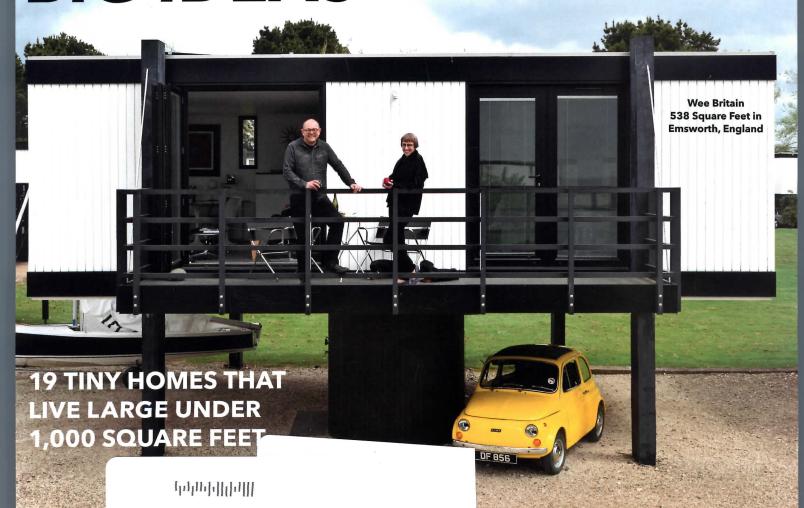
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#### What is the most rewarding part of completing a client's kitchen renovation?

I love visiting clients in the completed space and seeing them use – and enjoy – their new kitchen. It's rewarding to hear my clients repeatedly tell me how much they love the new space and how grateful they are for the design and ease of food preparation. It inspires me for future projects.

How do you provide product training advice on how to best use their new appliances?

My favorite way to provide product training is to take a client to the GE Monogram Design Center in New York. I introduce them to GE Monogram Executive Chef Tageré Southwell, and the knowledgeable GE Monogram product specialists. I encourage my clients to interact and ask questions through the entire demonstration. Chef Tageré explains each detail of the appliance and shows my clients how easily they can prepare recipes in their own kitchens. Plus, we get to enjoy and savor the delicious appetizers and food that Chef Tageré has prepared. Many clients rave about this hands-on training, telling me that they truly enjoy preparing food in their new kitchens.

What feedback have you received from clients about the way GE Monogram products have changed their lifestyle?

I find more clients now enjoy cooking at home. More specifically, they delight in the way they can cook faster and easier by using the GE Monogram Induction Cooktop and the GE Monogram Advantium® speed cook ovens. The clean-up is easier and allows them more time to enjoy their lives

#### What is your vision for improving a client's lifestyle during a remodel?

I like to create a space where the cooking activity integrates with other activities such as homework, family meetings or friends for cocktails/dinner. Whenever possible, I open the kitchen space into another area, to encourage this interaction, which enables more mingling and sharing of food tasks when preparing holiday meals or special event dinners. I see the kitchen as a hub where family and friends gather to spend pleasurable time together and make lasting memories in the space.





In a recent kitchen remodel, designer Christine Smith used the following GE Monogram appliances: 36° Induction cooktop, 36° Slide-out hood, 48° Stoinless Steel built-in side-by-side refrigerator, a stoinless steel undercounter wine reserve and a stainless steel undercounter beverage center.

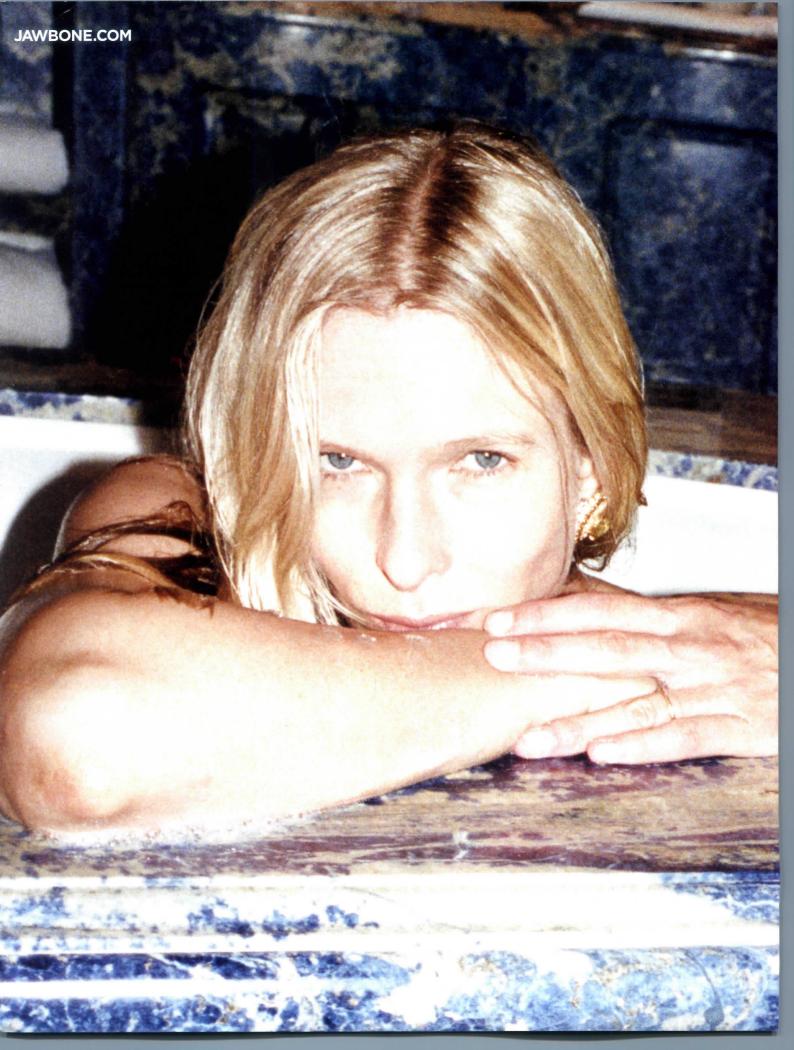


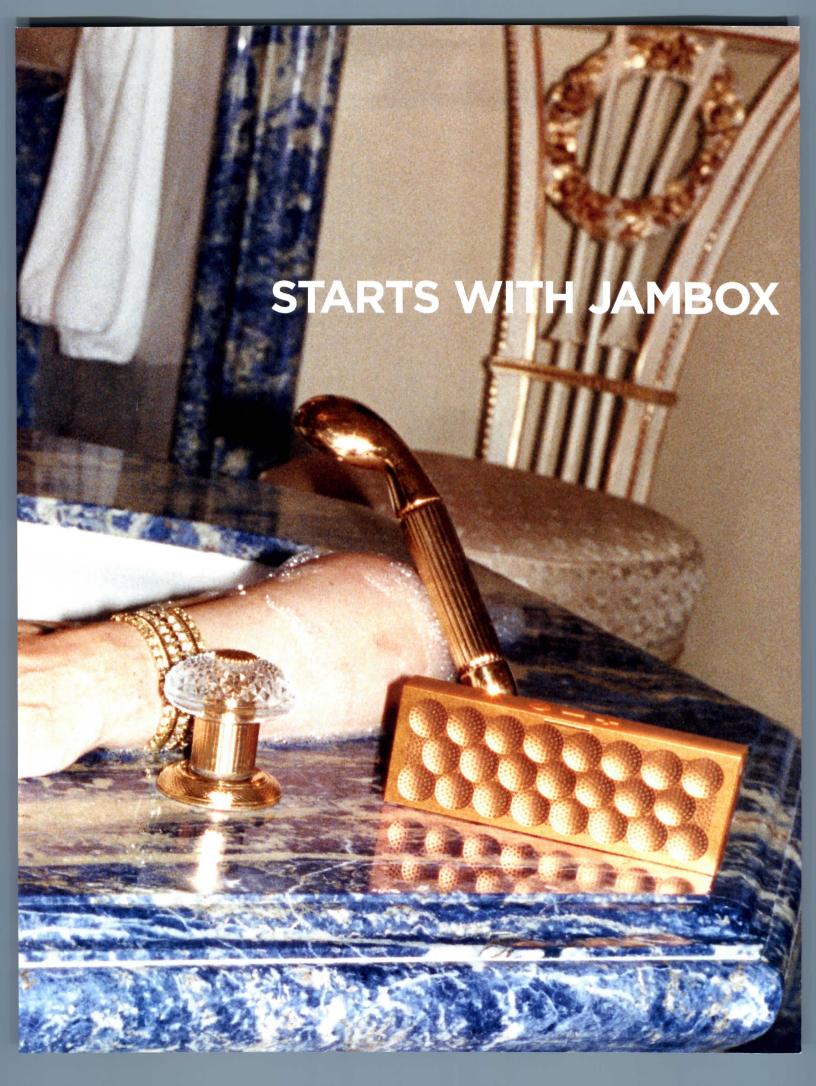
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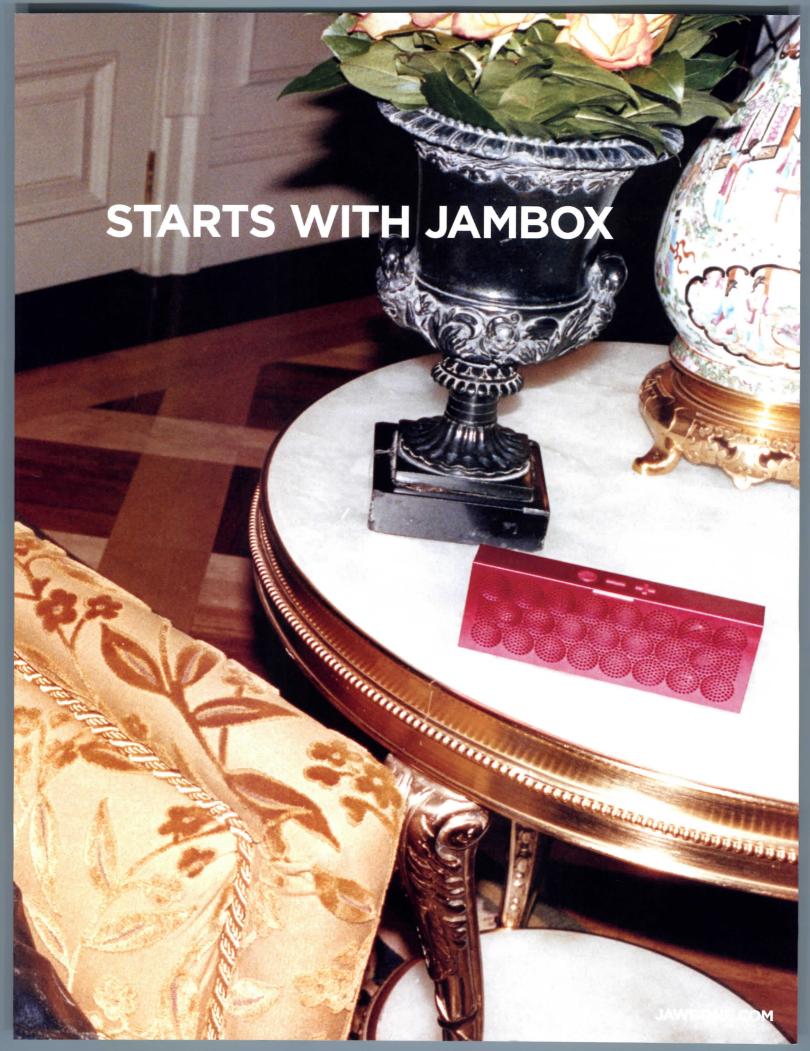


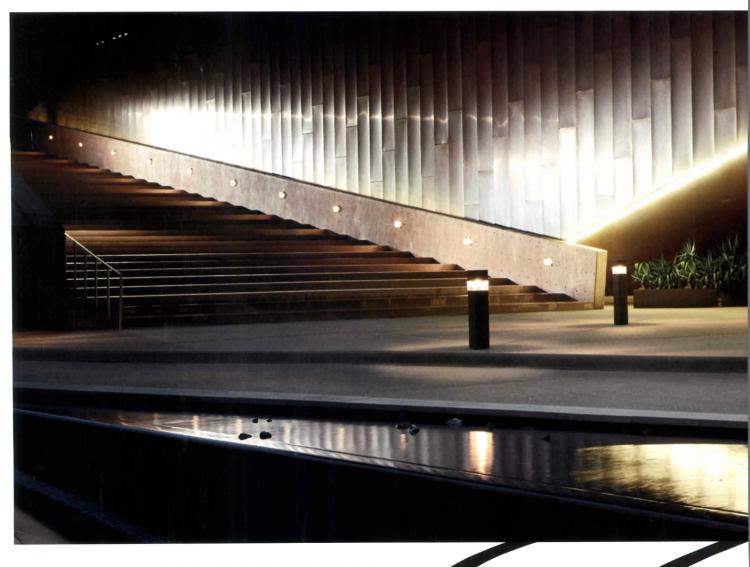
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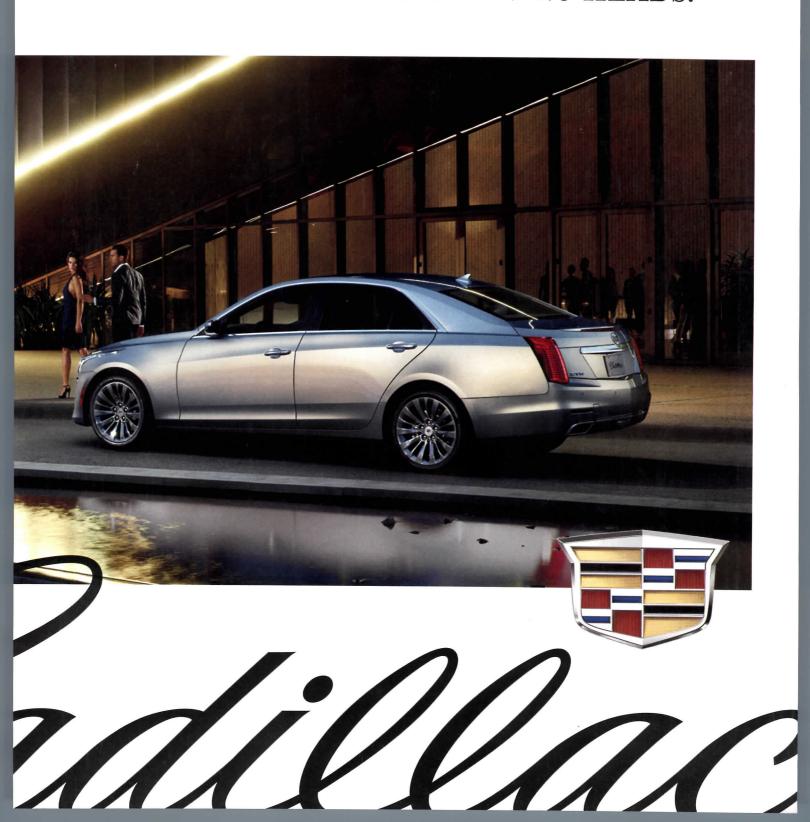


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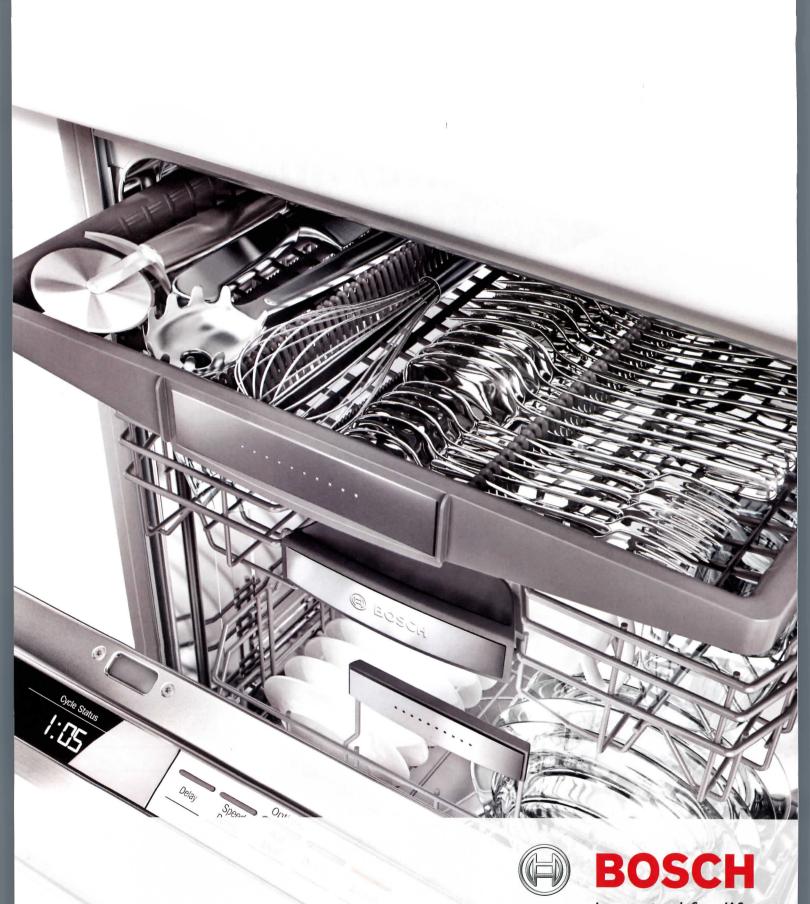
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Cover: A canary-yellow Fiat 500 complements Paul Hinkin and Chrissy Pearce's 1960s Deckhouse in Emsworth, England, page 120. Photo by Ben Anders

dwell

This page: Designer Funn Roberts created a pulley system that allows resident Vincent Kartheiser to raise his bed during the day for extra space, and lower it at night, page 112. Photo by Joe Pugliese

## "AROMATHERAPY while doing chores. LOVE!"

Tassie, on Facebook



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David, on mrsmeyers.com

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### **Contents**

**FEATURES** 

**NOVEMBER 2013** 

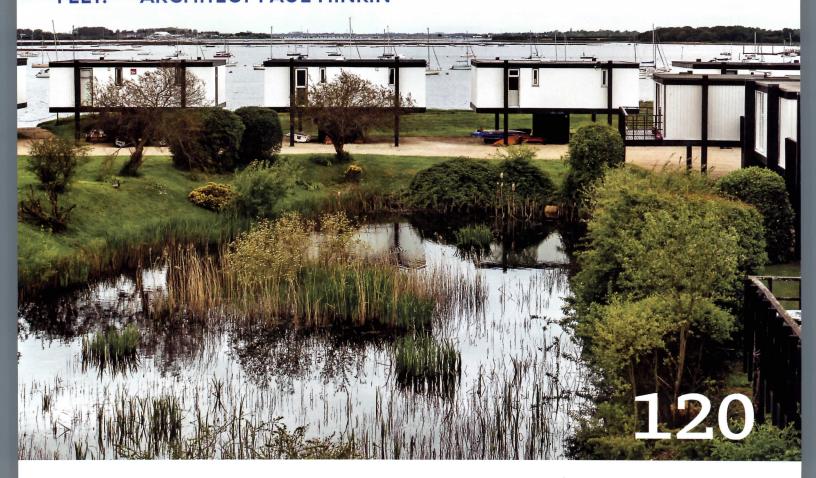
#### 120 High & Tight

After years of yearning for a 1960s Deckhouse, a London couple finally inhabit their 538-squarefoot dream home in Emsworth, England. by Dominic Bradbury **Photos by Ben Anders** 

#### 124 Pump Up the Volume

A 93-square-foot former boiler room in San Francisco is transformed into a guesthouse with architect and metalworker Christi Azevedo's careful design and clever customfabricated furniture. by Diana Budds **Photos by Cesar Rubio** 

"WE WERE INFLUENCED BY SOME OF THE COMPACT HOUSING THAT YOU SEE IN JAPAN. NOWHERE FEELS THAT SMALL HERE. **EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE ONLY 538 SQUARE** FEET." -ARCHITECT PAUL HINKIN



dwell

This page: Architect Paul Hinkin and his partner, Chrissy Pearce, bought one of 50 Deckhouses at Emsworth Yacht Harbour in England, page 120. Photo by Ben Anders



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**NOVEMBER 2013** 

**DEPARTMENTS** 

20 **Editor's Note** 

28 Feedback

37 In the Modern World

> We crammed these pages with scores of must-have, multifunctional furnishings and fun-size microhomes. We duck inside eight houses from Austin, Texas, to Whanganui, New Zealand, and visit a 580-square-foot roof garden that is seeded by birds and irrigated by rain in San Francisco. Plus, in case you weren't one of the 31,000 attendees at Dwell on Design 2013, we recap the best from the show floor.



