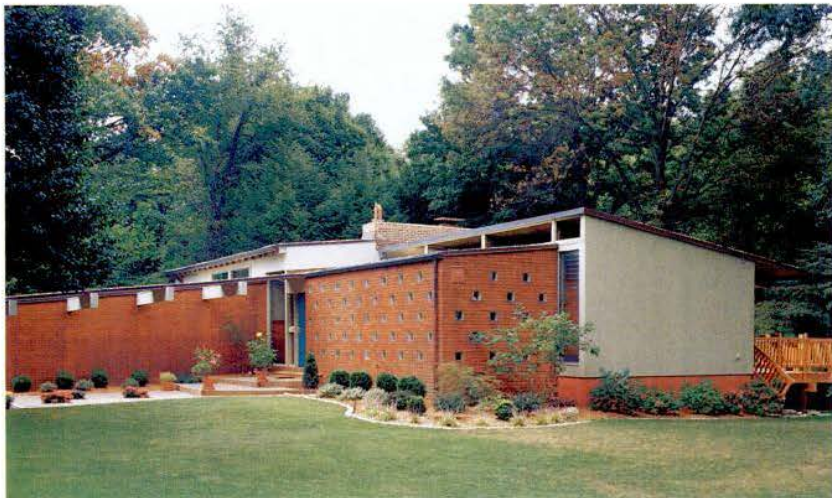
The Spirit of St. Louis

Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies van der Rohe, and scores of others left the Midwest with an enviable architectural legacy. St. Louis, however, was rarely the recipient of the well-known masters' works. Its architectural treasures were delivered more discreetly by local legends like Harris Armstrong.

Interstate 44 crosses Kingshighway Boulevard in a gritty, industrial area of south St. Louis, Missouri, whisking tens of thousands of commuters each day past an imposing but otherwise unremarkable U-Haul self-storage facility. Drab and boxy, its windows long ago covered with concrete and brown sheet metal, there is nothing about the structure to suggest that it was once one of the most important buildings in St. Louis.

When the building was designed in 1946 by the St. Louis architect Harris Armstrong as a headquarters for the Magic Chef appliance company, the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* marveled that its glass façade and whimsical lobby ceiling by the sculptor Isamu Noguchi made it "an outstanding example of contemporary design." Perhaps it is Armstrong's misfortune that he did most of his work in St. Louis, a city that sometimes prizes its rich architectural heritage from the late 19th and early 20th centuries at the expense of a small—and dwindling—stock of mid-century-modern structures. Several of Armstrong's St. Louis creations have been cannibalized, as the Magic Chef building was, or demolished outright to make way for new construction. ▶





Anne Bergeron and Steve Wellmeier renovated this 1954 house (above) designed by Armstrong. Armstrong pierced the north walls of the house with glass blocks to capture the sun while still affording privacy.

But in 1997, when Anne Bergeron and Steve Wellmeier bought a small split-level ranch house in suburban Creve Coeur, Missouri, that Armstrong designed in 1954, they decided to take a different approach. Bergeron and Wellmeier, who were relocating from New York City, were able to look past a half-century of grime and benign neglect to see a low-key jewel. They offered \$240,000 for the privilege of restoring it.

For help with the project, Bergeron and Wellmeier turned to Andrew L. W. Raimist, a St. Louis architect who was also working on a book about Armstrong. Starting in the kitchen, Raimist helped Bergeron and Wellmeier brighten what had become a dreary space by installing a beige plastic-laminate countertop. He used black and white automotive paint to give the original metal cabinets a high-gloss sheen. A dowdy fluorescent light fixture proved too costly to remove, so Thomas McGraw, a Washington University architecture student who was working for Raimist at the time, fashioned a V-shaped cover that hid the tubes behind layers of Plexiglas and rice paper.

Downstairs, Raimist fixed a nagging flooding problem and then created what Bergeron calls “the funkier laundry room on the planet” by hiding the washer and dryer behind a wall of translucent polycarbonate. At Bergeron’s insistence, the tar and gravel on the shallow-pitch roof were removed and replaced with white marble chips, which Armstrong had called for in his original design.

Bergeron says that her first ideas for restoring the house gradually gave way to a more pragmatic approach of preserving certain things and updating others. “We took a preservationist approach but we were somewhat liberal with it,” she says. “Talking with Andy, we just thought, What can we do that’s in keeping with the spirit of the house, and what can we do where we can have a little bit of fun?”



To his surprise, Raimist found that a house he had initially dismissed as one of Armstrong’s less significant works ended up informing his understanding of the architect as much as some of Armstrong’s more celebrated projects, including the Magic Chef building. Typical of Armstrong’s experiments with passive solar design, the home’s functional spaces—the kitchen, bathrooms, and staircase—are grouped along its north side behind a brick wall with glass blocks set into the masonry. On the south side, a cantilevered roof shields large windows from direct sunlight in the summertime, when the sun hangs high in the sky, but allows it to shine through and warm the interior during the winter.

The completion of the project in 2000 coincided with Bergeron and Wellmeier’s return to New York, where Bergeron had been offered a job as a fundraising coordinator at the Guggenheim Museum. They sold the house for under \$400,000 to a couple who eventually built a pair of additions totaling some 3,600 square feet, more than tripling its size. And so, sadly, the Bergeron/Wellmeier residence has joined the Magic Chef building on Raimist’s list of Armstrong buildings that have been altered almost beyond recognition.

“I feel that the integrity of the original house is gone and the scale has been completely lost,” Raimist says. “The original house is just kind of overwhelmed by the other things that they’ve done.”

Despite the saga’s disappointing coda, both Raimist and Bergeron have fond memories of restoring the house. In February, Raimist accepted an award for the project on Bergeron and Wellmeier’s behalf from the Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation. After taking a break to complete an addition to his own house, Raimist is again hard at work on his book about the life and work of Harris Armstrong, preserving at least the memories of the structures, if not Armstrong’s designs themselves. ▶



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Ten Things You Should Know About Harris Armstrong

1 / Harris Armstrong was born in Edwardsville, Illinois, in 1899, and spent his early childhood in a large farmhouse built by his grandfather. His father, a salesman for the Liggett & Myers Tobacco Co., moved the family to Webster Groves, Missouri, when Armstrong was a teenager.

2 / Armstrong never finished high school. His formal training as an architect was limited to night classes at Washington University, which he took while he was working as a draftsman for the St. Louis architect Louis LeBeaume, and a single year at Ohio State University. He received his architect's license in 1942 at age 43.

3 / During World War I, Armstrong dropped out of high school and joined the Army Air Service. His lack of formal schooling prevented him from becoming a pilot, so he served out the war as a cook on an army base in Texas. He remained an avid cook for the rest of his life.

4 / Armstrong met his wife, Louise McClelland, on a commuter train in 1925. The two had been neighbors as children, but McClelland didn't immediately recognize Armstrong as he chatted excitedly about his architectural work. The couple eloped on New Year's Day, 1926.

5 / Armstrong spent a few months in the early 1930s in the New York offices of the architect Raymond Hood, but otherwise he lived and

worked in the St. Louis suburb of Kirkwood. Most of his projects were built in St. Louis and its suburbs, with a few notable exceptions, among them the U.S. consulate in Basra, Iraq.

6 / In 1937, Armstrong won a silver medal at the Paris World's Fair for an International Style office building in suburban Clayton, Missouri, that he built for orthodontist Leo M. Shanley.

7 / In 1947, Armstrong was among five finalists in the design competition for the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial on the St. Louis riverfront. The winner was Eero Saarinen, whose stainless steel Gateway Arch serves as the memorial's centerpiece. Armstrong was the only St. Louis architect to be selected as a finalist.

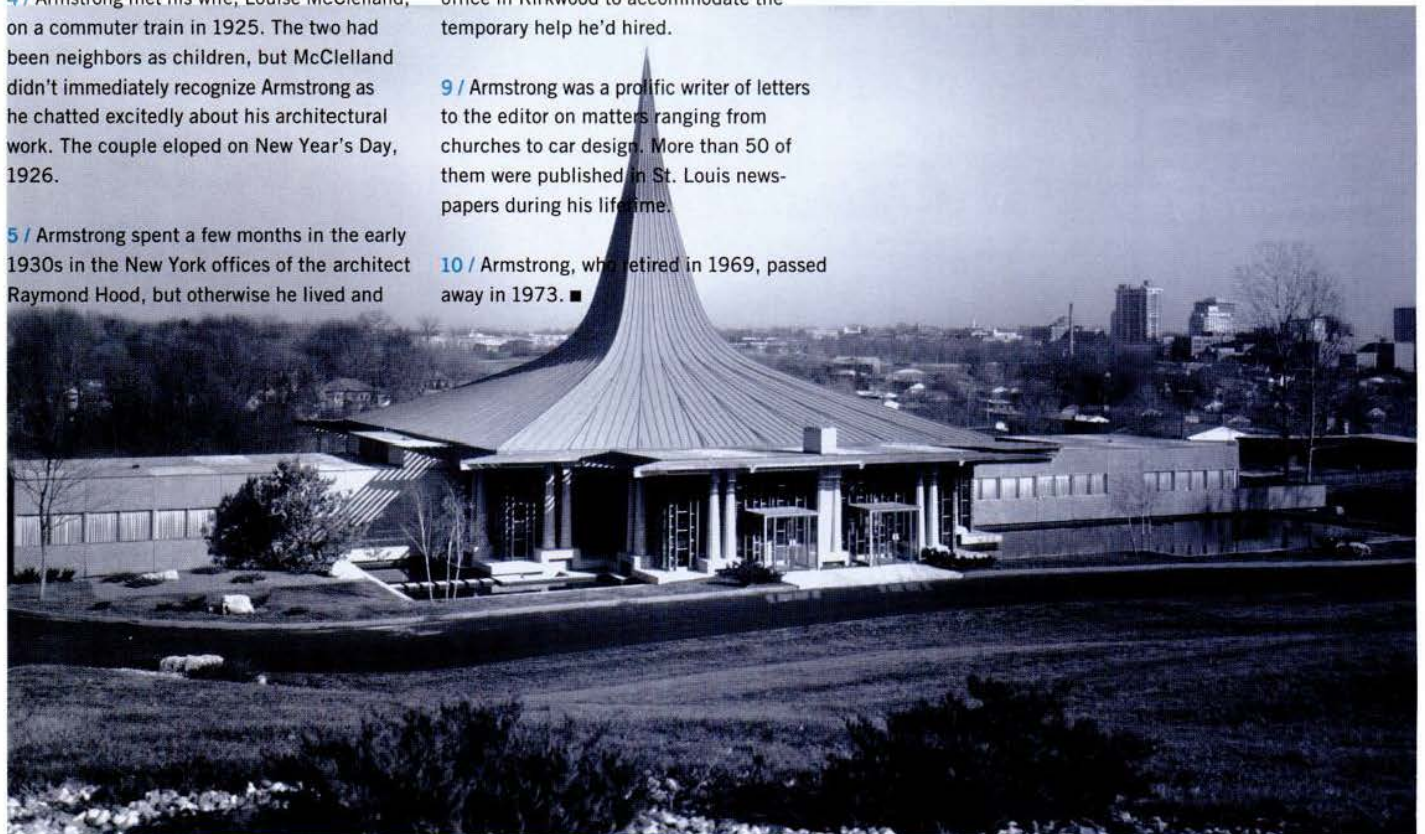
8 / When hired to design a \$7.5 million engineering campus for McDonnell Douglas near Lambert–St. Louis International Airport, Armstrong parked a rented trailer near his office in Kirkwood to accommodate the temporary help he'd hired.

9 / Armstrong was a prolific writer of letters to the editor on matters ranging from churches to car design. More than 50 of them were published in St. Louis newspapers during his lifetime.

10 / Armstrong, who retired in 1969, passed away in 1973. ■



Andrew Raimist writes of the foppish Harris Armstrong, "He saw himself in the spotlight playing the part of a hero, overtaking the retrograde aspect of Midwest culture to build a new St. Louis as a brave new world." Armstrong's architectural office (below), designed in 1948, and the Ethical Society (bottom), designed in 1962.



PHOTOS COURTESY ANDREW RAIMIST (PORTRAIT), HEORICH BLESSING COLLECTION / CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY (OFFICE), ALEXANDER PIAGET (ETHICAL SOCIETY)



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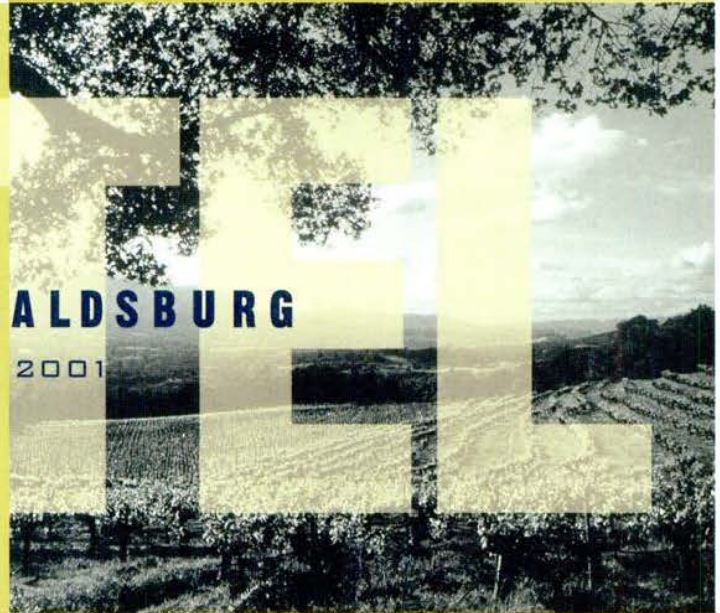
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The Minimal Realism of Charles Harper

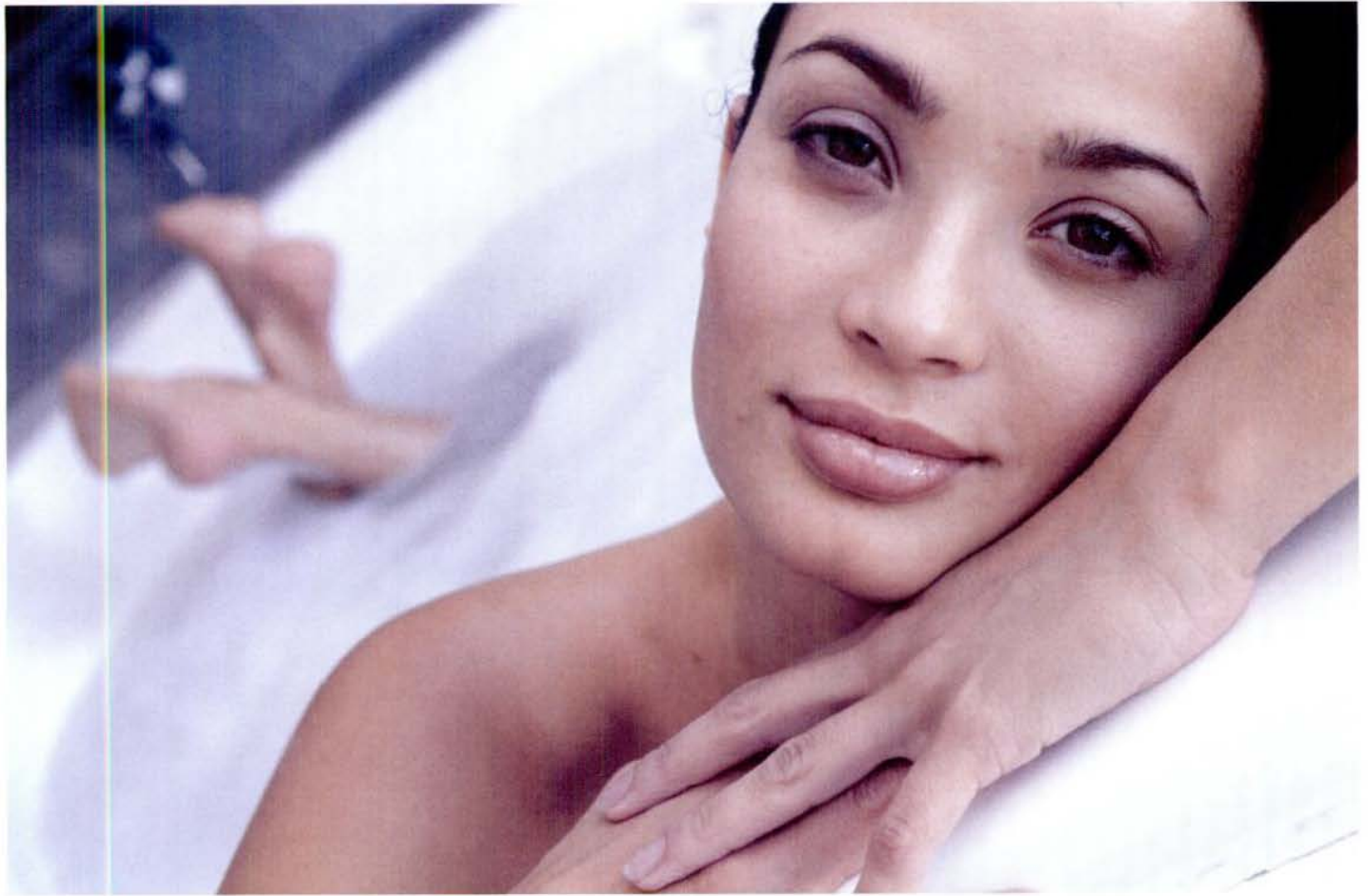
From a studio in the garage of his mid-century-modern home, located on a wooded hillside outside Cincinnati, Ohio, over the last 50 years Charles Harper has created a vast body of work—and a cult following of naturalists and modernists.



