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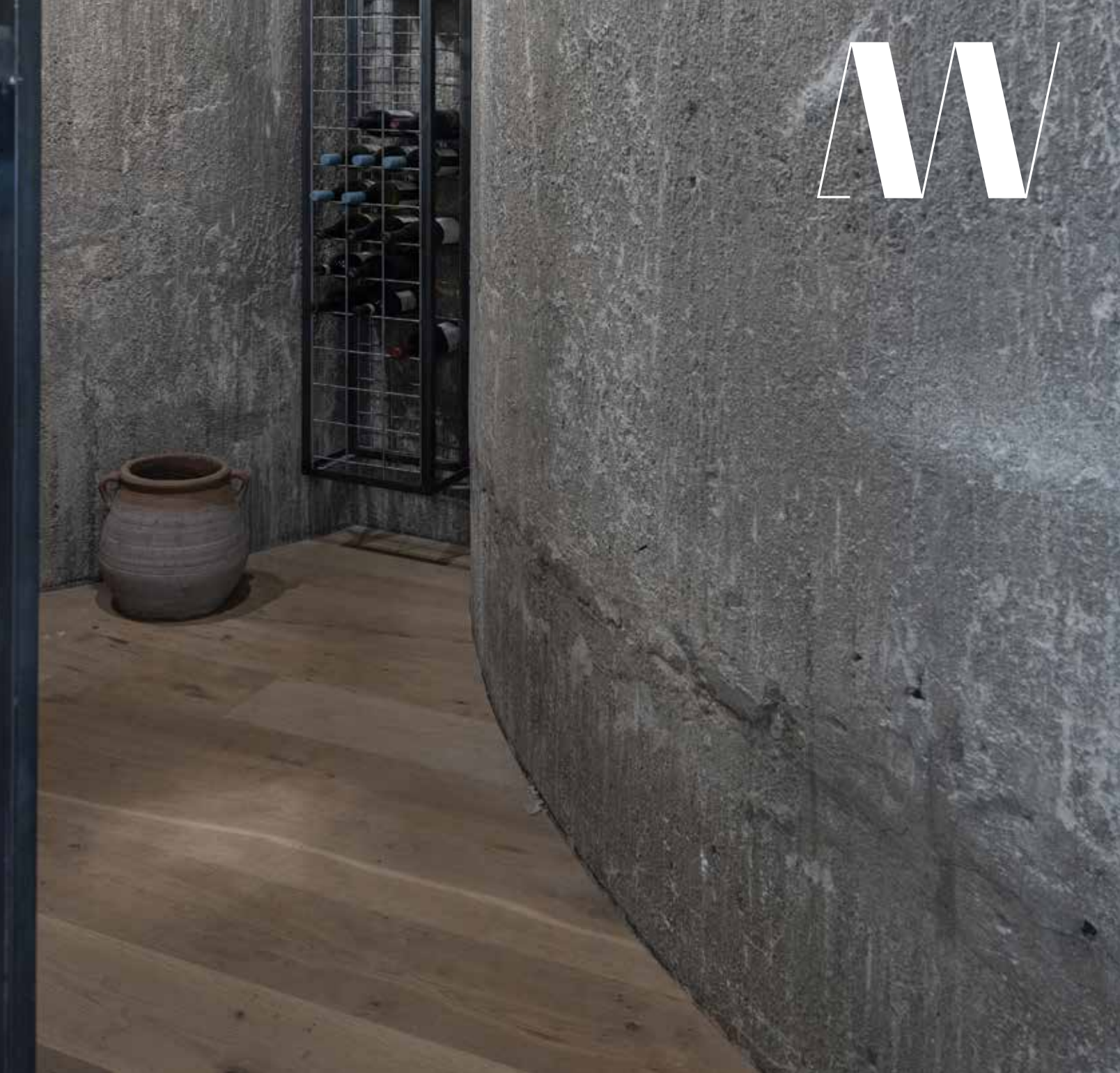
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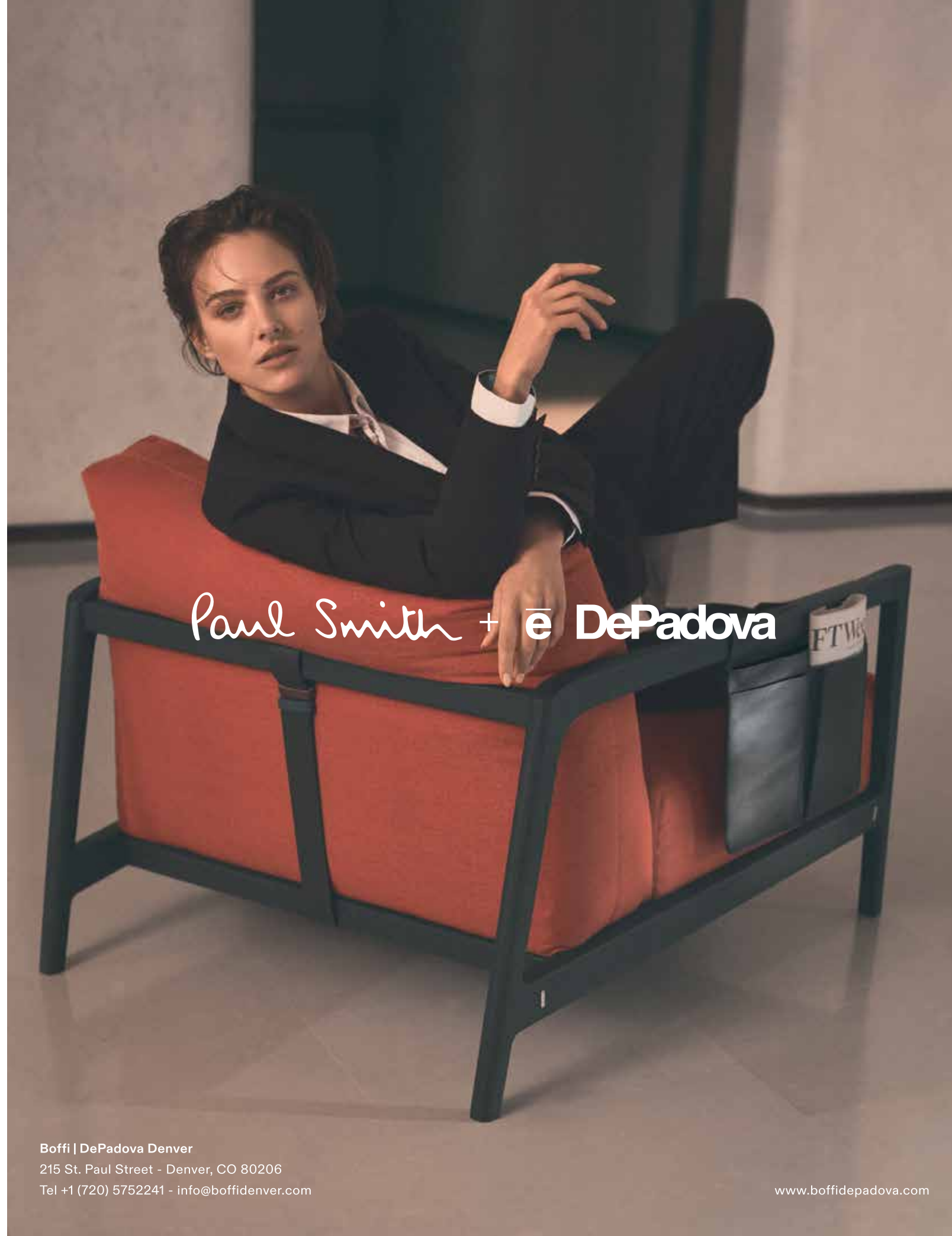


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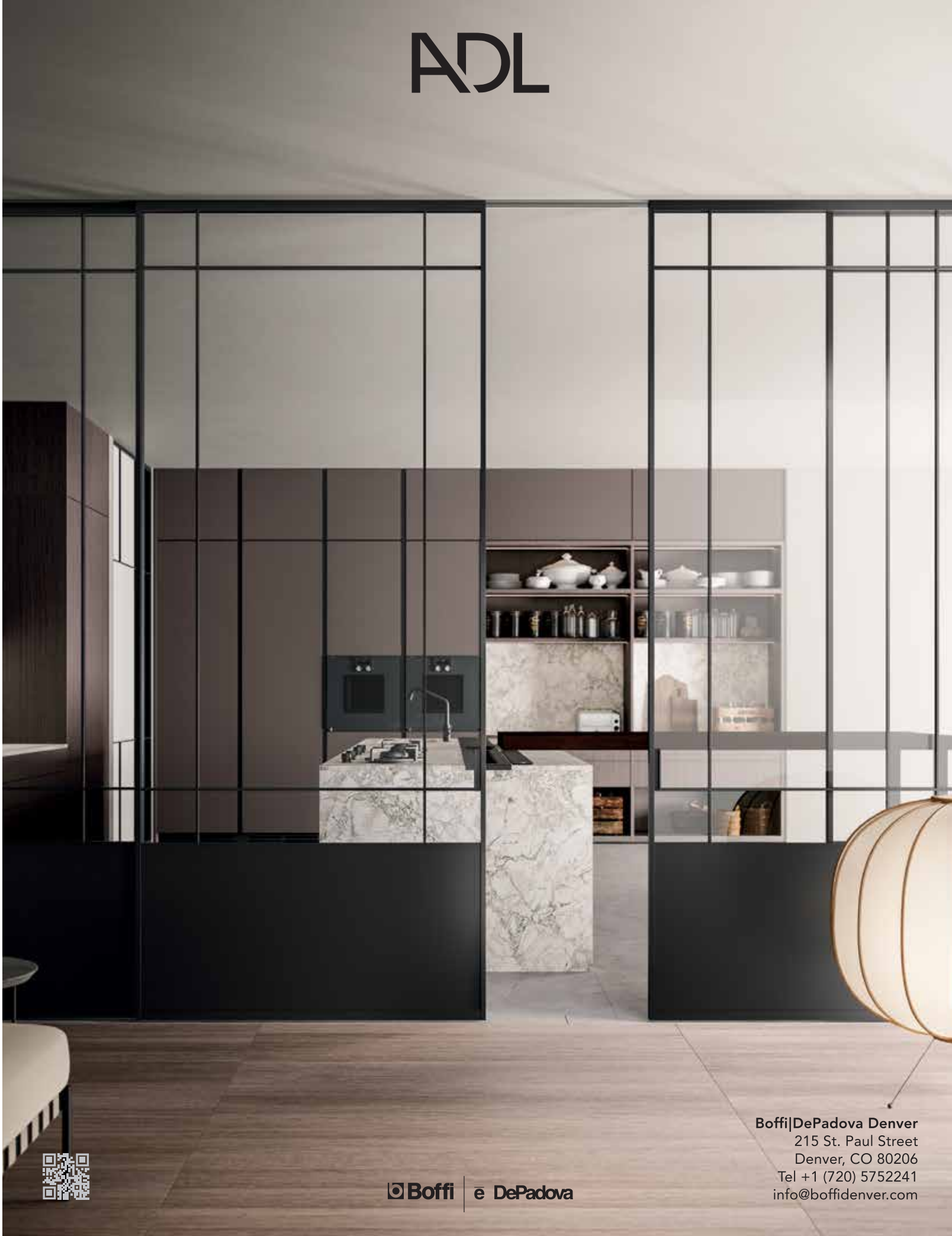
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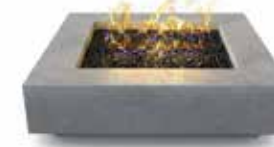
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PALLAS



Designed by Andy Morter, the new Hubbardton Forge Glissade pendant features a large, hand-poured, hand-shaped glass that is heavily fritted for a one-of-a kind, contemporary elegance. "Glissade" can be translated into "a skillful glide over ice in a steep descent." Gracefully suspended with criss-crossing curved glass elements, it is perfect for dining or entertainment spaces, or over a large kitchen island or bar.

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– Henry James



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WORDS: Tamara Chuang

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LIGHT LIFT

The quirky blobs known as Melt by Tom Dixon have blossomed into pendants, chandeliers, and all sorts of lights. Using techniques of injection blow molding, artists inflate melted plastic polymer, which is then cooled to create perfectly imperfect orbs. The latest to join the family is the Melt Portable LED, which, as the name implies, is a movable light. Built with rechargeable batteries, Melt provides diffused light for 10 hours.

[+tomdixon.net](http://tomdixon.net)



MOD REBIRTH

Fifteen iconic images are now available in poster form from Herman Miller, the epitome of mid-century furnishings and design. The company tapped its own archive of 1950s and '60s ads and office decor to faithfully reprint images from venerable designers including George Nelson, Alexander Girard, and Philip Mitchell. Vintage these posters may be, but honestly, the designs have never gone out of style. So, why pop them out now? Herman Miller turns 100 this year.

[+hermanmiller.com](http://hermanmiller.com)



MEASURING UP

The NeoRuler is obviously not just a new ruler. It's smart, and provides measurements to an accuracy of 0.1 mm—precision for any determined drafter. But that's just part of its straightforward appeal. The digital device can scale the measurements to whatever size is required in real life. There's also a custom scale feature in case one of its 90 options isn't what you're looking for. The straightedge has a small LCD display to share its data and goes from metric to imperial in one swipe. It's the latest tool from HOZO Design Co., which brought us the Rollova rolling ruler for laser measurements.

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BAWK HOUSE

Who's to say that backyard chickens don't appreciate clean lines? The Coop, probably the most modern-inspired hen house we've seen, was designed to accommodate today's urban farmers who can keep watch of their chicks on a mobile app, get alerts when predators approach, or let the hens out in the morning (the smart coop door automatically opens at sunrise). The 28-square-foot chicken coop has two HD cameras for remote monitoring and room for six hens.

+coop.farm



SUSTAINABLE SOUND

Gomi, the London studio that makes Bluetooth speakers from 100 percent waste products, prefers you keep the set of speakers you already own, instead of buying theirs. "Tech shouldn't become obsolete," is their design philosophy. That said, if you need some speakers, check out Gomi's. They're made from plastics thought to be non-recyclable and perfectly good batteries from damaged products, like e-bikes. The custom speakers are also fine-tuned by sound engineers to ensure audio quality as good as the leading speakers available. And should they break, Gomi offers free repairs for two years.