126 Concepts

A humorous essay with serious tips for parents who want to raise their children in a modern home without losing an Eames or an eye in the process.

150 Sourcing

Saw it? Want it? Need it? Buy it.

152 Finishing Touch

A snug Stockholm kitchen relies on a less-is-more attitude with thoughtfully constructed cabinets and counters.

42



Photos by Ivan Brodey (My House), Ike Edeani (green roof), Jonas Ingerstedt (kitchen) 90

> Get a full year's worth of Dwell dwell.com/subscribe

Didn't catch last month's issue? See select stories at dwell.com/magazine 82 **Backstory** 

> With help from a pair of local woodworkers, architect Ben Kaiser remodeled a 520-squarefoot retreat with clever built-in components, including a hideaway dining table and chairs and a bespoke sofa bed.

My House

Architect Irene Sævik divided the 970 square feet of her Scandinavian summer home across three glass-walled pavilions, letting the surrounding forest infiltrate the interiors.

98 **Focus** 

> An unusual roof design allowed California- and Japan-based architect Koji Tsutsui to carve out sunshine and space for his childhood friend's Tokyo home.

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Dwell

# Editor's Note

## Small Spaces, Big Ideas

Living in diminutive quarters is an experience that never leaves you. The inherent challenges never cease: the problems of storage and clutter, the battle between acquisition and display, and the constant renegotiation of space and belongings. The upside is that while the memories of the skirmishes reverberate, so too do the victories—for if an area is truly tiny, any subsequent home you inhabit will feel palatial in comparison, and you'll be able to incorporate the same solutions again and again. While <code>small</code>, much like <code>affordable</code> or <code>green</code>, is a tricky adjective—one person's cottage is another's sprawling estate—clever design responses make way for thoughtful living, no matter the size of the home's footprint.

Problems of perception and spatial inequity are not new to Dwell. In years past we have featured "Small Space" issues in which we touted homes clocking in at just under the national average for newly constructed abodes, but many readers clamored for tighter constraints. We concur. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, this year's number is around 2,600 square feet, but as urban density increases and more citizens live with less space, we'd rather up the ante with the stories we present. In the pages that follow, we present 19 homes with a mean of approximately 600 square feet.

We've packed the issue with a slew of smart and satisfying design ideas, from the ingenious pulley system on actor Vincent Kartheiser's bed in his Los Angeles bungalow to the deep palette that enhances the feeling of spaciousness in Peter Fehrentz's 646-square-foot Berlin apartment. We laud a British couple's patient quest for a 1970s Deckhouse and share a glimpse of their new life unfolding in well under 600 square feet. Don't miss the lyrical use of light and shadow in the Bent House in Japan, a 793-square-foot wonder that speaks volumes about the virtues of living with fewer possessions. We also visit projects in Norway, Portland, Brooklyn, Austin, and Stockholm, all homes with modest dimensions but limitless creativity.

Good design is never the lipstick and rouge that covers the surface of things. Good design is a network of systematic responses that addresses needs on a daily basis and solves the problems of today. Modern design is about making informed decisions based on an appreciation for materials and methodology—it's not about replicating a "look" and it's certainly not a style that's dictated by furniture and fixtures. It's about choice. Choose to incorporate good design into your home, and every home you have will be as big as you need it to be.

Amanda Dameron, Editor-in-Chief

amanda@dwell.com

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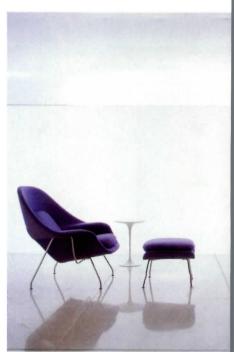


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### **Feedback**



Love the lot, the lighting, the lightweight roof, the vertical siding, the Porsche, the glass walls, and the landscaping ("It's a Family Affair," July/ August 2013). Classy.

-Jakob Clark, posted on Facebook

#### Letters

I brought my two sons with me to Dwell on Design, and it was great to watch their eyes light up at the prefab houses they could tour! To see new ideas and creativity spark in their minds is invaluable. When we got home, they started creating new structures on Minecraft (a computer game) related to things that inspired them at Dwell on Design.

#### Jeffrey Yip

Every year at Dwell on Design I get to see so many new products and items. This is a great showcase. Nice to meet designers and industry people and hear talks at the show.

#### June Takahashi

Editor's Note: Miss this year's Dwell on Design? Flip to p. 72 for our wrap-up of the show.

I have always thought that the Edgeland House ("Living Edge," April 2013) was just gorgeous. Such a clever mix of the green roofing and the glazed facade.

Matt Green Posted on dwell.com



@nadaleen: Died and gone to #gorgeous #prefab #heaven with @dwell's prefab sourcebook.

#### @LaughingAtUs:

This month's @dwell is possibly the best issue in years. Love the content, layout, and stories.

@lennology: @dwell = inspiration. These home features give me ideas for when it's my time to "pitch tent" in the very near future. #dreamBIG #dreamhome

#### @walkyourcamera:

I can't ever get enough of the photographs in @dwell.

@itsa lisa: My first **Dwell is here! Hooray** for @dwell #magazine #juneissue.







Just received the "Designers at Home" issue of Dwell (September 2013) and thoroughly enjoyed each project. There is inventiveness and innovation throughout the buildings, interiors, and furniture in each of the featured houses. I wish that all design magazines inspired me like this issue.

#### Chris Clarke Brisbane, Australia

I picked up the September 2013 issue of Dwell when a friend told me there was a piece on Paolo Soleri in the magazine ("A Radical Proposal," p. 30). I enjoyed the entire publication, especially the Soleri feature. I would love to see more on this visionary genius. Soleri, yes! More, please.

#### Laurie Krcmaric South Bend, Indiana

Editor's Note: Soleri created many incredible drawings and sketches during his lifetime, more than we could ever print. We suggest picking up a copy of Soleri: Architecture as Human Ecology (Monacelli Press, 2003) or Arcology: The City in the Image of Man, which is now in its fourth edition from Cosanti Press.

I've been a subscriber for years but for some inexplicable reason hadn't followed the website with any consistency. I recently discovered the photographer Promo Daily posts after seeing them mentioned over on aphotoeditor.com and have been digging into the rest of the website ever since. Really love the focus on the folks who help tell the visual story of the homes featured in Dwell!

#### **Brad Snyder** Posted on dwell.com

Editor's Note: Visit dwell.com/promodaily to catch up on the entire series.



### Feedback

## Most Popular @dwellmagazine Instagram Images

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Toothpick sculpture at the Exploratorium San Francisco, California

Diana Budds, associate editor

1,096 likes



The Valley National Bank building, built in 1967 by Weaver & Drover Phoenix, Arizona

Anna Goldwater Alexander, photo director

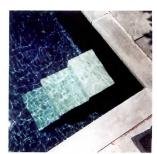
604 likes



Photographing a wonderful story in Sea Ranch for an upcoming issue Sea Ranch, California

Julia Sabot, associate photo editor

1,280 likes



Minimalist stair in a lap pool at LongHouse Reserve East Hampton, New York

Kelsey Keith, senior editor

635 likes

#### **Ask Dwell**

Have a burning design query? Tag @dwell and #AskDwell for answers.

@brianwbates: @dwell, any gift recommendations for a three-year-old architect? I was thinking Lincoln Logs?





**@Vidamiami:** Love @pbskids #exploration blocks. Classic wood blocks with funky patterns & shapes thrown in.

@alexislloyd: Magna-Tiles! So great. magnatiles.com

@jstorlone: Lego Duplo. Lincoln Logs are better for older kids. Chewing on wood is not recommended for threeyear-old architects.

@ChicagoMaMusing: Didn't Frank Lloyd Wright play with Froebel blocks? We also love Dado cubes and the MoMA modern house.

@JGwizdala56: KEVA blocks. My son has the structures set. Will provide years of fun. Fun for me, too!

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Letters may be edited for length and clarity. III

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Dwell on Design



## **Dominic Bradbury** Journalist and writer Dominic Bradbury lives in a village in Norfolk, England, with his wife, Faith, and their three children.

He has authored a dozen books on architecture and design, including his most recent, The Iconic Interior (Abrams, 2012). The story of Paul Hinkin and Chrissy Pearce's Deckhouse ("High & Tight," p. 120) fed into Bradbury's ongoing interest in mid-century design and the idea of the modern microvillage. "It's such a perfect spot for a house," says Bradbury. "It's peaceful and wonderfully positioned right by the water-so great for anyone who loves boats."



After visiting the spa-like backyard space

Northwest-based writer Amara Holstein

has become certain that there is noth-

ing more pleasant on a brisk fall eve-

scudding overhead. A former editor at

ning than submerging oneself in a massive hot tub and watching clouds

Phloem Studio designed in Portland,

Oregon (Backstory, p. 82), Pacific

Amara Holstein

Joe Pugliese

California-born photographer Joe Pugliese specializes in editorial portraiture. He travels extensively around the country to meet his subjects and compares the job to a never-ending dinner party filled with fascinating quests with great stories to tell. "Photographing actor Vincent Kartheiser ["Inside the Actor's Studio," p. 112] was no exception. He invited my crew and me into his cozy home and kept everyone engaged and amused during the all-day shoot," says Pugliese. The Los Angeles-based photographer can often be found exploring the surrounding hills by bicycle.



#### Joanne Furio

Having lived in Manhattan for ten years, Joanne Furio (Focus, p. 98) knows something about tight urban spaces. "The density in Tokyo made Manhattan seem luxurious," says Furio, now a contributing writer at San Francisco magazine. "Given such constraints, I was impressed with how Koji Tsutsui's breakthrough design could turn a simple box into something so sublime."



#### Dan Maginn

A principal with El Dorado Inc., a Kansas City-based architecture firm, architect Dan Maginn wrote Operation Childproof (p. 126). The story was inspired by an unfortunate incident in which, as a threeyear-old, he tumbled off his cereal-eating perch on the kitchen counter. His fall resulted in a smashed box of Lucky Charms, a broken collarbone, and an intense fear of leprechauns.



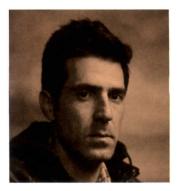
#### Kristina Raderschad

Architecture, art, and design journalist Kristina Raderschad lives with her husband and two children in an 18th-century farmhouse close to the Dutch-German border; however, she called Peter Fehrentz's Berlin apartment home while reporting "Kapital Style" (p. 106). "To help me fully experience his interior design work, Fehrentz gave me the key to his flat, and I stayed there for three nights. I had a great time in Berlin and loved the dark, handsome style of the space," she says. IIII



#### **Ben Anders**

When he's not spending his spare time restoring his London home or dragging his children to design shops and exhibitions, photographer Ben Anders is happiest traveling and adding to a vast portfolio of personal work that includes gauchos in Argentina, the rugged mountains of Iceland, and lush Bavarian landscapes. He shot "High & Tight" (p. 120). "Getting the yellow Fiat involved was great fun and perfectly complemented the owners' sense of humor."



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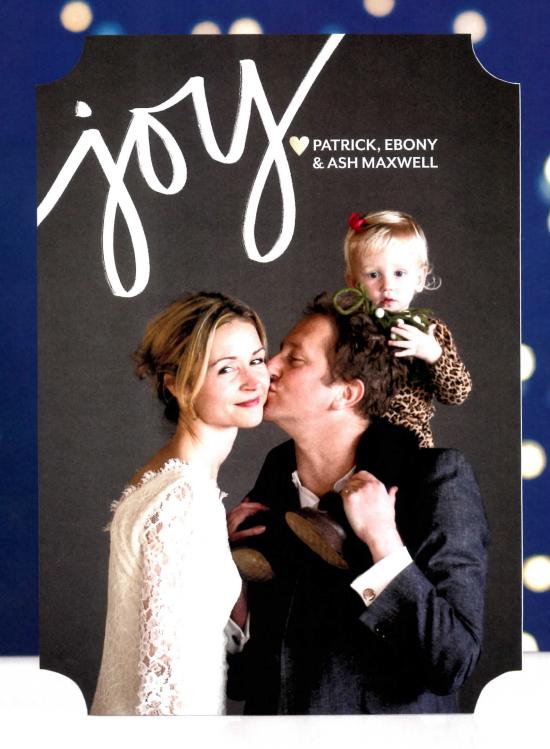
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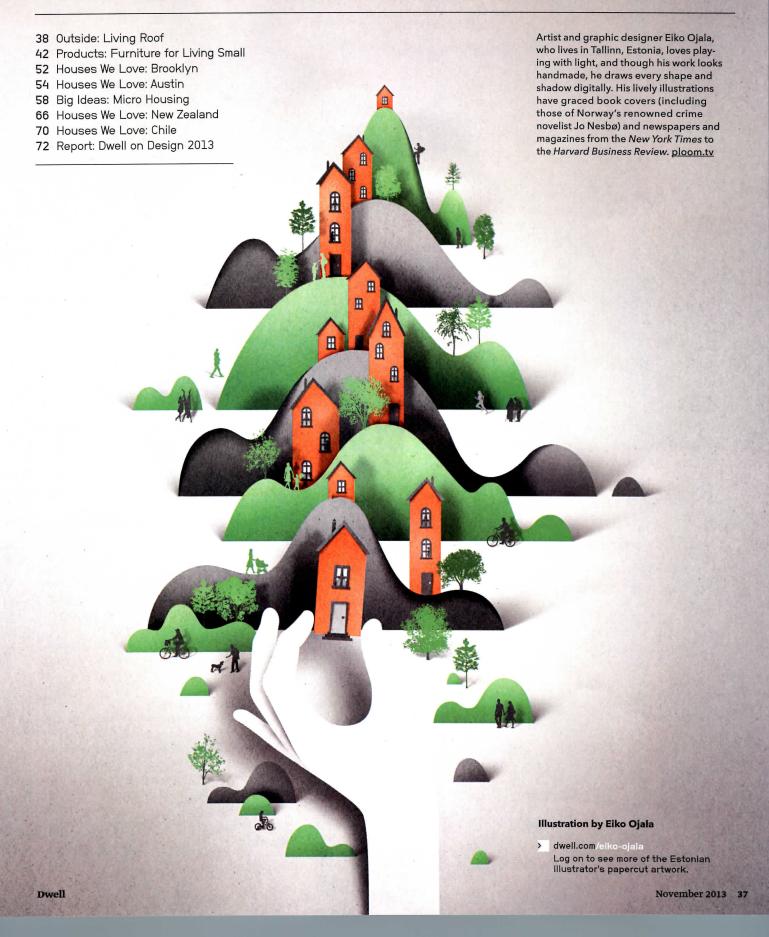
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# In the Modern World







## Praise the Roof

In an unusual collaboration among birds, wind, and one of San Francisco's leading landscape architects, a California designer has made a pair of unique outdoor living spaces—one low and one high.

By Zahid Sardar Photos by Ike Edeani



Bernal Hill, one of San Francisco's sunniest and least-developed spots, is a bare peak rising some 450 feet out of an otherwise densely packed neighborhood of charming turn-of-the-20th-century homes and shops. But whereas many manmade gardens are watered to be verdant year-round, Bernal Hill's winter green and summer brown are a refreshing marker of the seasons. And that is exactly what designer Peter Liang desired atop his recently remodeled 2,000-square-foot home on the hill's southern slope.

"I wanted to plant a green roof for its thermal mass, but I wanted it to be as natural as possible," Liang says. "To achieve that, what better partner could I have found than nature itself?"

Now his 580-square-foot green roof is like a piece of the hill; its indigenous vegetation—seeded by birds and wind—is irrigated only by seasonal rain and dew.

Purple thistles, California poppies, clover, and dandelions have all taken root in the roughly ten-inch-deep, lightweight humus and grape-husk soil. Liang has even handcrafted naturalistic undulations in the roof's terrain to serve as shields against night breezes for when he and his wife, Grace, slip up through a ceiling hatch to sleep under the stars.

Liang, whose design-build firm, Blue Truck, is temporarily located in Santa Monica, loved sculpting the

## Rubbish.



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For his family's recently remodeled home in San Francisco, designer Peter Liang undertook a twopart landscaping renovation: He planted a living roof (previous page), then, with the help of landscape architect Andrea Cochran, redid the backyard (left). The once-sloping space now has climbing vines, a slatted fence, and foxtail agaves.

roof's gentle berms with his fellow builders. "Designing like that is not hypothetical. There is something intuitive and real that presents itself in the making," Liang says.

An opportunity for hands-on collaboration presented itself again when the home's second-story addition neared completion and Liang realized that his upslope backyard offered little play space for his two toddlers. This time, he called a friend—the prominent San Francisco landscape architect Andrea Cochran.