The idea of wildlife art generally conjures images of Audubon prints mounted in medical offices and Saturday-afternoon how-to-paint shows on TV. Not so for Charles Harper. In Harper's hands, the T square and French curve reduce animals and their environs to their barest geometry. In the introduction to his 1974 collection, *Birds and Words*, he wrote, "I never counted the feathers in the wings. . . . I just count the wings." With bold planes of color, exacting lines, and inexhaustible wit, Harper captures the veracious essence of each scene he depicts.

Starting in the 1950s, Harper gained acclaim as a commercial illustrator with *The Golden Book of Biology* and *Betty Crocker's Dinner for Two* cookbook, and a steady stream of work for the Ford Motor Company's monthly magazine, *Ford Times*, followed. Harper's work for Ford became so popular with readers that he started a silk-screening operation in his basement to fulfill mail-order demands for his prints of birds, fish, and Model Ts. It was also with Ford that he began writing the infamous captions that accompany each of his works. In the late '60s, the Frame House Gallery in Louisville, Kentucky, began to distribute larger-edition serigraphs, and Harper would reach an even greater audience with his iconic posters for the National Park Service.

Recently, we stopped by Charles and Edie Harper's home and studio in Cincinnati, Ohio, for an afternoon chat and a once-in-a-lifetime chance to sift through his personal archives. He's still hard at work at 83. ►



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Best Dressed / Serigraph / 1973

Best Dressed / Dig the fancy dude in the far-out sport coat: wood duck, adult, male. Spanning the color spectrum with sartorial splendor, he upstages the autumn leaf, rafts a rainbow down the riffle and, with his mirror image, floats a fantasy butterfly on the quiet pool. And sends a surge of inspiration through the wildlife artist. He's the Best Dressed Bird of the Year, year after year. In fact, that's how some of his fans like him best: dressed. Come over to my house for a duck dinner—you be the duck. (*Charles Harper's original caption*)

Did growing up on a farm have a large role in influencing your art?

I suppose it did. I connected with nature—I was absorbing it, but not aware of it. I didn't really get on to biology and nature until I illustrated *The Golden Book of Biology* for Golden Press, and then I really had to buckle down and learn—the processes for the diagrams, and the connection between natural events, and so on. I learned a lot and kept on going.

Eventually you left your home state of West Virginia and ended up enrolling at the Art Academy of Cincinnati, where you won the Stephen H. Wilder Traveling Scholarship.

Eddie and I met in art school, and the trip was our honeymoon. We drove from Cincinnati to the West Coast—Oregon, down to L.A.—and back over to Florida in three months. We took Eddie's Chevy and camped along the way. We visited all the national parks and scenic wonders. I still refer to things I remember from that trip. It was important to me.

Was that the first time you experimented with a two-dimensional style?

Yes. I started realizing that in order to get a whole bunch of stuff on a piece of paper, you had to simplify it. So a Rocky Mountain or something like that, you couldn't fit everything in, but you could get the impression by flattening it out. That appealed to me. I still have samples of superrealism from art school. But suddenly on this trip it came to me that this is silly. Nature did it better. I couldn't try to compete. Eddie happened to get into that at the same time and we progressed together and helped each other. ►

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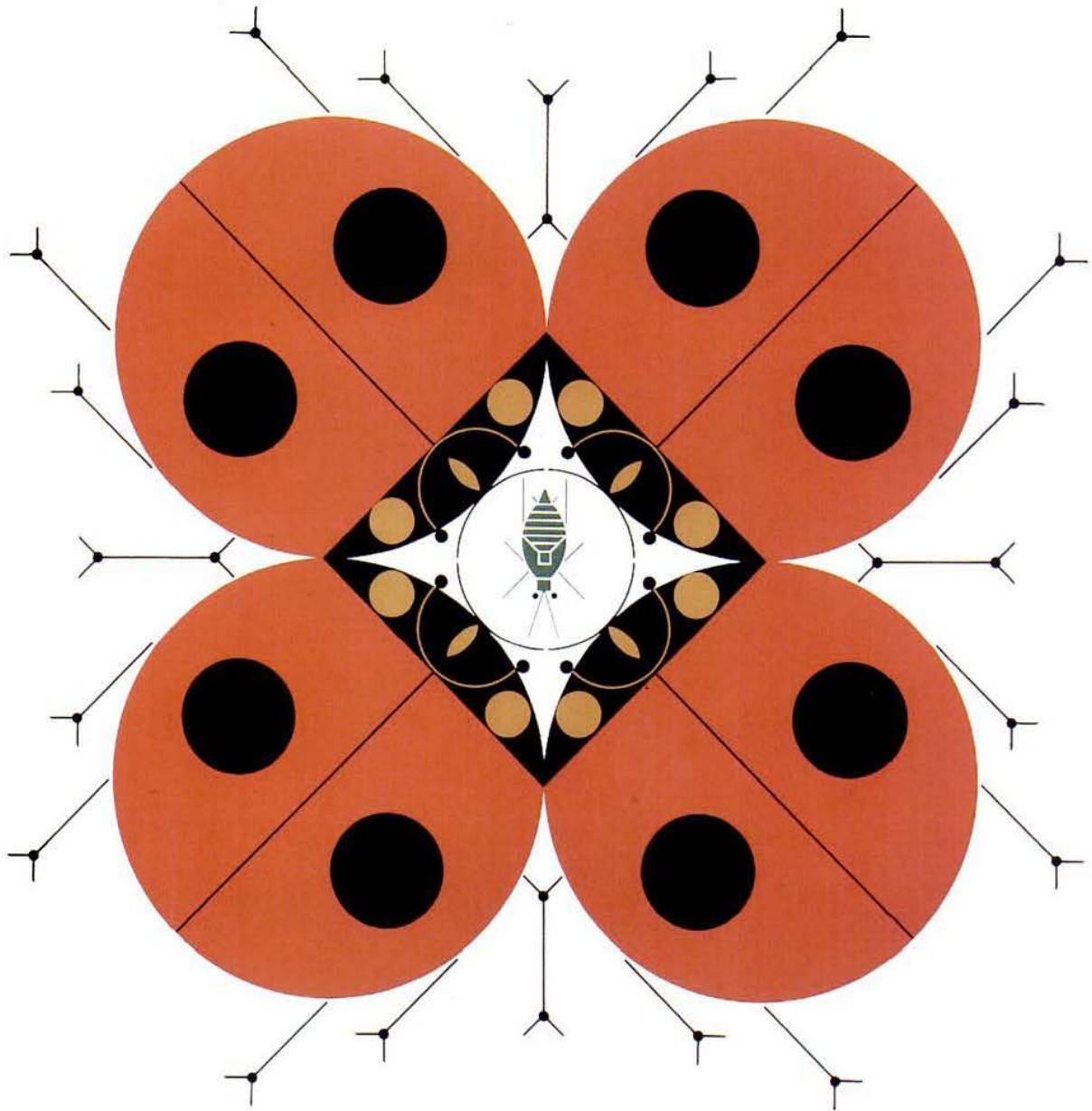
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The Last Aphid / Serigraph / 1981

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Bank Swallow / American Bird Architects, *Ford Times* / Serigraph / 1959



Starling / American Bird Census, *Ford Times* / Serigraph / 1960



Pelican in a Downpour / Ten Collector Prints, *Birds and Words* / Serigraph / 1972

By the time you started working for the *Ford Times*, that had become the established “Harper” style.

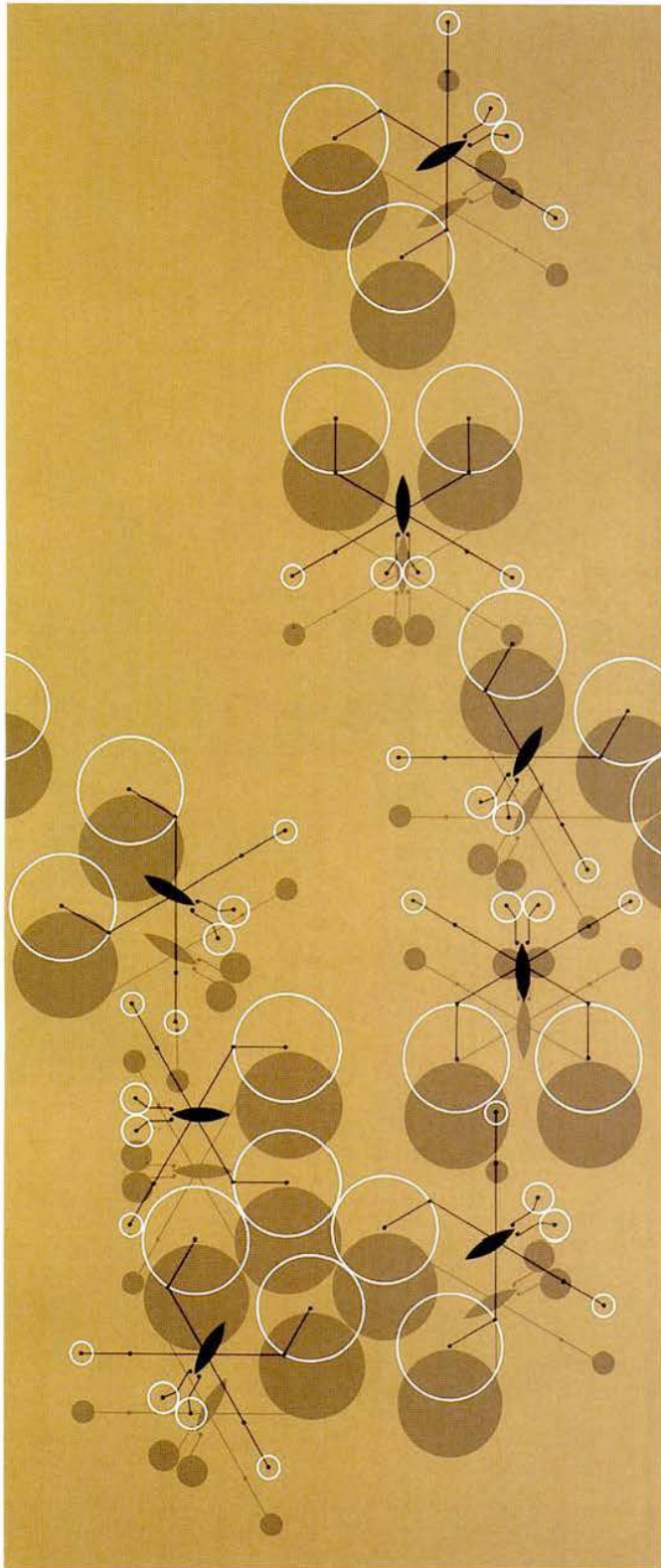
[Ford was] very influential in my development because they had a great art director, Arthur Lougee, whom I consider my mentor if anybody was. He gave me a chance to do all kinds of stories and encouraged me to write, which I had not done before. In fact, I was a replacement for E. B. White, who did the captions for the first prints I made. Arthur got requests from readers for reproductions of the magazines, which he couldn't supply, so he had the idea of artists making prints of their work that had appeared in the magazine—which was great. He gave all the money to the artists. Silk screening fit perfectly with the way I was thinking about form—flattened-out planes of color. It had a great influence on my work, but I'd never do it again!

It seems like the majority of your work is of birds. Is there a reason for that?

Well, the work for Ford—“Western Birds,” “Bird Architects,” “America's Vanishing Birds”—each of those gave me a reason to learn something more. I didn't know a thing about birds. I still don't. I'm the world's worst bird-watcher, so I do my bird-watching in a guidebook. I'm a little bit embarrassed by that, because I am surrounded by experts. I've got every bird guide that I can get my hands on. It impresses me how each artist interprets a bird, and I thought I could make it a little different too.

With such an extensive body of work, is there one piece you can call your favorite?

My favorite is *Jesus Bugs* from 1969. It's hanging in the bedroom. I don't know why exactly, but I think it's because it ▶



Jesus Bugs / Serigraph / 1969

Jesus Bugs / Can you think of a better name for insects that walk on water? Our ancestors couldn't either, but your field guide calls them water striders. They hike around the pond all their lives without ever getting wet feet, and in shallow water on a sunny day their shadows sink like stones and tag along the bottom. But who minds a wet shadow? If you had wide-spread, waxy feet that didn't break the surface film, you, too, could walk on water. And be famous for fifteen minutes.

(Charles Harper's original caption)

was the first thing that ever really interested me and that I connected with in nature. The idea of them skating around and casting their shadows underneath the water and flowing along the ripples was enchanting to me. I used to lie along the creek bank and watch them do that on the farm, then I found out that they're called Jesus bugs.

And finally, what are you working on at the moment?

A poster for the new ornithology building at Cornell and a piece that shows what might happen to you if you use your cell phone while you're driving. [It depicts] an auto wreck from last year because the spring wildflowers are growing up around the steering wheel and the skull and so on. A cell phone will be in the skeletal hand [of the driver] and a house wren is building his nest in the skull. The house wren builds several nests in his attempt to attract females, so the name of this picture is *Can You Hear Me Now?* ■



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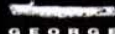


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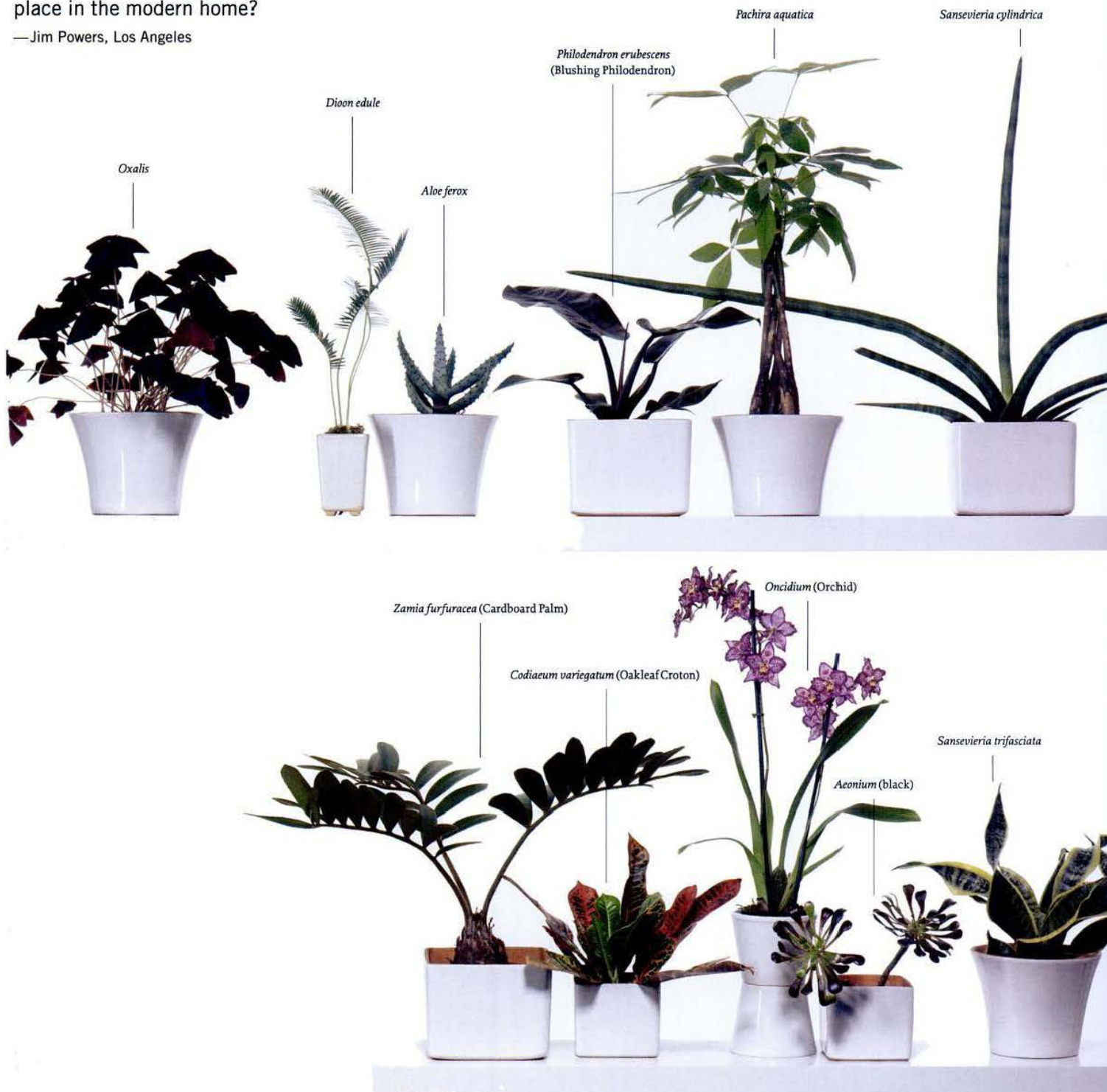


Beyond the Ficus

Q: I enjoy plants' form, color, and positive impact, but what frustrates me is the lack of interesting houseplants available today. Are houseplants old-fashioned and out of place in the modern home?