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MULTIFACETED SEAT

The modular Easy chair, circa 1970, made it easy to convert a chair into a bed. The thought process was simple, according to designer Ahti Taskinen: With the energy crisis in Finland at the time, furniture design needed to be simple, efficient, and affordable. With the United States and other countries currently dealing with an uncertain economy, it makes sense that Easy is now back in production thanks to Fasetti Design and Taskinen himself.

+fasetti.fi



BEETLE BOX

After inking a client who studied the iridescence of insects, tattoo artist Amanda Wachob had an idea. Could she replicate the brilliant colors and metallic sheens found in jewel beetles and other bugs? Luggage maker ROAM gave her creative control and she went for it. She handpainted 100 suitcases in layers of purples, greens, blues, and gold and gave them a unique look inside and out. The result mesmerizes. The Amanda Wachob x Roam Limited Edition cases are sure to be an illuminating standout for traveling.

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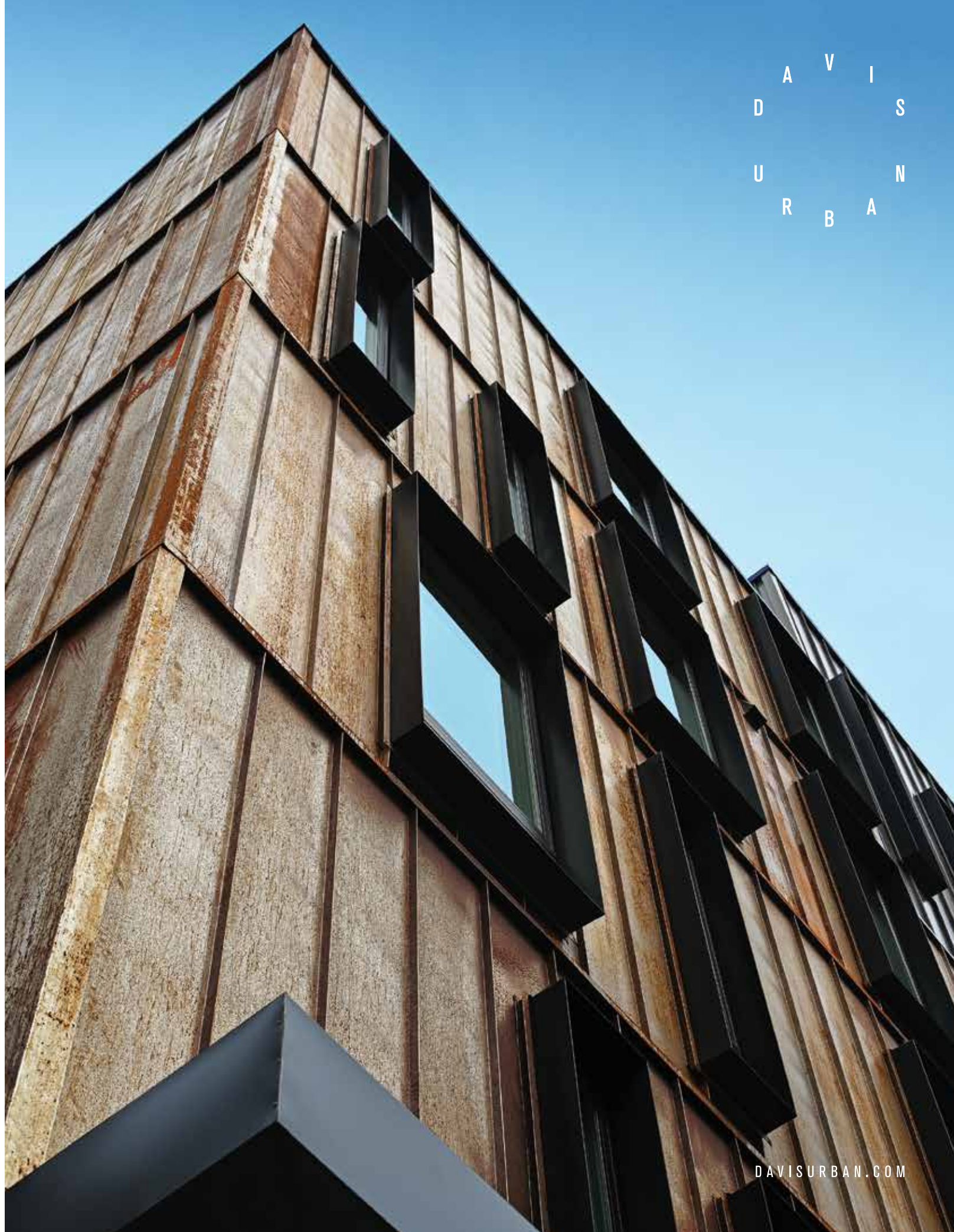
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ARMCHAIR ARCHITECTURE

The new streaming platform Shelter is building an expansive cinematic archive of the built environment.

WORDS: Vanessa Kauffman Zimmerly

Seeing an architecture documentary used to require a trip to the museum, arthouse theater, or film festival—an activity usually undertaken by a small audience of industry professionals or academics. But with mainstream interest in all things design at an all-time high, aficionados and fans can now turn to Shelter, a streaming platform with over 400 hours of high-quality design content in the form of shorts, feature-length films, and original series.

Cofounded in 2020 by Australian TV-industry couple Dustin and Camille Clare, Shelter is the antidote to network cable's quick-and-dirty home reno shows. Their digital library of moving pictures tells the long, deep, and ongoing story of the built environment through a wide range of lenses. Whether you're looking for ideas related to a specific design subject, like how to transform a shipping container into just about anything, are curious about the architectural character of a particular place and time, or hoping to learn more about the lives and personalities of Pritzker winners—like Zaha Hadid, Oscar Niemeyer, or Rem Koolhaas—Shelter's got you covered.

Because Shelter coheres so many filmic facets into one archive, finding the just-right thing to stream can feel a bit like spelunking through



Photo courtesy of Shelter.



the annals of architecture. Which is part of the fun. With so many enticing options, the only trouble is what to watch first. Anticipating design-media decision fatigue, and seeking to service customization beyond the algorithm, Shelter smartly commissioned curated watch lists from various publications like *Houses* and *Field Mag*, as well as prominent individuals in the field.

Photographer Jim Stephenson's watch list focuses on architectures for alternative living, like the domed SOMA retreat in Australia's Byron Bay. Architect Rob Brown, principal at Sydney's Casey Brown Architecture, recommends portraits of Gio Ponti, Julius Shulman, Mies van der Rohe, and Tadao Ando. Cofounder Camille sends regular subscriber newsletters with a digest of suggested titles, some just added to the site. The platform also streams live events that can be viewed for up to 30 days after they've aired. A yearly subscription to Shelter runs at \$59.99 annually, with ad-free content easily accessed across devices.

The purpose of Shelter, according to the Clares, is to inspire. It makes good on that promise. It also educates and entertains, telling design stories that have not frequently reached audiences outside of niche venues. To that we say: Stream on!



Shelter cofounder Dustin Clare. Photo courtesy of Shelter.



Photo courtesy of Shelter.

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING

Art House

Filmmaker Don Freeman's exploration of eleven handmade homes created by their acclaimed American artist owners.



City Dreamers

Undergirding every city is, or should be, a well-conceived urban plan. *City Dreamers* tells the stories of four trailblazing female architects who influenced the design of major cities across North America and Europe.



Never Too Small

A channel featuring micro living spaces in locales ranging from bustling Barcelona to the serene Kythnos Island in Greece's Aegean Sea.



The Proposal

Contemporary artist Jill Magid wrestles for public access to the archive of famed Mexican architect Luis Barragán in this mixed-genre film.



Visual Acoustics: The Modernism of Julius Shulman

This documentary articulates the power Julius Shulman's photographs had in defining Southern California Modernism and shaping the architectural careers of great modernist architects like Richard Neutra and John Lautner.





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REMADE IN AMERICA

WORDS: Rachel Walker Youngblade

One family's proprietary process for printing on stone transforms upcycled materials into statement-making tile.



Photo: Darren Asay

Neutrals will always have a place in design, but if you ask LIVDEN cofounders Georgie Smith and Hilary Gibbs, the age of white subway tile is over. Bring on the color—and make it good for the earth, too.

The stepsisters founded sustainable tile brand LIVDEN in 2020 after noticing a dearth of color and pattern options in what they describe as the tile world's sea of "beige and boring." From mid-century graphics to bold botanicals, LIVDEN has something for every taste. But what truly sets their line apart, and what you might not notice on first glance, is the earth-friendly nature of their products.

"Our collections are based around interesting and unique color combinations that you wouldn't really expect, but that work really well together," says Gibbs of their design aesthetic. "We really wanted to make a green line for designers," Smith adds, referring to LIVDEN's foundational commitment to eco-conscious processes.

Before founding LIVDEN, the stepsisters apprenticed under Gibbs' mother and Smith's stepmother, Melinda Earl, an artist who created a unique method of printing art and images onto stone. They worked for Earl's business, StoneImpressions, before partnering up to realize their shared dream of creating an eco-friendly product that didn't compromise on design. They use the proprietary method she created to print their designs onto LIVDEN's tile bodies.

"When we started this line, we wanted to make it easier for buyers and customers to source these types of eco-friendly materials," Smith said. "If you're shopping at a place like Home Depot, it's really hard to get information about what's in a product, how it's made, and to know where to find materials that are domestically created."

LIVDEN offers three material options for tile: Ivory Porcelain, a fine-grain terrazzo called Polar Ice, and a more traditional Chunky Terrazzo. All are made in America at manufacturers Smith and Gibbs sought out specifically for their commitment to sustainability and quality. A composite material with ancient roots, terrazzo made sense to the sisters because of its enduring popularity and ability to repurpose recycled glass, granite, and quartz. Their Ivory Porcelain tiles are made from abundant organic resources and are Green Squared Certified and Petal Certified.

REMADE IN AMERICA



Thanks to their eye-catching impact and affordability (their products cost much less than natural stone), LIVDEN tiles are popular in commercial projects where designers are looking for wow elements. Smith and Gibbs are noticing an uptick in direct consumers searching out bold and sustainable options for home projects, too.

“A lot of times when people are designing spaces, tile is an afterthought,” Smith notes. “We wanted to create a tile that allowed you to design a space around it.” Flip through images of their products—taking center stage on a bar front or as a bold backsplash in a modern kitchen—and you’ll see that they’ve succeeded.

Some of LIVDEN’s more famous clientele include actor Bryce Dallas Howard—who chose a graphic tile that reminded her of *The Mandalorian* to punch up her guest bathroom—and Melissa McCarthy, who installed LIVDEN tile in home makeovers for deserving families on her HGTV show *The Great Giveback*. Smith and Gibbs are also seeing customers branch out beyond traditional spaces like kitchens and baths, installing tile on ceilings and in lieu of headboards.

For those hesitant about incorporating color, Gibbs has an easy test: Pick your favorite tile, visualize it, then wait three or four weeks. “If you still love it a month later, you’ll probably love it forever,” she says. ■

Next up for the cofounders is the release of a new batch of designs this summer. Find LIVDEN sustainable tiles at Denver retailer *Decorative Materials*.



Hilary Gibbs and her team create all of LIVDEN’s tile patterns in a process that starts with paint and paper before designs are digitized. The design team finds inspiration in natural elements and California coastal tones. LIVDEN designs feature unexpected color combinations and graphic shapes that can be arranged in a variety of ways for different effects.

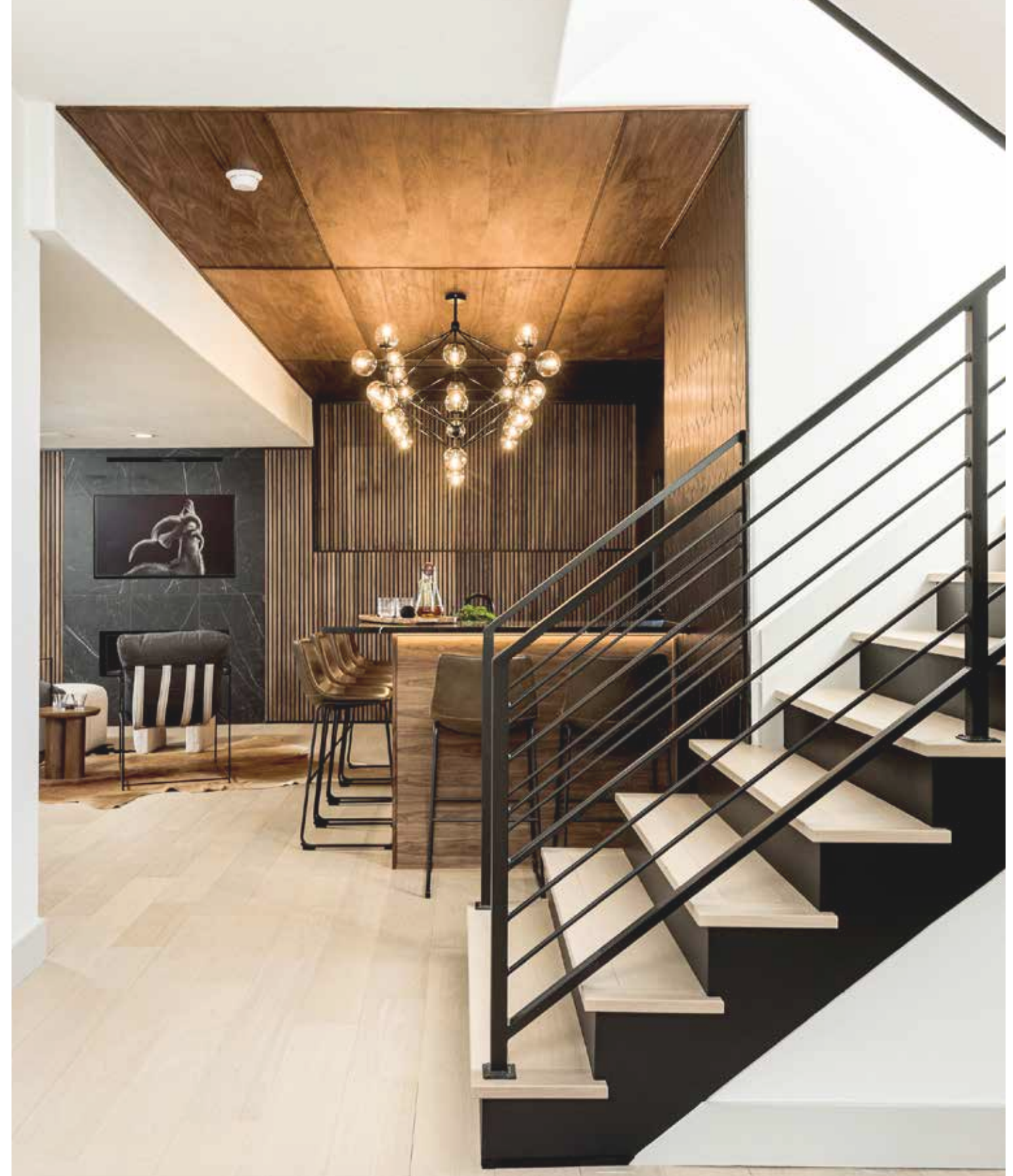
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Aesthetic Side Chair, early-mid 1880s, design attributed to Christopher Dresser (1834–1904)