Cochran suggested leveling the 715-square-foot yard so that Liang's first-floor open-plan living room and kitchen could flow smoothly into it. She recommended a low, slatted fence on the south side to let in more light for a patch of lawn, and taller plants on the west and north edges to enclose the "outdoor playroom."

Horngsheng Tu-a landscape architect in Cochran's office—took over the project and worked on his own time, fine-tuning the details and choosing child-friendly succulents, such as thorn-free foxtail agaves. Liang also leaned on Troy Martinez, of 5 Elements Design, for help with plants and labor.

Across a small patch of lawn, a cedar walkway lines the raised planting beds (right). While the backyard is a more manicured space, the roof is allowed to be wild. Plantings such as red clover (below left) and weeds, including black medic (below), are watered and pollinated naturally. "Bees are especially attracted to the clover," notes Liang.







The flattened backyard, shored up with Cor-Ten steel retaining walls, rubble, and new soil, now has a lowmaintenance ryegrass and fescue lawn, bordered on two sides by flush cedar boardwalks for the children to tricycle on. "The lawn was controversial," eco-conscious Liang says. "But I gave in. We needed a soft space to pitch tents!" Tough fiberglass planter boxes for herbs line up on the

north side, masking the retaining walls. "These are things we've used before, but they are very site-specific here," Tu says, because these low-cost substitutes for Cor-Ten planters also double as chalkboards for the children.

Standard construction materials were deployed for the sturdy yet affordable west fence as well: Tu set 12-foottall, galvanized steel tubes at one-foot intervals, in fourfoot-deep, 12-inch round concrete footings, and then spot-welded horizontal cables onto them to provide rungs for a tenacious and fragrant jasmine vine to climb.

"On the roof—as in jazz—our restrained, composed moves have encouraged something irrational and wild," Liang says. "That's exactly what the best collaborations do." Introducing Chamberlain® MyQ Garage® Control your garage door from anywhere.





**PRODUCTS** 

# Tiny Furniture

Our tightest curation to date of modular, nesting, wire-framed, transformable, and flat-packed furniture

You live in a small house, and you love it! Before you moved in, you got rid of your old hockey pads, pruned your T-shirt collection from 50 to 15, and felt totally liberated dumping those college textbooks. But you still need some furniture. And like it or not, furniture takes up space. Which, let's face it, you're a little shy on.

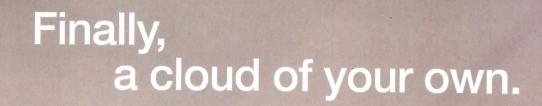
Thankfully, we've rounded up this class of top-drawer furnishings to outfit a diminutive space. Need your chair to convert to a bench and back again? Gotta be able to tuck that side table into a closet when more than two guests show up? Looking to cut some of the bulk out of your living room without, you know, sitting on the floor? Take notes and learn to live small.



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A Citybook modular shelving by Mr. Less & Mrs. More, from \$1,670 Sheet-iron modules can be rearranged with the aid of small magnets. mrless-mrsmore.com • B The Profile Chair by Knauf and Brown, from \$850 The duo's folding seat compresses on a single axis, giving it a minimal profile. knaufandbrown.com • C GJ Nesting Tables by Grete Jalk, \$1,400 Designed in 1963 to match a similar molded plywood chair, these collector's items have been reissued by Lange Production in Denmark. suiteny.com





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"It's all about creating cozy spaces, but deliberately so. Design, especially in a small space, should feel intentional. What's most important is not to over-compartmentalize. Allow for flexibility."

—KATE GROGAN, A LOS ANGELES-BASED DESIGNER FOR POLIFORM

## **Ponti Petite**

Want to live like a Ponti-ac? Now you can, thanks to a small-scale furniture collection originally created by Italian architect Gio Ponti and newly issued by Molteni & C.



In the 1950s, Gio Ponti designed six piecesan armchair, rug, picture frame, dresser, tea table, and wall-mounted bookcase—for his family's eighth-floor apartment, in a building he also designed, on via Dezza in Milan. The apartment was a flexible, open space, with few doors, and its modern multifunctional furniture was "a way to let the house breathe, not just be formal and cold," says Francesca Molteni. Translating Ponti's vision of apartment-ready furniture into the present day took Molteni two years: When visiting the designer's nephew's studio, she stumbled upon never-realized production drawings, then worked with Ponti's heirs and artistic directors at Cerri & Associati to perfect the details. molteni.it



Gio Ponti's bookcase and tea table represent the designer's edited interior vision: Do a lot without taking up precious space. The bookcase (left) sports a thin, elongated frame, while the small table (below)—with gridded metal supports painted in three colors and supporting a round glass top—makes for a now-you-see-it, now-you-don't optical illusion.

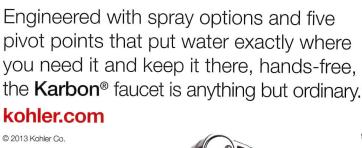


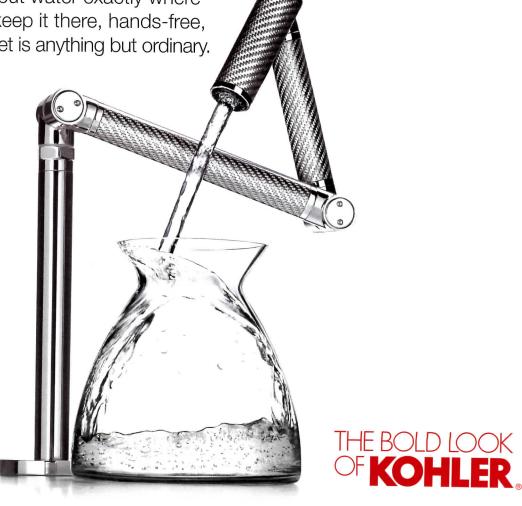


• C Chairway by Ontwerpstudio Sjors, \$2,400 An attached stool retracts seamlessly into the sturdy multipurpose chair. sjorsvanderleest.nl

(C)

# no one dreams of having a mediocre kitchen.







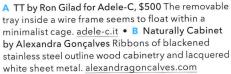
**PRODUCTS** 

Under the Wire





Negative space is a positive in our book: Incorporate thinly outlined furniture pieces into your small space and cut the visual clutter.



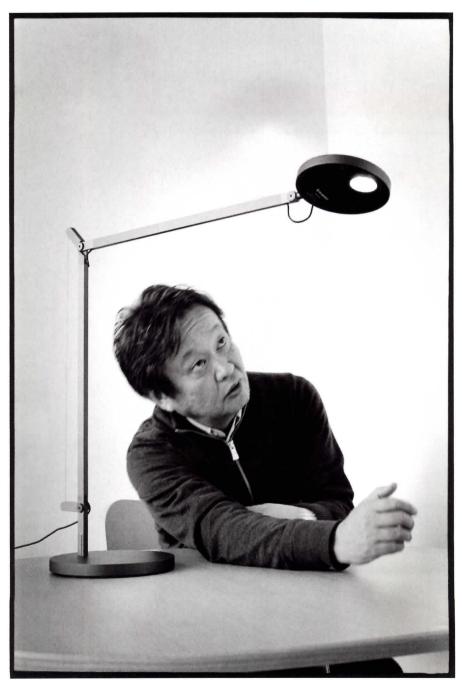
 C Plantrellis by Luca Nichetto for Berga, \$600-\$1,700 Using chicken wire to support growing vines is a thing of the past thanks to these sleek wire trellises set inside concrete planters. berga-form. se • D Guapo desk by CB2, \$499 This trim work surface sports an industrial iron frame with a mangowood drawer. <u>cb2.com</u> • **E** Adobe desk tools in terra cotta by Ilaria Innocenti, \$150-\$200 Wire "molds" affixed to weighty clay bricks make for an experimental set of work accessories. ilariai.com





# A tribute to light

Elliot Erwitt, 2013



Naoto Fukasawa: Demetra



Artemide



A Concentré de Vie by Matali Crasset for Campeggi, \$4,250 Two upholstered seats and two pouffes fit into a shell to make a traditional sofa; when removed, the flexible seating arrangement could furnish a small room. momentoitalia.com

• B Par4 Coffee Table by Bernard Vuarnesson, \$1,800 Four multi-colored tabletops reverse and slide out to expand the usable surface. momastore.org
• C Spacebox by Calligaris,

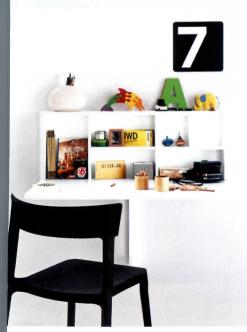
\$528 The lacquer and melamine wall-mounted desk sports myriad interior cubbies and folds up when not in use. calligaris.us



"Pick the things that you want to do well. It's not about trying to have every single function. If it's not doing anything to improve the experience, then take it away."

-PETER COOKE, DESIGN LEAD FOR BRITISH AIRWAYS







#### Now You See It, Now You Don't

In an especially small space, trick the eye into doubling the volume with transparent objects and reflective surfaces.



The white Bel Air scoop vase (\$228) by Jonathan Adler is a low-profile way to showcase blooms. <u>jonathanadler.com</u>



Philip Wong's Flow Radio and Speaker (\$85) amplifies sound from AM/FM waves or an MP3 hookup via its see-through casing. momastore.org

Antonio Forteleoni debuted his Mirror! Mirror! prototype at the 2013 Salone Satellite. The reflective surface—not an actual mirror—is made by staggering several layers of glass. antonioforteleoni.com



Dwell

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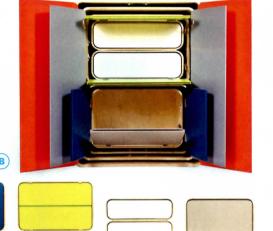
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A Parallel Bed by Jeffrey Bernett, Nicholas Dodziuk, and Piotr Woronkowicz for Design Within Reach, from \$2,900 (bed) and \$210 (table) Customizable with a range of sizes and an optional detachable table, Parallel can fit into rooms from minuscule to netite dwr.com • B Matrioshka by Sasa Mitrovic, \$4,000 All-in-one storage in the form of two wardrobes, three cabinets, two standalone drawers, and two legs that fold into one unit. twentytree.com • C Fusillo wall shelves by And Vice Versa, \$560-\$590 Modules in this flexible wall-mounted shelf rotate to act as a bookend or a hanger. fusillo.andviceversa.com

dwell.com/tiny-houses Head online for more diminutive home picks, plus the furniture to fit in them.



"Many tiny houses are steep-gabled and pitch-roofed, but if you build a little place I'd go for a curved roof. It feels cozier to me. The dimensions of the space recede and you bring the outside in. And if you live in a decent climate, put your bathroom outside."

—LLOYD KAHN, EDITOR OF THE 1973 DIY CLASSIC SHELTER



## **Build It Lean**

Minute modern places to work, live, or float

Like life-size dioramas, Kanga Room Systems' modern cabins are essentially one-room boxes whose "lids" have been pried up and propped open with windows. Starting at 120 square feet and under \$10,000, the streamlined structures can be flexibly partitioned into sleeping, bathing, and dining areas. Typical small-home dwellers "are looking to simplify their life and eliminate the superfluous," says Kanga owner and designer Jason Ellis. kangaroomsystems.com

At 44 square feet and just over 3 feet wide at its narrowest, the Keret House in Warsaw, Poland—which brings to mind a giant coin in an oversize slot—is known as the thinnest home in the world. The all-white combination studio-living space (below) was designed by Jakub Szczęsny of Centrala for Israeli author Etgar Keret. centrala.net.pl

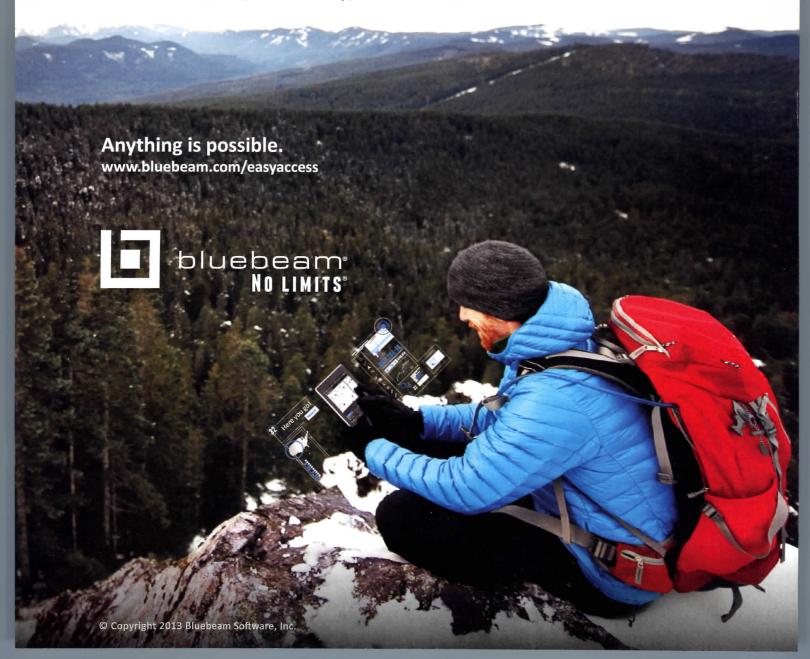
Mike Auderer of Olympia, Washington, makes petite, environmentally friendly houseboats. His own 550-square-foot craft is the sleek and cheerful *Sweet Pea*, where he's lived for the past year and a half. "I pretty much run it with a cell phone and a laptop," he says. "I wouldn't change it for the world." firstmatebuilders.com

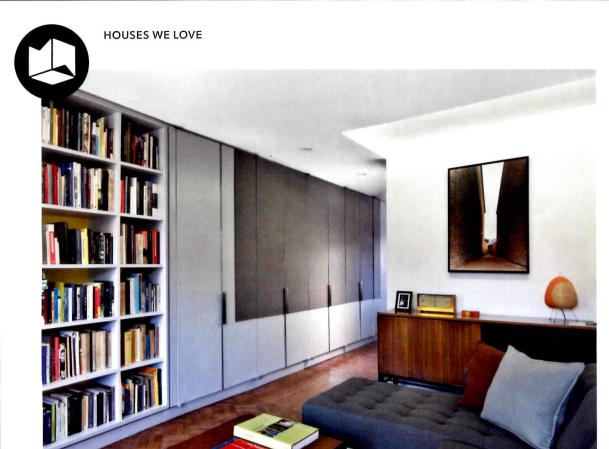
— Edith Zimmerman



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Architect Philip Ryan placed fluorescent bulbs that mimic daylight in the ceiling alcove of his Brooklyn apartment (left). The glow reflecting down the walls makes the room feel more expansive.

Restricting storage to a monolithic bank of bookshelves and cabinets (below) cuts down on furniture clutter. "If you put a lot of small things into a small space, it can feel twice as small," Ryan says. "If you have an object with heft and mass, it makes everything feel larger. It seems contradictory, but it works." He outfitted an Ikea Pax and Komplement closet system with custom doors and placed automotive felt over them to dampen sound from a nearby track of the Long Island Rail Road.

## Crowning Achievements

Project: Crown Heights Apartment Architect: Studio Modh Architecture, studiomodh.com Location: Brooklyn, New York

Like many apartments in early 20thcentury row houses, architect Philip Ryan's Brooklyn abode was the epitome

of spatial inefficiency. "You were constantly running into doors," he says. An early renovation goal of Ryan's was to reconfigure the 580-square-foot apartment's geometry: "I wanted two linear rooms: one zone for cooking and eating and another for living and sleeping." He removed interior walls and crafted a hallway spanning the length of the residence to increase the flow of light and air throughout. "Even when you're in these relatively tight areas, the eye doesn't focus on the smaller momentsyou're getting borrowed views from the other rooms, making the space feel more generous," he says.

A renovation in Brooklyn proves that the secret to living in compact quarters lies in the details.







In the bathroom (above left) and throughout the apartment, Ryan kept lines as pure as possible by designing built-in storage alcoves. The cutout space in the white cabinet does double duty as a door pull and a cubby for frequently used items. The same philosophy inspired the quirky windowsill flowerpot recess (left).

Dwell



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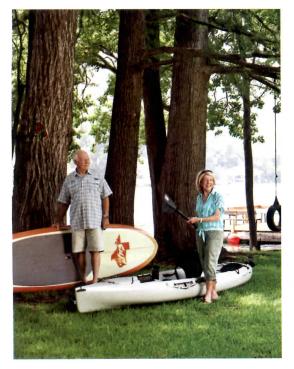
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Owners Dudley and Sandy Youman (above) keep a flotilla of watercraft ready for entertaining their children and grandchildren. Interior designer Herb Schoening worked with the Youmans on the furnishings and finishes for their 480-squarefoot cabin. A Saarinen Womb Chair upholstered in Knoll fabric is accented by a Maharam pillow

and a ceramic Oppiacei pouffe from Skitsch (above right). Acapulco chairs, handmade by Greenpoint Works in Brooklyn, and a Prince Aha stool by Philippe Starck for Kartell grace the deck outside. Landscape architect Tait Moring installed pavers around the structure's perimeter (right) and kept the tree cover intact.



Purchased in the 1970s, Sandy and Dudley Youman's narrow Lake Austin waterfront encompasses five heavily wooded acres with 120 feet of lake frontage. For years the only buildings on the property were a dilapidated shack and a boat dock, until Sandy Youman decided she wanted a modest family-style "cabana that is married to the land." She hired Austin architect Jared Haas of Un.Box Studio, and the result is a simple mini-house that crams multiple functions (and five grandchildren) into a one-room, 480-square-foot structure.

Though the Youmans initially requested prefab, Haas convinced them that custom

might be the way to go, especially since steep terrain and inconvenient access points prohibited off-site construction. "We spent a year just designing the shell," says Haas. "It became a family process and a huge team effort." Joining in were interior designer Herb Schoening, landscape architect Tait Moring, and contractor True Build.

Moring kept the plantings simple out of respect for the site's inherent drama. He added native limestone walkways, plus subtle shrubbery and ground cover—like wavy scaly cloakfern, fragrant mistflower, and moss verbena-of which 90 percent are indigenous lake species.

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**BIG IDEAS** 

# A Little Slice of Home

From crowded cities to a trailer park of tiny houses planned for Sonoma County, California, multiunit microhousing complexes are popping up all across America. Brian Levy, Tony Gilchriest, and Jay Austin (left to right), are creating the Boneyard Studios complex in Washington, DC, along with Lee Pera and a team of architects and builders. The four structures onsite are both experiments in small-space living and, during public "work days," a base for educating the community about construction, design, and tiny houses.