—Jim Powers, Los Angeles

A: My good man, plants are always in style! All you need is a clean, solid-colored vessel and an imaginative species.



Opposite page:

Oxalis

Height Up to 10 inches Sunlight Sun/partial shade Danger N/A Bloom Color Various Water Water regularly; do not overwater

Dioon edule

Height 1.5–6 feet Sunlight Sun/partial shade Danger Poisonous if ingested Bloom Color N/A Water Drought tolerant; water regularly; do not overwater

Aloe ferox

Height 4–12 feet Sunlight Full sun Danger Plant has spines and hard edges Bloom Color Various Water Drought tolerant; water regularly; let plant dry out between waterings

Philodendron erubescens

Height 8–12 feet Sunlight Full shade Danger Parts of plant are poisonous Bloom Color Pale pink to red Water Water regularly; let plant dry out between waterings

Pachira aquatica

Height 10–15 feet Sunlight Sun/partial shade Danger N/A Bloom Color White/near white Water Water regularly; do not overwater

Sansevieria cylindrica

Height 2–5 feet Sunlight Sun/partial shade Danger Sap can irritate skin Bloom Color White to pink Water Drought tolerant; water regularly; do not overwater

Zamia furfuracea

Height 3–4 feet Sunlight Full/partial sun Danger Seed is poisonous if ingested Bloom Color N/A Water Water regularly; do not overwater

Codiaeum variegatum

Height 3–6 feet Sunlight Sun/partial shade Danger Seed is poisonous if ingested Bloom Color Various Water Requires consistently moist soil; do not let plant dry out between waterings

Oncidium

Height 2–7 feet Sunlight Filtered, subdued bright light Danger N/A Bloom Color Various Water Let plant become moderately dry between waterings; requires more water while new shoot is growing

Aeonium

Height 1.5–6 feet Sunlight Sun/partial shade Danger N/A Bloom Color Various Water Drought tolerant; water regularly; do not overwater

Sansevieria trifasciata

Height Up to 4 feet Sunlight Light shade Danger Poisonous if ingested Bloom Color Green/cream Water Drought tolerant; water regularly; do not overwater

Following page:

Platycerium bifurcatum

Height 1.5–3 feet Sunlight Filtered, bright light Danger Poisonous if ingested; has sharp spines; pollen may cause allergy Bloom Color N/A Water Water regularly; do not overwater

Philodendron

Height 10–12 feet Sunlight Partial/full shade Danger Juice can irritate the skin Bloom Color N/A Water Water regularly; let plant dry out between waterings, do not overwater

Cycas revoluta

Height 10–12 feet Sunlight Sun/partial shade Danger Seed is poisonous if ingested Bloom Color N/A Water Drought tolerant; water regularly; do not overwater

Crassula ovata

Height 3–6 feet Sunlight Full sun Danger N/A Bloom Color White to pink Water Drought tolerant; water regularly; let plant dry out between waterings; do not overwater

Selaginella

Height .5–1 feet Sunlight Full/partial shade Danger N/A Bloom Color Greenish white Water Requires consistently moist soil; do not let plant dry out between waterings

Guzmania

Height 1–1.5 feet Sunlight Full/partial shade Danger N/A Bloom Color Various Water Water regularly; do not overwater

Cattleya

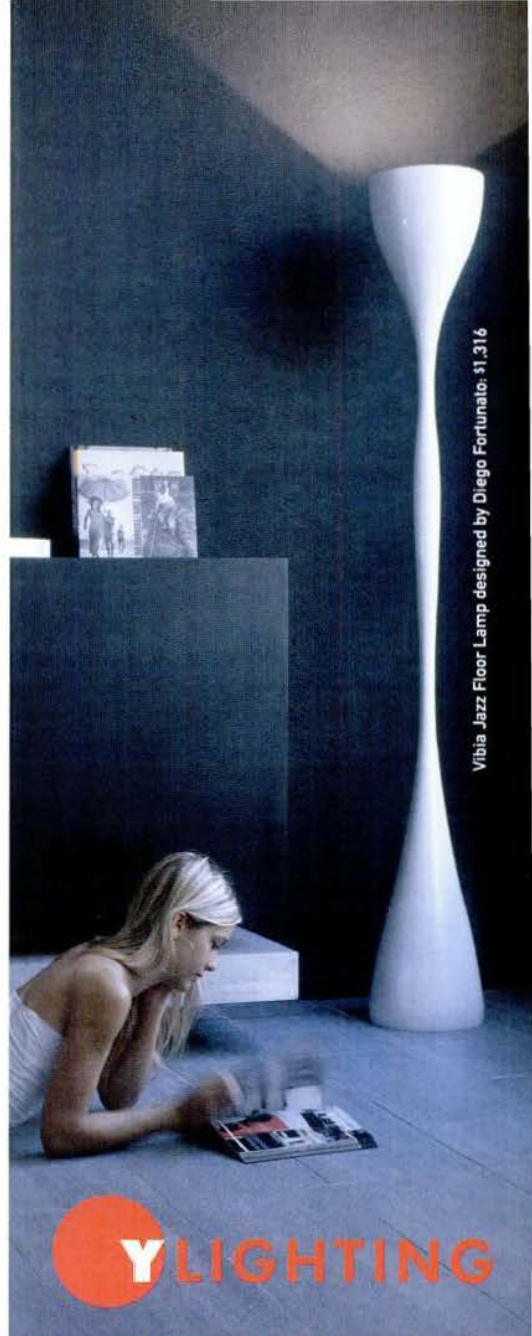
Height 9 inches Sunlight Full sun in a.m./partial shade Danger N/A Bloom Color Various Water Let plant become moderately dry between waterings; requires more water while new shoot is growing

Haworthia

Height 4–8 inches Sunlight Full sun Danger N/A Bloom Color Greenish white Water Drought tolerant; water regularly; do not overwater

Codiaeum variegatum

Height 3–6 feet Sunlight Full/partial sun Danger Poisonous if ingested Bloom Color Various Water Requires consistently moist soil; do not let plant dry out between waterings



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Platycerium bifurcatum (Stag Horn Fern)



Philodendron (Prince of Orange)



Cycas revoluta (Sago Palm)



Crassula ovata (Jade Plant)



Selaginella

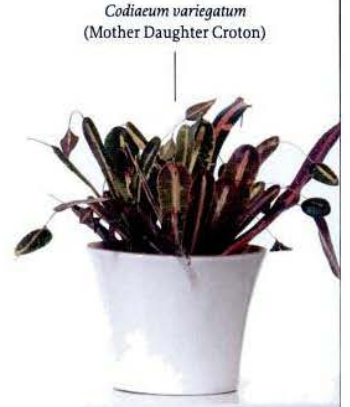


Guzmania



Cattleya (Orchid)

Haworthia



Codiaeum variegatum
(Mother Daughter Croton)

See previous page for plant specifics.

The 50th Anniversary Special Edition 670-671

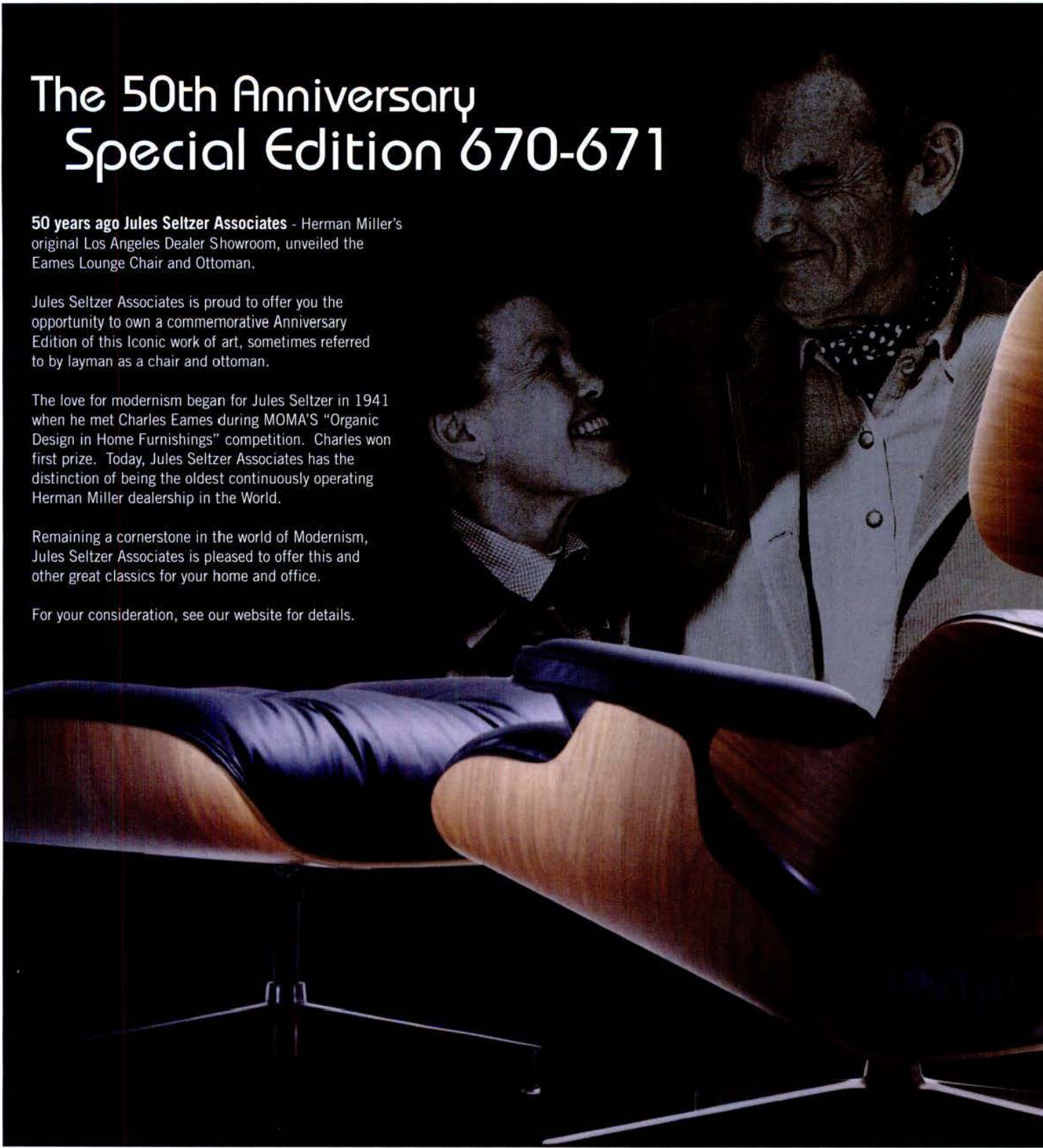
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A Life in Design

“The world is too focused on youth—I want to remember that I have a mother, as well as a daughter. I want to make work that looks to the future, but also back to the past. I want to use new techniques, but also reintroduce that lost quality of beauty.” —Marcel Wanders

“Agricultural buildings aren’t really designed, someone just made them. I try to design like that—so it looks like it’s not designed at all, it’s just there.” —Byoung Cho

“We thought design was this incredible discovery as a field, and yet no one was making it interesting. There was so much work to be done.” —Ellen Lupton

“I don’t expect people to understand why I’m interested in design—I’m more willfully obscure.” —J. Abbott Miller

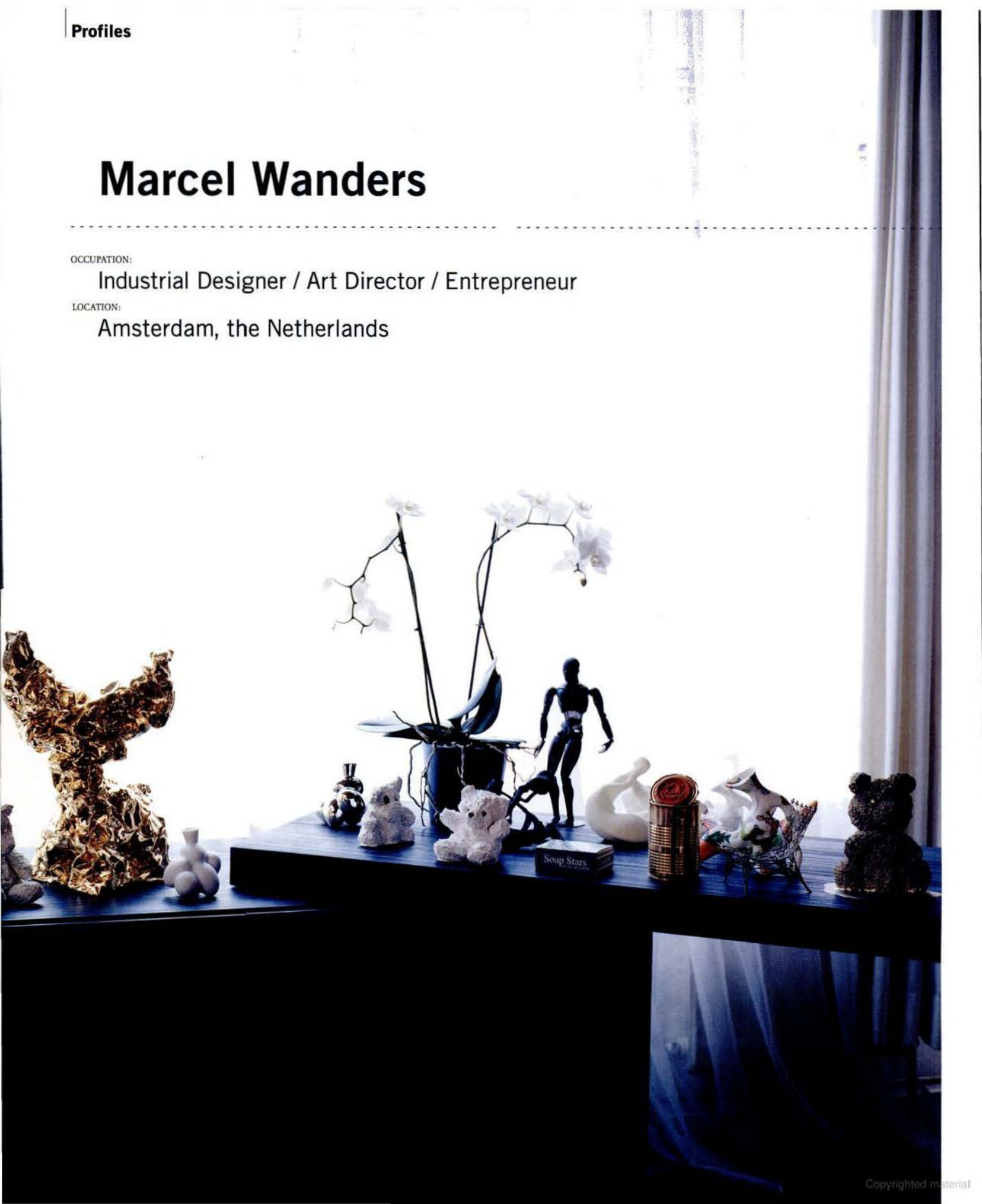
Marcel Wanders

OCCUPATION:

Industrial Designer / Art Director / Entrepreneur

LOCATION:

Amsterdam, the Netherlands



This page: Marcel Wanders at home in his modest apartment, which is next door to his studio. He claims to never do anything but work, and his apartment is always in progress. Wanders does all the work himself, and furnishes it with both his latest

designs and antique finds, like the table pictured here. Opposite: A shelf of inspiration. The objects include two Egg vases, a gold-plated One Minute sculpture (made by hand in 60 seconds), a gold-plated soup can (a charity

piece whose proceeds go to feeding the homeless), several porcelain teddy bears, two Airborne Snotty vases, and a model Knotted chair.



“The ‘I don’t know it’s there, so I don’t have to care’ approach is fine with a pacemaker. But a good chair you feel in your heart.”



Opposite (clockwise from left): A prototype of a chair from the New Antiques range for Cappellini; a gold-plated porcelain teddy bear; a gold-plated One Minute sculpture, under an antique glass dome; an Egg vase; a poseable artist's model

Wanders purchased when he was working on his "breathing" mannequins for the Mandarina Duck flagship store in London; and an Airborne Snotty vase, reflecting his determination to make even bodily functions beautiful.