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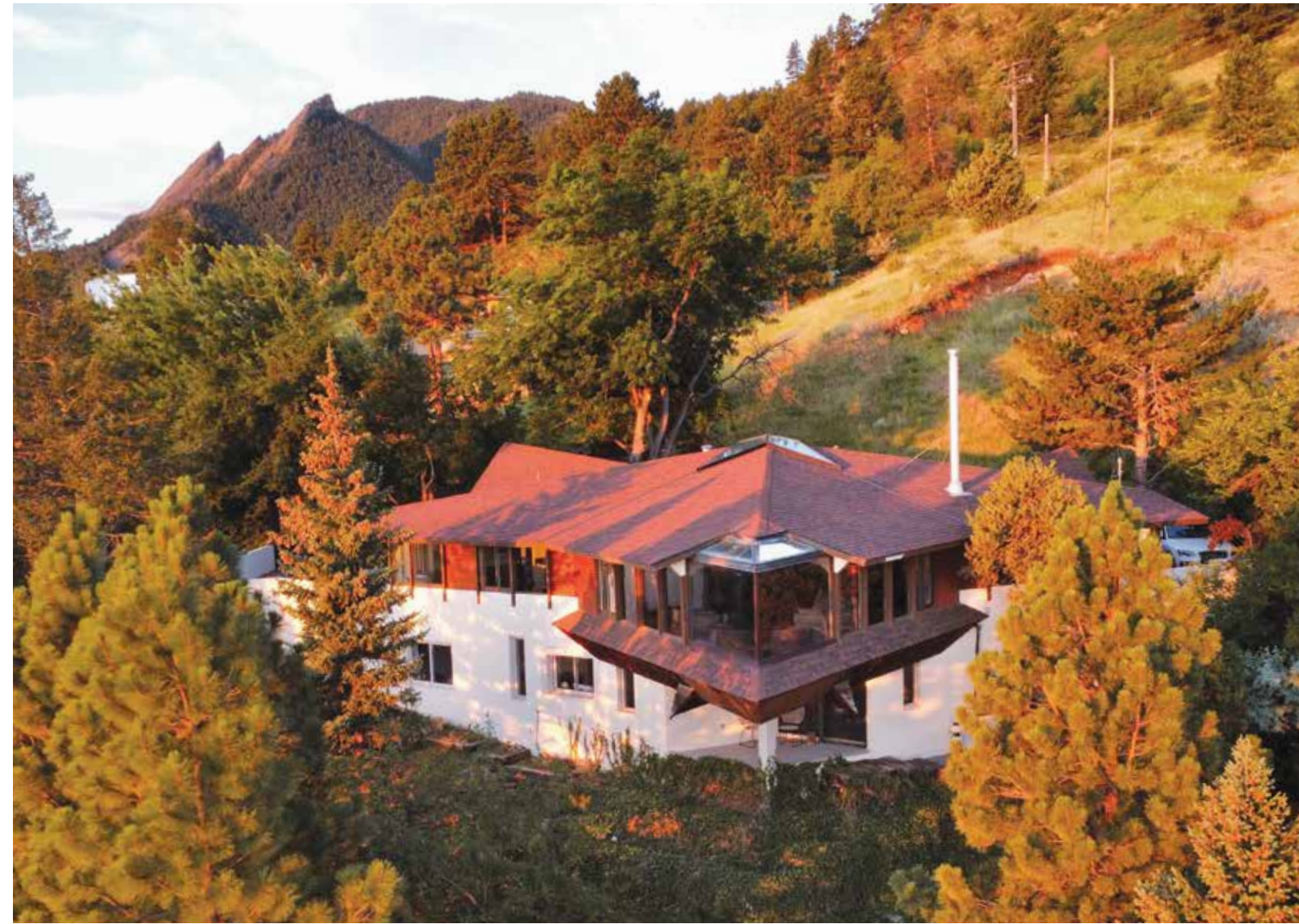
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The New *Culinary Scene*

ROTH LIVING'S NEW CONTENT STREAMING PLATFORM, *CULINARY SCENE*, PROVIDES SUB-ZERO, WOLF, AND COVE APPLIANCE OWNERS TOP-SHELF KITCHEN KNOW-HOW, FILMED AND PRODUCED RIGHT FROM THEIR ARCH11-DESIGNED DENVER SHOWROOM.

“**W**hen you're building your dream kitchen, the peak of your emotional high shouldn't be when you're purchasing the appliances,” says Denise Knoblich, Roth Living's vice president of sales. “It should be after installation, when you start using your product.”

Roth Living distributes kitchen appliances to clientele stretching across 14 states, with many living a significant distance from a major showroom. You don't have to live next door to Roth to cook well with their appliances, but the company found that their clients living at a distance still wanted access to the cooking demonstrations and product tutorials available to those near a showroom. And who can blame them? Roth's top-tier brands—Sub-Zero, Wolf, and Cove—are premium and luxury. The products are an investment. It's understandable that current and prospective owners want to know all the ins and outs of every dial and gauge. So, Roth created videos and shared them on YouTube.

Then the Covid-19 pandemic arrived. Roth added more content to YouTube and engaged more than ever with clients virtually. In response, Roth began asking a lot of questions, says Knoblich. “What if we offered video content upon ownership with tutorials and features? Clients could learn about product features, benefits, care, and recipes. Clients could increase their brand engagement in a better way,” she shares of their thinking. It didn't take long for Roth to conclude that they wanted to build an online community of users.

WORDS: Kristin Kirsch Feldkamp

IMAGES: Parrish Ruiz de Velasco



The New Culinary Scene

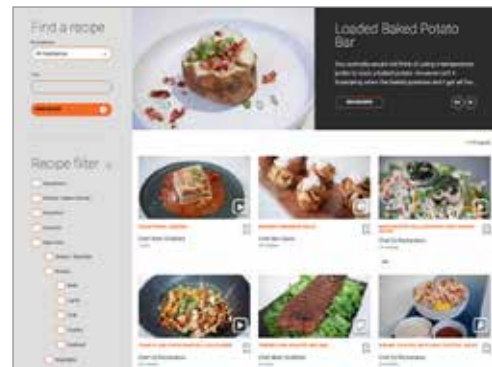


“We decided our solution was a membership streaming platform with dynamic and interactive content that would empower clients to optimize all the features,” says Knoblich. “Streaming platforms are being adopted by all generations. You think of Netflix and Peloton, but there are all different kinds of streaming platforms where people can aggregate their content live or on demand. And we wanted to be able to understand and serve our clientele in a similar way.” They named theirs, fittingly, *Culinary Scene*.

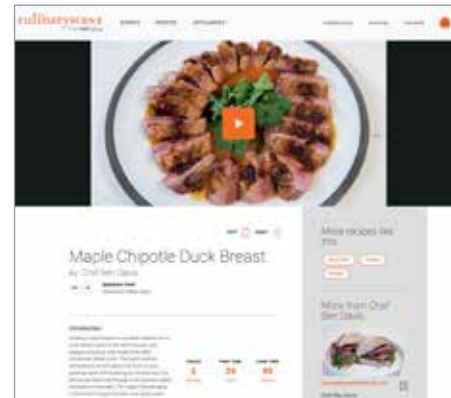
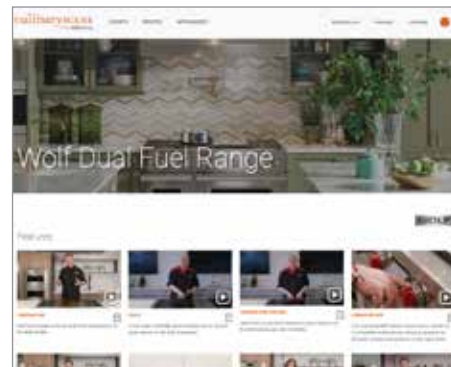
Rather than turning to a production firm to create a set and studio, Roth decided to build one in-house, hire a production person, and utilize all the talent they already had. Their team of executive chefs are brand experts and highly skilled at giving cooking demonstrations



In addition to hiring Arch11 and their own production team, Roth tapped Denver’s Pineapple Agency to develop filming studio specifications and design.



Roth Living wanted to build a community beyond their showrooms. Their solution was a membership streaming platform that includes a diverse content library teaching owners how to use and maintain their products.



“IT WAS AN INTERESTING CHALLENGE. WE HAD TO MAKE SURE IT WAS VERY SOUNDPROOF EVEN THOUGH THERE IS A BUNCH OF HVAC RUNNING THROUGH THE SPACE.” - Claire Jordan

with Roth’s products. Architecture firm Arch11 had designed Roth’s Denver showroom in 2018—an innovative approach to integrated showroom design that proved to be a boon in the industry—so they tapped them again to help convert the third floor of the showroom into a film studio.

architect at Arch11 who’s worked with Roth on showroom design since 2014. “It was an interesting challenge,” she says. “We had to make sure it was very soundproof even though there is a bunch of HVAC running through the space.”

“I worked with Roth to layout the space and figure out the best way to create these different zones within a large display area that would highlight all the different pieces of equipment,” says Claire Jordan, an

To understand what some of the design needs might be, Jordan watched the YouTube videos Roth had already published. “Too many stainless-steel surfaces felt too reflective and busy,” Jordan says. “We felt like it could be more successful if we used matte

“With *Culinary Scene*, we’re giving customers a chef in their back pocket who is going to support them and help them understand how to utilize their product,” says Denise Knoblich, vice president of sales for Roth Living.



materials that didn't take away from the cooking experience." She also wanted the studio kitchens to feel relatable, like they were in someone's home, and worked with Denver's Vonmod to design cabinetry. The cabinetry has interchangeable fronts (no small feat) for film production versatility. "In the end, it's one space that highlights many different styles, and I think we did a pretty good job of that," says Jordan.

Operating the versatile film set and studio are producers Denver Mullett and Jordan Strittmatter, who work to bring the culinary magic of a team of six executive chefs, including Ben Davis and Gil Binol, to audiences. "Pre purchase, prospective clients are invited via a link to view content as a sneak peek on rothliving.com," says Knoblich. After clients purchase and register their Sub-Zero, Wolf, or Cove appliance with Roth, they gain full

access to their account. And what does that access include? A library of professional, instructive videos catalogued by product, teaching you how to get the most out of your appliances in your home kitchen. Bon appétit! 🍴

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Seventy years after publication, the infographics at the heart of Herbert Bayer's *World Geo-Graphic Atlas* are still front and center—now as part of a new exhibition in Aspen.

PICTURE THIS



HOW CAN INFORMATION TELL A STORY ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND US—AND OURSELVES?

That's the question at the center of the Aspen Institute's upcoming *Concept of a Visualist: Herbert Bayer's World Geo-Graphic Atlas* exhibition, opening June 20, 2023, at the renowned Aspen Meadows Campus Resnick Center for Herbert Bayer Studies.

Running through April 2024, the installation centers on the groundbreaking 368-page reference guide Bayer produced in 1953 for Walter Paepcke to celebrate the Container Corporation of America (CCA)'s 25th anniversary.

"How do you make an exhibition about a book?" asks Benjamin Benus, Ph.D., and associate professor of art history at Loyola University of New Orleans, explaining the challenge he was up against as co-curator of the show's enlarged page selections, photographic documentation, preliminary sketches, and never-before-seen paintings from the mid-century visionary.

From visually engaging statistics to countable pictograms, Bayer's work plays an important role in the popularity of data visualization techniques employed today. Though not the first use of infographics, Bayer's work is credited by Benus for its effectiveness in influencing generations of designers. He notes its "less is more" incorporation of dynamic page

WORDS: Cory Phare

design, full-spread layouts, deliberately off-center graphic orientations, and use of negative space as an active element.

"Figuring out when to use pictorial graphics to augment the limitations of what text can accomplish is crucial," he says of Bayer's infographic expertise. "It's an almost cinematic experience as the viewer scans the page."