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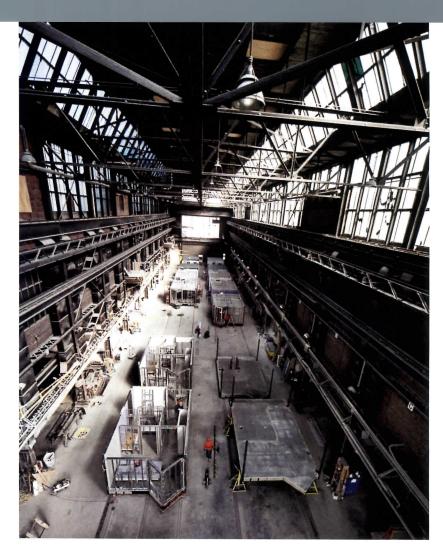
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Live Support



In Texas, where bigger is supposedly better, there's a budding demand for very small homes. Fort Worth might be one of the last places you'd expect to find a waiting list for tiny housing, but if the city's new White Buffalo micro-unit complex is any indication, the yen to live small is a nationwide trend. White Buffalo's 63 units range from 540 to 995 square feetgrand by micro-home standards, but miniscule for Texas—and were fully leased in half the time developer Lang Partners predicted.

The Big Apple is currently undertaking the adAPT NYC micro-housing project, a pilot program on public land in the Kips Bay neighborhood. Architects and partners Eric Bunge and Mimi Hoang of nArchitects won the commission to design the 55-unit building in January 2013. And as former dwellers in a 350-square-foot apartment, they relied on their experience to devise the winning design. What the couple most missed during their tenure in a tiny home was natural light and air, so each of the 250to 370-square-foot units will have nearly ten-foot ceilings and Juliet balconies.

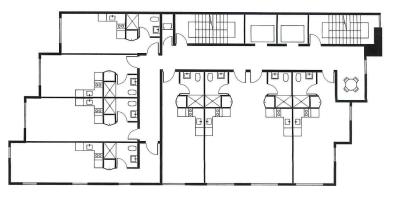


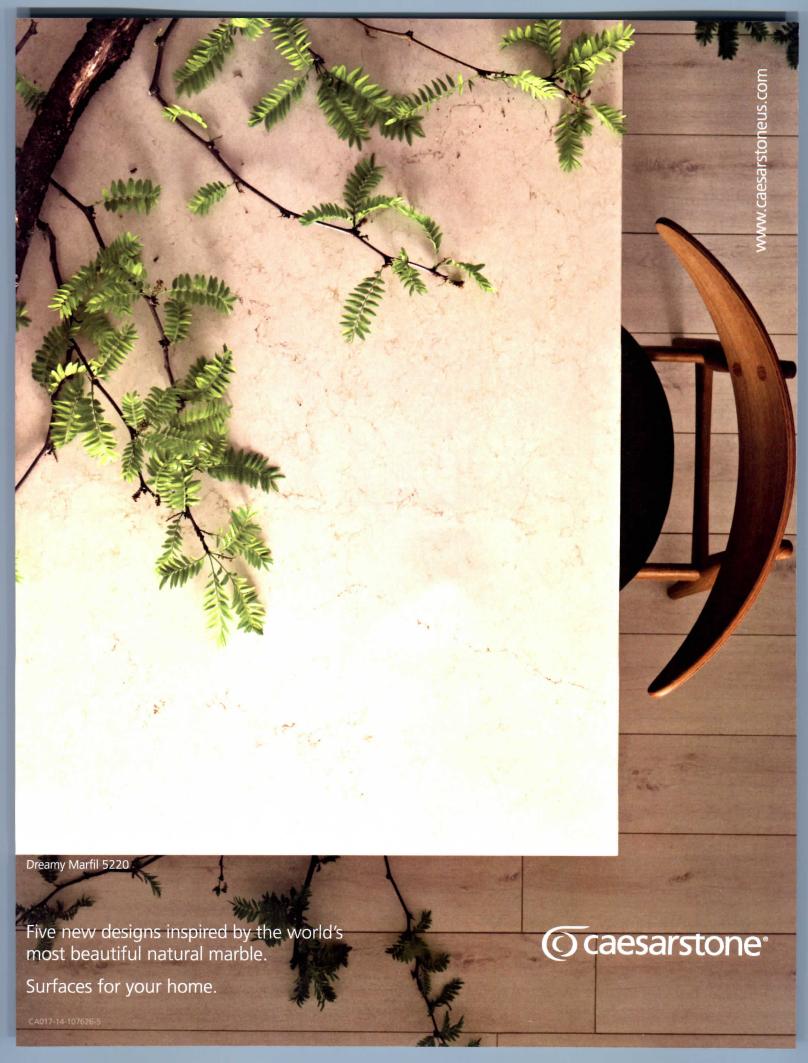




nArchitects, Monadnock Development, and the Actors Fund Housing Development Corporation partnered on a winning proposal for a micro-unit apartment block. Renderings of their project (right) reveal a building made of 55 modules that will be prefabricated in a

factory in the Brooklyn Navy Yard (top) and craned into place on a city-owned lot on East 27th Street in Manhattan (above, left). The units are arranged on every floor to form a staggered facade (above, right) and will measure between 250 and 370 square feet each.











To make the sub-300square-foot units in San Francisco's prefab and LEED Platinum-targeted Smartspace SoMa building (below left) more livable, Panoramic Interests and ZETA Design + Build installed clever convertible furnishings, including a hydraulic table that lowers to become a window seat (below right) and a Murphy bed that turns into a dining table. "It's important to be able to get rid of the bed," says developer Patrick Kennedy. "To me, there's nothing inherently more depressing than looking at the bed all day."



In San Francisco, sky-high rents and a forward-looking bit of 2012 legislation spearheaded by City Supervisor Scott Wiener have paved the way for Smartspace SoMa, a new prefab building containing twenty-three 295-square-foot apartments, developed by Panoramic Interests. In fall 2013, students from the California College of the Arts will move in. Rents are set at \$1,600 per month, a staggering sum in many cities but a relative steal in tech-boom San Francisco, where studios can fetch \$2,500 to \$3,000 on the open market.

Even the hinterlands are getting in on the action. Jay Shafer moved into his first tiny house 16 years ago and has been helping people lose domestic square footage since 1999, when he founded the venture that would become Four Lights Tiny House Company, manufacturing homes under 300 square feet. Shafer is currently at work on his grandest vision yet: a whole community of micro-dwellings in Sonoma County, California.

"I want to build a core of 12 to 20 houses, and then more houses around that," he says. "We'll also have a communal farm." Shafer's cheekily named Napoleon Complex is essentially a trailer park,





an R.V.-zoned community of up to 70 houses, each under 400 square feet, set to be completed in 2015. Shafer argues that a success here will create a broader "contagious model for responsible, affordable, desirable housing."

This vision—a community of tiny mobile houses—is already taking shape on an alley lot in Washington, DC, albeit on a smaller scale. Lee Pera, who works for the Environmental Protection Agency, started the Boneyard Studios village with Brian Levy in early 2012, and today she and three cohorts are putting the finishing touches on the interiors of their four 200-square-foot-and-under homes on wheels. For Pera, the project is about paring life down to the essentials, forming a community with her neighbors, and "starting the conversation" in DC about compact, affordable housing.

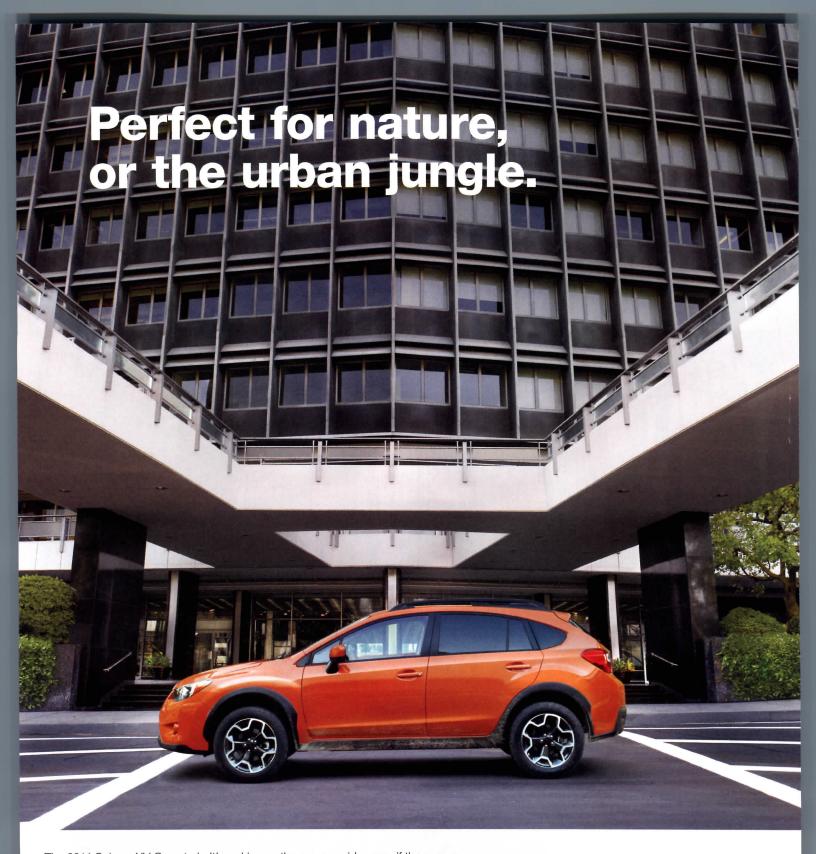
Though she'd like to live there full time, current zoning forbids it, making Boneyard Studios strictly an experiment. But each mile she travels back to her main residence fuels her commitment to community outreach on living small. The momentum seems to be at her back.



At Boneyard Studios in Washington, DC, Brian Levy's Minim house (top) has a built-in sofa with storage and a moveable table that can serve as a dining area, desk, or kitchen worktop. Jay Austin's Matchbox house (below and right) is only eight feet wide but feels bigger thanks to a well-organized interior, a skylight over the lofted bed, and some clever storage moves, including magnetized spice containers overhead.







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Photographed at Dwell Home Venice.

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#### **HOUSES WE LOVE**



In 2010, Ben Mitchell-Anyon, Sally Ogle, and Tim Gittos took out a loan, quit their day jobs, and embarked on their inaugural project together as Patch Work Architecture. The assignment was simple: Find an inexpensive plot of land and build themselves a small house. "We were all keen to build something exciting and experimental, yet modest and simple at the same time," says Mitchell-Anyon.

They purchased a hilly plot in Whanganui, a sleepy provincial city located two and a half hours north of Wellington, New Zealand, and kicked off construction in 2011. During the next year, the trio (with the help of their architect friend Caroline Robertson) designed and built everything in the house, from the structure down to the cabinetry, tweaking and modifying details along the way. Thanks to their sweat equity, the residence came in at about \$130 per square foot and taught them the value of onsite decision-making, which will inform the budding firm's future projects. "There are things that you can never really know from a computer model or a drawing," says Mitchell-Anyon.



The second-story viewing platform (above) was born from an onsite discovery. After framing the first level, Patch Work Architecture noticed a vista to the west and decided to add a window. A promenade (right), playfully dubbed "the wharf," offers a spot to catch morning rays.





The designers fabricated everything in the house, down to the quarter-sawn pine and macrocarpa-wood kitchen cabinetry and concrete floor (above). "Physically the most challenging part of the build was wrestling an incredibly slippery concrete pump up the muddy driveway in the rain!" says designer Ben Mitchell-Anyon. The enamel pendant light is vintage.

dwell.com/patch-work Head online to see more images of the eccentric New Zealand home.

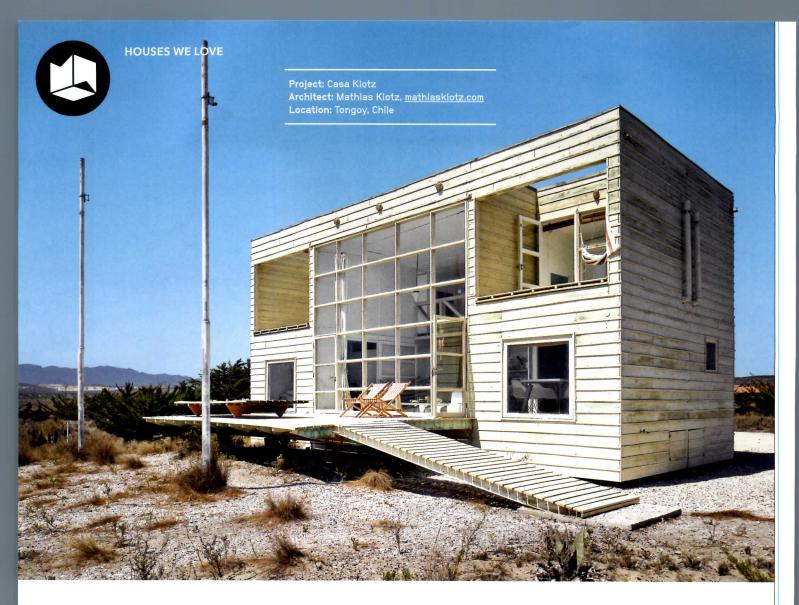


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## Mother Nature's Son

Mathias Klotz's first project, a deceptively simple bayfront house in Chile was commissioned by his mom on a shoestring budget.

Situated between a bay and a coastal mountain range, Casa Klotz makes a powerful geometric contrast to its isolated natural surroundings. The northern facade, which faces the water, takes in the view via double-height windows in the main living room, plus terraces punched into the second floor.



#### In 1991, after Isabel Germain separated

from her husband and inherited some money from her mother, she decided to build a one-of-a-kind refuge on a remote beach outside Tongoy, Chile. Luckily, her \$20,000 budget went far with her architect of choice: her son, Mathias Klotz.

Klotz—who sketched the layout on an airplane napkin and says that, to date, "it's the only project I have completed without making changes"—designed the beach house as a low-cost dwelling that requires little maintenance. To this day, the Klotz family still spends the summer and occasional long weekends in their getaway. As for its architectural legacy, Klotz says of his earliest completed project, "It represents what I consider to be the essential aspects of a building."

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# Dwell on Design 2013

At our best-attended show yet, the floor was overflowing with great design, while our onstage programming kept the audience engaged all weekend long.



With a record attendance of nearly 31,000, Dwell on Design welcomed visitors from

34 countries and six continents from June 21 to 23 to the annual show at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Ahead of and concurrent with the show, Dwell Design Week (which ran June 14-23) included the Dwell Los Angeles Home Tours, two Meet the Architects Nights-in which we hosted the architects of the residences selected for the home tours—and showroom events with Dwell editors at Lladró, Marimekko, and Resource Furniture. This year, for the first time ever, we announced Dwell Labs, in which select designers from the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) reimagined eight units in the modern L.A. buildings Met Lofts and 1600 Vine, on display before, during, and after Dwell on Design.

On the show floor, over 400 exhibitors displayed more than 2,000 products in five distinct zones: Dwell Outdoor, Kitchen and Bath, Design and Materials, Furniture and Accessories, and Technology. Holding court in the middle of the show floor, Dwell Outdoor was curated by Shades of Green Landscape Architecture, installed by FormLA Landscaping, and filled with five full-scale prefab structures, two Airstream trailers, and myriad outdoor furnishings. Three stages were packed with design programming all three days, and we welcomed authors such as Ed Begley, Jr., and Martyn Lawrence Bullard for book signings.



ASID further partnered with Dwell on Design this year by hosting its annual Chapter Leadership Conference both at and around the show; we also collaborated on a series of Continuing Education programs with record attendance with organizations ranging from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA), and many others.

Encompassing more than 200,000 square feet of space on the show floor, Dwell on Design 2013 welcomed nearly 31,000 visitors to our celebration of the modern world, held annually in Los Angeles (above). More than 400 exhibitors set up shop over a weekend in June, including Emeco (top), debuting Konstantin Grcic's Parrish chair.

### studio<sup>4</sup>











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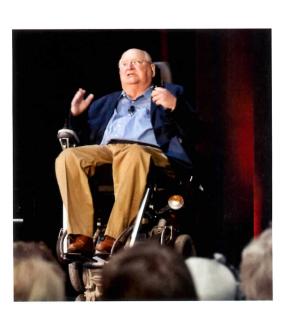




### Design Language

It is our great pleasure each year to welcome the leading minds in architecture and design to engage us all in a meaningful dialogue at the show, and this year was no exception. Kicking things off was our keynote speaker, architect Michael Graves, who shared his own design journey with the audience, including his devotion to Italian architecture, his curation of his home in Princeton, New Jersey, and his new product line for jcpenney. The weekend was filled with design programming ranging from slideshows to interactive Q&As to inspire the audience.







Dwell editor-in-chief Amanda Dameron, Breaking Bad star Bryan Cranston, builder Bryan Henson, and project designer John A. Turturro (above, from left), discuss the actor's sustainable beach house (see Dwell, July/August 2013). Also onstage were keynote speaker Michael Graves (far left) and, from left, Dameron, The Lincoln Motor Company's Janet Seymour, and designer Trina Turk (below left). Exhibitors included Airstream (left) and Franz Viegener (below), the Dwell on Design Kitchen and Bath Award winner.









### **Onstage**

More than 200 speakers took to three stages-the Sustainable Design Stage, the Design Innovation Stage, and the Business of Design Stage on Friday, which became the Demo Stage Saturday and Sunday-for a series of panel discussions, lectures, symposia, and hands-on demonstrations. On Friday, June 21, ahead of Graves's keynote address, we handed out the 2013 Dwell on Design Awards to winners in ten design categories.

The American Institute of Architects, Los Angeles (AIAILA) took the stage Saturday, June 22, for the annual Restaurant Design Awards, hosted by designer Barbara Lazaroff. Through-

out the weekend, we previewed exhibitions from the Getty and the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), the MAK Center, and educational institutions such as the Julius Shulman Institute at Woodbury University and SCI-Arc.

Industrial designer Isabelle Olsson (right) gave the Demo Stage audience an interactive overview of her latest endeavor, Google Glass.





On the Demo Stage, we invited Emeco CEO Gregg Buchbinder, blogger Laura Guido-Clark, and Simply American blogger John Briggs (above, from left) to contemplate the implications of knockoffs. Nearby, on the Design Innovation Stage (right), panelists and audience members gather after a discussion. Attendees were offered free one-on-one consultations with designers (center right).





### Highlights

Show attendees had plenty of opportunities for interactive fun throughout the weekend, including free one-on-one consultations with architects, designers, landscape designers, and Dwell editors. The VividWorks Passport to Design program encouraged designers to participate in a treasure hunt of sorts, utilizing furnishings from exhibitors to design the ultimate virtual living room.