"It's a mess up here." Marcel Wanders is talking about his brain, and the necessary disorder of an open mind in design. "Philosophy is not one truth, but thousands of truths. You don't have to believe in just one thing. When you choose one idea, you close yourself to the rest."

It sounds chaotic, but there's nothing haphazard about the sleekly seductive products Wanders designs for the likes of Moroso and Cappellini from his canalside studio in Amsterdam. Sitting here, we're surrounded by them: Big Shadow lamps, Carbon chairs, and shelves stacked with Knotted chair models and gold-plated Egg vases. For all their variety, they—along with their creator—share a disarmingly idiosyncratic presence, a kind of enigmatic exuberance.

At 42, Wanders has lost the lean and hungry look of his Boy Wonder period, when he first won the world's attention as a member of Droog Design, the tongue-in-cheek Dutch collective he calls "the Memphis of the 1990s." At Droog's epochal 1993 Milan furniture fair debut, he showed pieces like the Set Up Shades lamp, an austere yet suggestive column of white shades.

Few could have guessed at the prolific, polymorphous output ahead. Fast-forward 12 years, and 2005's Milan fair was packed with products designed by Wanders for half a dozen major companies, including Poliform, Alessi, and Flos (as well as the collection of his own company, Moooi), ranging from a simple spoon with a twist (naturally) to intricately carved chairs and tables. The scope of his work has expanded too, with interiors projects like Lute Suites, a row of 17th-century Amsterdam houses converted into hotel rooms. "Interiors offer me a chance to look at the products I've designed and test their usability," he says.

The idea of Wanders testing the utility of his pieces might seem to be at odds with his reputation as a fierce opponent of functionalism. "I don't want to make furniture that's not functional," he says. "But the problem with modern design is that it defines functionality too narrowly. The more functional a chair, the less we feel it in our buttocks. The 'I don't know it's there, so I don't have to care' approach is fine with a pacemaker. But a good chair you feel in your heart."

His own latest chair, in the New Antiques range for Cappellini, is a detailed, turned object, made modern by its proportions, slender lightness, and color. "Why should we still live in a design culture that looks to the 1920s?" asks Wanders. "With the New Antiques, I'm saying it's okay to go back beyond the limitations of what design has become. The design industry is for people, after all—not the other way around."

Wanders, like other Droog designers, has always had this impulse to strip design of its elitist tendencies, to work with forms that are universally understood—he calls them "archetypes"—and to use old things in a novel way, rather than straining for something new. Major themes in his work are handicrafts, as in the iconic Ming vase, which retains all the traces of its making, and in the baroque detail of his Lace table. All of this work indicates Wanders's interest in rescuing the history of objects. "Design is way too modern," he says. "People cannot cope. Modern composers make music we can't listen to. We push the boundaries too hard, and the public loses track. The world is too focused on youth—I want

to remember that I have a mother as well as a daughter. I want to make work that looks to the future, but also back to the past. I want to use new techniques, but also reintroduce that lost quality of beauty."

Wanders has the anachronistic devotion to beauty of a Romantic poet, which he says he deliberately cultivated. "When I was first at design school," he recalls, "I was theoretical and dogmatic. I did a design for a clock I was proud of, and my tutor said, 'Clever design—too bad it's so ugly!' I was shocked, but when I thought about it, I decided there was no reason why I couldn't make beautiful things.

"So I put a blanket down in the middle of my room, and every day I'd put things on it, making harmonious compositions of objects. I worked on it two or three hours a day for about nine months, but no one ever saw it. That's how I studied the poetic part of design." As he tells the story, Wanders rearranges the coffee cups and books on the table. His love for these assemblages, which he calls haikus, led directly to his Haiku plate series for B&B Italia. He says they are all about finding a "line"—a sequence, or implied narrative.

Wanders designs, he says, out of a love for people: "I see people and I just want to be there for them; I want to help them live their dreams." Wanders combines quixotic idealism and an endearing naïveté with the business acumen and ambition he has demonstrated since starting his first company, WAAC's, in 1993, "to make real things, not just conceptual objects." This is a transition that Droog itself has yet to successfully navigate, but Wanders did it alone, and fast. He quickly outgrew WAAC's, started Wanders Wonders, and then, in 2001, set up Moooi (the Dutch word for beautiful, but "with an extra O for extra beautiful"), which has a diverse product range based on collaborations with Jurgen Bey, Ross Lovegrove, Jasper Morrison, and younger talents like Maarten (Smoke) Baas.

An air of controversy has surrounded Wanders ever since he was thrown out of his first design school after one year. He still doesn't know why. "You need a thick skin," he comments, with uncharacteristic understatement. Although widely regarded as one of the most interesting designers working today, he still has his detractors. Harsher critics find his stylistic variety perplexing, others find him sensationalist, "the Damien Hirst of furniture," for modeling his Egg and Snotty vases on eggs in a condom and airborne phlegm, respectively. Yet the Airborne Snotty vase is at the heart of Wanders's oeuvre, contriving as it does to create beauty out of the grotesque. Much of Wanders's work has this paradoxical power, like an oxymoron made visible.

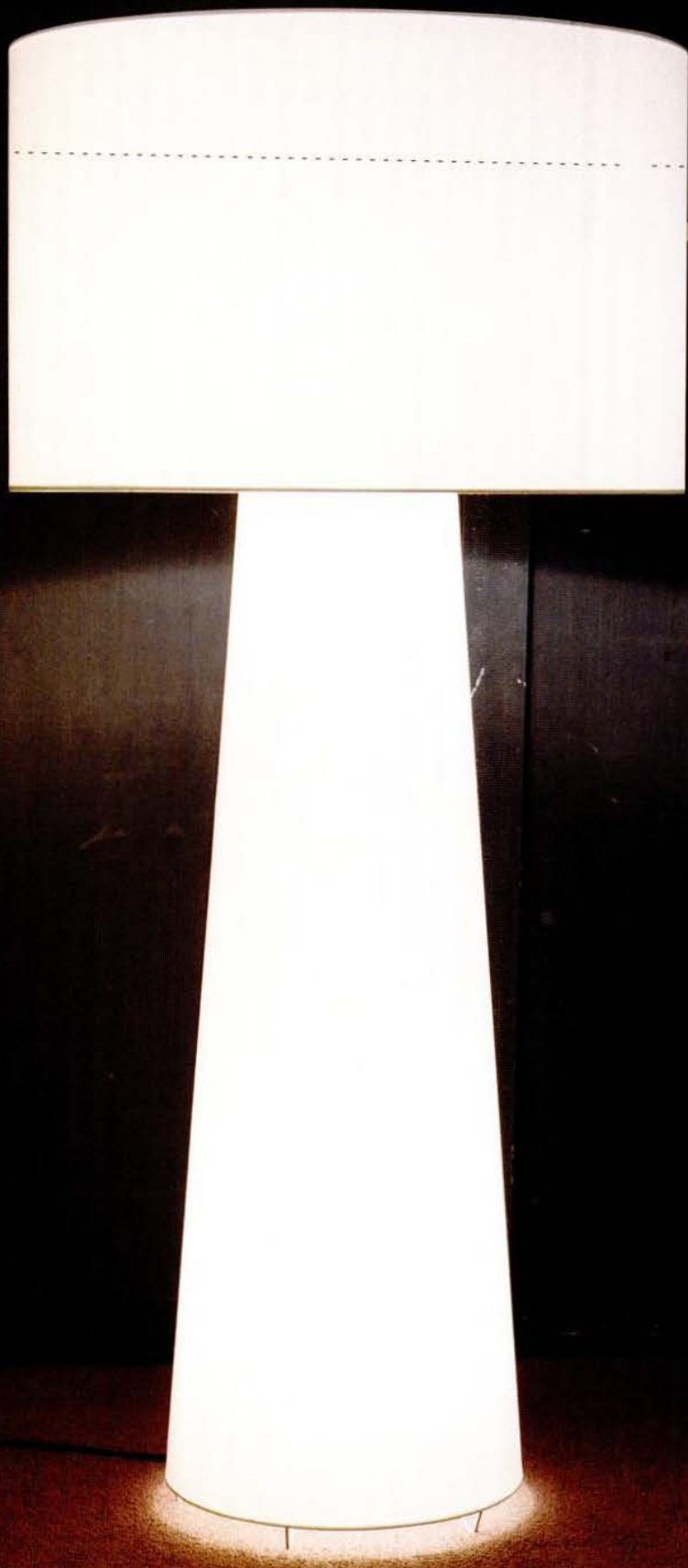
Perhaps Wanders's theatrical presence, combining elements of showman and shaman—he once appeared at an exhibition as Saint Sebastian—sometimes misleads observers into writing off his work as smoke and mirrors. "My persona is very calculated," he admits.

Wanders's idol is Philippe Starck, and he's already shown the potential to equal—and perhaps surpass—him. "Where I used to think in terms of chairs and vases, now it's big concepts like quality of life. If I have any basic motivation, it's to inspire people to make their life a masterpiece. So my biggest work is my life—and I take that seriously. But not too seriously." ■





Wanders's home is a combination of past (the pink wall design was painted for his daughter several years ago) and future (the ceiling and some walls were just removed to take the space into a new direction). The dog photo is by Boudewijn Smit; the black-and-white photo in the center is Sagami Bay by Hiroshi Sugimoto; and the print above the desk is by Ingrid Baars and Nanine Linning. The ornate mosaic coffee table Wanders designed for Bisazza is next to a minimalist sofa by Martin Visser. The red lamp is the smallest of Wanders's Big Shadow series, designed in 1998 for Cappellini; above the desk is a lamp from Belgium's Modular, and the office chair is from Vitra. The baroque mirror is a prototype of a design by Wanders. [➔ p. 210](#)



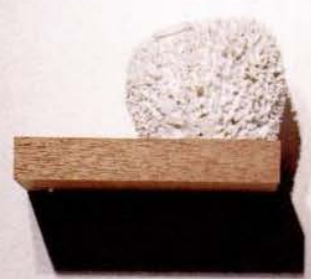
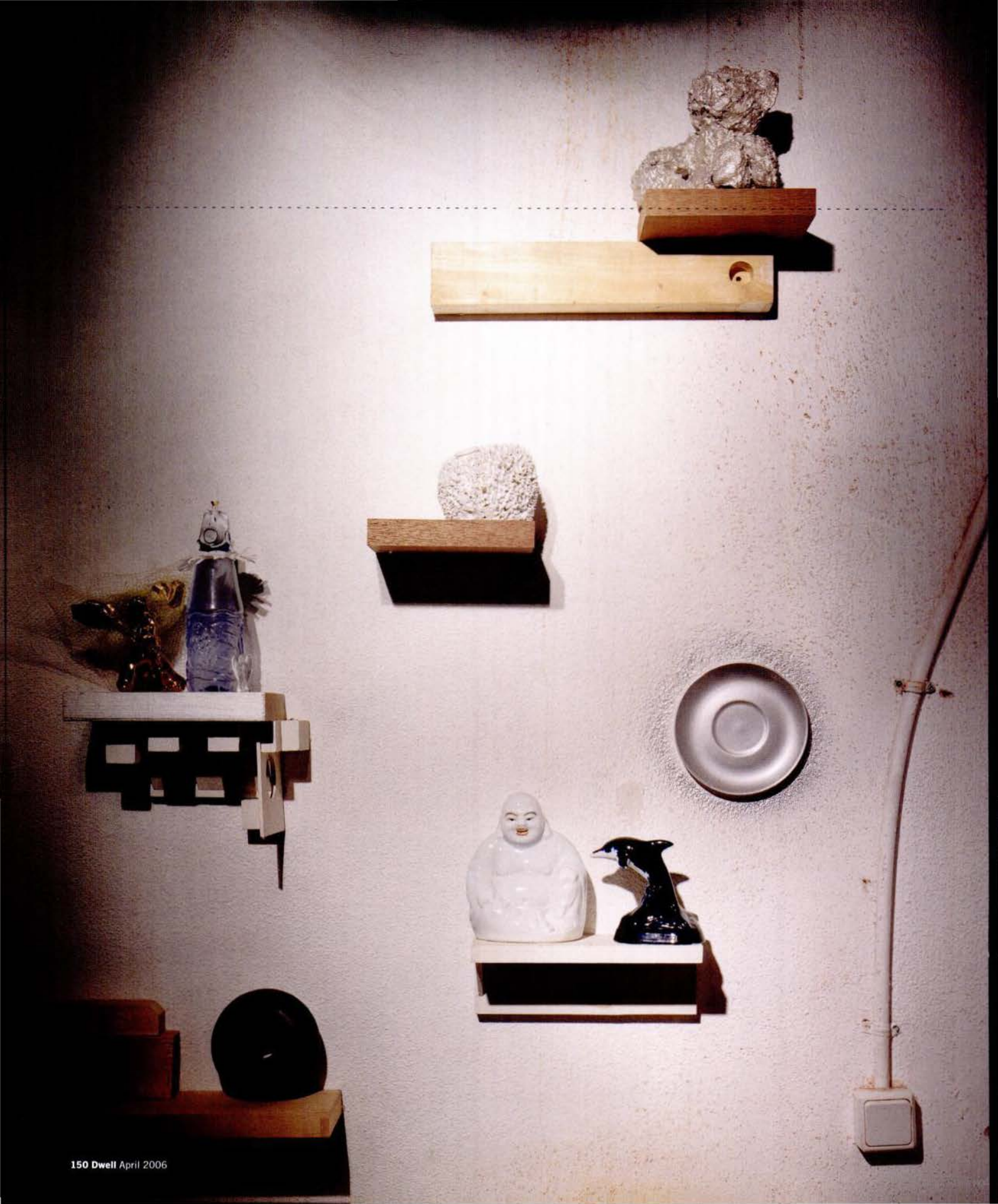
This page: A luminous Big Shadow in white casts an ambient glow against a wall coated with blackboard paint and a chocolate brown carpet. The origin of the plaster deer figure has been forgotten. It was acquired as a possible inspiration source and has moved

around the designer's studio and home ever since. Opposite: This Knotted chair (1996) is a 1:6 model version, produced by Vitra, and is only a few inches high. Its larger relatives—produced by Cappellini—have already found their way into a number of museum collections.



“Performance is a big part of my work—I’ve got a lot of energy, and it has to go somewhere.”





This page: Every day, Wanders eats lunch with his team of 12 in the studio, watched by an array of One Minutes that look like a row of angels or winged victories. The red-and-white Op Art-inspired lamp shade was designed for One Minute, which is usually used as a lamp stand.

Opposite: An installation of mismatched handmade shelves makes a display area for another enigmatic assortment of objects, including a Wanders Sponge vase (1997), made by soaking a real sponge in clay, which burns away when the piece is fired. The same

technique was used on the silver-plated teddy bear above it. The dolphin and Buddha figures—perhaps a reminder of Wanders's role in mainstreaming kitsch—illustrate the designer's interest in ordinary, popular decorative objects.



Byoung Cho

OCCUPATION:

Architect / Professor / Author

LOCATION:

Bozeman, Montana

Seoul, South Korea



Architect Byoung Cho (opposite), first came to Montana from Korea in the early 1980s. He admires the simple beauty of the agricultural buildings in Bozeman.

Cho spends much of the year in Bozeman teaching at Montana State. The vernacular architecture, like the grain-storage facility shown here, provides much inspiration for his work.





PHOTO BY JONG OH KIM

Cho designed the Camerata Music Space and Gallery (opposite and this page) for the Heyri Art Valley in 2004. Essentially a concrete box, the space contains a hanging structure of

horizontally stacked wood, which is directly inspired from a technique used (albeit vertically) in Montanan grain silos. The slatted yellow pine form allows for superior acoustics.



Overnight, winter's first snowfall coated Montana's Gallatin Valley in a white sheath, and chunky flakes continue to fall as architect Byoung Cho traverses Interstate 90 from Three Forks to Bozeman. As happens each year, drivers accustomed to fairer conditions have forgotten how to navigate the snow-covered roads; stranded cars line the highway's shoulders and the flashing lights of emergency vehicles flank an overturned SUV. Sipping coffee, Cho pilots his Jeep Cherokee cautiously in the tracks left by previous drivers and begins to explain the unique transcontinental balancing act of his life.

It happens that the 48-year-old Cho not only is a full-time professor of architecture here at Montana State University but also operates a thriving and acclaimed practice in Seoul, South Korea. A typical day includes teaching second- and fourth-year architecture studios in the morning and afternoon, and later working in conjunction with Korean office hours in downtown Bozeman. Despite the voluminous workload and disparate settings, Cho is upbeat. "I'm really happy to be away from my office," he confesses. "I can really concentrate and think here. It's much more calm." For Cho, who even upon cursory introduction gives the impression that he breathes architecture rather than air, Montana provides much more than a big sky and respite from the hectic pace of life in Seoul: Its agricultural buildings—a subject to which he refers often and with great relish—are a never-ending source of inspiration.