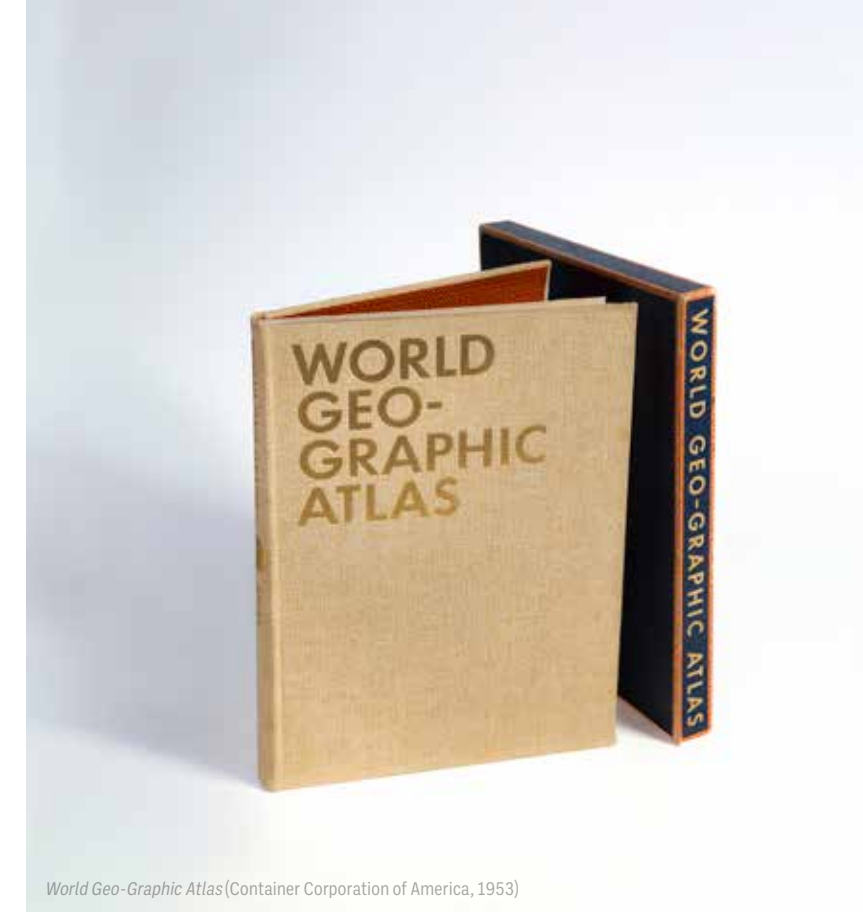
The exhibition, co-curated with Bayer expert Bernard Jazzar, is multimodal and interdisciplinary, a fitting approach to represent a creator who worked across media. Be it sculpture, graphic design, photography, or architecture, Bayer fully embodied the Bauhaus ethos of dismantling previously siloed hierarchies and empowering design-driven accessibility.

"He really saw all forms of visual communication as a potential for creative expression," Benus says. "Within Bauhaus, the arts could and should be integrated into everyday life, eliminating the imposed barriers that kept them separate. The atlas is a perfect example of this."

The origin of the *World Geo-Graphic Atlas* stretches back to industrialist Paepcke's immigrant father, who, as the owner of Chicago Mill and Lumber, created personally inscribed copies of Rand McNally reference books for shareholders and customers as holiday gifts.

As the junior Paepcke took the helm and launched CCA as a successful corporate packaging-provider in 1926, he understood the importance of establishing a visual brand identity in order to grow customer affinity. Continuing his father's tradition, Paepcke had an in-house world atlas designed to celebrate the organization's 10-year anniversary—serving as progenitor to Bayer's later work.

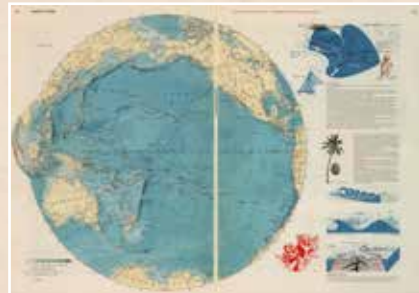
First presented at the Aspen Institute's 1953 International Design Conference, Herbert Bayer's *World Geo-Graphic Atlas* [ABOVE] was a watershed for data visualization, reference books, and environmental sustainability. The upcoming exhibition opening June 2023 at the Resnick Center for Herbert Bayer Studies [RIGHT] commemorates the 70th anniversary of its publication. The exhibition showcases never-before-seen artifacts and provides new insights into Bayer's larger body of artwork, highlighting the atlas's continued relevance for audiences today.



World Geo-Graphic Atlas (Container Corporation of America, 1953)

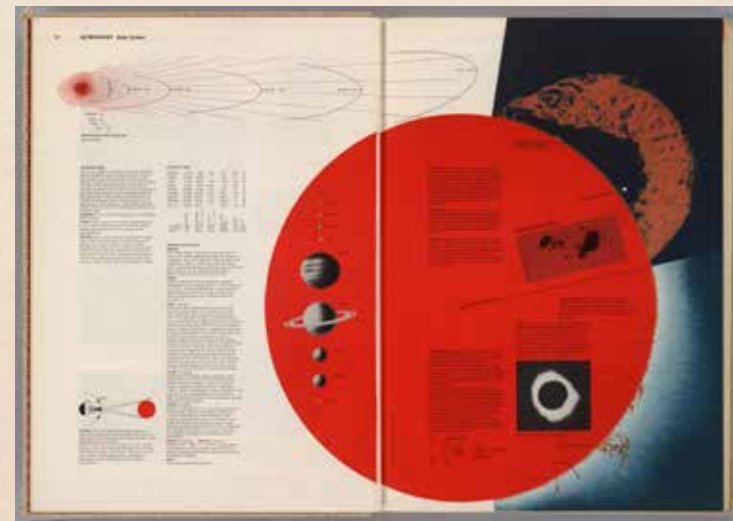


Photo: Bernard Jazzar



Not a scientist himself, Bayer consulted with subject-matter experts to understand the interdisciplinary and overlapping fields found in his atlas, drawing on his varied interests in geology, astronomy, sociology, natural history, and economics. Benus notes that Bayer was also inspired by other contemporary design innovations—like Buckminster Fuller’s Dymaxion map projections—as a way to present thought-provoking information.

“FIGURING OUT WHEN TO USE PICTORIAL GRAPHICS TO AUGMENT THE LIMITATIONS OF WHAT TEXT CAN ACCOMPLISH IS CRUCIAL. IT’S AN ALMOST CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE AS THE VIEWER SCANS THE PAGE.” – Benjamin Benus

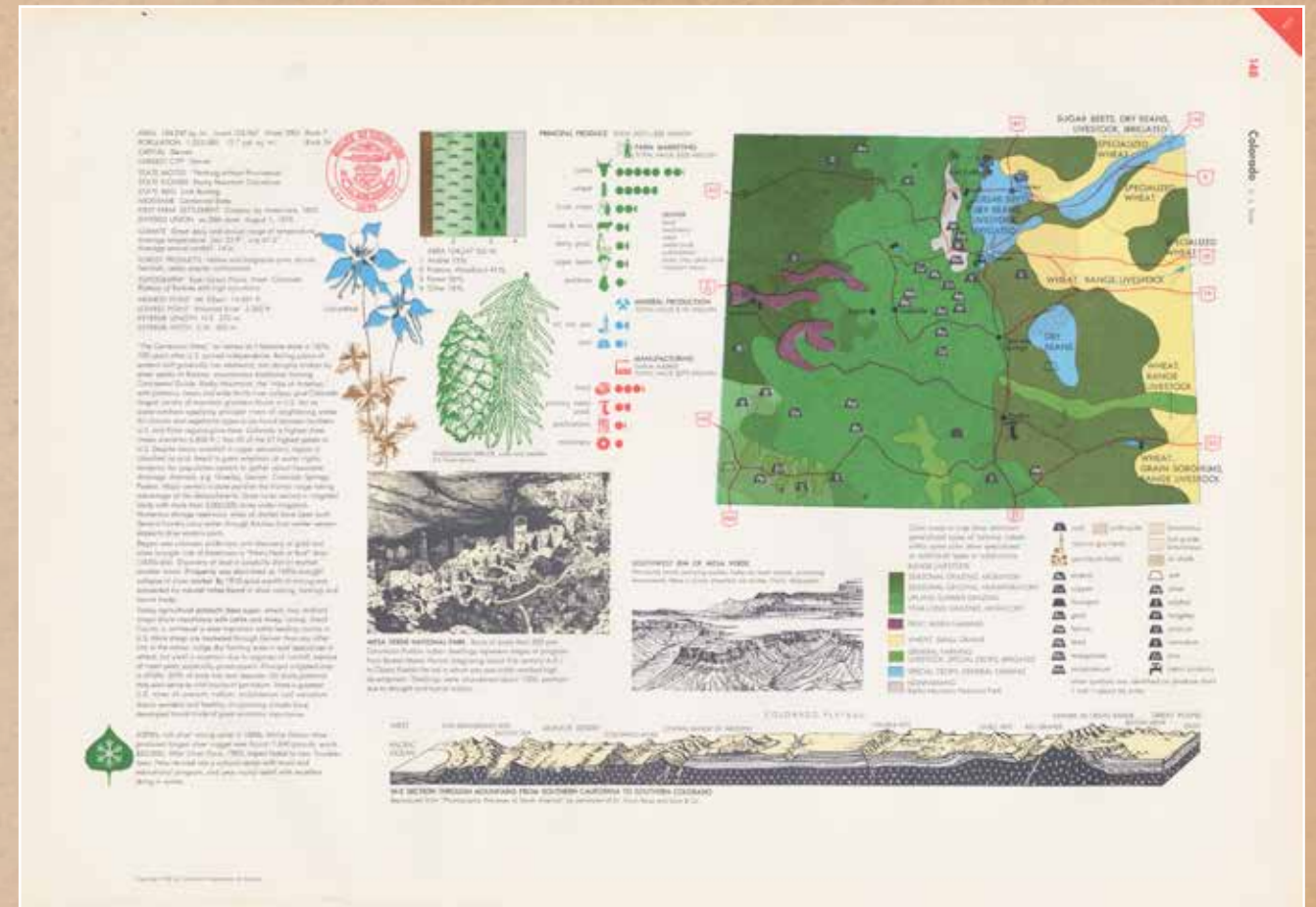


Images this page: Courtesy of David Rumsey Historical Map Collection

During the 1940s, CCA commissioned ads from several European modernists, including Bayer. An Austrian who’d fled the rise of fascism and its dictates of a constrained aesthetic, the designer was invited to Aspen by Paepcke in 1946. Falling in love with both the familiar alpine environment and the town’s creative ethos—later leading to his involvement in developing the Aspen Institute’s campus—Bayer

agreed to take on the project that’d become the *World Geo-Graphic Atlas*. Initially envisioned as a straightforward update of the 1936 version, it became clear that, following World War II, a different approach was necessary. “The world had changed so dramatically,” Benus says. “Bayer had ideas that this could be a new

kind of reference work altogether. Not only maps, but a way to teach people how to read information and think analytically about the data it contained.” The atlas provided Bayer a new kind of form to experiment with, incorporating his varied interests of natural history, geology, meteorology, demographics, and economics into educational



Colorado, *World Geo-Graphic Atlas* (Container Corporation of America, 1953), p. 148

graphics. He’d already proven himself as a visual changemaker across forms, and Paepcke essentially gave him carte blanche to literally reimagine a world of possibilities. When the final product was finished in 1953—two years later than planned due to production and budget overruns—the result was groundbreaking enough to attract interest from commercial publishers. This made CCA’s decision to decline the offers and stick to a limited run for supporters and research institutions all the more remarkable. One of the standout features of the *World Geo-Graphic Atlas*

is its awareness and social responsibility to sustainability. Emerging environmental consciousness existed at the time, but generally wasn’t at the forefront of many mid-century conversations—let alone found in a reference book. “Bayer put emphasis on this idea that human behavior was impacting the world around us, that natural resources were finite and that industrialization could have a potentially irreversible impact,” Benus says. Even more surprising: It has a narrative structure. Beginning with a universal scale, it zooms in on the planetary, then regional,

teasing out thematic social lenses along the way and culminating with a provocation for readers to wrestle with the information they just read. As Benus notes, it’s this foresight across generations that makes the questions as relevant today as they were 70 years ago. “We’re at a crossroads—what do we want the future to be?” Bayer reflected in the forward. That certainly wasn’t what you were expecting to read in a 1950s atlas.” **For more information visit: thebayercenter.org.**

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MONTH OF MODERN

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EVENT SCHEDULE

- | | | |
|-------------------|--|----------------------|
| 7
THUR | PechaKucha Night
MOM23 kicks off with an evening of fast-paced storytelling and inspiration, PechaKucha style. A hand-selected group of presenters will each have 20 slides and 20 seconds per slide to share their experience on the spaces we inhabit: how we shape them, how they shape us. Light bites & drinks provided. | 6:00 PM-
9:00 PM |
| 12
TUE | CEU Blitz Day
Designers, architects, and industry professionals will be able to complete 6+ HSW continuing education unit credits during a day of accredited presentations. The event will feature a vendor area dedicated to industry trade and manufacturer product displays. Breakfast and lunch provided. | 8:00 AM-
5:00 PM |
| 21
THU | Mixology Clinic followed by Cocktails & Conversation
Enjoy a fun, hands-on mixology class exploring the process of making hand-crafted cocktails while you follow along and make your own. Afterward, join in on a lively and provocative debate discussing current architecture design issues. This is a spirited, unique, interactive adults-only event you won't want to miss! Light bites & drinks provided. | 6:00 PM-
9:00 PM |
| 23
SAT | Homes by Architects Tour
In partnership with Historic Boulder, join Month of Modern for a one-of-a-kind House Tour experience in Boulder. See an impressive spectrum of residential design from our talented architecture community. Featuring a mixture of project types, sizes, budget scopes, and neighborhoods, the event will offer a close-up look at how architectural design can make a difference in how we live. | 10:00 AM-
4:00 PM |
| 28
THUR | 2021 Wrap Party + Awards
Join us for an evening of cocktails, food, music, and good company as we celebrate the region's most acclaimed names in modern design. | 7:00 PM-
11:00 PM |