In the Pinterest Pavilion, designer pinboards came to life with Sunbrella fabrics and Sherwin-Williams paint colors, while the Hansgrohe Twitter Wall kept the Dwell on Design Tweets rolling. The "Young Guns" exhibition brought together the top area schools-Art Center College of Design, Otis College of Art and Design, USC School of Architecture, and UCLA Architecture and Urban Design among them-to show student work and allow a glimpse into the future of design.







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### The Show Floor

Attendees were treated to more cash-and-carry opportunities than ever before, such as pop-up shops from A+R and AetherStream. Exhibitors debuted new furnishings, while full-scale prefabs, ranging from LivingHomes' new C6 model and the jcpenney-furnished prefab home built by Method Homes, once again proved extremely popular.

To honor Dwell on Design's host city, a team of Los Angeles-based artists painted a series of living murals all weekend, while our artist-in-residence, Tanya Aguiñiga, built and conceptualized an atelier (in collaboration with People Assisting the Homeless and United Way Los Angeles) in which she, her team of artists, and Dwell on Design attendees created move-in kits-consisting of a table, stool, artwork, and blanket-that went to permanent homes for L.A.'s formerly homeless population.



One of several full-scale prefabs on display was a pieceHomes model (above) by Los Angelesbased Davis Studio Architecture + Design. The Black & White Asymmetric Rya (right) was hand-made by another L.A. exhibitor, Brook & Lyn.



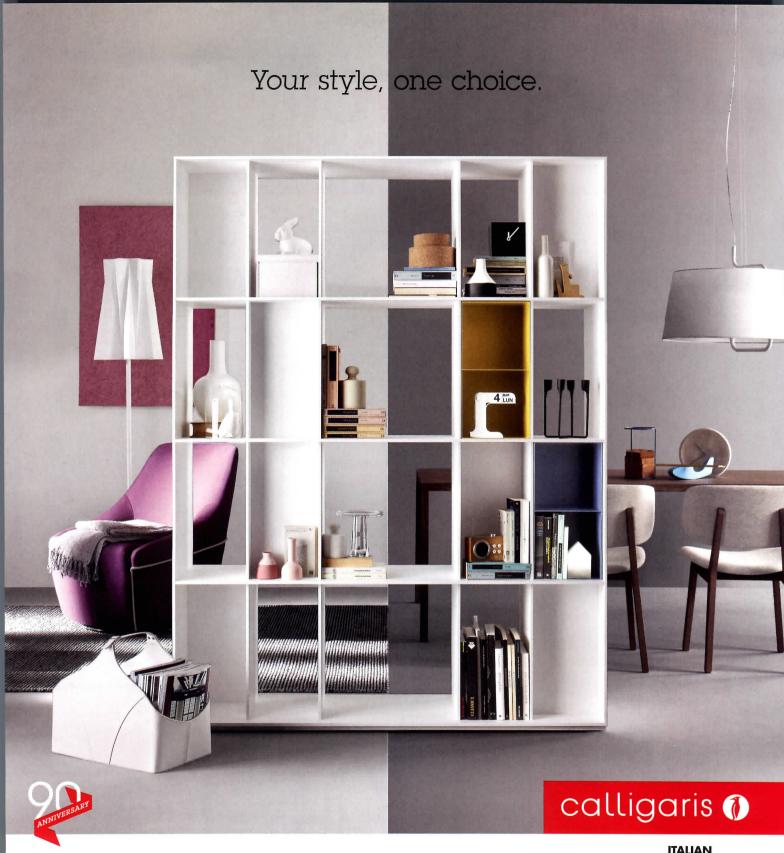


Nourishmat (above), the Dwell on Design Award winner in the Design and Materials category, helps even the most amateur gardeners grow their own food. Another Dwell on Design Award winner, Emeco (right), was awarded Best in Show for their striking booth and sustainable philosophy.





Sverre Uhnger's Oo lamp was part of the exhibition "The Essence of Things: New Designs from Norway," making its West Coast debut at the show.



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### COLLECTION

### IT TAKES A VILLAGE

See more of Un.Box Studio's cabin for the Youman Family, on Lake Austin, in Texas (page 54). Don't miss the slide-show, with shots of the home's impressive one-room interior and locally inspired landscape, as well as an extended interview with architect Jared Haas about making each inch count. dwell.com/homes/austin-cabin







### **HOW-TO: LET'S GET SMALL**

Need help living large in your cluttered quarters? Our five-step "Let's Get Small" program by architect Dan Maginn is a handy guide to paring down your possessions, calculating the minimum square footage for your lifestyle, and making interior design decisions to optimize a cramped layout. dwell.com/design-101/article/lets-get-small

### **EXTRA: MORE FOR LESS**

Head online for loads of small-space inspiration: We have pages of pintsize apartments, town houses, family homes, and vacation getaways. We also share our favorite storage solutions, transformable furniture, and designer tips and tricks to help you maximize your own miniature home. dwell.com/homes/small-space



Photos by Kimberly Davis (Austin); Arunas Kacinskas (illustration); Dean Kaufman (Small Spaces); Nathan Cozzolino (GE Monogram)

### **VIDEO**

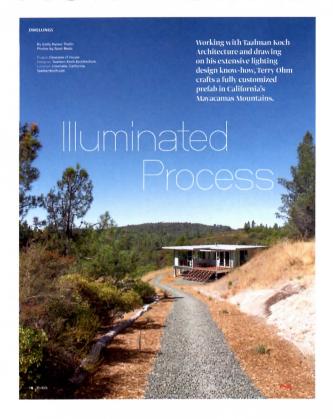
### DREAM/BUY/LIVE

In the third installment of our video series with GE Monogram, we get an exclusive glimpse into a futuristic Manhattan highrise kitchen remodel. Check out the video to see the impact an updated kitchen outfitted with GE Monogram appliances can make in a home. dwell.com/video/live





## New from DWELL





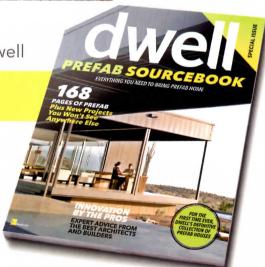




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Piles of homework, lacrosse sticks, bills, and other domestic detritus litter every surface of a Tudor-style house in Southeast Portland, Oregon. Three teenagers clamor for attention, and a cat and dog roam underfoot. It's not surprising, then, that when these homeowners decided to redo their garage and backyard, they envisioned the new space as an oasis of calm where each member of the family could quietly pursue their own interests. "They wanted something that could be a guesthouse, art studio, and retreat," says Jeff Vincent, a designer who worked with principal Ben Kaiser of PATH Architecture on the project. "They asked for a flexible space where the family could get away from each other."

To create this ideal, PATH knocked down the existing garage, a decrepit building lacking electricity. In its place, they built a sleek structure whose pitched roof and stucco siding reflect the home's 1923 vintage but which otherwise stands as a simple rectangle. Upstairs, a wall of windows welcomes sun into a large open-plan room with a lofty ceiling. There isn't an interior door in sight, the furniture is cleverly built into the walls, and wood wraps its way around every surface—all of which keeps the 520-squarefoot space flowing and flexible. Downstairs, Douglas fir salvaged from the previous garage clads the wood-framed structure, and the eldest daughter's art enlivens the otherwise unadorned space. "The entire family uses the spa, the mother practices yoga while the father writes upstairs, and one of the daughters has claimed the downstairs as an art studio of her own," says Kaiser. "The intent was to leave the spaces undefined to allow the family to use them as they see fit." №



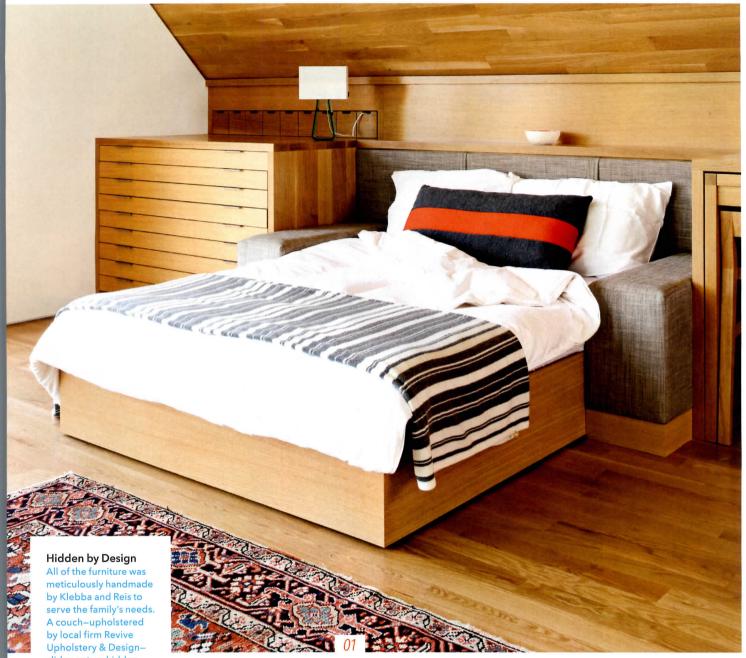
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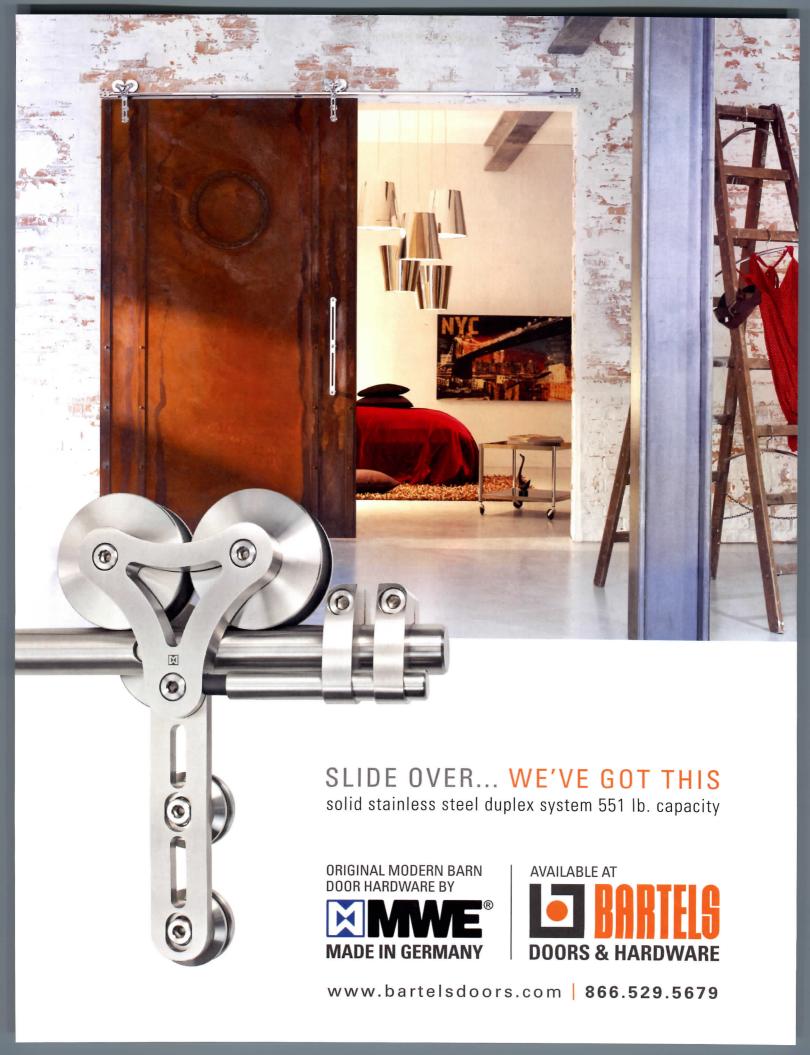


meticulously handmade by Klebba and Reis to serve the family's needs. A couch-upholstered by local firm Revive Upholstery & Designslides out on hidden casters and transforms into a full-size bed (with the headboard doubling as a linen cupboard) where guests can sleep. The dining table tucks under a shelf when it's not pulled out for meals. There's even vertical storage for canvases for their teenage daughter. "This was a very, very, very, very custom job," says Klebba. Iberevivepdx.com











### Back to the Landscape

Fusion Landscape Design worked with PATH to remake the backyard into a grownup playground. Under the stairwell sits a tiny custom cedar sauna and an outdoor shower-just a literal hop, skip, and jump away from the sprawling in-ground eight-by-ten-foot hot tub. Down three short stairs, Gloster's Elan dining table from Design Within Reach is surrounded by Spark chairs by Don Chadwick for Knoll and a built-in fire pit and DCS grill by Fisher & Paykel-all resting on a smooth surface of bluestone pavers.

fusionlandscapedesign.com dwr.com knoll.com dcsappliances.com

### Skip to the Loo

In the bathroom, a thin pane of glass separates the shower; an Aquaplane sink by Lacava hovers above a built-in vanity illuminated by a lean Adelphi light by Oxygen Lighting; and bluegreen glass penny tiles by Terra Verre decorate the floor. The absence of a door, combined with windows on two sides, makes the bathroom feel like a continuation of the overall space. lacava.com oxygenlighting.com







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SCENES















### **DWELL ON DESIGN | VIP LOUNGE**

At this year's Dwell on Design, new looks from HD Buttercup helped define the VIP Lounge, which played host to exclusive demonstrations by celebrity chef Brian Malarkey. After Dacor showed off their new Discovery appliances, guests were treated to a signing of Malarkey's Come Early, Stay Late and a special wine tasting. In addition to the furnishings and appliances, Lutron Electronics and Saatchi Online added ambience to the space.



① Discovery WineStation by Dacor ② Celebrity chef Brian Malarkey ③ ④ ⑤ The Privacy sofa, Pebble table, and Slipcovered Club chair are all from HD Buttercup.

### **DWELL DESIGN WEEK | EVENTS**

Dwell Design Week, June 14-June 23, presented by The Lincoln Motor Company, was a series of special events and home tours leading up to and in conjunction with Dwell on Design, and at which over 3,000 design professionals and consumers experienced the best of Los Angeles design. Dwell-hosted private evening events included an interview with American artist Gary Baseman at Lladró, a behind-the-scenes look at Finnish textile company Marimekko, and a celebration of the opening of the Resource Furniture Los Angeles showroom.



6 Moby and Gary Baseman 7 Susan Inglis 8 Christine Salzer, Lisa Blecker, Challie Stillman, and Roberta Colombo.

## Compact Cabin

AN ARCHITECT RECASTS A 1960s ARTIST'S RETREAT IN SOUTHEASTERN NORWAY.

> Architect Irene Sævik's summer retreat lies an hour's drive from bustling Oslo. In true Scandinavian form, principles of simplicity and respect for nature govern the house's design. Originally built in the 1960s by the Norwegian artist Irma Salo Jæger, the 430-square-foot cabin sat unoccupied and in partial disrepair for years before Sævik purchased it and decided to expand. "It had an appealing expression that inspired me to develop it further-to transform the site and make a stronger connection between house and landscape," Sævik says. She added an office, bedroom, sauna, and bathroom in a series of individual pavilions joined by decks, bringing the total area to just under 970 square feet. "I tried to make a place where one could stay alone, as well as a good place to be with friends," she says.

By Diana Budds Photos by Ivan Brodey



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▲ The interiors are clad in whiteglazed pine, a contrast to the black-stained facade. The brick fireplace is original. Near a Polder sofa by Hella Jongerius for Vitra is a coffee table of Sævik's design. The rocking chair is vintage and came with the house.



◆ A section of the roof reaches over a rock outcropping—a detail that visually connects the house to the landscape and offers a handy way to climb up to the roof deck without using a ladder. IIII





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Tamotsu Nakada needn't do much to reach his neighbors:

He can simply extend his arm and touch two of their houses, each of which is a mere foot from his property line, from his small terrace. "Having more light and air was important to me," says Nakada. But when Tokyo houses are packed in like commuters during rush hour, you need a smarter brand of density.

Enter Nakada's friend Koji Tsutsui, an architect based in the San Francisco Bay Area and in Tokyo. Designing around the property's obstacles, Tsutsui devised a bent roof that provides an expansive sense of space for the 793-square-foot house he created for the 935-square-foot lot. By diagonally chopping off the downslope of a typical pitched roof, Tsutsui allowed more of the sun's rays to penetrate the interiors of his so-called Bent House. The resulting form blends in with the pitched rooflines of the neighborhood while simultaneously breaking from the vernacular with its bold, sculptural profile. The roofline serves another function, shading





After purchasing a thin, L-shaped lot in Tokyo, Tamotsu Nakada asked architect and friend Koji Tsutsui to create an openplan concrete home to fit the site. Inside, the bottom floor contains the bedroom (left), off of which is the bathroom (above), with a tub from Kaldewei and a Duravit sink. The staircase (below) leads to the living area upstairs.

a terrace that provides the luxury of outdoor living space within this staggeringly tight urban environment.

Tsutsui and Nakada met in the early '90s while studying architecture at the University of Tokyo. Nakada went on to become an advertising copywriter, and Tsutsui got a job with the Pritzker Prize-winning architect Tadao Ando, whose concrete houses are known for their simplicity and engagement with the elements. "He is one of the architects I respect the most," Nakada says of Ando. "I dreamed of creating a concrete house like his."

That opportunity came in 2010, after Nakada had spent eight years in a dark 400-square-foot apartment. A nearby property had been subdivided, and the resulting four lots were available, each shaped like a flag on a flagpole. Nakada contacted Tsutsui, who by then had his own firm and was dividing his time between Tokyo and the Bay Area—where he had become the Joseph Esherick Visiting Associate Professor of Practice at the University





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of California, Berkeley, College of Environmental Design. Unsurprisingly, when it comes to design, the former schoolmates are kindred spirits.

"We already shared the same aesthetic," says Nakada, sitting with Tsutsui in the 292-square-foot, sun-filled living-dining area of his home one recent afternoon. "His work always has a specific concept. He's good at minimal houses. And he knows how powerful simplicity can be."

Tsutsui has been experimenting with the idea of houses as an arrangement of boxes since starting his own firm in 2004. "The way boxes come together is really interesting to me," says the architect, who creates geometric models from Styrofoam and museum board to help him conceptualize spaces. "We adjusted the combinations to see what kinds of spaces they created in relationship to the site and the surrounding buildings," his associate Satoshi Ohkami explains. After trying out some 20 combinations, they finally transferred the selected design to a computer.

Tsutsui describes the arrangement of this house as a collection of light wells: "The main box brings light into the main space upstairs; the other, small ones bring light into the first floor."