That Cho today finds himself living in Montana isn't so much a tangent as the closing of a circle. After studying ceramics in Korea, Cho's enthusiasm for the writings of Mark Twain led him to Western Illinois University in Macomb (near the author's boyhood home) in 1982 to learn English. After one semester, having seen photographs of the mountain-studded Gallatin Valley landscape, he transferred to Montana State to pursue architecture. As Cho recounts, he had wonderful experiences with professors who challenged his intellect

and readily welcomed him into their families. His close ties with the MSU faculty would lead him back to Bozeman in 1999, when Clark Llewellyn (formerly Cho's professor and now the director of the School of Architecture) tracked down Cho's phone number in Seoul and asked if he would consider returning to Montana to teach. Cho, who in the meantime had completed graduate studies at Harvard's Graduate School of Design, taught in Germany and Korea, worked for practices in Boston and Seoul, and experienced success with his own firm, Byoungsoo Cho Architects, readily accepted the offer.

Passing through Bozeman's storybook downtown, Cho arrives at a tall (for Bozeman) grain-storage facility crafted from corrugated steel, its series of gabled roofs stacked at seemingly random intervals. Tromping through the snow, Cho draws an unlikely corollary between the structure and the teachings of Lao Tzu. "In the first chapter of the Tao it says, 'Ever desirous, one can see the mystery. Ever desiring, one can see manifestation.'" He explains the connection: "Agricultural buildings aren't really designed, someone just made them. I try to design like that—so it looks like it's not designed at all, it's just there."

While Cho's work easily falls into the modernist canon, it exudes a dramatic sense of timelessness—as though it were built centuries ago. Dualities like this, which hint at the sense of mystery achieved by following the Tao, are a persistent theme: the confluence of the primitive and the refined, of the handmade and the industrial, of monetary expense and true value, of emptiness and volume, of purpose and poetry. Meandering through Bozeman's outskirts, making stops to admire the play of light inside a wooden barn, the cathedral-like reverberation of sound inside the cavity of an empty concrete silo, and the dignified simplicity of a metal roof sitting atop an open-air steel frame, it's impossible not to adopt Cho's enthusiasm for the unrefined elegance of the vernacular structures—and even more interesting to ►



This 100-year-old barn on the outskirts of Bozeman is one of Cho's favorite buildings in the area (he cites the interesting lighting created by holes and gaps in the wood siding).

The architect is wary of plans for a housing development to be built on the site where the barn now stands, but remains hopeful that it will not be entirely torn down.





PHOTO BY JONG OH KIM

Cho's recently completed vacation retreat, the Concrete Box House (opposite), was inspired by the use of raw materials. Cho decided on grape vines as an unusual landscape element.

The Village of Dancing Fish (below) is a live/work facility for mentally challenged adults. The clusters of buildings under a large roof were intended to create a vision of family.



experience firsthand the unlikely antecedent to his own architectural designs a continent away.

Over an equally unlikely lunch of Montana sushi, an ebullient Cho shares reprints of his work from Korean architecture magazines in the same way fathers share pictures of their kids from their wallet. He describes three of his most recently completed projects: the Camerata House, a music-listening studio and home built in the celebrated Heyri Art Valley; the Concrete Box House, his own vacation retreat; and the Village of Dancing Fish, a group home for mentally challenged adults. These works, all designed and constructed after Cho returned to Bozeman in 1999, both in spirit and construction detail echo the agricultural buildings of Montana.

Drawing from his present surroundings, as well as site visits in Korea, Cho begins his design process with loose sketches in his notebook—almost abstract perspectives and elevations, which gradually develop into construction details and plans. From his satellite office in Bozeman, where one or two members of his Seoul staff assist him for semester-long periods (and usually suffer virulent culture shock), he oversees the creation of working and construction drawings. A dedicated branch of his firm, run by his brother, Young Cho, oversees all construction—ensuring that the architect's intentions are carried out to a tee.

With one foot in the academic world, where progressive ideas flow freely, Cho's built architecture is a continuous exploration without compromise. "I don't take projects I don't like—I'm not working for money," he explains. "Prospective clients come to me, often through a friend who owns a gallery in Seoul, and I find out what their values are—then maybe we will do a project. It's why I still have no website." Although on paper Cho may come across as just another controlling architect (a prospective client in Bozeman sold his lot after Cho told him it wouldn't work), his conviction is tempered by humility, humor, and honor.

Later, at the campus, Cho walks through his students' studios, stopping to chat and check in on their projects—the second-year studio is designing an "alley house" (his second passion, after agricultural buildings, are the alleys that criss-cross Bozeman's residential streets), while the fourth-year studio is working on a cartography museum at a site adjacent to the Colosseum in Rome. He's arranged for a critique with the fourth-year students, who tack their midsemester work to the walls and take turns explaining their progress. Cho listens attentively, teasingly points out items he had obviously been pushing the students to work on, and offers suggestions on how to proceed. Explaining his choice to remain an educator, Cho says, "When they do something correctly, it makes you so happy. We share a lot of information, and get a chance to experiment. Most of all, we all work hard together trying to create something meaningful, so we should have good time."

As Cho did with his own professors, many of his students work for him after graduation. Between MSU students working in Seoul, and his office staff coming to Bozeman, Cho operates something of a one-man exchange program. That night over dinner, two former students who worked in his Seoul office and who have since returned to Bozeman share experiences and stories and catch up with Cho. It's not a stretch to imagine a similar scene some years ago, with Cho's role reversed into that of the student. Cho seems to enjoy his present role as a mentor, and out of sheer enthusiasm for the opportunities and possibilities architecture presents, the topic rarely strays. The waiter returns with the check and pauses, "I thought it was you, and when I saw the card I said, 'I knew it'—you're my roommate's professor." Cho smiles as the waiter continues: "Our house is covered with models and he's always working on something or talking about something you told him. He says you love, like, simple boxes and always wear jeans."

Nobody begs to differ. ■

“I would like to show that Montanan culture and Korean culture have differences, but also similarities.”



"I see great tradition here," says Cho, admiring old farm buildings like the house shown opposite. Development and sprawl are a looming threat, even in relatively small Bozeman.

Cho's sketchbook is rarely out of arm's reach. He draws and sketches constantly, often working in downtown Bozeman's coffee shops and wine bar.



J. Abbott Miller

OCCUPATION:

Graphic Designer / Editor

LOCATION:

New York, New York
Baltimore, Maryland

Ellen Lupton

OCCUPATION:

Graphic Designer / Curator / Educator

LOCATION:

New York, New York
Baltimore, Maryland



Graphic designer J. Abbott Miller (below left) is one half of a couple that is helping to remake the field. Over the past 20 years, he and his wife Ellen Lupton have collaborated and worked separately. Details

in their Baltimore, Maryland, house (opposite and below right) reflect their obsession with form, although their design is never merely about how things look.



For J. Abbott Miller and Ellen Lupton, design is as intellectual as it is visual. Together and separately, they've been teaching us that designers can be more than just form makers.

"When did we get married?" asks Ellen Lupton, turning to her husband, J. Abbott Miller. "Ninety-one?"

There's a pause during which both make a visible effort to remember that is born more of good manners than any interest in the actual date. The formalities of the Miller-Lupton alliance are less compelling to the couple than its fruits: two children, a comfortable home, and an intellectual partnership whose impact on the world of graphic design cannot be underestimated.

"Yeah, we're pretty sure," says Miller in a voice indicating that he is, in fact, not at all sure. "We've been married, we think, 12 years, 13 maybe?"

"Whatever," Lupton says with a girlish impatience for unimportant details. "We've been married for awhile. Eventually the romance thing worked out." Actually, it worked out following a long working relationship and partly because they work together so brilliantly.

Arguably, Lupton and Miller are to graphic design what Charles and Ray Eames were to industrial design—except that what Lupton and Miller accomplish as a team is matched, if not surpassed, by what they accomplish as individuals. Today, Lupton is the curator of contemporary design at the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum in New York,

director of the graduate program in graphic design at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in Baltimore, and working toward a doctorate in communication design. She has created a name for herself by curating exhibits like Cooper-Hewitt's National Design Triennial and "Skin: Surface, Substance, and Design" that are vast in their breadth and detail, exhaustively researched, and sophisticated in their examination of culture through the prism of its objects. She is also the author of user-friendly websites like her blog, www.design-your-life.org, and books like *Thinking with Type*, a handbook (scaled to the human hand) on how to use graphic design to develop and communicate ideas. Miller, who grew up in Indiana, is the editor and designer of the engrossingly uncategorizable *twice* magazine and a partner at the international design firm Pentagram.

Lupton and Miller met in 1981 in Nick Marsicano's first Monday-morning drawing class at Manhattan's Cooper Union. Lupton, who came in as a painter, and Miller, who was studying sculpture, film, and design, discovered a mutual interest in theory and criticism, and wondered why graphic design wasn't engaging big theoretical issues the way architecture was. "We were really brainy designers, which wasn't dominant at ▶

The couple lives in a century-old town house with their two children. Their bedroom is a skillful mix of old and new: drapes from IKEA, a vintage walnut dresser, Jasper

Morrison's Gio-Ball lamp, and a painting by Miller's mother. Lupton's basement office (opposite) is a colorful, cozy clutter adjacent to the family room. **E** p. 210



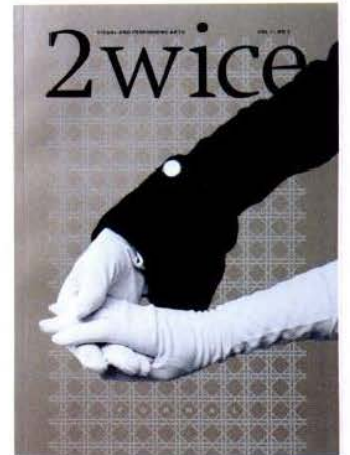
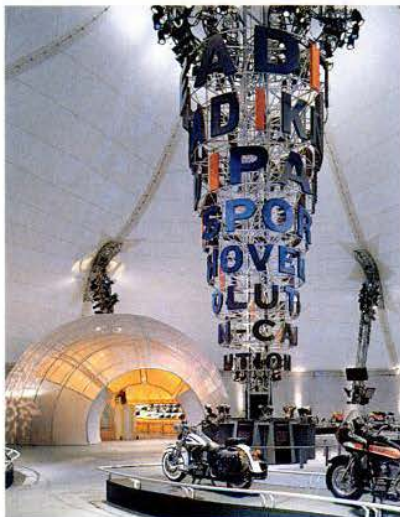
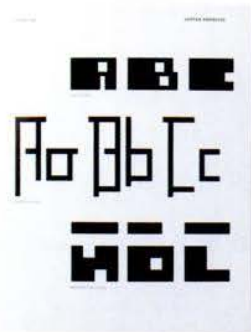
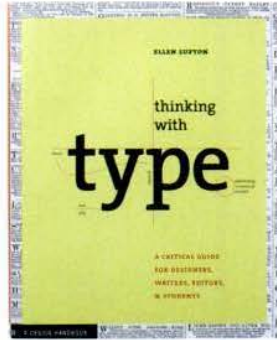


What Lupton and Miller accomplish together is matched by their individual work. In January, Knoll launched Miller's discipline-crossing Grammar wallpaper collection (top left), for which he densely overlaid sans serif letterforms

and typographic fragments to create a texture out of letters. Lupton scaled her *Thinking with Type* handbook (top middle), on how to use graphic design to develop and communicate ideas, to the human hand. As its editor, Miller sees

2twice magazine as an object that can enact its subject matter—whether it's an homage to fashion designer Geoffrey Beene (top right) or a 2-D space that hosts performances (bottom middle and right). His design of a traveling exhibit

for Harley Davidson included pavilion columns made from letters (bottom left).

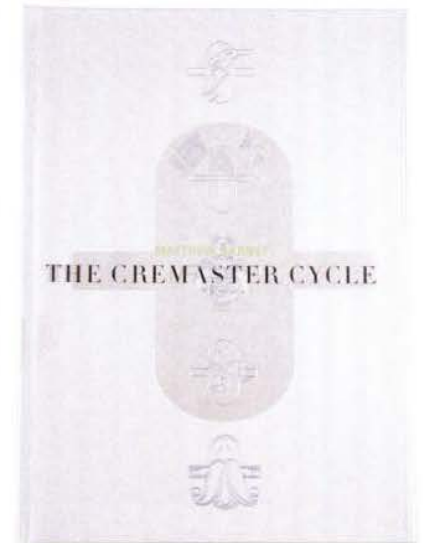
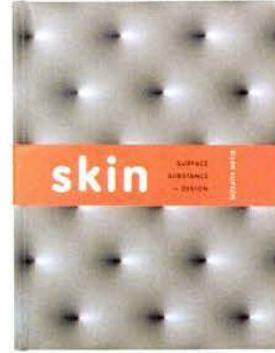
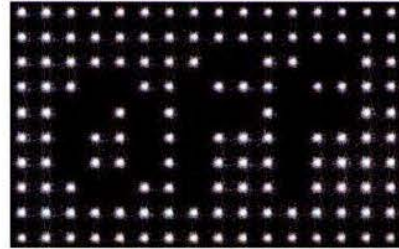
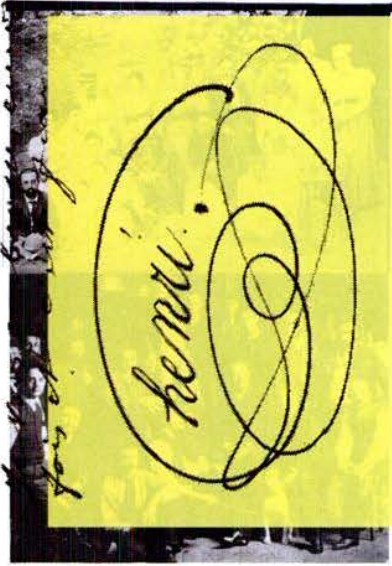


PHOTOS BY RICHARD BACHMANN (BEENE BOOK), TIMOTHY HURSLEY (HARLEY DAVIDSON SHOW), HARRY ZERNIKE (ESCALATOR/ELEVATOR SHOW)

A poster (top left) designed by Miller juxtaposes two photographs united by the signature of the seven-year-old Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. On/Off (top middle) form a gravure print. The catalog (top right) for Lupton's "Skin: Surface, Substance, and Design" show

demonstrated the depth and breadth of her investigations into the relationship between objects and culture. *Design Writing Research* (bottom left) began as an after-work lab for ideas. Miller's sculptural rendering of the icon for escalator (bottom middle) anchored his design for a 2004 exhibition he curated at the National Building Museum. Miller's book design for Matthew Barney (below right) is artful without being inaccessible.

dering of the icon for escalator (bottom middle) anchored his design for a 2004 exhibition he curated at the National Building Museum. Miller's book design for Matthew Barney (below right) is artful without being inaccessible.





Pentagram's Baltimore office (opposite)—where Miller works three days a week—is a storefront across the street from their home. Behind the house, Lupton and Miller added a low-slung garage (below left).

Earlier this year, Lupton and her students came out with a book called *D.I.Y.: Design It Yourself* (below right).



all at that time,” says Lupton. “We thought design was this incredible discovery as a field, and yet no one was making it interesting. There was so much work to be done.”

Following graduation, the pair set up an after-work think tank called Design Writing Research that, by 1989, had become a day job. The results of this first decade of experimentation were eventually published in a book of the same name, which has become a staple of the field. At first, the collaboration was a laboratory for ideas; partly they wondered whether design could be critical and successful. Within a few years they had their answer, in the form of the Chrysler Award for Innovation in Design.

With son, Jay, 11, and daughter, Ruby, 7, the Lupton-Miller family now lives in Baltimore so that Lupton can work at MICA. Their Bolton Hill neighborhood borders two colleges and is lined with trees and red-brick town houses. Built around 1885, their house has high ceilings and walls lined with books and art. Lupton's basement office is a warm clutter of papers and orange folders. Her other office is minutes away in MICA's Brown Center, an exploded box made of sheer gray glass. Miller spends two days a week at Pentagram's New York office. His satellite Baltimore office is a storefront facing their house, where he works with two young designers.

The pair still share ideas, but full-throttle collaborations have become less frequent. (Recently, they worked together on an exhibition called “Swarm” at the Fabric Workshop and Museum in Philadelphia.) The only issue that the two seem compelled to revisit again and again, both together and separately, is their vision of what and who a graphic designer is.

Lupton's websites are nakedly accessible, a rich brain dump, while Miller's work is contained in expensive artifacts that must be sought out (*twice* isn't easy to find); however, Miller is an aesthete without seeming

precious and Lupton is a populist who can be intimidating. She is more visionary, and more frustrated by practical limitations. Miller must strike this balance all the time at Pentagram, which is famous for its deft interleaving of the mainstream with the utopian in both its client list and an unusual cooperative business model.

“We complement each other,” says Miller, “and it's been like that from the beginning.”