TODD REED

MODERN IN DENVER



HARRISON HOME SYSTEMS



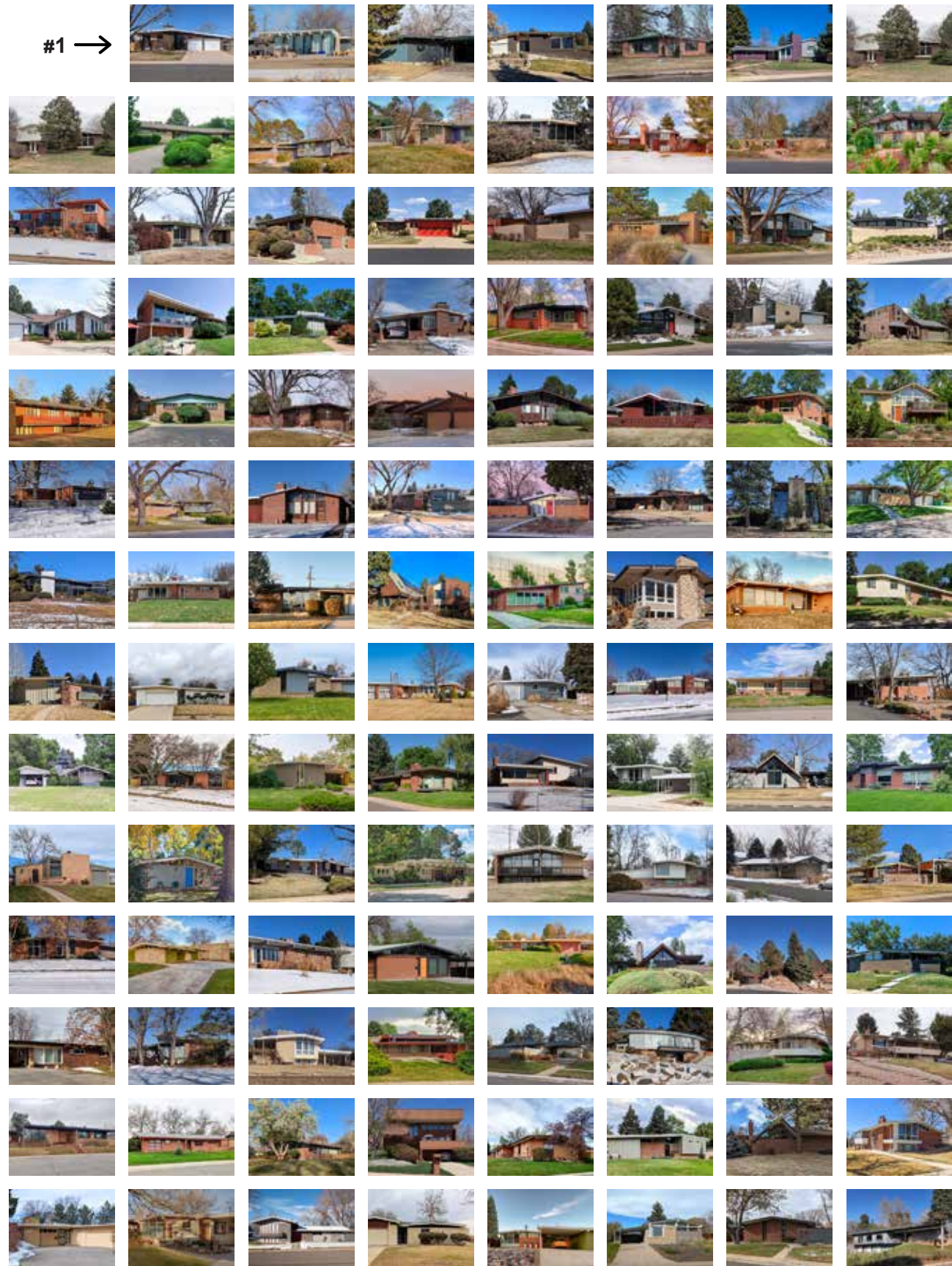
specialtyappliance



- Arch11
- BC Interiors
- Buildwell
- Flower Architecture
- Getliffe Architecture
- Glenn Frank Engineering
- Hammerwell
- JVA Engineering
- MK Construction
- Proud House Studio
- Sloan Construction
- Studio B
- Studio Como
- Surround Architecture
- Tumo Studio
- WORKSHOP8

monthofmodern.com

#1 →



7,000 AND COUNTING

A passion for architecture turned Atom Stevens's Sunday driving pastime into the creation of a comprehensive database of Denver's mid-century modern homes.

WORDS: Rachel Walker Youngblade
IMAGES: Atom Stevens

← #205



MID-CENTURY MODERN ARCHITECTURE HAS A RICH HISTORY IN DENVER.

Known for its open-plan layouts, post-and-beam construction, clean lines, and an attention to the natural world, this style of architecture emerged in the 1950s and has remained a design favorite for decades, growing even more popular in recent years. Yet fans of mid-century modernism may have a hard time tracking down Denver-area homes that fall into this style if they don't have hours to dedicate to scouring the internet or reading books and articles documenting the Mile High City's modern makings.

Enter Atom Stevens. If you've been in the Denver design community for any length of time, you're almost certainly familiar with Stevens. A real estate agent, photographer, local architecture aficionado, and self-professed mid-century modern obsessive, Stevens has been sleuthing out mid-century modern homes for more than a decade—and keeping track of each one of them, too. Since 2016, Stevens has been building a mid-mod map of Denver, indexing homes designed by prominent area architects like Cliff May, William C. Muchow, and Victor Hornbein, built as early as 1930 and into the 1970s.

We spoke to Stevens to learn more about his mid-mod map, why he created it, and how he hopes to spur preservation efforts for these homes as Denver continues to grow.

7,000 AND COUNTING

MODERN IN DENVER: *What inspired you to create a map of Denver's mid-century modern homes?*

Atom Stevens: My fascination with mid-century modern architecture started in childhood. I grew up on the southeast edge of the Denver Metro Area, which was very rural at the time. I watched homes being built up around me and loved going through new model homes and collecting brochures with details on their floor plans and construction. It was a time when every new neighborhood had a masterplan, with unique names for each expressed on elaborate monuments at their entrances.

I studied interior architecture in college and was working as a corporate interior designer when—fast forward to 2010—I started rediscovering these passions anew. My wife and I had lived in our 1955 home in Harvey Park for five years when I started asking questions about who designed and built it and what its story was. My curiosity became insatiable.

At the Denver Public Library, I found 1955 issues of the Denver Post with original ads for our home and discovered it was designed by legendary mid-century modern architect Cliff May. In that process, I found hundreds of ads for other builders and neighborhoods all over town. My passion quickly became an obsession, and I started keeping track of these ads and homes. I went down the rabbit hole, collecting what is now several thousand ads and articles documenting the homebuilding industry of mid-century Denver (a collection that, despite its size, is far from comprehensive). I read an article about a real estate agent who estimated Denver had close to 800 mid-century modern homes, but as I began my own research I started to think there must be way more than that. But how many? Just the low-hanging fruit—like the Harvey Park, Arapahoe Acres, and



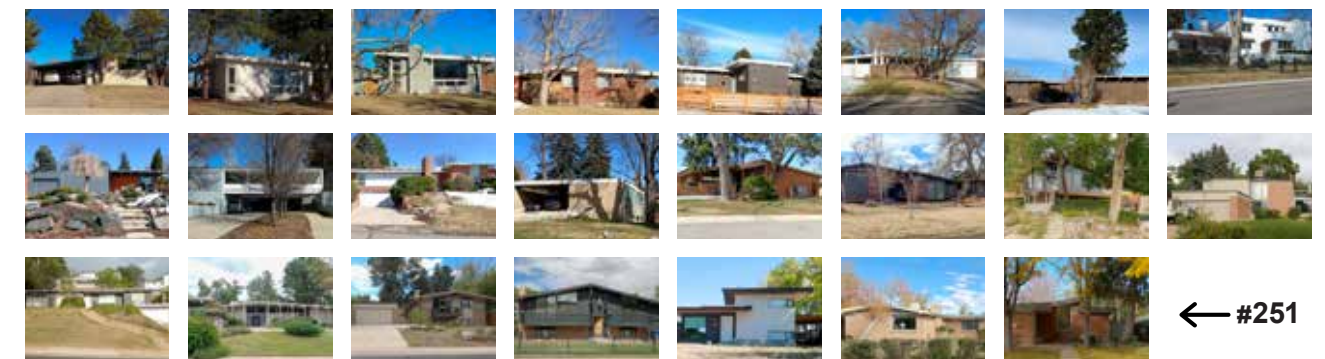
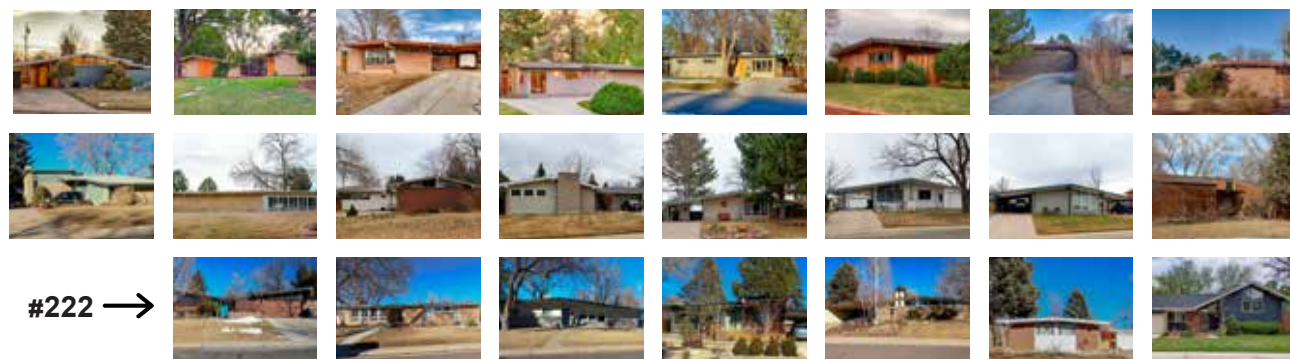
Photo: Parrish Ruiz de Velasco

Krisana Park neighborhoods—easily came close to making up that figure. In 2016, I started to get more serious about answering the question of how many more there are. I can't explain why I felt so compelled to do this, except that I just had to know.

MODERN IN DENVER: *How did you go about creating the map?*

Atom Stevens: I started adding pins to my Google Map about 10 years ago. I would spend hours gathering old ads, reading books like the *Historic Denver Guides* by Diane Wray and Michael Paglia, looking through sold homes on the MLS, and scouring Google Street views for tell-tale signs of mid-century modern architecture.

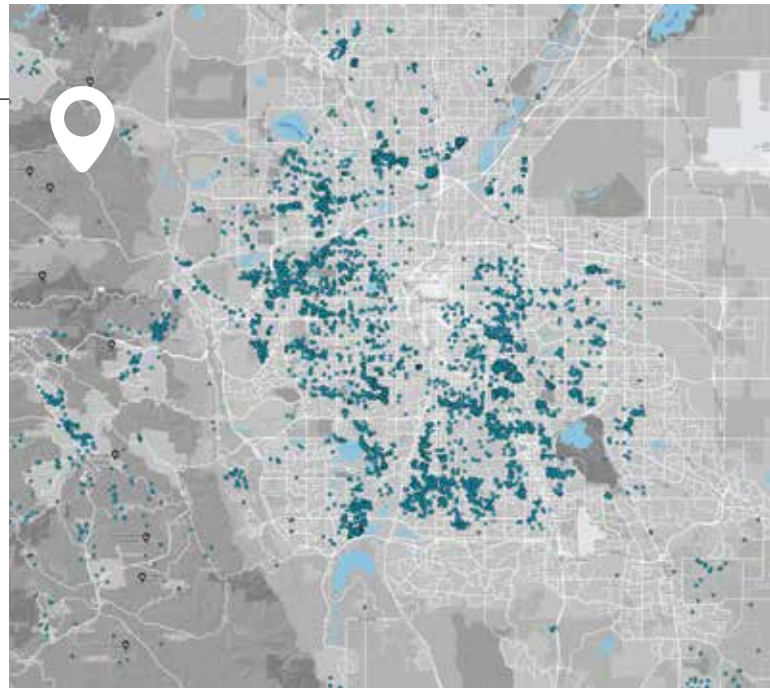
Then, I'd drive to each neighborhood and add the homes I found to the map once I confirmed their location. Each address became a line in an Excel spreadsheet where I gathered information on its neighborhood, year of construction, builder, architect, home model, and more. Now, I have more than 7,000 Denver-area pins and more than



7,000 AND COUNTING

10,000 statewide, and I continue to add more. People are always amazed that I can bring up an ad for their mid-century neighborhood on my phone in a matter of seconds, or tell them more about their home just by taking a look at my database.

"I READ AN ARTICLE ABOUT A REAL ESTATE AGENT WHO ESTIMATED DENVER HAD CLOSE TO 800 MID-CENTURY MODERN HOMES, BUT AS I BEGAN MY OWN RESEARCH I STARTED TO THINK THERE MUST BE WAY MORE THAN THAT. BUT HOW MANY?" - Atom Stevens



MODERN IN DENVER: What areas in Denver have the most mid-century modern homes?

Atom Stevens: Many homes are in Denver's more well-known mid-century modern neighborhoods, like Harvey Park, Arapahoe Acres, and Krisana Park. But there are many more hidden in foothill suburbs like Evergreen and Lookout Mountain. The Butler House in Green Mountain Estates is a great example of what I call a sleeper—homes that don't look modern from the street, but have interiors with vaulted-beamed ceilings, open floor plans, and rear window walls as far as you can see. There are even more multifamily condo buildings that qualify as mid-century modern.

Take a look at Stevens's map and you'll realize mid-century modern architecture is not constrained to a few neighborhoods, but present all across Denver and surrounding areas. With more than 10,000 homes on his map statewide—and more added each day—Stevens boasts one of the most comprehensive databases of mid-century modern architecture in Colorado.

MODERN IN DENVER: What are your criteria for which houses are included on the mid-mod map?

Atom Stevens: First I look at the year the home was built and its style. The map goes beyond the 1950s to capture the broad range of homes built between the 1930s to 1970s that could be considered mid-century modern.

I believe that authentic mid-century modern design is about the building, its context on the site, and its relationship to its residents. It's

meant to be style-agnostic, fading into the background while people live their lives in and around it. Custom homes by William Muchow, Norton Polivnick, Victor Hornbein, Charles Sink, Richard Crowther, and others fall into this category. Then there are homes that I refer to as transitional: traditional homes by local builders made to look modern. A good example is the Alta Vista neighborhood in Arvada, built by Hoskinson Bros. to meet buyers' desire for a modern style that the FHA and VA wouldn't automatically under-appraise for

being modern architecture—a practice that was commonplace at the time.

I've also started tracking 1980s mod homes, storybook and Cinderella ranches, and demolished mid-century modern homes.

MODERN IN DENVER: What do you hope to achieve by mapping all of Denver's mid-century modern homes?