The main volume of the house, with its bent roof and two skylights, consists of the kitchen and living-dining area, with a bedroom and bathroom beneath it. The second box holds the entry, with another bent roof that harvests sunshine for the first-floor hallway while providing protection from rain at the front door. The third brings the sun's rays to the first-floor study.

If Tsutsui gave his friend the house of his dreams, he did it by inviting heavenly light from above into an earthbound,

Tsutsui continued the Oregon pine from the floor to the steel-reinforced cantilevered staircase, which appears to float above the floor. Just above the small entrance vestibule, he incorporated a skylight (below), which brightens the space and allows a peek at the apex of the adjacent roof's concrete overhang.





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Nakada works from an Alvar Aalto table in the living and dining area, adjacent to the kitchen. He saved on some elements, such as the plywood cabinetry, and splurged on others, such as the Finn Juhl chairs and Vilhelm Lauritzen lamp. A skylight beneath the angled roof allows in a sliver of constantly changing light.

First Floor



Bent House Floor Plan

- A Bathroom
- B Bedroom
- C Study
- D Entrance
- E Living-Dining-Kitchen
- F Terrace

### Second Floor



unadorned piece of architecture. Where bolder statements have been made, they appear with an evenhanded elegance reminiscent of Tsutsui's mentor. The sole stairway consists simply of Oregon pine timbers cantilevering out from a wall (the planks are reinforced with steel). On the lower level, the bedroom sets itself apart from the study and bathroom with a plywood wall that stops just below the ceiling, creating a box within a box and a sense of openness.

Though Nakada found ways to save money on this project—the plywood cabinets in the kitchen are one example—he didn't scrimp on everything: Splurges include the foot-wide Oregon pine flooring used throughout and a Duravit sink for the bathroom.

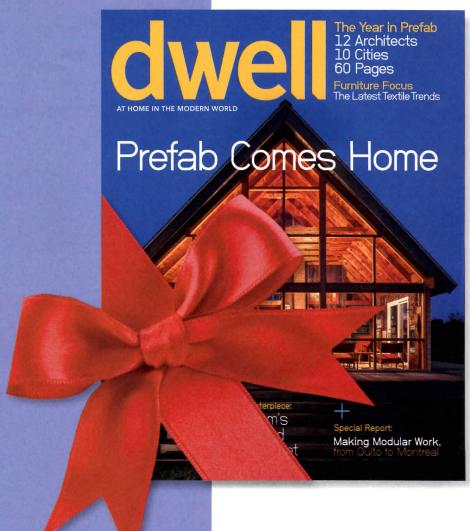
Nakada kept the furnishings minimal and minimalist. The main living area contains little more than Finn Juhl chairs, a vintage Alvar Aalto dining table, and a vintage Radiohus pendant lamp by Vilhelm Lauritzen. When Nakada works at home, he spends most of his time in this room, where light pours in from the south-facing bent roof and the skylights atop the 12-foot ceiling.

From his terrace, Nakada's proximity to the adjacent roof has no effect on his sunny outlook. Living alone in a city where 300-square-foot studios are the norm, all this light and air is a luxury. "Within what looks like a closed concrete box, I can feel the four seasons," says Nakada. "If it's sunny, I go outdoors to feel the wind."

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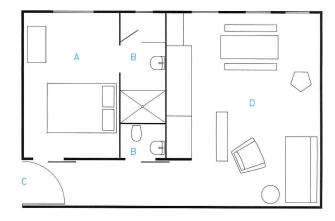


"I could see immediately what walls should stay and what should be ripped out and changed. I had a fantasy about how to transform it into a very personal place."

-PETER FEHRENTZ

Fehrentz designed the sofa and had it upholstered in fabric by JAB Anstoetz (opposite, top left). He cast the concrete base of the table lamp. The 1950s teak coffee table is vintage. Sheer gray curtains by Ulf Moritz for Sahco add to the apartment's moody atmosphere (opposite, top right). The copper-colored leather pouffe (opposite,

bottom left) is one of 48
DIY projects featured
in Fehrentz's book, Made
by Yourself. The English
edition will be published
in 2014. He created the
star as a prop for a photo
shoot. The kitchen cabinets
(opposite, bottom right)
benefit from a pop of rosy
color, a custom hue. Fehrentz designed the steeland-wood storage unit.



Peter Fehrentz Apartment Floor Plan

- A Bedroom
- B Bathroom
- C Entrance
- D Kitchen-Living-Dining Area

Until recently, Peter Fehrentz lived full-time in Hamburg, Germany. But he longed for a pied-à-terre in Berlin, a city he describes as "lively, complex, multicultural, and, for me, a source of inspiration." His brother and many friends lived there, and he frequently visited. Finally, in 2009, he took the plunge and purchased a flat in Schöneberg, an up-and-coming neighborhood in west Berlin known for its art galleries, cafes, and fashion boutiques.

In this area, apartments seldom come on the market—so when this one did, he pounced, despite the fact that it held little aesthetic appeal. The fourth-floor unit had no direct sunlight and no balcony; it consisted of a warren of tiny rooms; and it measured just 646 square feet. The bathroom was less than three feet wide, and the only way to get into the shower was to climb over the toilet. Located in the side wing of a turn-of-the-20th-century building, the unit lacked plaster ornamentation and architectural detailing—indicating its past as servants' quarters. "Normally, you wouldn't invest much money and time into such a humble place," says Fehrentz. But he saw the potential for a stylish, refined, and sophisticated place to show his work to clients.

Fortunately, he had the design chops to execute this vision. In addition to his work as an interior designer and photographer, he is

also a stylist and set designer, creating artificial rooms for editorial and advertising photo shoots, and building props, lighting, and furnishings from scratch. Thanks to his professional experience and his hands-on approach, "I could see immediately what walls should stay and what should be ripped out and changed," he says. "I had a fantasy about how to transform it into a very personal place."

First he hired local builders to rip out every interior wall they could, creating an open-plan kitchen, living room, and dining area that feels gracious despite its compact size. Seeking a change from his airy, white Hamburg home, Fehrentz chose a dark, elegant palette peppered with a few flashes of color for his Berlin flat. He painted the old wood floors a very dark eggplant that reads as a warm black. The bedroom is a rich blue-green; the living and dining area is white and is anchored by a petrol-blue sofa and a gray armchair. Gauzy gray curtains, hanging from curtain rods inset in the ceiling, screen all four windows and admit a diffused daylight. Due to the northern orientation and lack of views, "I decided to conceive the Berlin flat as a cocoon—a cozy, capsule-like retreat within the lively metropolis," says Fehrentz. "The northern light, combined with dark colors, creates an artistic, almost dramatic atmosphere, reminiscent of the Flemish Old Masters." This



Fehrentz displays his collections of art and objects throughout his apartment (right and opposite top). The chair is a vintage Chiavari from the '60s. A sliding door divides the verde bamboo granite bathroom from the bedroom (below). The

table is from Flamant and the Metropol light is from Habitat. Fehrentz designed the wardrobe (opposite bottom); the doors are covered in canvas printed with a baroque landscape scene. The curtains are by Dominique Kieffer.

impression is compounded by details like the baroque landscape scene printed on the canvas-covered doors of the wardrobe Fehrentz custom-designed for the bedroom and by his choice of luxurious materials, such as the verde bamboo granite lining the tiny bathroom and the wenge-stained oak in the kitchen.

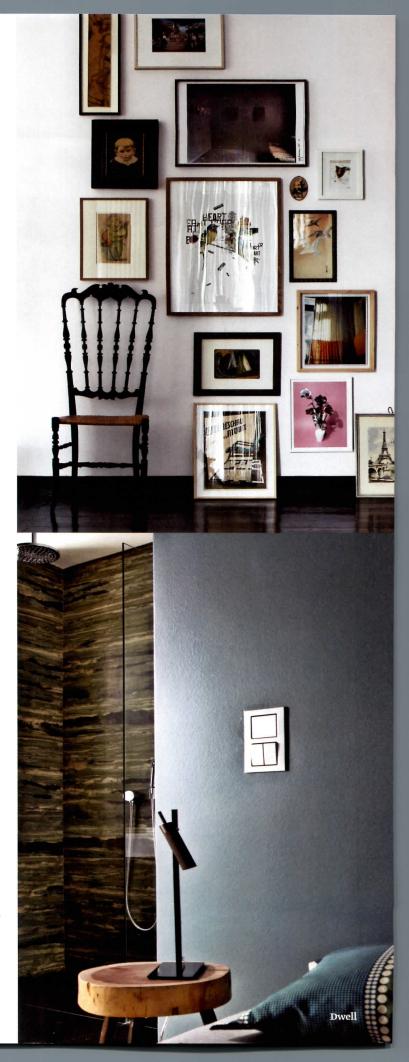
Naturally, the size of the flat also affected Fehrentz's furniture choices. "It is quite a small space, so I made sure that the furniture wasn't too big and could be used for a variety of purposes," he explains. He bought a mid-century Pirkka wooden table and benches designed by Ilmari Tapiovaara for Artek because "benches don't take up much space," says Fehrentz. "You don't want to put too much furniture in a small place—two benches are better than six armchairs." Two other pieces anchor the living space (Fehrentz calls them the "heroes" in the room): an iconic PP19 armchair by Hans J. Wegner, purchased affordably from an online auction, and a mohair velvet sofa, designed by Fehrentz to save space (the backrests are mounted on the wall) and to double as a guest bed. The latter is Fehrentz's favorite piece among his many DIY contributions, which also include a steel-and-wood storage tower in the kitchen and a copper-colored leather pouffe in the living room.

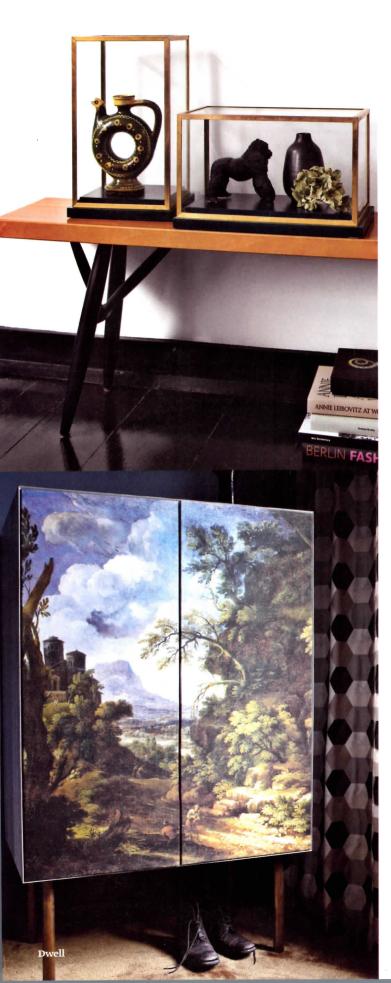
"The northern light, combined with dark colors, creates an artistic, almost dramatic atmosphere, reminiscent of the Flemish Old Masters."

-PETER FEHRENTZ

Finishing the apartment took about three years, during which time he pondered color choices, tried out design ideas, and arranged and rearranged furniture. But once he hit on the right solutions—a reddish pink for the kitchen cabinets, inspired by the color on a matchbox strike zone; a floor-to-ceiling mirrored door between the bedroom and bathroom—he never looked back. Of the sofa, which he placed in the corner of the apartment with the widest view, he says: "Once I came up with the finishing touches, I knew immediately it was right and never questioned it again. It's in the right place, and it's perfect."

In addition to being an ideal weekend getaway, Fehrentz's Berlin apartment also serves as a showroom for potential clients—a three-dimensional showcase of his design sensibility. "I often have meetings with new clients here, and I've also given people the keys so they can spend a weekend in the flat while I'm away," he says. "People usually think the space will be too dark. But after they've experienced it in person, they really come around."





#### PETER FEHRENTZ'S SEVEN TIPS FOR TRANSFORMING A SMALL SPACE

Remove as many interior walls as possible. An open space feels much more generous and light.

Think of every piece in the room as a protagonist in a play, so your interior appears as a complex sum of a variety of scenes.

2

3

For paint and furnishings, pick a variety of tones within a single colorway. If you choose red, use a mix of reds-some should be more yellow, others more blue or more pink. Colors appear especially vibrant this way, and they won't clash.

Concentrate on a narrow

and repeat it in parts of each room. This makes for

a holistic space.

material and surface palette

Don't be afraid of dark colors in small rooms-the result can be cozy and calming.

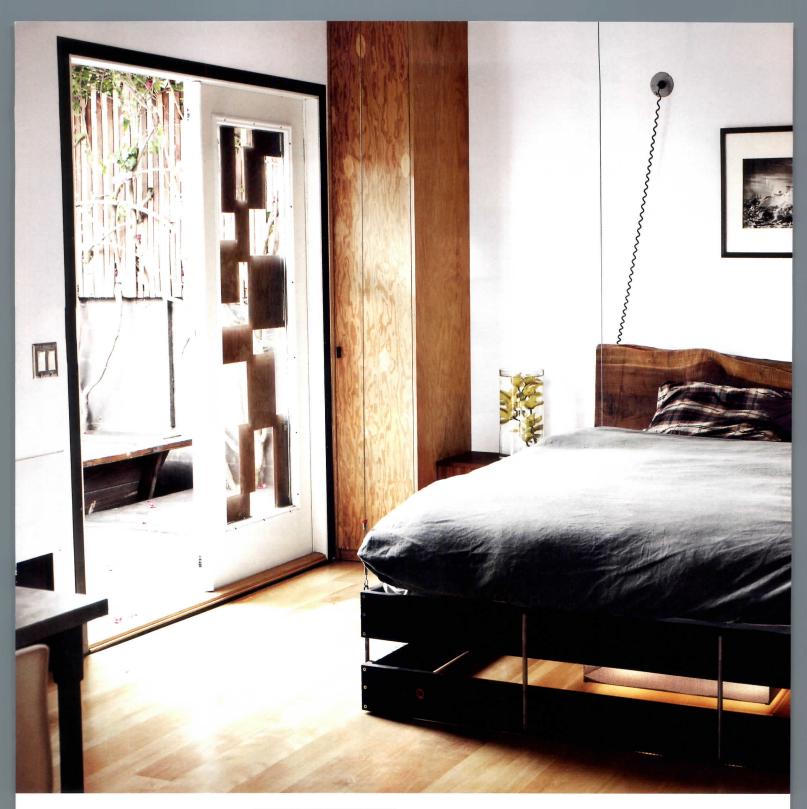
Create built-in cabinets to store things you don't want to see all the time.

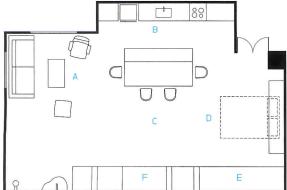
Install sliding doors to save space-and, where possible, hang them from tracks in the ceiling to give the room a more spacious feeling.

dwell.com/DIY-book Head online for step-bystep instructions on how to make Peter Fehrentz's concrete lamp base and leather pouffe—two of the 48 DIY projects featured in his book, Made by Yourself.





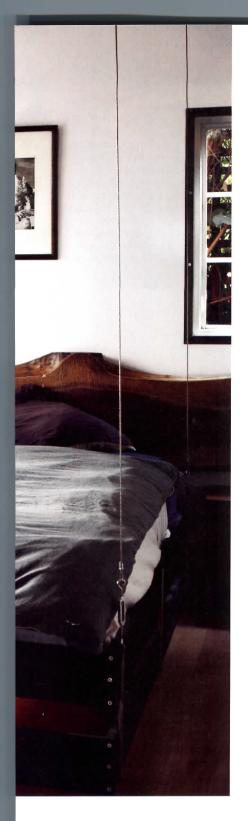




#### Cabin Loft Floor Plan

- A Living Room
  B Kitchen
  C Dining Area
  D Bedroom
  E Closet

- F Bathroom



It's a story as old as the movies—actor moves to L.A., hits it big, and buys himself a Hollywood manse. But iconoclastic *Mad Men* star Vincent Kartheiser, a Minnesota native, who purchased his own little slice of Tinseltown in 2003, didn't entirely follow the script. Instead of going big—Hollywood land baron and Reconstruction-era California senator Cornelius Cole's turn-of-the-20th-century mansion is just around the corner—he went small, buying and moving into a 580-square-foot cabin.

Astoundingly, the diminutive space was carved into a variety of rooms, something that the actor endured until he commenced a partnership with designer and builder Funn Roberts in 2010. Kartheiser, often in motion and prone to exuberant outbursts, and Roberts, tall, fair, and soft-spoken, tease and jab each other like old men in a barbershop as they recall the highlights of their ongoing enterprise, which, fittingly, started at the front door.

"I had this really terrible wooden front door," recalls Kartheiser. "And Funn was like, 'We've gotta get rid of it." Eventually they did, replacing it with a steel-and-glass one, of Roberts's design, that would set the aesthetic tone for the rest of the renovation. From there, the two were off to the races, cooking up smart, space-saving ideas—and finding ways to realize them—in what Kartheiser calls a "Japanese-industrial" style.

"What often happens in our relationship is I come to Funn with an idea and then he makes it into something that's actually livable," says Kartheiser. "Because I have these thoughts that seem really interesting, but they're not really good for real life." If Kartheiser is the mad visionary—not every notion hits, like a shower for the middle of the living room inspired by the 2008 film <code>Synecdoche</code>, <code>New York</code>—then Roberts is the will-it-actually-work craftsman, finding ways to translate his collaborator's impulses into reality.



Counterbalanced by a 300-pound weight (above), the bed was designed to hang from the ceiling and can be hoisted up and pulled down as needed (left and below). When not in use as the headboard, the large redwood slab folds down to become a desk. A curtain slides across for privacy.







Custom shoji-inspired screens of Roberts's design conceal the closet (left) and extend to provide privacy for the adjacent shower and soaking tub. Roberts found the Montauk black slate, which he continued in a second bath (opposite). He worked with Kartheiser's existing appliances in the kitchen (below), trading the old cabinetry for new teak.

Kartheiser extra living space once he's up and about. The pulley system that controls the hanging bed needed some serious hardware, including a 300-pound steel counterweight that's hidden in a corner of Kartheiser's closet. For the headboard, Roberts fastened a huge slab of redwood to the wall but put it on hinges so that, when the bed is raised, the piece of wood can flip down to double as a desk.

"We kind of had this idea at the same time, actually," says Kartheiser. "We both said, 'What if we [suspended the bed]?' Then we just had to figure out how we were going to do it." The idea of a Murphy bed was scotched because of the space it would take up on the wall. Now Kartheiser just lifts up and pulls down the bed whenever he wants it. For extra privacy, he has a thick red theater curtain on a ceiling track; the curtain emerges out of an adjacent closet to completely cordon off his bedroom space.