More involved in writing and in identifying what's going on in the design world at a high level, Lupton sees herself as a writer who also knows how to design. “I use design as a tool to get out my messianic message about design,” she says. “Abbott is more of a form maker.”

“I'm more of a formalist, fascinated by a chair or a building,” says Miller. “I don't expect people to understand why I'm interested in design—I'm more willfully obscure.”

“I want everyone to hear the good news,” Lupton says, turning to him, “and you're more like the high priest. You're Murray Moss, and I'm Target.” Miller doesn't relish the rarefied sound of this, but he is more interested in doing design than encouraging others to do it, as Lupton is.

In the end, however, it is their differences that make them important. To Miller and Lupton, design has never been about how things look. With roots in other, related practices, it is a set of techniques capable of generating ideas, as intellectual as it is visual. The old dichotomies of left brain and right are losing ground to their investigations. It is more important to them that they work in the “culture industry” rather than merely the design industry. In the future, Miller anticipates that, instead of making only formal choices, designers will become producers of content and of the meaning behind content; Lupton believes technology will make designers of us all. “I do have an affinity for Ellen's message,” Miller says. “Design is being outed. Our little world is less and less small every day.” Lupton and Miller are making it so. ■

Lupton and Miller with their daughter, Ruby (son Jay is not pictured) in front of Miller's office.

“We complement each other, and it’s been like that from the beginning.”



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Rethinking Senior Housing

Eager to make up for time lost daydreaming in foxholes, soldiers arriving home from World War II rushed to their bedrooms with the wives and lovers who had patiently awaited their return. The result was a surfeit of bouncing babies, now known as the boomers, whose numbers are astounding. By 2030, the amount of Americans over the age of 65 will more than double—from just over 30 million to over 70 million—and represent more than 20 percent of the population.

This vast sea of approaching gray should have a tremendous impact on current architecture and design. Yet there is real opposition to accessible elements within the home. As Valerie Fletcher, executive director of Boston-based nonprofit Adaptive Environments, says, “Developments and houses for people aged 55 and over just aren’t building in senior-friendly features.”

“Our culture is deeply resistant to accepting the idea of aging at all,” Fletcher explains. “No one over the age of 65 wants to be identified as having disabilities.” Fletcher, whose organization was formed to promote accessible design in both public and private spaces, relates a personal anecdote to illustrate this point: Her mother, in her mid-80s, was opposed to having a grab bar installed in her bathroom a week before her hip-replacement surgery because of the product’s implication that she was “getting old.” After a protracted argument, the grab bar was put in, and “now she raves about how easy it is to get into and out of the shower,” says Fletcher, with a slightly exasperated laugh.

Numerous similar stories can be heard from architects and designers. It seems that as soon as the words “elderly” or “senior” are uttered in conjunction with a

“I don’t want any of that old-people stuff; I don’t want my house to look like a nursing home.”

design project, clients take offense. Michael Thomas, an interior designer and principal at the Design Collective Group and a self-professed missionary for accessible design, has simply stopped telling people that he’s modifying their homes. “I had one client, a very progressive woman in her early 60s, who asked me to renovate her house,” he explains. “I put a sculptural grab bar in the bathroom, raised the toilet seat to chair height for ease of use, removed the curb around the shower, did all sorts of things. And I told her this will all be good if you ever break your leg or need a wheelchair. Her response was, ‘I don’t want any of that old-people stuff; I don’t want my house to look like a nursing home.’ I realized that in the future I’d just design houses this way as a matter of course—but never offer a rationale other than to say it looks more beautiful and is more comfortable that way.”

It’s no surprise that in our youth-obsessed society no one wants to admit to getting old. And with all of the options available to promote the goal of looking and feeling younger, most boomers are enjoying healthier and longer lives than previous generations. “My clients are active people; they eat and exercise well. But their strongest issue is still their fear of facing the future, and many have face-lifts, tummy tucks, and implants,” says Thomas.

In reality aging does cause limitations and impairment in people’s ability to function within their homes. Decreases in abilities, as listed by the National HealthCare Corporation, include hearing loss, impaired vision, and restrictions in manual dexterity and mobility. Moreover, as aging expert and educator James Pirkl states, “Falls are the single leading cause of injury-related fatalities among those 65 and older.”

Facing this truth earlier rather than later makes things much easier in the long run. “The heart of our society is our homes, and if we don’t think of ways now to invest in our houses to adjust to our changing lives, we’re screwed,” says Fletcher. “The worst thing people can do is wait until a crisis happens. If you deal with crises as emergency retrofits, you won’t get the kind of renovation you would get if you planned in advance.” ▶

“For three days now I’ve been 70 years old and it doesn’t mean shit,” photographer Larry Sultan’s father tells him in *Pictures From Home*. Part bravado, part brutal honesty, the domestic images in this book—which are reproduced here—document the aging of his parents over the past 50 years and their evolving relationship to the spaces they inhabit.

Looking Into Empty Pool, 1989



photo: Anthony Mesterson



photo: Michael Moran

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Fixing the Vacuum, 1988

Part of the solution, then, to making elderly design more palatable to consumers is the packaging of the idea. Catchphrases like “transgenerational design,” “universal design,” and “design beyond age” seek to show that considerate design can benefit everyone, and therefore not marginalize the needs of the aging. A good example is the Good Grips series by OXO, kitchen utensils that are used by nine-year-olds and 90-year-olds alike—even though the founder created the line to assist his wife, who had developed rheumatoid arthritis.

Pirkel coined the term “transgenerational design” in the early '80s during his research tenure at Syracuse University's gerontology center with a goal of creating homes that work well for everyone—from toddlers to people with temporary disabilities to the elderly. To prove his point, and to accommodate himself and his wife as they age, Pirkel designed and built a 2,700-square-foot house that incorporates all the practical elements he's been preaching for the past 20 years.

Pirkel's home is a perfect showplace for his ideas and ideals. He used mostly standard fittings and off-the-shelf products to show that it's not so much about special products, it's more about using basic products intelligently. In the kitchen, cork floors bounce and give underfoot, easing pain in aching backs. Cabinets are set ten inches off the floor, to minimize the need to bend down, and are fitted with easy-to-grip drawer pulls. Window coverings are remote-controlled, toilets are wall-mounted for ease of cleaning, and adjustable-height sinks are used to accommodate both 6'1" Pirkel and his 5'4" wife.

Rather than becoming a limitation, then, well-designed homes for seniors could actually help push the boundaries of current building styles and force architects and designers to think outside traditional modernist norms. As Dutch architect Paul de Ruiter points out, “Elderly people and modern architecture fit together very well. Boomers have the interest, ambition, intellect, and money to move architecture forward and to incorporate ►

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Mom Posing for Me, 1984

the needs of the elderly in such a way that it is an invisible, integrated part.”

Long, lean, and placidly aware of its own beauty, the house that de Ruiter built for Henk Deys and Jeanne Deys-Trijssenaar near the Rhine River in the Netherlands stands as testament to this statement. It incorporates wide doors and corridors in case wheelchair use becomes necessary in the future. For ease of use, everything is remote-controlled, from the curtains and lamps to sliding doors and sunscreens. In addition, the homeowners’ love of swimming has been accommodated with an indoor pool whose depth is shallow enough for wheelchair access. Even the seamless polyurethane floors function beyond aesthetics, providing grip for crutches and an easy-to-clean surface.

Another good example of innovative senior design is a home in Minneapolis for a retired dancer and a media owner. Instead of the usual stereotype of a low-slung ranch with grab bars throughout, architects Meyer,

Scherer & Rockcastle remodeled a downtown loft to fit the couple’s aging needs. Open shelving both looks good and allows quick access to contents. Bathroom faucets have adjustable spouts, and medicine cabinets are shallow so that medications can be easily viewed. There’s even a guest bedroom intended one day to be transformed into a room for a health-care assistant, should the need arise.

What does all of this prove? That there are possibilities for well-designed homes that incorporate the needs of a changing, aging population while challenging architects and designers to learn new methods and styles of creating appealing spaces. “It’s not about categorizing limitations, but exploring ways that design can either exacerbate or minimize a sense of aging,” states Fletcher.

Ultimately, however, there will be little supply of such alternatives unless there is stated demand. As Pirkl says, “The more people ask for such services and designs, the more attention will be paid. It has to happen from the bottom up, not from the top down.” ■

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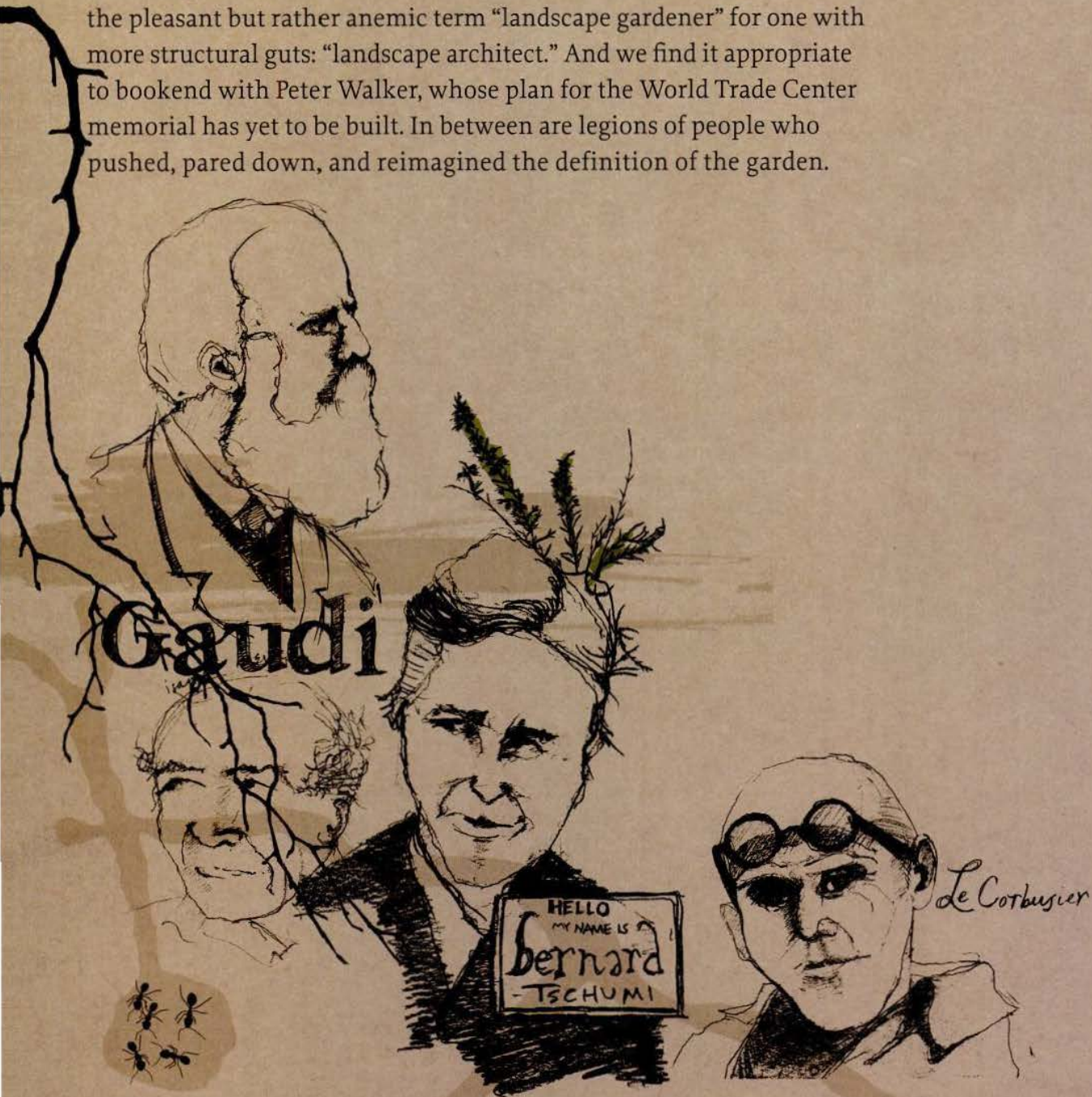
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Great Figures in the Modernist Landscape

Any arbitrary history begins and ends somewhere, and our greatest hits of landscape architecture embarks in New York and comes full circle. It's fitting that we commence with Frederick Law Olmsted, who traded the pleasant but rather anemic term "landscape gardener" for one with more structural guts: "landscape architect." And we find it appropriate to bookend with Peter Walker, whose plan for the World Trade Center memorial has yet to be built. In between are legions of people who pushed, pared down, and reimagined the definition of the garden.





1. Frederick Law Olmsted
Central Park / New York, NY / 1858

2. Antoni Gaudí
Park Güell / Barcelona, Spain / 1900–1914

3. Gunnar Asplund & Sigurd Lewerentz
Woodland Cemetery / Stockholm, Sweden / 1918–1940

4. Fletcher Steele
Naumkeag / Stockbridge, MA / 1926–1956

5. Gabriel Guevrekian
Villa Noailles / Hyères, France / 1926

6. Le Corbusier
Villa Savoye / Poissy, France / 1928–1929

7. Karl Foerster
Freundschaftsinsel / Potsdam, Germany / 1937

8. C.Th. Sørensen
Community garden / Copenhagen, Denmark / 1940

9. Thomas Church
El Novillero (Dewey Donnell Garden) / Sonoma, CA / 1948

10. Garrett Eckbo
Landscape for Living / Hennessey + Ingalls / originally published in 1950

11. Dan Kiley
Miller Garden / Columbus, IN / 1955

12. Isamu Noguchi
The UNESCO Garden / Paris, France / 1956–1958

13. Lawrence Halprin
The Sea Ranch, CA / 1965

14. Zion & Breen
Paley Park / New York, NY / 1967

15. Luis Barragán
San Cristobal / Mexico City, Mexico / 1966–1967

16. Roberto Burle Marx
Copacabana Beach Promenade / Rio de Janeiro, Brazil / 1970

17. Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe
Sutton Place / Surrey, England / 1980–1986

18. Martha Schwartz
Bagel Garden / Boston, MA / 1979

19. Richard Haag
Gas Works Park / Seattle, WA / 1981

20. Bernard Tschumi
Parc de la Villette / Paris, France / 1982–1998

21. Adriaan Geuze
West B Schouwburgplein / Rotterdam, the Netherlands / 1990–1997

22. Yves Brunier (with Rem Koolhaas)
Museumpark / Rotterdam, the Netherlands / 1993

23. George Hargreaves
Byxbee Park / Palo Alto, CA / 1991 and ongoing

24. Peter Latz
Landschaftspark / Duisburg, Germany / 1991–2000

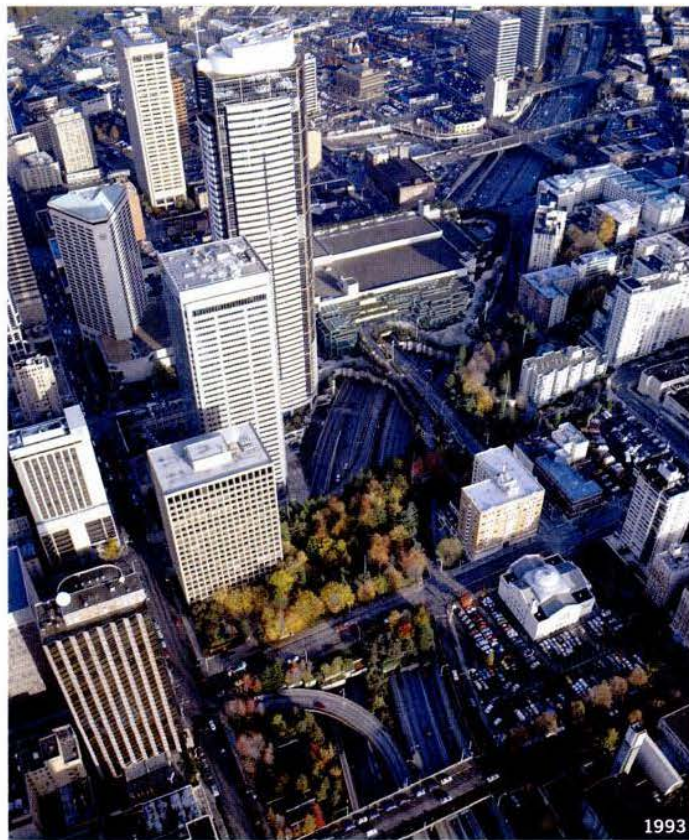
25. Michael Van Valkenburg
General Mills headquarters / Minneapolis, MN / 1989–1991 (destroyed 2000)

Allegheny Riverfront Park / Pittsburgh, PA / 1994–1998

26. Peter Walker
World Trade Center Memorial / New York, NY / In progress

Freeway Park, 1976, Seattle, WA, Lawrence Halprin
Of recent efforts to declaw the park (shown flourishing in 1993, below right) by ripping out a third of the waterfalls, Birnbaum says, "It's like removing two of the Burghers of Calais! This was the first

park built over a freeway in America. It's magical and confrontational. Today you have to squint to get the impact; they've added garish plantings, removed benches to deter the homeless, and have plans for a sculpture garden, when the whole place is a sculpture."