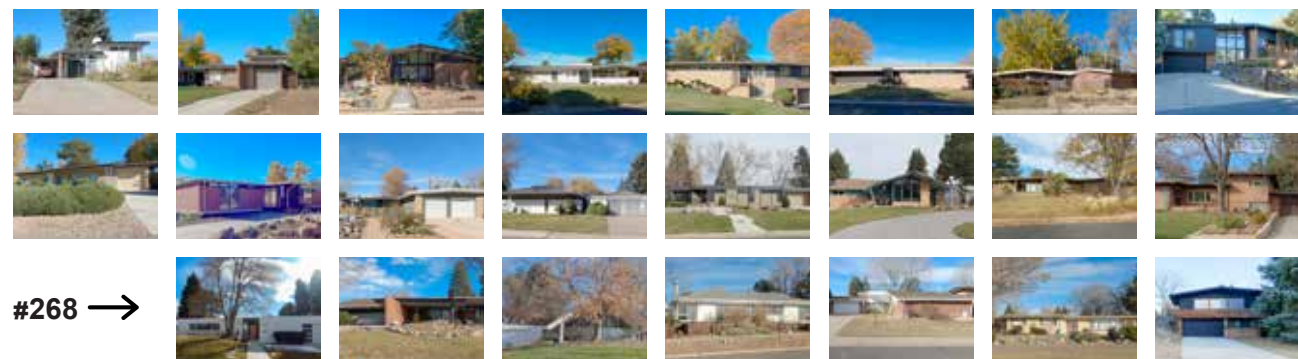
Atom Stevens: The resources I've built—the map, spreadsheet, and ad/article archive—are important because they tell the story of mid-century modern home design in Denver. You can start to see patterns, connect builders and architects to various projects, and also see where the holes in the history are.

It's still difficult to find exhaustive information on Denver's mid-century modern history, but the public hunger for it isn't going away. I hope to make it easier for homeowners and homebuyers to understand the story of their homes and neighborhoods so they become stewards of this special piece of Denver's architectural history.

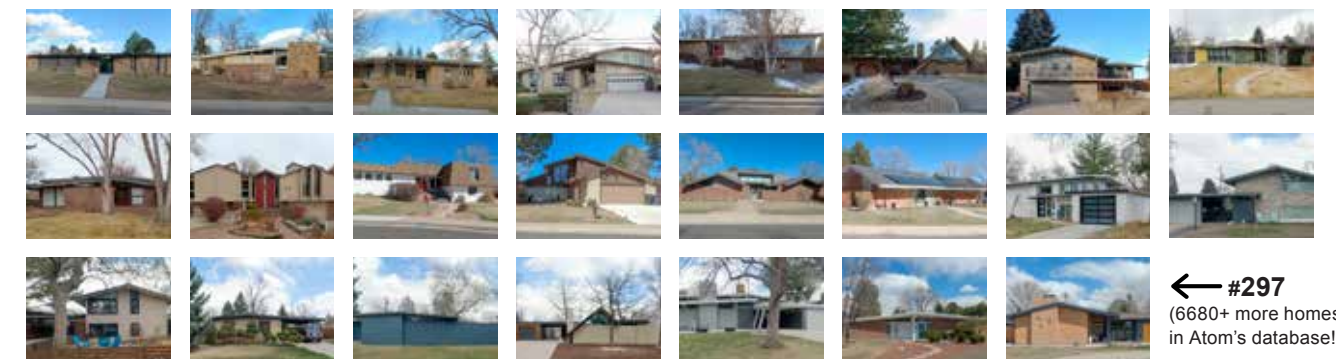
While Atom Stevens's mid-mod map is not publicly accessible, he does share and consult from it and other resources by appointment as a service to his real estate clients and the community. To learn more visit: www.modernatom.homes



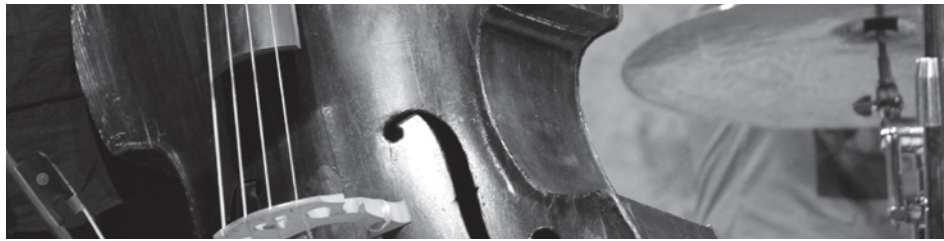
Advertisements for mid-century modern neighborhoods and builders, many sourced from newspaper issues from the 1950s and 60s, are one of Stevens's best resources for clues on where to find these architectural treasures.



#268 →



← #297
(6680+ more homes in Atom's database!)



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THE EXPRESSION OF AN EDGE

Studio B Architecture & Interiors finds perfect alignment in a glass house on a unique ridgeline property in Salida.

WORDS: Vanessa Kauffman Zimmerly

IMAGES: Parrish Ruiz de Velasco



HOW DO YOU CHOOSE A VIEW WHEN THERE ARE BREATHTAKING VISTAS IN EVERY DIRECTION? WITH THE DESIGN OF A NEW RESIDENCE IN RURAL SALIDA, THE ANSWER FOR STUDIO B ARCHITECTURE & INTERIORS WAS SIMPLE: DON'T.

“The first thing we noticed about this lot was that it sat on a precipice,” says Studio B principal Mike Piché, describing the site where the firm designed a cantilevered home and gabled barn overlooking the Arkansas River on one side and the Collegiate Peaks on the other. “When it came time to orient the house with the river and mountains in mind, we split the difference, creating a true panoramic experience,” he says.

The riverside residence was designed for empty-nesters looking for a serene space that would quietly embed

them in the environment and easily accommodate frequent visits from their kids and grandchildren. Studio B was brought on to the project through Rich Sands, former owner of full-service homebuilding firm Hammerwell, and, coincidentally, one of Piché’s first employers as a young draftsman. Longtime friends of the homeowners, Sands knew the couple wanted a high-end custom home that upheld Salida’s natural beauty without interrupting it. “I thought of Studio B right away,” says Sands, who stayed on as a consultant for the project. “We all agreed that we wanted to see a thin ribbon of a house—something that wouldn’t impinge on the landscape.”

With the homeowners requesting a simple two-bedroom program for the residence, Studio B was able to play on structure, articulating a low, linear glass volume that sits right along the ridge—almost imperceptible from a distance—and cantilevers off the land on one end to

accommodate a minimal lower level with a secondary entrance. On the main floor are the kitchen, dining, and living spaces, primary suite, additional bedroom, and an art studio (one of the homeowners is a painter).

Glass is not merely another material in this home’s kit of parts, it’s the fulcrum of its design, affording shelter without obscuring views. The home doesn’t so much establish indoor-outdoor connection as it just never breaks the flow to begin with. “We wanted to find the balance of having that immersive, in-the-land experience while still allowing for privacy,” says Piché. The home’s high-performance glazing was imported from Ireland and Belgium through Signature Windows, and opens in places to let in fresh air and the sound of the river. Where the walls aren’t made of glass, like in bedrooms and utility spaces, the house is clad in large-format steel panels and hand-raked stucco, a technique Studio B developed specifically for this project. →⁸⁸

A modern motor court and weathered-steel garage are placed on the far side of the home, accessed by a crushed gravel driveway that meanders to slow the arrival experience. Studio B principal Mike Piché worked with landscape architects Ransom Beegles and Adam Kreinbrink of R Design to establish a bridge between rural and modern. “We wanted there to be a sequence when you turned off the main road, with bends in the drive corresponding to particular views of the land and the architecture as you approach,” says Beegles.





"The house is very symmetrical, with vastly different views depending on which side of it you look from," says Piché, indicating the adjacent Collegiate Peaks and Arkansas River. Ornamental blonde ambition grasses line the entryway exterior, with the gabled barn—also designed by Studio B—sited just beyond. Mosa tile floor extends in an unbroken pattern across the home's main level and a Venetian plaster fireplace keeps the palette minimal yet elevated.

“We’re always looking for ways to use materials in new ways,” says Piché, explaining how Studio B made a set of custom rakes that were drawn across the stucco, like pulling a stick through wet sand, to create long, unbroken lines that extend across sizable portions of the facade. “It adds a level of handwork and depth to the surface,” he says. “The pattern is intentionally imprecise and has an organic quality, like layers of river sediment.”

An outdoor dining room is enveloped on three sides to guard against Salida’s inclement weather and harsh winds. “The wind that

comes down off the mountains here is a force that you cannot slow down,” says Andrew Bascue, Hammerwell’s onsite contractor and project manager. “Rather than trying to create outdoor living that had windbreaks or fences, Studio B literally embraced the exterior dining room inside the building itself.”

As with the exterior, interior finishes like tile, Venetian plaster, laminate, and concrete were selected for durability and ease of maintenance. “The entire space communicates with itself. The translation from the interior to the exterior spaces is flawless in terms

“THE FIRST THING WE NOTICED ABOUT THIS LOT WAS THAT IT SAT ON A PRECIPICE. WHEN IT CAME TIME TO ORIENT THE HOUSE WITH THE RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS IN MIND, WE SPLIT THE DIFFERENCE, CREATING A TRUE PANORAMIC EXPERIENCE.” – Mike Piché

Sloped terrain leads to a riverbank beach with a custom patio and fire pit placed halfway down. “The landscape behind the house is riparian,” says Beegles. “We wanted everything we added to feel authentic, and to bring back some textures that had been lost through the land’s history of agricultural use.” Beegles sensitively placed boulders, rabbitbrush, and native pine trees that integrate seamlessly with the broader surroundings.



“WE’RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO USE MATERIALS IN NEW WAYS. THE RAKED STUCCO ADDS A LEVEL OF HANDWORK AND DEPTH TO THE SURFACE. THE PATTERN IS INTENTIONALLY IMPRECISE AND HAS AN ORGANIC QUALITY, LIKE LAYERS OF RIVER SEDIMENT.” -Mike Piché



LEFT: A white and charcoal kitchen with a large central island provides function. “The homeowners’ main focus is being outdoors and active, so they wanted durable, low-maintenance materials for the interior,” says Piché. **BELOW:** An outdoor seating area is enclosed on three sides to protect against Salida’s indomitable elements, including steadfast winds, winter snow, and the high-elevation sun. A double-sided fireplace adds ambiance and a connection to the interior living space.

of colors, textures, and materials,” says Bascue, mentioning the particular challenge of keeping alignment precisely dialed in the home’s many continuous material expanses, a process he found satisfying. “Mike Piché is an artist whose medium is the built environment, and working with him means there’s no detail that’s only vaguely understood,” he says. “Every detail is ingrained. My obligation was to put as much time into understanding what Mike drew as he put into drawing it.”

Wanting to keep the home spare while affording additional space, a barn was added to the plans, designed to be raw and lofted for large-scale activities like working on vehicles or making art. The barn exterior is finished with the same hand-raked stucco as the residence, while the interior has exposed studs, wires, and conduit. On its pitched roof are photovoltaic panels. “The barn is a working structure,” says Piché. “There’s a real rural context in Salida and so we used the barn as a counterpoint to the

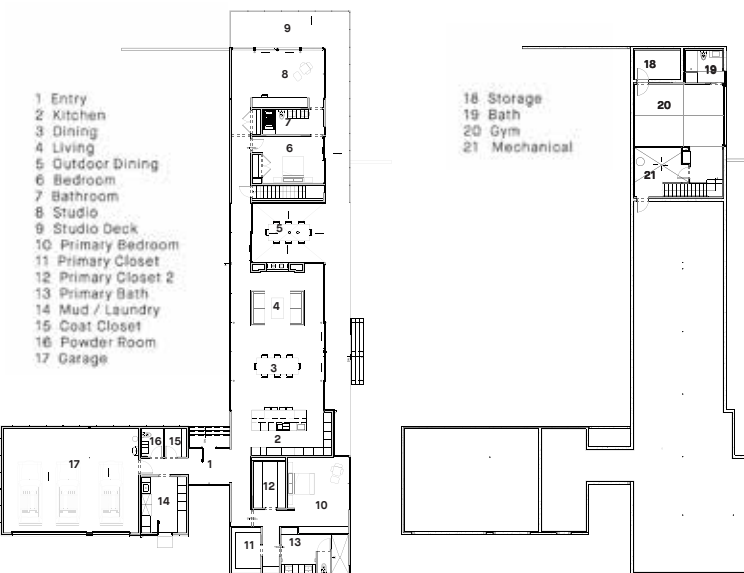


TOP: The exterior facade was finished with a custom hand-raked stucco technique designed specifically for this residence by Studio B. The building skin is tight and spare, with Piché explaining that they omitted all flashing caps so that “you see materials lifting right up to the sky.” **ABOVE:** Glass walls encase the primary bedroom which overlooks the Arkansas River. Furnishings are by Rifugio Modern.

modern residence. It’s really tall and vertical—a piece of datum in the landscape that draws you to the site from afar.”

R Design’s Ransom Beegles and Adam Kreinbrink worked closely with Piché to integrate the project’s rural and modern inflections in the residential landscape. “A big thing we talked about early on was drawing the line between what’s modern and what isn’t, and how we could use both to create a sequence

through the property that begins at the road and carries the experience all the way through to the river,” Beegles says. He designed a country lane that would bend at points to frame views of the barn and cottonwood trees and slow the pace of arrival. Steel walls that will soon be weathered and rusted to offset the plant material were placed at the entrance to the house’s motor court, introducing the modern edge. “Things become more organized and crisp around the house,





THE
EXPRESSION
OF AN EDGE

and then slowly shift to a riparian landscape in the back that leads down to the river,” says Beegles. For the planting, he looked to the agricultural easement abutting the five-acre site, finding rabbitbrush, blonde ambition grass, native pine and plum trees, and boulders as inspiration. “It’s an understated palette,” he says. “When you’re working in a natural landscape like this, and with such strong architectural lines, it’s really important to subtly stitch it together in the right way.”