Roberts's custom designs abound in the rest of the house: Metal panels on a pair of side doors offer privacy, safety, and mitigated light; pulling the top off a seeming coffee table in the courtyard reveals that it's actually a fireplace; and the sink in the bathroom is made from a boulder taken from the property of one of Roberts's pals. Kartheiser did opt for a handful of design classics to round out his decor. He's had his Eames lounge chair and ottoman, by Herman Miller, for years, but the keen eye of his fiancée, actress Alexis Bledel, has upped the furniture game in the living room; she selected a couch and coffee table by Cisco Home, purchased at HD Buttercup.

"It's been really nice since Alexis has come onto the scene," quips Roberts, razzing Kartheiser about how much homier his place is now that he's not the sole decorator. Though he's quick to fire off a retort, Kartheiser also concedes that his home, and home life, is better for help from his friends.

"I believe that whenever you're hiring an artist, and Funn is an artist, he's going to do his best work if he's trusted," says Kartheiser. "You trust the artist and you don't micromanage him."







#### TIPS FOR LIVING SMALL FROM DESIGNER FUNN ROBERTS

1

One of the hardest things is keeping everything in its place, so having a spot for all the necessities is key. 2

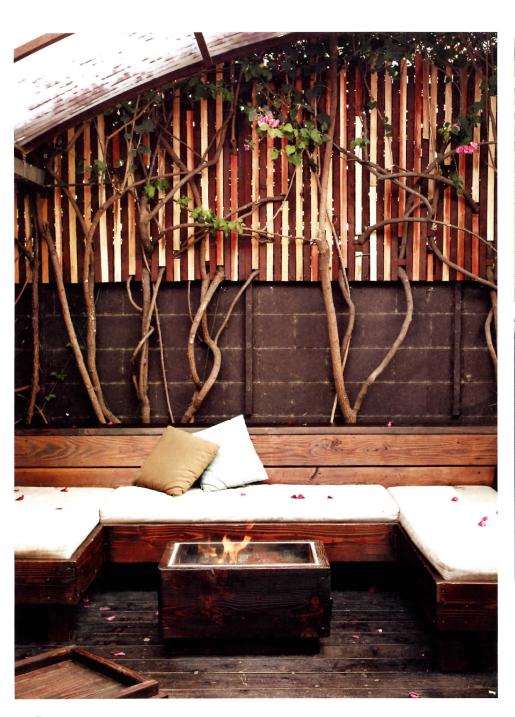
You can almost never have too much storage, so design it into the space.

3

Some people like a totally modern and austere environment, but we chose to display some personal stuff-books and awards—to personalize the space. It's nice to be clean, but you don't want your house to feel like a hotel.

4

Have fun. You want to enjoy the process of designing and building, and you want the client to enjoy the residence. The joy that comes from the process will carry through the project and into the future of the home.

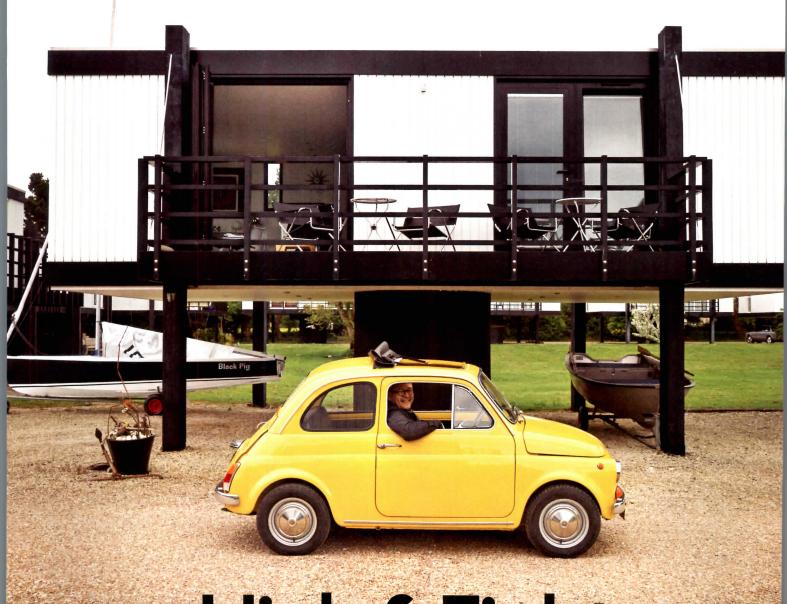






Project: The Deckhouse Architect: Black Architecture Location: Emsworth, England

By Dominic Bradbury Photos by Ben Anders



# High & Tight

A DESIGN-MINDED PAIR ENSURES THAT THEIR TINY SEASIDE GETAWAY IN HAMPSHIRE. ENGLAND, IS SHIPSHAPE.



Architect Paul Hinkin and his partner, Chrissy Pearce, bought and restored a 538-square-foot Deckhouse at Emsworth Yacht Harbour in Hampshire, England. With the help of builder Peter Watts, the couple returned the house to its original early-1970s glory, utilizing the space beneath for both boat and car (left and opposite).

For such modestly scaled homes, Deckhouses generate a huge amount of affection. A total of 50 were built in the late 1960s and early 1970s at Emsworth Yacht Harbour in Hampshire, England, and each of them is just 538 square feet. These black-and-white cabins on stilts sit in neatly arranged rows within communal parkland, forming a secret enclave by the sea. But despite their off-the-beaten-track location, Deckhouses are hard to obtain; architect Paul Hinkin and his partner, Chrissy Pearce, had to wait for years until they finally managed to buy one for themselves.

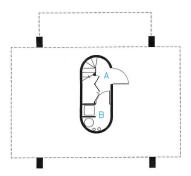
"People either love them or hate them," says Hinkin, who is the founder and managing director of Black Architecture, based in London. "They call them Portakabins on legs, or caravans on stilts. We have always loved their simplicity and the fact that they sit in this shared landscape with such a strong relationship to the water. They are cleverly designed and positioned so that they don't overlook one another very much. It's all so coherent and consistent."

The houses were originally designed by the British architecture firm Gore, Gibberd, and Saunders and were built in phases beginning in 1965. After spending time in the States working with architect Peter Blake, Vernon Gibberd felt the influence of the midcentury modernist beach houses of Long Island, New York. Rear Admiral Philip "Percy" Gick, a flamboyant character who'd hunted

U-boats in a Swordfish biplane during World War II, commissioned the Deckhouses. After retiring from the British Royal Navy, he started transforming a series of old logging ponds into Emsworth Yacht Harbour, managing the work himself and helping out with construction. The Deckhouses alongside the harbor were designed as weekend and vacation homes targeted at sailors, who could store a boat and rigging underneath the elevated body of the buildings and make the most of the Chichester Harbour views.

Hinkin and Pearce—who is Black Architecture's practice manager—grew up in the area and first became aware of the Deckhouses as students. The pair waited and waited for one of them to come on the market but found that they never did; if a Deckhouse did change hands at all, it was sold privately between friends. Hinkin and Pearce wrote letters asking owners to get in touch if they ever thought of selling. Even then, they had the disappointment of one sale falling through before they finally managed to buy one in 2007. Once the deal was done, the couple found that their work was only just beginning.

Though the outward appearance of the Deckhouses has been carefully preserved—residents must adhere to what Hinkin describes as "a kind of rule book for the estate"—a number of the houses have suffered the harsh effects of the coastal weather.



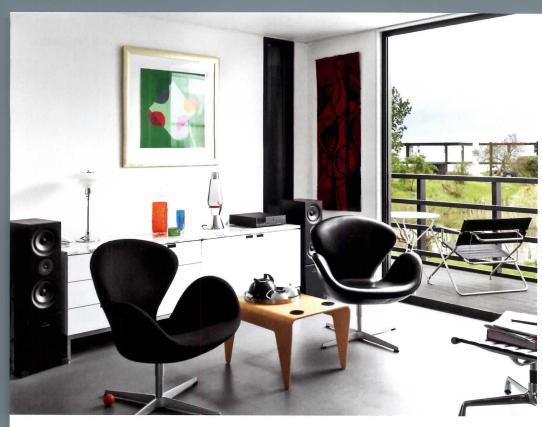
C H G First Floor

Deckhouse Floor Plan

- A Entrance
- **B** Utility Room
- C Master Bedroom
- D Guest Bedroom
- E Bathroom
- F Kitchen
- G Dining Area
- H Living Room
- Deck

Dwell

Ground Level





In the living room (above), Arne Jacobsen Swan chairs flank a Marcel Breuer for Isokon nesting table. Above the Florence Knoll-designed credenza is a print by English artist Terry Frost. The adjacent deck holds Breuer's Folding Armchair and a table from Aram in London. The room's opposite side (far right) holds the companion Breuer nesting tables and an Eames Aluminum Group chair and ottoman.

The master bedroom (right) echoes the house's black-and-white exterior and includes a custom-built storage unit that the architect designed for the space. Near the room's curving wall (above right), a Verner Panton chair joins a K2 B console table by Tecta, topped by a vintage mirror by Robert Welch. The wall light is from Artemide. "If I had more space, I'd just fill it with more stuff," says Pearce.





"Our house was totally unmodernized and in a pretty poor state when we finally got hold of it," says Hinkin. "The balcony frame had just about corroded away, the decking was failing, the cladding was shot, and there was no insulation."

Almost everything in the house was coming to the end of its life, so Hinkin and Pearce stripped it back to its bones and carefully restored the fabric of the steel-and-timber frame, which sits on concrete legs and a cylindrical stairwell that connects the home to ground level. They fitted the building with a new coat of aluminum cladding, rebuilt the balcony, installed solar thermal tubes on the roof for hot water, and added photovoltaic panels to the roof for electricity.

Inside the house, Hinkin and Pearce had to think imaginatively about how to maximize the sense of space and make the most of the limited footprint. The two bedrooms take inspiration from boat cabins, with plenty of custom built-in storage around the beds; the bathroom is also a custom design. The main living space was reconfigured, and the residents replaced the old galley

kitchen to one side with a more compact yet open design. Folding back the glass doors to the balcony, with its sea view, increases the feeling of space. The furniture—a tidy catalog of the best of Eames, Saarinen, Panton, and Breuer—comes mostly from the era in which the Deckhouses were constructed.

"When you have small spaces, you need to design them efficiently and thoroughly," says Hinkin. "We were also influenced by some of the compact housing that you see in Japan. Nowhere feels that small here, even though we have only 538 square feet."

Hinkin and Pearce now use the house every weekend and over the summer holidays. Hinkin bought a boat and taught himself to sail, while Pearce has taken up kayaking in Chichester Harbour. They are devoted to the house and its setting.

"Elevated houses make such good sense," says Hinkin. "They give you space to tuck your boat or car underneath and help you really exploit the views over the landscape. The Deckhouses were well conceived, and it's amazing that nobody has redone it in the UK. It really feels as though the idea should be reused."



## TIPS FROM PAUL HINKIN ON DESIGNING FOR SMALL SPACES

1

Using a consistent floor color and finish throughout the property allows spaces to flow and the eye to pass from one area to the next with no visual emphasis placed on the transition between rooms. We used a darker tone for the floor, in contrast to the white walls, making the floor the most visually dominant surface and leading the eye to the extremities of the space.

2

Bespoke joinery makes it possible for the volume surrounding the beds to be fully exploited, incorporating the wardrobes, storage cupboards, headboard, bedside table surfaces, integrated lighting, bookshelves, and audio controls into one unified design solution that keeps the majority of the floor space free.

3

Custom fittings, like an integrated basin and vanity top in the bathroom, allow the space to be reduced to just five feet by six feet four inches, while still providing ample room for all of the facilities required. A frameless, full-height, low-iron (clear, not slightly green) glass shower screen and a large mirror above the vanity unit make the room feel spacious and elegant.

4

Full-height doors accentuate the perception of high ceilings, creating a voluminous and airy interior. To achieve this, we had to alter the structure of the roof, but we knew that it would be worthwhile. The space is enhanced further by the recessed shadow-gap detailing of the door-frame architrave, skirting, and cornice. These design moves, along with the use of interstitial blinds instead of curtains, keep visual "noise" within the interior to a minimum.

5

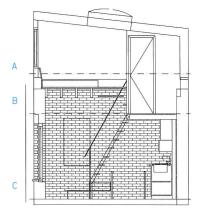
Challenge every assumption to define a clear brief of what you actually need. We did away with a bathtub and squeezed the bathroom floor space to create a second guest bedroom from an existing single bedroom.

#### **DWELLINGS**



Architect Christi Azevedo deployed Ikea cabinetry in the kitchen (left), which spans almost the entirety of the renovated building. In lieu of adding standardissue fronts to the upper cabinets, she created sliding

doors of sanded acrylic panels. A PaperStone work top extends from the stainless steel counter for additional prep space. When not in use, the movable dining table—also designed and fabricated by Azevedo—fits snugly beneath it.



Brick House Sectional

Long Section

- A Bed Loft
- B Second Floor
- C First Floor

#### Short Section

- A Bed Loft
- B Second Floor
- C First Floor

The three levels of the house transition from public to private (left): The ground floor is composed of the kitchen and living-dining area; the bathroom and closet occupy the mezzanine, accessed by a ship's ladder; and the sleeping loft (below) hovers a couple steps above. The seminal 1970s tome A Pattern Language, written by Christopher Alexander, Sara Ishikawa, and Murray Silverstein, inspired the layout. "I'm a huge proponent of the [book]," says Azevedo. "I like the ideas of a bed as an alcove, natural light on two sides of a room, varying ceiling heights, and different

levels of privacy."

# Making the most of vertical space unleashes the potential of a petite San Francisco project.

#### Tasked with transforming a 93-square-foot brick

boiler room, built in 1916, into a guesthouse, architect and metalworker Christi Azevedo flexed her creative muscle. "Whether it's 100 or 1,000 square feet, it's about going in and looking at opportunities," she says. In this case, she saw a chance to experiment with light, volume, and materials. The architect spent a year and a half designing and fabricating nearly everything in the structure save for the original brick walls. "I treated the interior like a custom piece of furniture," she says. She raised the roof five feet and added a full kitchen, a bathroom, closets, and a sleeping loft, accessed via a steel ship's ladder and a glass walkway. "When you step inside, you don't feel like you're in a small space," says Azevedo, noting that the split-level design draws the eye up through the structure, which rises to 17 feet in the tallest section. Visitors liken the interior to a tree house—an assessment that makes Azevedo proud. "We don't want to lose the delight in architecture," she says.

By Diana Budds Photos by Cesar Rubio

Project: Brick House Architect: Christi Azevedo

Location: San Francisco, California







# Operation Childproof





What's a dedicated modernist to do once the onslaught of high chairs, diaper-changing tables, and infinite toy bins alights? Parents don't have to give up their figurative edge, even if it means swapping that razor-sharp concrete counter for a friendlier butcher block. Read on for insight from full-time architect and full-time dad Dan Maginn, who's learned how to share space with even the tiniest modernist Destroyer Unit (and enjoy it!).

My son Lawson is three feet tall, with chubby cheeks and a shock of mouse-colored hair—virtually indistinguishable from any other microhumanoid of the same age. My three-year-old is also an alien: a standard-issue Mark III Destroyer Unit from the Planet Entropia, which circles his apricot jam-colored sun many light years from here.

Over time, my wife and I have learned that the civilization that sent him here—the Entropians—appears to be threatened by Modern Things. Perhaps the clean lines and confident forms of modern design remind them of their archenemies, the Eamesonians, who buzz around space in their ergonomically designed and well-built warcraft. Destroying Modern Things gives Lawson—and the chaosloving Entropians, who programmed him—great pleasure.

By Dan Maginn Illustrations by Yina Kim

In addition to outright destruction, Lawson is programmed to conduct crude experiments and to report his findings back to his home planet. Controlled from afar, he is used as a primitive tool to test the properties of various Earth materials and the gravitational force that pulls everything together. His programmers compel him to face-plant onto the kitchen floor to test if ceramic tile is harder than a front tooth.(It is.) They drive him to throw carrot juice on the sleeping cat to determine if flailing cat claws can shred vintage fabric. (They can.) They program him to propel himself like a linebacker into the groin of a stainless steel trash can to see if the lid will pop off like a champagne cork.(It does.) After an experiment has ended, a Mark III Destroyer Unit is programmed to wail loudly enough for his Earth Parents to understand that he must be repaired, in preparation for the next experiment.

Even though Lawson is an Entropian, my wife and I have accepted him into our lives and have come to love him dearly. Though he is programmed to destroy, we understand that it is our duty to protect him. We must be vigilant in the bathroom, where electricity and water maintain their tenuous truce. We must be mindful in the kitchen, where sharp things and shiny appliances await their instructions. And in the other spaces we occupy as a family—the living room, bedrooms, garage (places where the Entropic Force is strongest)—we must scuttle his destructive experiments before he commences them.

Whether you find yourself in possession of a Mark III Destroyer Unit or a standard microhumanoid, you should be aware that, although you share the same dwelling, you experience it in vastly different ways. You see your home as a testament to your modern lifestyle. Your kid, however, sees it as a *Hindenburg* reenactment facility. To best protect these life forms (and your stuff), consider the Preventative Missions on the following pages.







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#### **OPERATION LOCK 'ER UP**

Many compelling experiments lurk behind doors and drawers. If unchecked, Destroyer Units will open up the sink cabinet and lick the Windex, open up the fridge and sample the pinot blanc, and open up the oven door and seize the delicious, sizzling pot roast. Luckily, a variety of childproof latches are on the market for every manner of door and drawer, all specially designed to thwart the Units' clownishly small fingers.

#### **OPERATION PLAY HOOKY**

Your investment-grade Le Creuset Dutch oven retains heat well and is perfect for roasting Fiat 500-size waterfowl. It's also perfect for the Destroyer Unit to push off the counter as she recreates the submarine scene from *Finding Nemo*. So buy some hooks and hang your heavy (yet, surprisingly fragile) pots and pans up out of reach. Aside from being safer, it frees up more storage area—and it can look cool if you do it right. While you're at it, put a few hooks by the door for purses and backpacks (which contain dozens of irresistible swallowables) and a couple for car keys, too.