We asked Charles Birnbaum to point us to five unique landscapes that we can still take a peek at. He explains: "I've chosen places that are either at risk or lesser known. They don't resemble anything you've ever seen, and once viewed they're unlikely to be forgotten."

Charles Birnbaum

OCCUPATION:

Landscape Architect / Preservationist

LOCATION:

Washington, DC

The Ungreening of America

To spend five minutes chatting with Charles Birnbaum is to hear about dozens of tantalizing gardens—historic parks, regional estates, public plazas, private modernist gems—that, like Shangri-La, you'll never lay eyes on. Landscape architect and founder of the Cultural Landscape Foundation—a repository of everything from oral histories to panoramic comparisons of places like Dan Kiley's Miller Residence and Thomas Church's Donnell Gardens—Birnbaum is a walking encyclopedia of landscapes both extant and extinct. Describing a full-on assault on open space, the passionate preservationist explains how ▶

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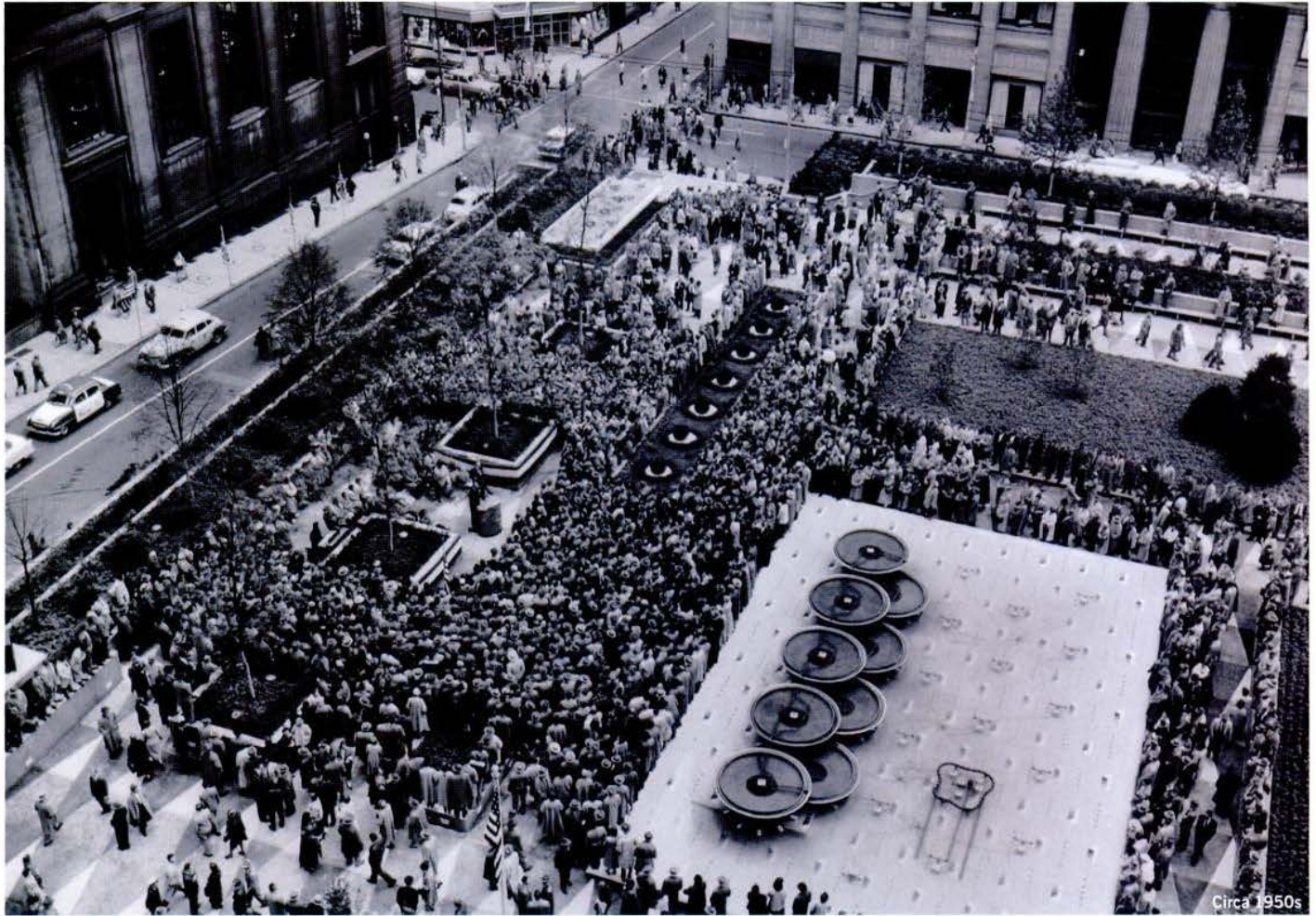
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Landscape Architecture 101

Mellon Square, 1955, Pittsburgh, PA, Simonds & Simonds

"This is the oldest surviving park over a parking garage, and the daring geometries—tricolor crushed-stone paving patterns, irregular planting beds,

cascading steps—were also designed to be viewed from the high-rises. It's a futurist plaza, celebratory of the great European plazas, without being derivative. The fountains' white noise softens the hum of the traffic, for a reposeful experience in the middle of the city."



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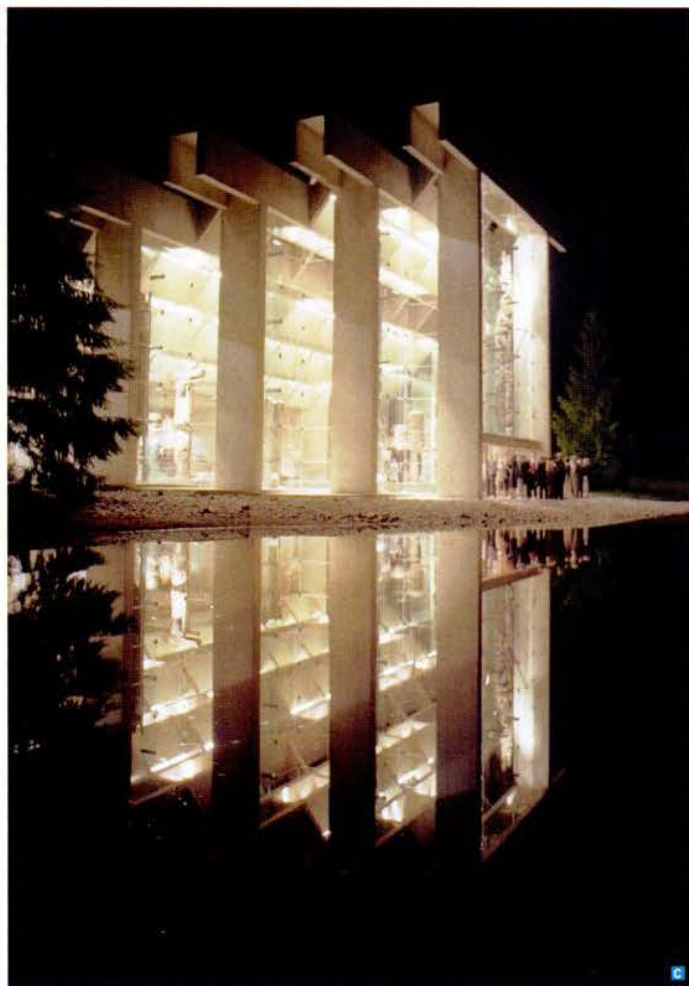
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FOREST PRODUCTS

A Art Institute of Chicago garden, 1962, Chicago, IL, Dan Kiley "Built over a garage, it's quintessential Kiley and another great response to the automobile culture. There's a central fountain, raised planters on the grid, and limited plant materials—primarily locust trees and a bosque of

hawthorns; Dan was all about the architecture of the trees." **B James Rose House, 1954, Ridgewood, NJ** One of the "Harvard three"—along with Garret Eckbo and Dan Kiley—who rebelled against the stuffy Beaux Arts curriculum, Rose made his house and gardens a lifetime project.

"Here's this shaggy, eccentric little property smack in suburbia, with pavilions and roof decks and courtyards flowing into each other and incorporating found objects." **C Museum of Anthropology grounds, 1976, Vancouver, BC, Cornelia Hahn Oberlander** "There is a real conversation

between Arthur Erickson's building, with its soaring glass walls and sharp angles that carry you physically outside, and the grounds, designed by Oberlander. Both picturesque and modern, with these indigenous plants and full-scale totem poles that ground the building—it's visionary."



unique places once created for contemplation are being paved over or redesigned into "a pupu platter for the ADD generation—with dog walks, spray fountains, cafés, skateboard ramps," and other distractions.

Of the more than 80,000 properties on the National Register of Historic Places, fewer than 1,900 are directly related to landscape architecture. And while a thousand of the buildings are less than 50 years old, maybe a handful of modern landscapes are similarly protected. Hence, at Kiley's NationsBank Park Plaza in Tampa, Florida, for example, the dry, crumbling fountains remain as a kind of memento mori. "It's ironic—the classic modern design blurred the boundaries between indoors and out, yet we'll trash the landscape that was conceived as part of the whole," muses Birnbaum, explaining that when a building makes it onto the registry, its surroundings usually don't. It's not that Neutra houses don't get bulldozed. But with landscapes, the process is even more insidi-

ous, as years of overgrowth, lack of maintenance, and added features slowly but irrevocably transform the original.

Yet Birnbaum is no knee-jerk preservationist. "It's not about maintaining landscapes under glass—places do and must evolve—but about intelligent rehabilitation that looks through the lens of the original designer. With a house, it's understood you should know the history before you start overlaying features." Nor is every project worth preserving. "[Lawrence] Halprin's Nicollet Mall was totally unsuited to the Minnesota climate. But look at Fulton Mall in Fresno [California]," he says excitedly, referring to one of the first outdoor pedestrian malls in the United States, the 1964 collaboration between Garrett Eckbo and Victor Gruen that's in need of restoration. "Or Sasaki and Dawson's Christopher Columbus Waterfront Park in Boston—one of the very first revitalized waterfront parks in America. And it's gone!" ▶



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An amorphous profession, landscape architecture embraces everything from civic plazas, highways, and landfill reclamations to the front lawn. Here we profile two practitioners, Walter Hood and Shane Coen, who shape the space in which we play in very different ways. Based in Oakland, California, Hood is at home in the public realm, while in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Coen is one of a growing number of landscape architects who are involved with what surrounds a house before it's even built.



The rarely seen bird's-eye view of the recently completed de Young Museum in San Francisco by Herzog & de Meuron offers insight into how landscape architects like Walter Hood see the world.

Walter Hood

OCCUPATION:

Landscape Architect

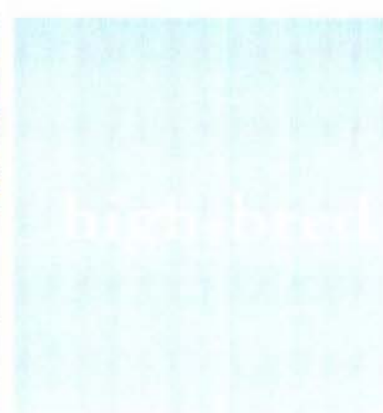
LOCATION:

Oakland, CA

The People's Parks

"The public realm is the last true democratic space," says self-described urbanist and UC Berkeley professor Walter Hood, "and my approach is essentially the same, whether it's a park for homeless people or the de Young Museum."

While Hood is justifiably pleased with the five acres that surround, and in places brilliantly invade, Herzog & de Meuron's copper-clad de Young in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, he is most passionate about transformations he has wrought in neglected nooks and crannies of the urban landscape. Hood attended North Carolina A&T State University ▶



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Walter Hood is perfectly comfortable carving out serene spaces amid often chaotic urban Oakland, California. Despite the speeding cars overhead, Splash Pad Park (below) is now home to a thriving farmer's market.

Along Macon, Georgia's Poplar Street (below right), Hood reconfigured the surrounding squares to accommodate barbecuers or friends simply stopping to shoot the breeze. "I had the notion to create a series of yards," Hood says.



before doing graduate work at UC Berkeley and winning the Rome Prize. He spent five years working for Garrett Eckbo and shares his former employer's social consciousness and dedication to public works. More civic plazas than traditional parks, Hood's projects are hybrids, neither artificially picturesque nor overly programmed: "They have a lot of uses but not a lot of little landforms." Guided by the twin muses of Le Nôtre and Miles Davis—the one for the pure beauty of his geometries, the other for his transcendent improvisations—the 47-year-old Hood has loosened up over the years. "When I started out, I wanted everything tidy, but I've learned to appreciate a bit of mess. Now I like for places to be a little lived in, to have spontaneity. Geometries allow for that without the chaos."

Definitely lived-in, yet surprisingly well-kempt, is Lafayette Square Park, more commonly known as Old Man's Park, in downtown Oakland, where groups of people chat, smoke, and sleep in the sun on a barely crisp autumn morning as dominoes click in the background. Hood infused what had been a dismal square of flat grass with topography and life—not so much a park as a series of gently overlapping outdoor rooms: a round hillock with a view, some checkers tables, a blooming slice of perennials, a historic old oak framed with trellises, barbecues on the grass, and a sheltered performance area that also offers protection from the rain. "I wanted an environment that wouldn't be bleak," explains Hood, who designed everything, down to the garbage cans and tree surrounds. "Just because many of the people are homeless, it doesn't have to feel like an encampment. This is why I do public spaces. Who else is thinking about those guys in this way? And they take good care of it!" Similarly, a short drive away, a double allée of purple plum trees Hood had planted down a street leading to a once-derelict creek had the

effect of dispersing the drug dealers. "If you do it big, it can last and have amazing impact," says the designer, who stops to chat with a neighbor who remembers him from years back. "This is also a hybrid space: It's a wilderness, a street, or a park, depending on whether you're strolling under the trees, looking out your window, or hanging down at the creek."

More recently, Splash Pad Park, scene of a thriving farmer's market, was carved from the site of a former traffic island beside a freeway in Oakland, which Hood at first planned to screen. "Then I realized, it's not going away—I need to pull it into the design." As is his style, Hood embedded a little history in the place, like a serpentine wall that used to define a fountain and part of the old curb that once edged the street. Paths traverse the plaza, subtly guiding pedestrians from the parking lot beneath the overpass to the street. Big planting zones of dogwood refer to the area's previous incarnation as a wetland, and ferns pop up randomly through the decomposed granite, "like a little bit of improv." It's a jazzy little enclave, a graceful balance of plant material and concrete, what Hood calls "the dance between the paving and the green."