The word used by everyone who contributed to the project—whether pertaining to the siting, unique architectural pairing of house and barn, material treatments, and, especially, its relationship to the land—is alignment: the hardest and most important thing to achieve when you’re standing at a precipice. ■

PROJECT CREDITS

ARCHITECT:
Studio B Architecture & Interiors

INTERIOR DESIGN:
Studio B Architecture & Interiors

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Hammerwell, Inc.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING:
PH Structure

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:
R Design

CABINETS:
BKI Millworks

WINDOWS + DOORS:
Reynaers, supplied by Signature Windows

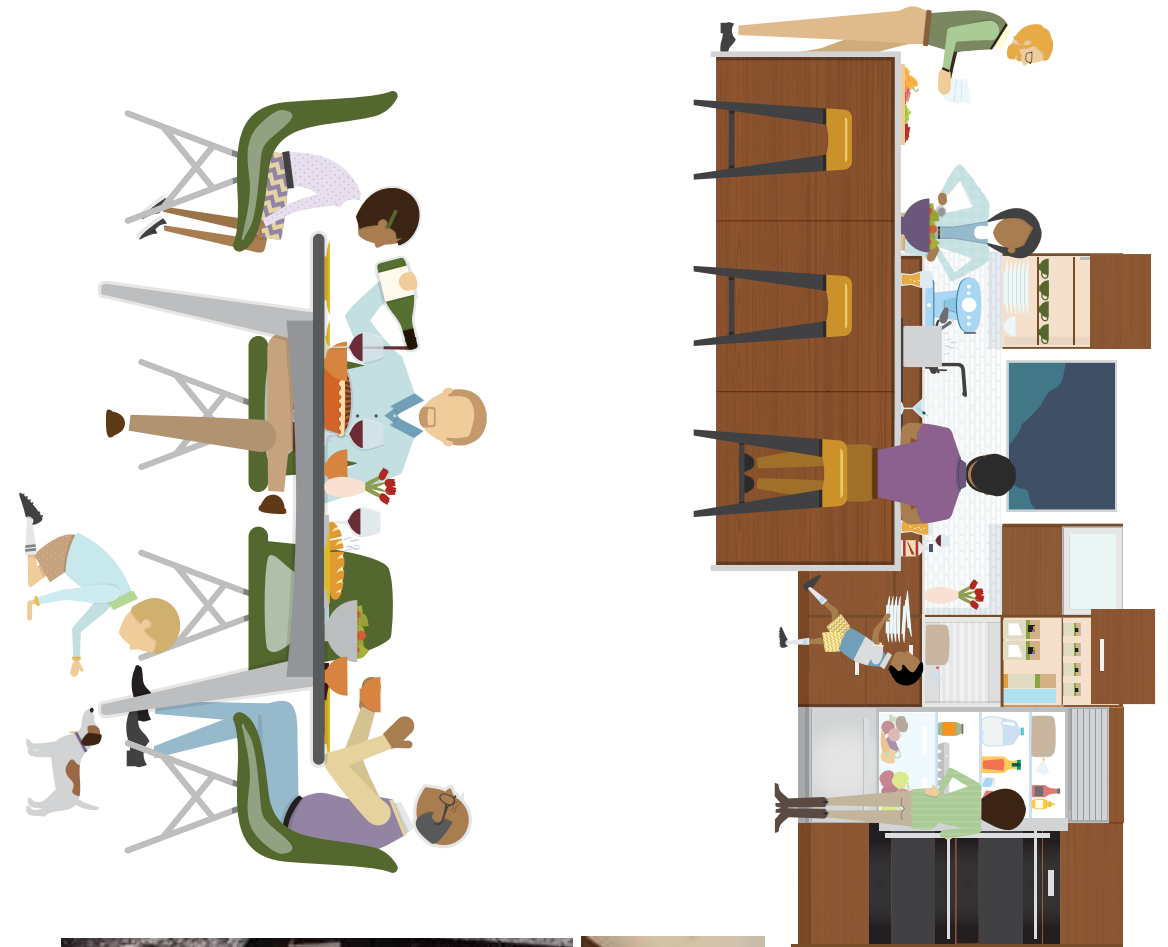
FURNISHINGS:
Rifugio Modern

TILE:
Mosa Tile, Lea Ceramiche

THE KITCHEN THAT HOLDS EVERYTHING...

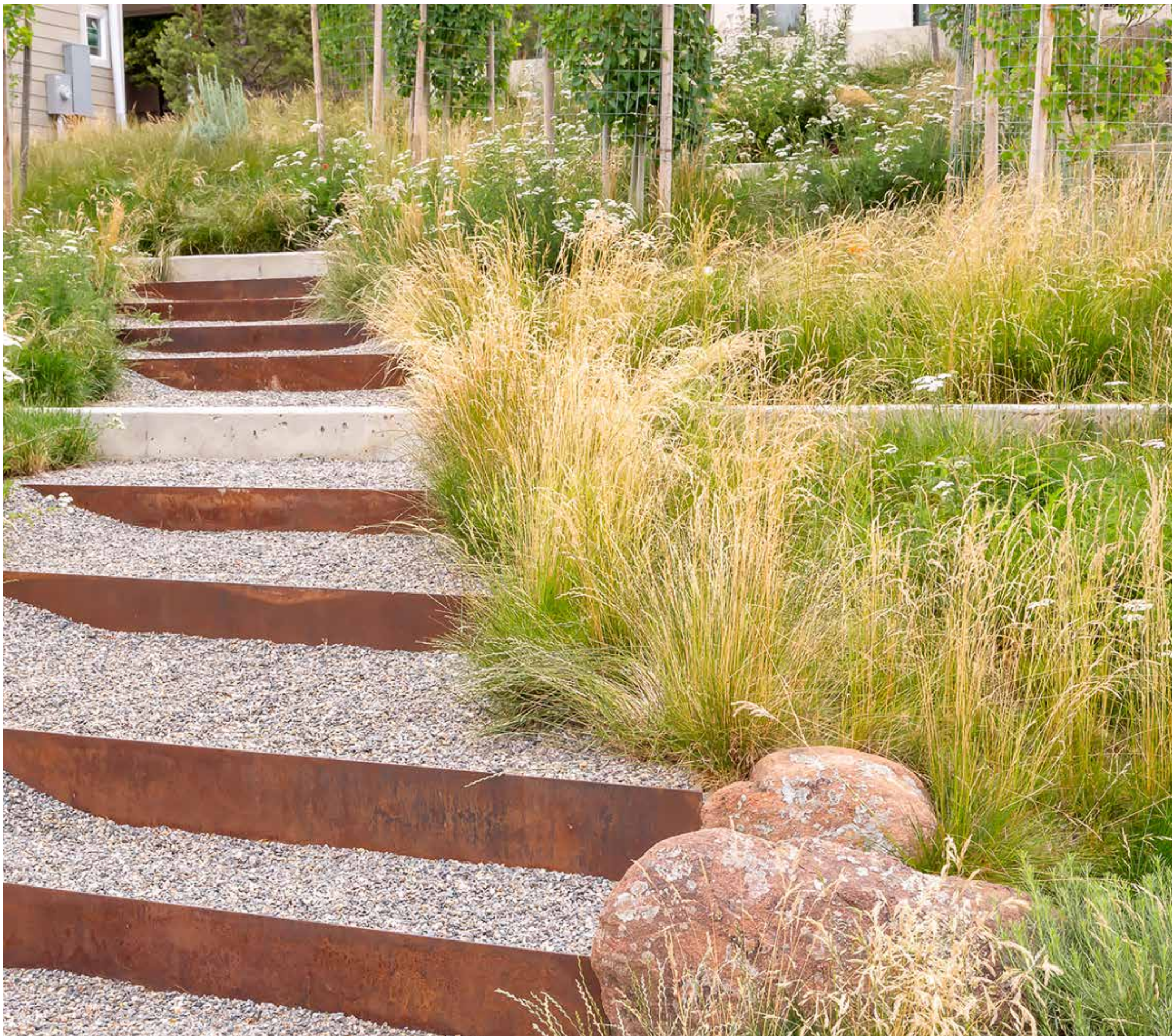


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Local landscape architects at R Design and Elevate By Design teach us how to do the hard math of xeriscaping to reduce water usage and multiply beauty in our landscapes.

SOLVING FOR

WORDS: Vanessa Kauffman Zimmerly

DENVER IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE XERISCAPE, AT LEAST IN NAME.

In the 1980s, the Denver Water Board created the term—a neologism of “xeric,” Greek for dry, and “landscape”—as a way to encourage city residents to use less water in their yards by choosing plants that would easily thrive in the region’s natural aridity and increasingly severe drought cycles. Forty years later, xeriscaping has entered the common lexicon for both landscape architects and home gardeners across the nation who are looking to get water-wise. However, the bristly term is still imagined by many to mean a yard without—whether that’s visual interest, a lawn, or certain beloved plants. But local landscape architects say xeriscaping doesn’t equal zero.

“As we see it, a xeriscape still benefits from a lot of plant material,” says Ransom Beegles, principal at R Design Landscape Architecture. Known for his modernist aesthetic that organically extends the built environment’s architectural elements, Beegles has spent two decades creating and planning dynamic residential, commercial, and civic landscapes from the firm’s Denver office (they also operate in upstate New York). His interest in the xeric approach started early in the firm’s life. “It just always felt right to us,” he says. “We were doing suburban projects in northern Colorado and driving through beautiful preserved prairie to get to job sites. Once we arrived, we’d meet with clients who were paying a lot of money irrigating unused lawn, so we started asking ourselves: Why are we doing this?”

Photo: Michael deLeon

"WE WERE DOING SUBURBAN PROJECTS IN NORTHERN COLORADO AND DRIVING THROUGH BEAUTIFUL PRESERVED PRAIRIE TO GET TO JOB SITES. ONCE WE ARRIVED, WE'D MEET WITH CLIENTS WHO WERE PAYING A LOT OF MONEY IRRIGATING UNUSED LAWN, SO WE STARTED ASKING OURSELVES: WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?"

- Ransom Beegles



Photo: Michael deLeon

SOLVING FOR X

Beegles defines the xeric approach as using plants that require as little supplemental water, light, and fertilizer as possible—once they're established (he emphasizes that last part). Which plants will thrive where depends entirely on their context. "What we consider to be part of the xeric palette varies tremendously, and changes a lot even within Colorado, where we have prairie, mountain, and urban environments that shift block by block," he says. Looking at R Design's portfolio of lush, impressionistic landscapes, some might be shocked to know they're xeric. "We look to see what a site's landscape might've been like before it was touched by settlement and try to restore it with current climate conditions and water restrictions in mind," he says. "There's a lot more opportunity and room to play in xeriscaping than is commonly understood."

By definition, xeriscaping's biggest benefit is reduced water usage. It also lessens maintenance, and therefore labor and cost over time. And, if you're following the law of context, it's likely you'll also be utilizing plants endemic to your region, meaning you'll be maintaining ecological diversity that attracts local birds, bees, and other pollinators. In the Front Range, a xeriscape can be built with a wide range of flowering perennials like cone flower, penstemon, and yarrow; mint family plants like hyssop, salvia, and lavender; as well as a host of ground covers, shrubs, trees, and ornamental grasses that will add year-round color and texture. "Native plants that fit the bill of requiring the least supplemental resources also tend to adapt well to Colorado's changing weather patterns," explains Beegles, "so, a xeric landscape is also a durable landscape."



Photo: Michael deLeon

OPPOSITE: R Design created a lush xeriscape of native prairie plants to offset a sleek modernist home in central Boulder. White yarrow, sage, assorted cacti, and prairie grasses nestle among Corten steel steps with crushed stone treads. White concrete bands run horizontally to help retain grade and, as principal Ransom Beegles puts it, "create compositional structure within a wild landscape."
ABOVE: On the other side of the home, a patch of John Creech sedum blooms in a vibrant pink below a young honey locust tree. "There's no traditional lawn on this property," says Beegles, "and yet there are several interesting spaces and a surprising amount of green."
BELOW: For a property in the Boulder foothills, R Design used a turf alternative that's mown only once or twice a year. Dogwood and pinyon pines tie in with the surrounding foothills environment. "It's a simple design in a great setting," says Beegles.



Photo: Raul Garcia

Organizing space with boulders, berms, and custom-built planters is a specialty of Elevate By Design. For a property in Denver's Hilltop neighborhood inspired by the Parker Hotel in Palm Springs, Elevate By Design mulched with 3/4" crushed granite and placed red yucca, rabbitbrush, and blue oat grass to imbue a California hillside vibe. "This is so unlike anything else in the neighborhood and garnered a lot of attention," principal Paul Wrona remarks. **OPPOSITE:** Elevate By Design adds a small dose of green to a zen-like basement courtyard.



Photo: Elevate By Design



Photo: Elevate By Design



Photo: Elevate By Design

SOLVING FOR X

Balancing softscapes with hardscapes is the approach Elevate By Design takes in their work, and especially when it comes to xeriscaping. Principals Chris Turner and Paul Wrona cofounded Elevate By Design in 2012, and have established a niche designing intimate, room-like outdoor spaces. "We define our xeriscapes as hardscape-driven designs with carefully selected plantings that maximize the aesthetic while conserving water," says Wrona, explaining that their ambition is to create architectural structure in the landscape so people can comfortably spend a lot of time outside. An aspect they almost always incorporate in a xeriscape is an outdoor fire element. "Fire is an inviting and fascinating element, and adds duration of use to your outdoor space," says Wrona, pointing out that, in place of a large lawn, an outdoor living space with a fire element serves as a place to congregate, talk, and tell stories into the evening, even in the chillier seasons.

"Beyond design principles that affect plant selections, we try to be mindful of water-conserving techniques including efficient irrigation systems and the use of other organic materials in the landscape that do not require water," says Turner. The studio modulates topology in xeric designs by integrating rock materials local to the area, like sandstone and granite boulders. Doing so adds structure to individual lots, and also serves to continue the aesthetic of the landscape beyond property lines.



Photo: Parrish Ruiz de Velasco

WHY GET WATER WISE?

When it comes to water, Colorado is in dire straits. The state is in a 22-year period of megadrought—the longest on record for the last 1,200 years, according to a CSU soil moisture study—and the mighty Colorado River that keeps 40 million people and 5.5 million acres of land across seven states watered is rapidly drying up.