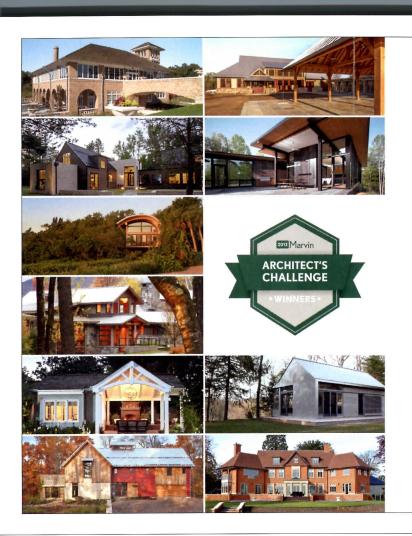
#### **OPERATION BATTEN DOWN THE RANGE**

Even if it's off, the kitchen range still beckons. You and I see an open range door as an open range door. But your Destroyer Unit sees it as a gangplank onto a pirate ship. To visualize the potential outcome, apply a pirate's worth of downward force at the end of the oven door and watch one of Newton's laws kick in. Avoid this swashbuckling drama by installing anti-tip brackets, which you can find in a good hardware store.

#### **OPERATION STAY AWARE**

Awareness is the best childproofing maneuver of all. Where is your Destroyer Unit right now? Can she reach the little knife on the kitchen counter—the one you just used to remove all the weird veins from tonight's shrimp? Is she trying to turn the cooktop you just turned off back on, to be "helpful"? See the world through imaginary danger goggles, like Jason Bourne does.





#### 2013 Marvin Architect's Challenge Winners

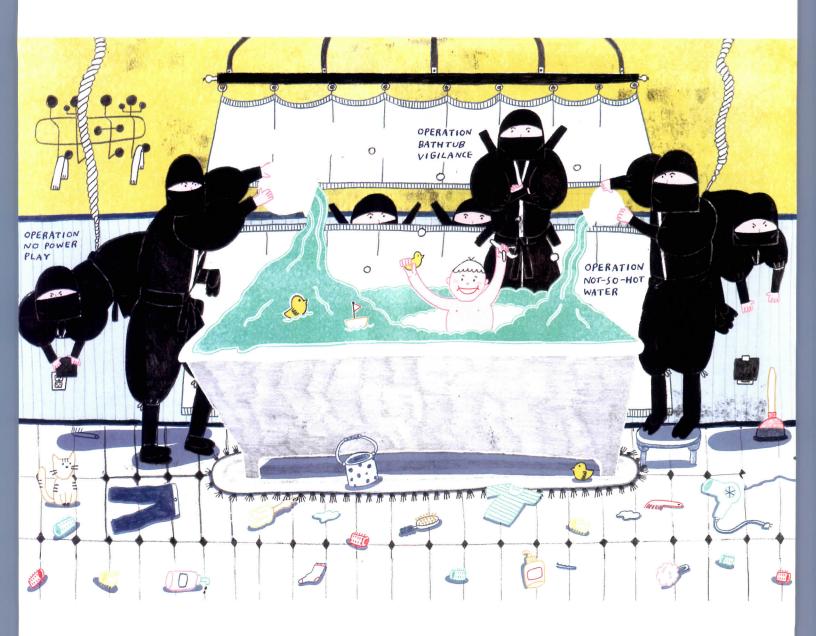
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#### **OPERATION NO POWER PLAY**

You should make sure that the juice in your kid-accessible power outlets stays in the little holes, so to speak. Sometimes it makes sense to replace an entire outlet with a child-proof model—an electrician will have to do that for you. Or you might just need to pop on a childproof outlet cover, one that slides out of the way when you want to plug something in. You can put those on yourself; just play it safe and flip the breaker off beforehand. Stay away from those removable plastic plugs, though. Even a toddler can outwit those.

#### **OPERATION BATHTUB VIGILANCE**

Your bathtub is the rocky coast of Maine, and you are the lighthouse, and your kid is the ship. You must be vigilant and protect the ship at all times because the coast of Maine is a treacherous place. Never leave your little one alone there—even for a minute. Tragically, children can drown in a counterintuitively small amount of water, even a couple of inches. No joke.

#### **OPERATION NOT-SO-HOT WATER**

Although a superhot shower feels great on your rusty old bod, it can scald the Destroyer Unit you have sworn to protect in a matter of seconds. Turn your water heater down to 120 degrees, and talk to a plumber about installing an anti-scald system, which automatically disables the flow if the temperature creeps up above that level.





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#### **OPERATION WINDOW BLOCKADE**

Mark III Destroyer Units are programmed to do many window-based experiments—glass-breaking, finger-slamming, falling-out-of, etc. It is worth reviewing a few key points to make sure that you're not making the situation worse than it already is. For starters: Try to keep furniture far enough away from windows to discourage falls by sofa trampoline artists. Make sure that all window latches are operational, and install mechanically attached window guards where the odds of glass and kid merging are high. Round out the mission by making sure that any window-shade cords are wound around cleats, out of reach of curious hands.

#### **OPERATION ANTI-TIP**

You know those anti-tip mechanisms you just installed on your range? Use similar brackets on any large dressers or wardrobes in your kids' rooms. To a kid, tall things with drawers are like Japanese micro-hotels in which they have reserved the top pod.

#### **OPERATION STORE THE COOL STUFF**

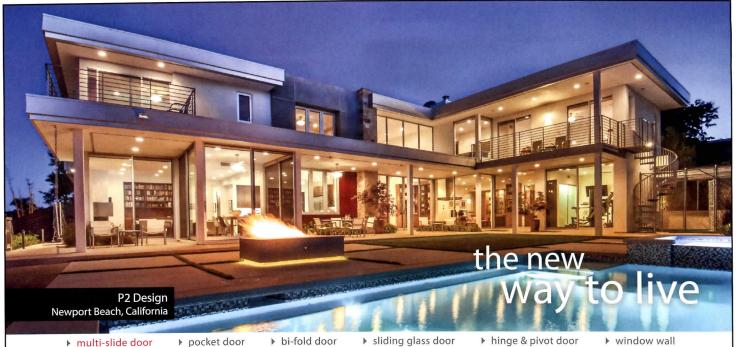
You know that Russel Wright pitcher you bought for \$200 last year? The chartreuse one with the swoopy handle and the nicely shaped butt that completes your collection? Your Destroyer Unit is going to play dodgeball with it before the year is out. And I don't blame him—it kind of looks bouncy. Store it, and all your other cool, breakable stuff, in big plastic bins in some *kinder-verboten* area of your home until your Unit is less destructive. Similarly, seek temporary off-site shelter for any particularly precious larger-scale furniture pieces. In the meantime, get thee to Ikea.

#### **OPERATION EMBRACE GATED COMMUNITIES**

You can tell if someone is the parent of a toddler by how they enter a room. Toddler-parents take a comically high step through every doorway they enter because they are used to stepping over the many kid-blocking gates that adorn their stairways, bedroom doors, and other forbidden areas. And good for them—especially if they have used mechanically attached gates. Any Destroyer Unit worth his salt can blow through a pressure-mounted gate with a single judo chop.



132 November 2013



multi-slide door

pocket door

▶ bi-fold door

▶ sliding glass door

▶ window wall





#### CHALKBOARD PAINT

This stuff was invented by Einstein right after he jotted down E = mc². Spray it on a big piece of plywood and hang it on the wall, short enough for wee ones and adults to reach. Or lose the plywood and paint the wall—the bigger the better. Wall-scale chalkboards let your kid ramp up the scale of his imagination.

#### **BIG-ASS BEANBAGS**

It sounds crazy, but you actually want your Destroyer Units to fall down a lot. Many little falls help them learn to avoid bigger falls, the ones that cause real injuries. Beanbags are fun to sit in, but they are even more fun to fall onto, facefirst, while making robot sounds. Just don't tell them they're learning valuable coordination skills.

#### **FORTS**

Dreaming up, building, and occupying forts are some of the fundamental joys of being a kid. Yes, you can buy premanufactured ones, but those are for cheaters. Shun them with prejudice, and let your kid be his own architect-builder. Toss some sofa cushions, blankets, and cardboard boxes on the floor. Insert a couple of tots. Walk away.

#### **BUNK BEDS**

Bunk beds are a nobrainer if you have two Destroyer Units and a half-brainer if you have only one. The extra bunk is like a little vacation home—a bonus for being an only child. Wait until he or she is six Earthyears old, though.

#### PINUP AREAS

This idea is a cousin to the chalkboard wall. Dedicate a couple areas as pinup zones, and encourage your kid to display the fruits of her creative labor. Bypass the depressingly small pinup boards you can buy online or at craft stores, and make your own jumbo version out of homasote or fabric-wrapped panels, which you can tack to your walls. Or just use big pieces of painted sheet metal and magnets. (Some architectural firms have gone this route in their studios.) Appearance-wise, this project can go two ways: You can embrace it as a scrappy homestyle project, or you can work with a professional fabricator for a more finished look.

#### **MODIFIED PLAY SETS**

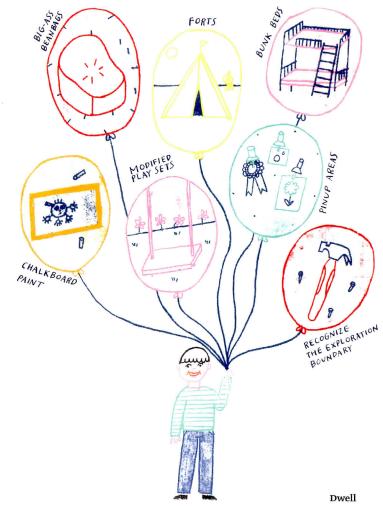
The hand-eye coordination that comes from active play on a backyard play set comes in handy as your Unit navigates the obstacle course that is the real world. But these play areas don't have to look like Middle Earth. Consider buying a nice, juicy kit with a lot of parts-slides and swings and laddersincluded. Treat it like a micro-renovation project: Lose the elfin roof and windows, and replace them with more modern forms. You might need to hire a carpenter to help you design and build the replacement parts, but in the end your little one will be swinging in style.

## RECOGNIZE THE EXPLORATION BOUNDARY

Caring for a Destroyer Unit can be exhausting, and it's easy to succumb to the Entropic Force. With time, you'll get a sense of the complex border war between the Entropians (who embrace destructive exploration) and the Eamesonians (who favor productive exploration). The front line shifts constantly as your kids develop, and it's difficult to know when you are over- or underreacting. Remember that childproofing is a design project: Learn to evaluate your home base every few months and to treat it as a work in progress. Im

# Beyond the Safety Frontier: Explorations in Spatial Fun

You've done everything in your power to protect your Destroyer Units from the smashed fingers, shocks, and falls that they've been programmed to embrace. Why stop there? Remember what it was like to be a kid? Go back in time and bring on the six-year-old you as a "fun consultant." With care and creativity, the two of you can build safe, experientially rich environments.







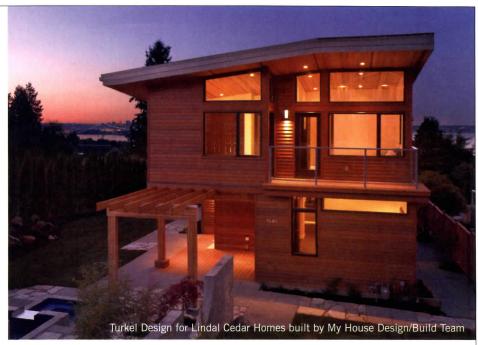
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**Photo by Peter Belanger** 

dwell.com/reading-time Add your own suggestions to our must-read design book list for children.

Designing the Creative Child: Playthings and Places in Midcentury America, by Amy F. Ogata (University of Minnesota Press, 2013)

Housebuilding for Children: Step-by-Step **Guides for Houses** Children Can Build Themselves, by Lester Walker (Overlook Press, 2007)

Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building, by Christy Hale (Lee & Low Books, 2012)

The Works: Anatomy of a City, by Kate Ascher (Penguin Books, 2007)

Draw 50 Buildings and Other Structures: The Step-by-Step Way to Draw Castles and Cathedrals, Skyscrapers and Bridges, and So Much More, by Lee J. Ames (Watson-Guptill, 2013)

Play All Day: Design for Children, edited by Robert Klanten and Sven Ehmann (Die Gestalten Verlag, 2009)

Sky High, by Germano Zullo (Chronicle Books, 2012)

Building Big, by David Macaulay (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2004)

Iggy Peck, Architect, by Andrea Beaty (Harry N. Abrams, 2007)

Century of the Child: **Growing by Design** 1900-2000, by Tanya Harrod, Medea Hoch, and Juliet Kinchin (The Museum of Modern

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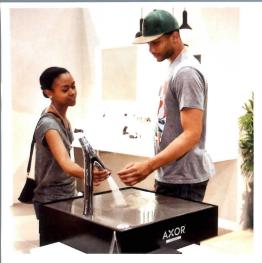
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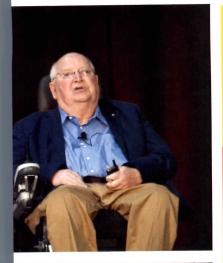
















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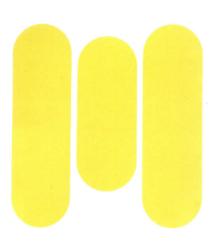
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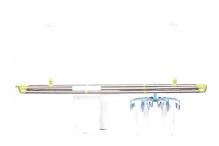
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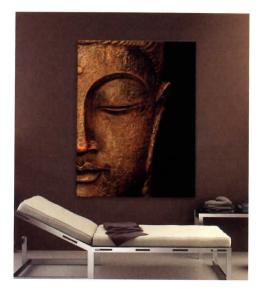
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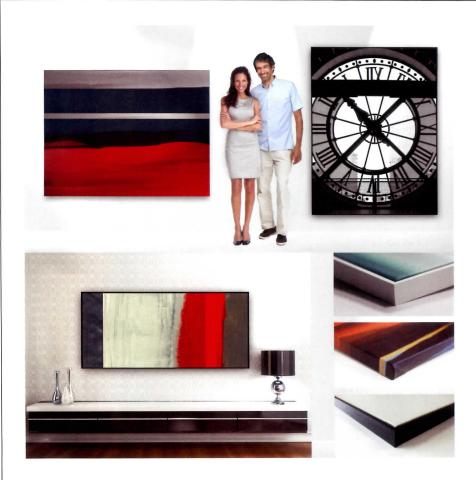
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Contracting by True Build LLC truebuildaustin.com

Womb chair and ottoman by Eero Saarinen for Knoll

Pillow in Peacock by Maharam for Design Within Reach

dwr.com Oppiacei pouffe by Skitsch

skitsch.com Prince Aha stool by Philippe Starck for Kartell

dwr.com Acapulco chairs (similar to shown)

by Innit Designs

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Carter sectional by Gus Modern gusmodern.com

Artwork by Steffi Klenz steffiklenz.co.uk

Semi-gloss paint in Daffodil Yellow by Behr Premium behr.com

Three-fourths inch Mosaic Tile by Nemo Tile

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#### The products, furniture, architects, designers, and builders featured in this issue.

Industrial felt from Central Shippee centralshippee.com 6000 Kelvin T8 Linear fluorescent bulbs by Philips usa.lighting.philips.com Stainless steel door pulls from Master Kitchen Supplies masterkitchensuppliesnyc.com Patch Work Architecture patchworkarchitecture.co.nz Paint by Resene resene.com **Dwell on Design** 

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Handmade piece by Brook & Lyn brookandlyn.com

Franz Viegener plumbing fixtures franzviegener.us Oo lamp by Sverre Uhnger

82 Backstory

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kaisergroupinc.com Fusion Landscape Design fusionlandscapedesign.com Fiddlehead Landscapes

fiddleheadlandscapes.com Furniture and casework by Phloem Studio

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dvnamicwindows.com Floor and ceiling by Perpetua Wood Floors

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by Caesarstone caesarstone.com

DCS barbecue by Fisher & Paykel dcsappliances.com

Spark chair by Don Chadwick for Knoll knoll.com

Elan collection table by Axel Enthoven, Jean-Pierre Geelen, and Alain Denis for Gloster

aloster.com **Purist Collection plumbing fixtures** by Kohler

us.kohler.com Quatrus sink by Blanco

blancoamerica.com Newport outdoor wall sconce

by Kichler kichler.com

Ceramic tile on bathroom wall

by Tierra Sol tierrasol.ca

Felt table runner by Wippowillow, Wave candleholder by Rosenthal, Tube Top 14 lamp by Pablo Pardo, Bague lamp by Patricia Urquiola for Foscarini, ceramic planter by Marika van Adelsberg, Spike bowl by Leah Nobilette, striped cashmere throw by House of Castellon, and pillow sham by Kivet for Marimekko, all from Relish shoprelish.com

Vase by Heath, Wool felt placemats by Parkhaus, and tea kettle by Sori Yanagi from Canoe

canoeonline.net

90 My House

A5 Inxx faucet by Mora Armatur moraarmatur.se Polder sofa by Hella Jongerius for Vitra vitra.com

98 Focus

Koji Tsutsui & Associates kt-aa.com Bathtub by Kaldewei kaldewei.com Sink by Duravit duravit.com Chairs by Finn Juhl finnjuhl.com

106 Kapital Style

Interior design and custom furnishings by Peter Fehrentz peterfehrentz.de PP19 armchair by Hans J. Wegner for PP Mobler pp.dk Moroccan Berber rug from Caravane caravane.fr

Pirkka table and bench by Ilmari Tapiovaara for Artek artek fi

Beat lights by Tom Dixon tomdixon.net Curtain fabric

by Ulf Moritz for Sahco sahco.com Sofa fabric from JAB

iab.us Washbasin by Simas simas.it

**Axor Citterio faucet** by Antonio Citterio for Hansgrohe

hansgrohe.de Hexagonal printed curtains by Dominique Kieffer

dominiquekieffer.com Wooden table from Flamant flamant.com

Bedroom light from Habitat habitat.de

Wall-to-wall carpet from Vorwerk vorwerk-carpets.com

and deck table from Aram Aluminum group chair and ottoman by Charles and Ray Eames

Rivoli table by Eileen Gray

112 Inside the Actor's Studio

Lounge chair and ottoman by Charles

and Ray Eames for Herman Miller

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Couch and coffee tables

Dining table from West Elm

Wally planter by Woolly Pocket

Paul Hinkin, Black Architecture

Swan chairs by Arne Jacobsen

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Verner Panton chair, George Nelson clock by Vitra

K2 B console table by Tecta einrichten-design.de Wall light from Artemide

artemide.us Dining table and tulip chairs by Eero Saarinen; credenza by Florence Knoll for Knoll

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124 Pump Up the Volume

Christi Azevedo christiazevedo.com Kitchen cabinets from Ikea ikea.com Countertop by PaperStone paperstoneproducts.com

ReziBond cladding by Steelscape steelscape.com

152 Finishing Touch Saša Antić

sasaantic.com Kitchen sink and faucet

by Mora Armatur moraarmatur.se Cabinets from Ikea

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