Hood took the same concern for the locals to Macon, Georgia, when commissioned to revamp Poplar Street, an especially wide thoroughfare of mostly marginal businesses. "It's like the backyard of the city, where the brothers live and hang out. So I had a notion to create a series of yards." The 180-foot-wide plazas are edged with diagonal parking spaces—making it easy for folks to meet up—and contain historic references, such as trellises created from old Quonset huts in the area. In one square, an obelisk commemorating the United Daughters of the Confederacy sits amid raised white cubes, picnic tables designed as abstractions of big bales of cotton. Like most of Hood's designs, they're subtle, but unmistakable. ▶

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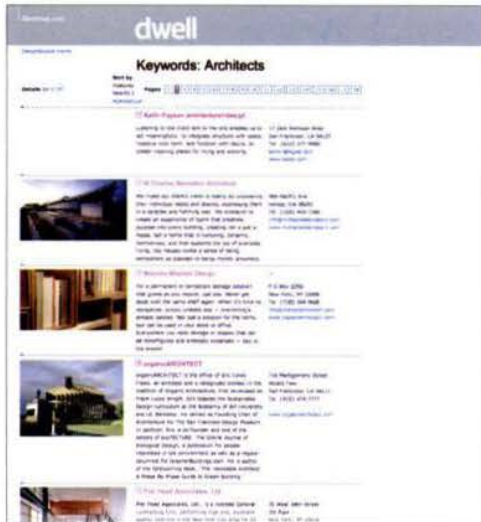
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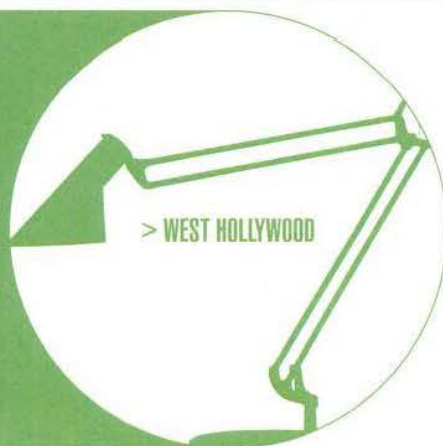


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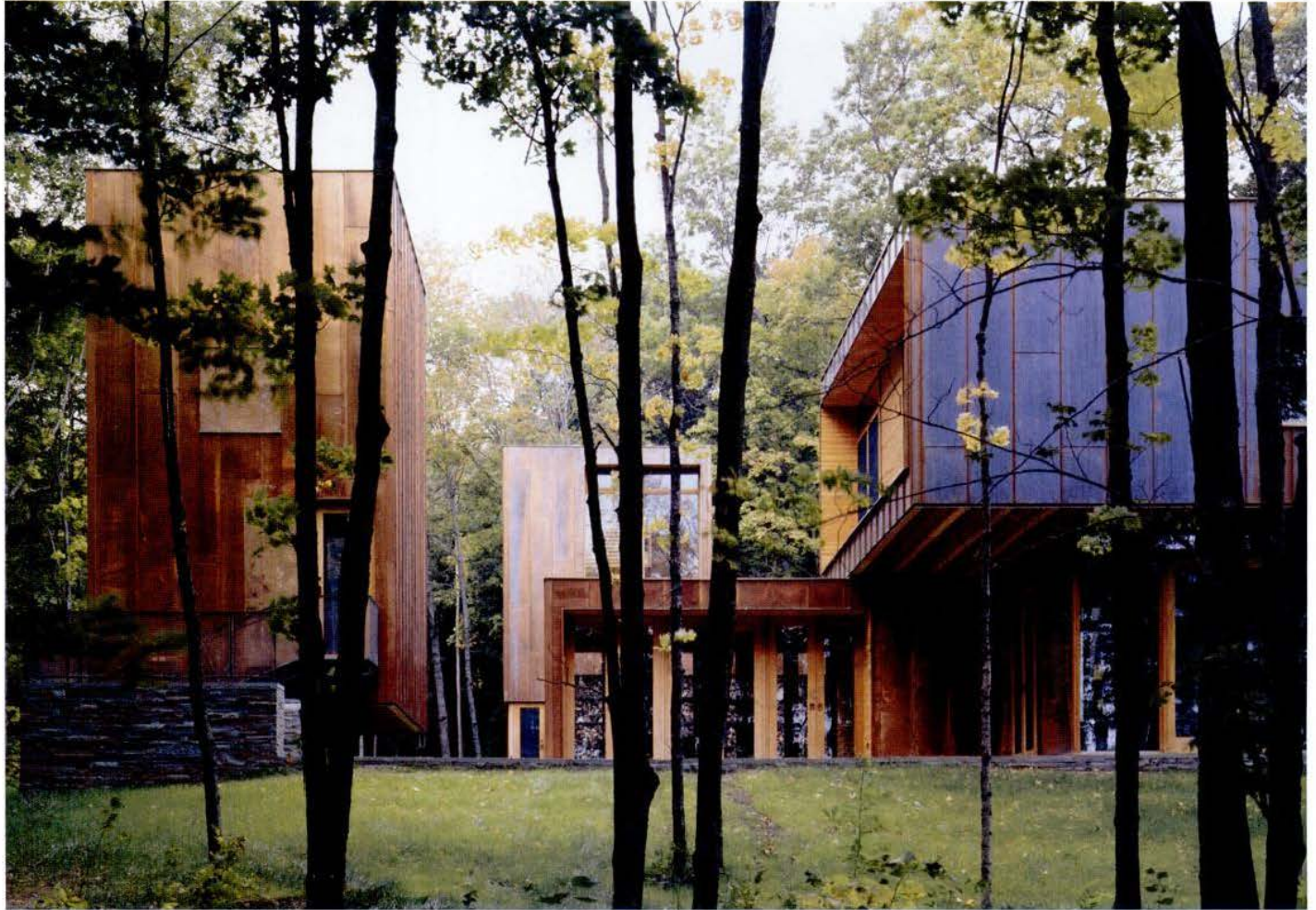
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Shane Coen

Yard Works

OCCUPATION:

Landscape Architect

LOCATION:

Minneapolis, MN

“Mother Nature is too powerful to try and mimic,” says Shane Coen, whose firm is known for its minimalist approach to the residential landscape. “And what’s known as ‘garden design’ rarely responds to the architecture. Instead, you get two powerful forces working against each other—like decorative, wavy gardens that trivialize the architecture rather than support it. Once you put a man-made object onto the site, you need to extend those geometries into the landscape.” ▶

PHOTO BY DON WONG

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The Streeter Residence (below) accentuates the division between the man-made and the natural by allowing the home's crisp lines to shine.



It's not that Coen, who has degrees in horticulture and landscape architecture, dislikes plants (although he jokes that "if a client wants five specimens, they'd better have five acres!"). If a person has a yen for, say, flowers, his response, rather than getting a cottage-garden mix of candy-counter colors, is going to be monocultural and architectural. He once planted 10,000 crocuses in a client's lawn, which flares purple in spring before being mowed over. On another property, a 200-foot stripe erupts into orange flower every July. "We choose things with beautiful foliage, so there's this luscious green texture the rest of the year."

While Coen undertakes public commissions, he loves the scale and intimacy of private work—"collaborating with a client instead of a committee." And it helps that the public's perception about the landscape architect's role has evolved. "We use to be shocked how late we were brought in, as if we were there to plant the shrubs." These days, Coen is just as likely to be hired first, to assess the land and site the house for maximum visual impact. His longtime collaborator, architect David Salmela, takes the unusual step of building landscape architecture services into his contracts. "That way," says Coen, "instead of someone coming along and throwing a bunch of plants at a project, you get real refinement."

"Our project designer, Travis Van Liere, made some 20 trips to the site to ensure that the house and land were one elevation," says Coen, describing the Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota, dwelling of Kevin Streeter, which seems to grow right out of the surrounding plinth. Sitting on a slice of land between two wetlands, the building had to be long and thin to pull in views from both sides. Since Coen prefers to mess with

the landscape as little as possible, only one tree was removed, while a procession of 20 mature white pines was added, each lending a beautiful irregularity. "These are great surroundings. The lines of the ponds, the rolling hills, maple trees. It's more powerful to leave them alone and have really crisp edges by the house," which he achieved with a no-mow fescue meadow that grows right up to the plinth. "We can't tell anymore where the architecture ends and the landscape begins," says Salmela. "And from inside, you feel as if you're right outdoors."

Not a tree was disturbed at the Matthew Cabin on Gull Lake, in Minnesota, which sits on a small, skinny lot in an area dense with traditional woody houses and McCabins. Sited perpendicular to the lake, with glazing on three sides, the sculptural house is flanked by two sheltered courtyards that help buffer the house from its neighbors and direct views to the lake. "David never designs houses wider than 24 feet, so light can pour in both sides," says Coen. Another Salmela trademark is the detached garage, which compels one to experience the natural world on the trek to and fro. "We enjoyed working out that approach; there were so many options," recalls Salmela. "You're guided to the front door not by logic, but by Shane's walls and paths. When you reach the courtyard, the house relaxes, opens up, and you turn and the door is right there. But you can't see it from the road. It confers some privacy from within, and the window acts as a kind of watchdog, because you know you can be seen walking up." A couple of lush rectilinear fescue meadows mixed with masses of wildflowers lend a sense of presence to the house, "as if it's always been here," says Salmela. "They soften and sort of domesticate its abstract nature." ■

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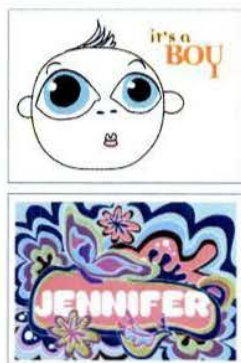


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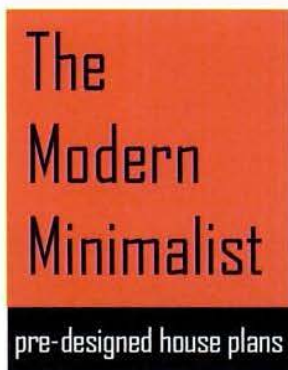


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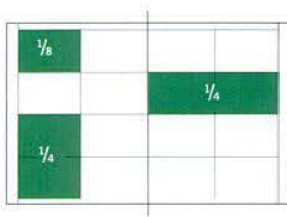
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Shown: *Saguaro and Spear Cacti* by Eric Carroll

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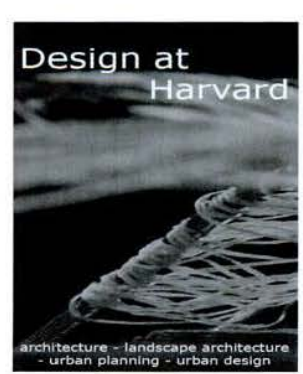


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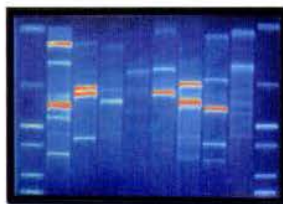


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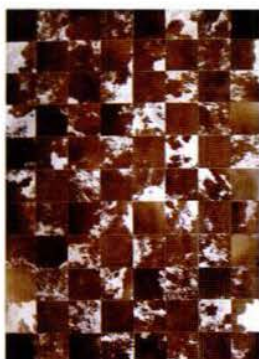


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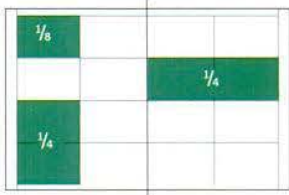


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tdlasko@nyc.rr.com
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Goshopmall.com

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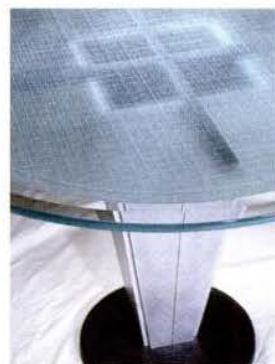
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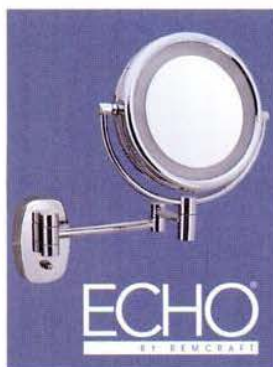
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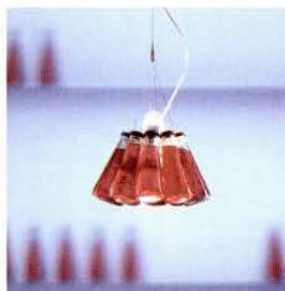
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Shown: Ice Nine™ Portfolio in Orange
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Shown: Mango Chair, solid African wenge, suede.

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Cheng Design Geocrete

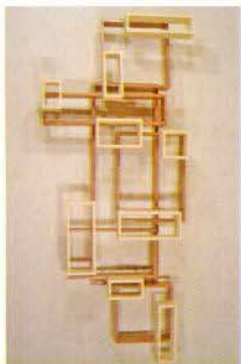
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Laura Rittenhouse

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Shown: Credenza and dining table each with a built-in vase or accessories

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Shown: SIU404 Island Hood



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Material: nylon and leather

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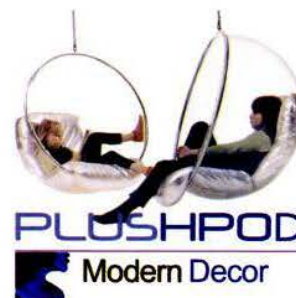
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Shown: *Incalmo* bottle set tallest 24"



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Shown: Organic cotton toycube and toybox

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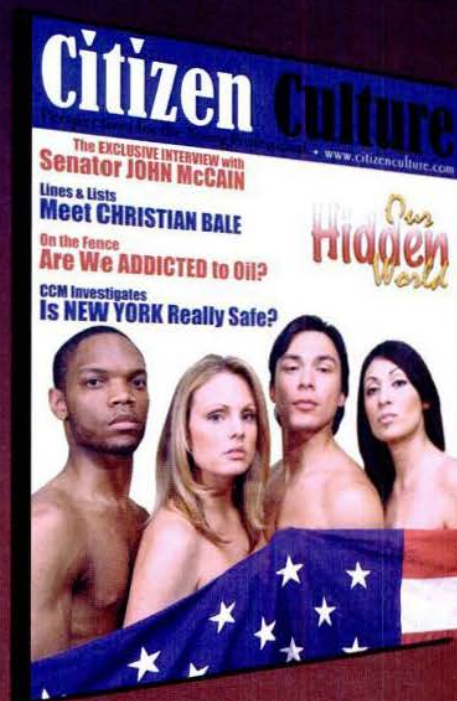
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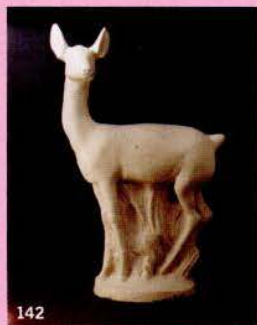
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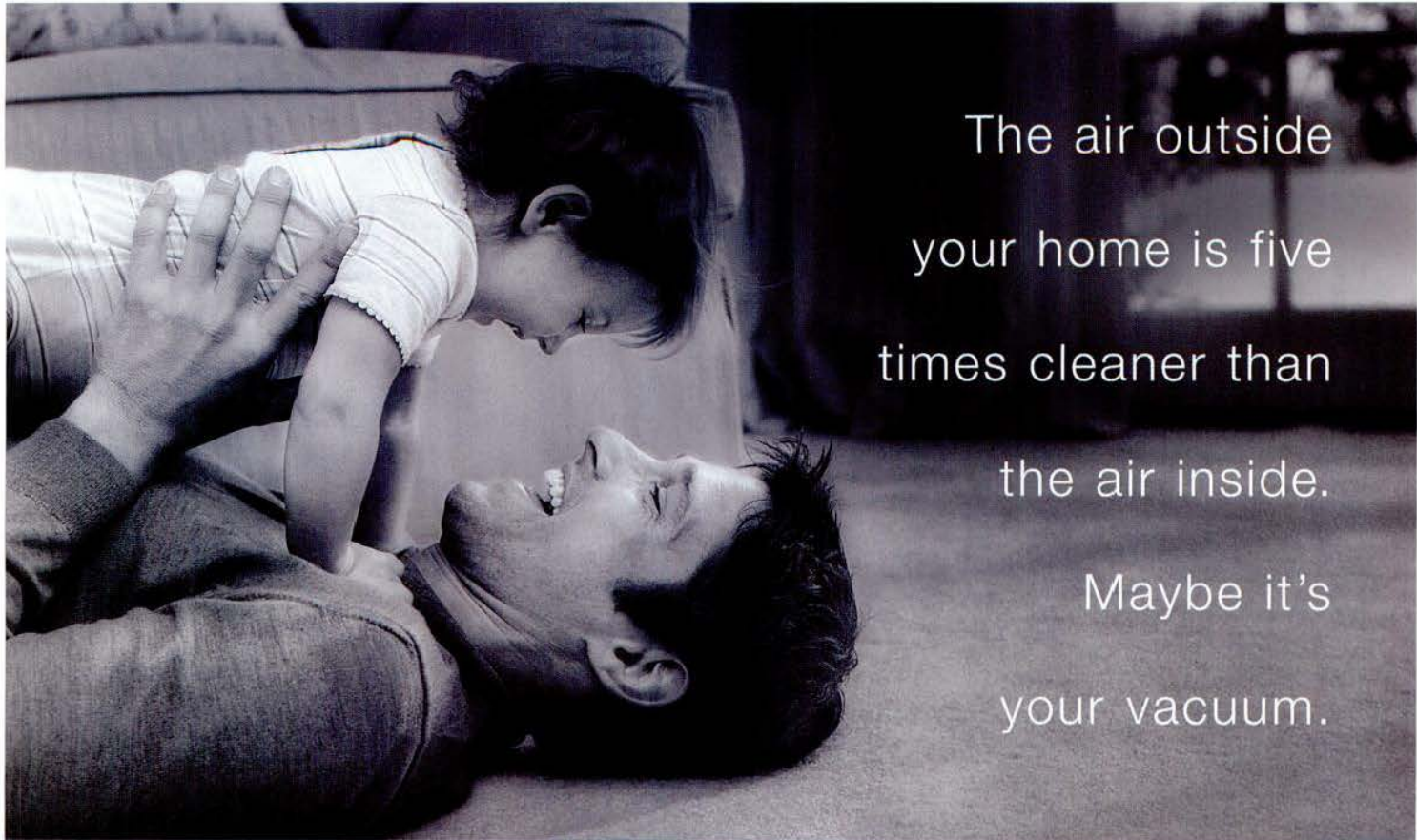


Andreas Wenning, the 40-year-old head of Baumraum Design in Bremen, Germany, has done a lot of thinking about structures usually reserved for those well under the legal voting age. "A tree house," he explains, "is not only a hideaway. These dwellings among the trees fire our imagination, bring back childhood memories, and foster our aspiration toward an extraterrestrial dimension." Despite Wenning's otherworldly claims, the reputation of Baumraum (which literally means "tree space") has rapidly expanded here on earth. Wenning and his colleagues have already seen ten of their tricked-out tree houses built in Germany, Austria, and Brazil.

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