The average single-family home in Colorado uses about 150,000 gallons of water a year, with roughly 50–55% of their total usage spent outdoors, mostly to irrigate turf. Low-flow plumbing systems and other building efficiency measures can significantly reduce usage, but so can the choices you make for your yard and garden.

In addition to choosing xeric or drought-resistant plants, mulching can lower irrigation needs by up to 50% by reducing soil evaporation. Experts recommend adding a depth of four inches of organic material to your beds. You should also regularly maintain your irrigation systems. Check to make sure there are no blockages or leaks, set your nozzles so they're properly directed, and adjust automatic timers to account for specific needs by season and plant species.



“BEYOND DESIGN PRINCIPLES THAT AFFECT PLANT SELECTIONS, WE TRY TO BE MINDFUL OF WATER-CONSERVING TECHNIQUES INCLUDING EFFICIENT IRRIGATION SYSTEMS AND THE USE OF OTHER ORGANIC MATERIALS IN THE LANDSCAPE THAT DO NOT REQUIRE WATER.” - Chris Turner

ABOVE: A pathway of concrete pavers leads to a charcoal flagstone patio featuring a Hestia fire pit in onyx from Nisho. Vertical interest is created with low-water, low-maintenance plant materials, including manzanita, aspen, and mugo pines. BELOW: Beegles shows how lawn can be used thoughtfully on a property that is otherwise 70 percent restored prairie grass. “The family wanted just enough lawn to play on with friends and relatives,” he explains. Concrete pavers reduce the amount of lawn and create visual interest, drawing the eye across and up to views of the mountains.



Photo: Michael deLeon

SOLVING FOR X

“Using hardscape features, such as large landscape boulders and different sizes of rock, together with plants with varying bloom times, textures, and growth habits can make for a very impactful environment,” explains Turner. And Wrona points out that the best way to remain xeric in a grand landscape, like the mountains, is to simply draw attention to the natural surroundings and views. “We try to define the best part of the mountain landscape on a particular site and then create outdoor living spaces to sit, enjoy, and adore it,” he says. “In these projects, we take a minimalist approach to adding plant materials and irrigation.”

A question many people have about xeriscaping is whether lawn is ever okay. “Lawn is not the total enemy that people say it is,” says Beegles, adding that plant material of any kind has the benefit of restoring and cooling soil. “But, it should be treated sacred: If you’re going to have it, you should want it and use it.” For those putting new lawn in, Turner and Wrona recommend Sheep Fescue, a drought-resistant bunchgrass, or Blue Grama Turfgrass, both of which use significantly less water and only need mowing a few times a year.

Elevate By Design and R Design agree that not only is xeriscaping a necessary step into the future, but it’s also a reclamation of the distant past—an embrace of Denver’s inherent high plains environment. The norm of a green, grassy lawn and bountiful beds of exotic horticultural varieties is one we need to resist. “Those kinds of landscapes are beautiful in places where they grow easily and well, but there’s a lot of beauty right here,” says Beegles. “Let’s do something right for this place.”

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S XERIC!

Photo: Michael deLeon

For home gardeners looking to create a xeriscape of their own, Colorado State University Extension has several online resources, including information on site and slope assessment, soil preparation, irrigation systems, and the fun stuff: recommended seed mixtures and plant lists. They’ve also collaborated with the Denver Botanic Gardens to create the Plant Select program that identifies flora especially adapted for the Rocky Mountain regions. Here’s a sample xeric palette we created from their guides.



Perennials

- Denver Daisy Rudbeckia
- Pasque Flower
- Heuchera / Coral Bells
- Sunset Hyssop
- Tennessee Purple Coneflower



Ground Covers

- Creeping Thyme, Woolly Thyme
- Stonecrop
- Valley Lavender Verbena
- Ice plant
- Penstemon



Shrubs + Trees

- Baby Blue Rabbitbrush
- Red Yucca
- Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry
- Shrubby Cinquefoil (Potentilla)
- Leadplant
- Big Sage
- Privet
- Sand Cherry
- Gro-Low Sumac





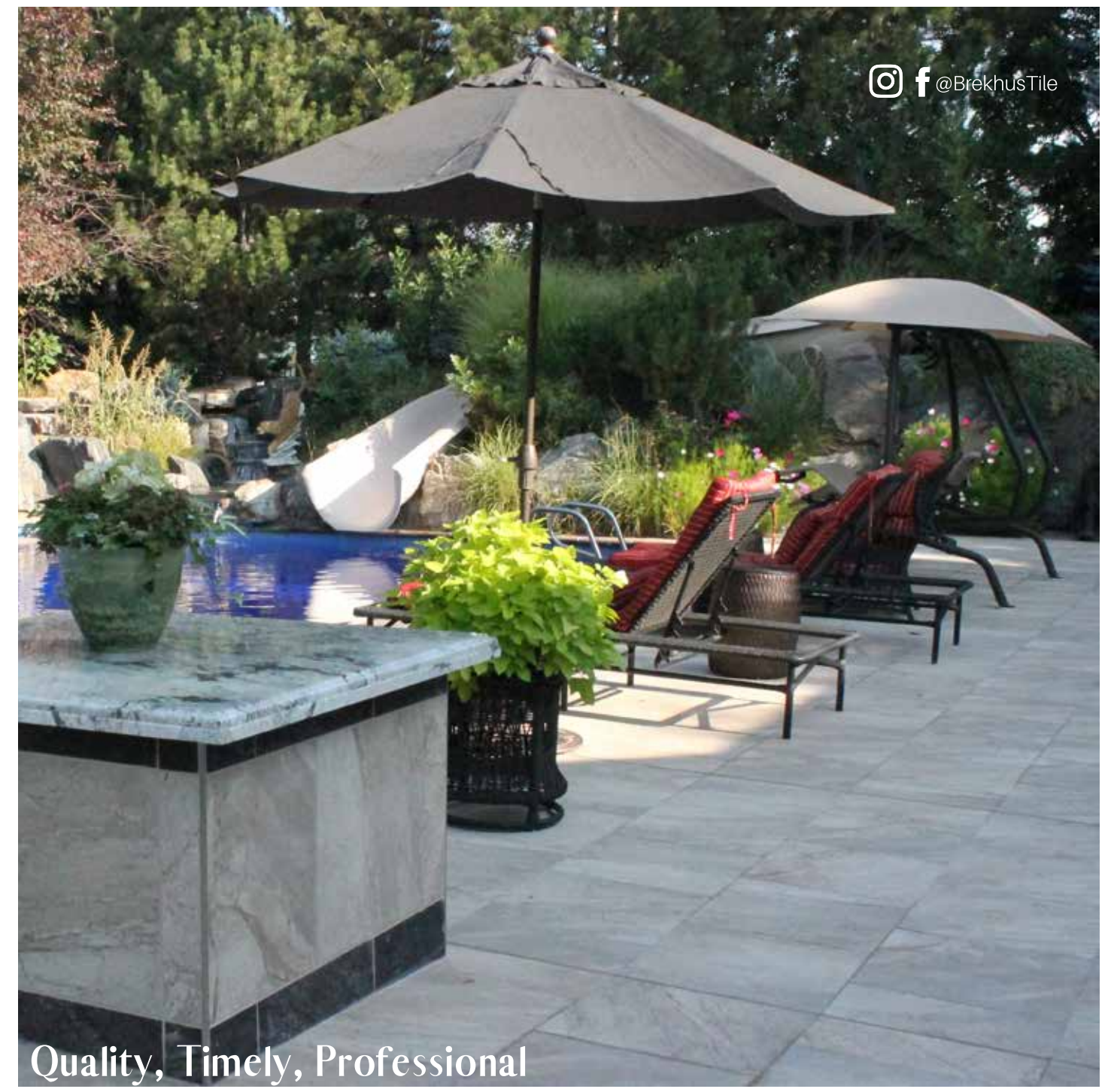
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PRIVATE PANORAMA

WORDS: Laurie Lauletta-Boshart
IMAGES: David Lauer

An empty-nester couple turns to HMH Architecture + Interiors to transform a drab dwelling into an expansive-view sanctuary.

Tucked in a secluded court and perched high above the golf course in Cherry Creek's DCC neighborhood, the muted 1984 contemporary home lacked appeal. The decades-old dwelling was in desperate need of an update, but the location was unmatched. The owners—a couple who recently relocated to Denver for work—saw enormous potential in the residence. “We chose the site more than the home,” the wife says. “And we absolutely fell in love with the breathtaking views.” The expansive rear wall of glass revealed an impressive panorama of the city skyline and distant mountain range; it also encompassed the private golf course and meandering creek below.

The couple's enthusiasm for modern design and sustainability had grown in appreciation over time and informed their search for an architect. After talking with several firms and winnowing down the list, they selected Boulder-based HMH Architecture + Interiors. “They really wanted to have a





“WE CHOSE THE SITE MORE THAN THE HOME, AND WE ABSOLUTELY FELL IN LOVE WITH THE BREATHTAKING VIEWS.”



An open floor plan with sight lines from the outdoor patio through the main communal spaces allows family and guests to congregate and enjoy spectacular views from any room. The environmentally-friendly water vapor fireplace by CF+D has become a conversation piece with guests. “We put our hand through the water vapors and it looks like we are touching the flames,” laughs the husband. “It gets people every time.”

great relationship with their team and have fun while doing this project. And we were able to bring that,” explains Harvey Hine, HMH founding partner and lead architect.

What started as a relatively light remodel quickly grew into a complete redesign. The owners desired to reuse the existing foundation, which was significant in size on the steep and sloping hillside. The structure was not orthogonal in any way, and lacked traditional 90-degree angles, which posed a substantial challenge. HMH introduced large, cantilevered curves on the upper two levels that provided the solution to salvage the existing foundation, and satisfy the homeowner’s desire for natural light and unobstructed views.

In addition to modern, the owners wanted the home’s design to embrace sustainable operational strategies. “We thought the combo of putting solar panels on the roof and using geothermal technology would help achieve that,” says the husband. In their new life stage, the owners wished to create a private retreat that connected to the outdoors, but also allowed them to age in place and comfortably accommodate their canine family members and visiting adult children.



“They wanted lots of access to the outdoors, so we had to consider that with the challenge of the steep slope and carving out these outdoor spaces on the different levels,” says Lindsay Beukhof, senior project manager for HMH.

The architects succeeded in creating multiple outdoor areas that range from intimate to expansive, including a cantilevered deck off the kitchen that is suspended above the creek below. Another sizable outdoor entertaining space is directly off the great room and accessible through a large folding door. Rounded glazing hugs the narrow site and orients the home to maximize the rear views. In front, the architects mimicked the posterior, designing a long, curving zinc wall with integrated wood fins parallel to the street and leading to the main entry.

To create a delineation of space without losing openness, the application of wood factored largely in the design. Wood-paneled walls clarify rooms, and large wood-clad cubes anchor the core communal areas. The centrally-located, bespoke kitchen—one of the owners’ favorite spaces—includes a series of connected cubes for a seamless look. The blocks are wrapped in Querkus, a rich oak that was smoked and wire-brushed. The species was recommended by Veselbrand Studios. “I originally thought I wanted walnut, but I took one look



The homeowners were set on walnut for the kitchen, but fell in love with the modern, industrial look of Querkus, a smoked and wire-brushed oak, which was liberally applied in the kitchen, bathrooms, and office. The oversized island was designed for multifunctional use, where the wife, an education advocate, has commandeered the space for work. “It’s my favorite place in the house,” she says.



at this oak and said I want that in my kitchen,” says the wife, who particularly liked the industrial-looking finish and color. “It’s less traditional than walnut, with a similar color in the way the oak is treated.” Large cabinet doors that slide neatly into custom channels conceal built-in shelving that stows kitchen necessities. A solid black slab by Fenix covers the generous kitchen island, which doubles as a workspace and an integrated breakfast bar. Another wood-clad cube obscures the elevator, which blends effortlessly into the paneled entry, while white walls and built-in shelving display artworks collected over the years.

Generous, high-performance glazing on all levels reveals a layering of sights, from the foreground trees and golf course

to the distant city skyline and mountains. “The views are absolutely fantastic,” says Hine. “If you didn’t catch the view from every space, you were missing an opportunity.”

The interior views impress too, with state-of-the-art furnishings selected by Leah Civiok, HMM director of interior design. On the main floor, handcrafted sofas by Living Divani encircle the living space, while lounge chairs by Minotti add extra seating. Mustard-colored dining chairs by Overgaard and Dryman congregate guests for meals. Focal in the room is a unique, environmentally-friendly teardrop fireplace that combines water vapor and colored LED lights to simulate the look without gas. “Since the house is predominantly glass and concrete, we wanted to bring in

some warm, grounding textural materials and furniture styles with positive colors,” says Civiok.

The owners’ fondness for industrial materials is evident in the substantial hardware, railings, and hand-thrown overhead lighting. Concrete flooring warmed and cooled by radiant technology is the dominant floor surface. “The woods and industrial metals, and even the cement floor, add a depth that the more one-dimensional modern materials, like chrome and leather, don’t add,” the wife notes.

The modern wood and metal staircase, which connects the upper, main, and lower levels, is partially concealed by a wall of slatted wood. White Bocci lights encased in half-moon-shaped glass are artfully arranged on the stairwell wall.



The media room was intentionally designed to be a separate gathering space for the couple and their adult children when they visit. Comfortable seating by Living Divani orients to a built-in entertainment wall that houses a television and the family’s artworks. “It’s kind of become our game room, TV room, and piano room,” says the couple. “It’s more suited to the way we live.”



PRIVATE PANORAMA

“These lights are one of my favorite things in the house,” says the husband. “I just enjoy them every day.”

A well-appointed primary suite and comfortable guest room are on the upper level, with two additional bedrooms and media room on the lower level. The large media room, complete with television, grand piano, and sewing station, is where the family often gathers when together. “This is where we all like to hang out when everyone is here,” the wife says. “We watch a movie together or play music. We all play piano, but none of us very well,” she laughs.

The owners’ vision of a modern, well-lived-in home that is enjoyed day-to-day, as well as with family, exceeded their expectations. The unrivaled views from every room with the added benefit of wildlife grazing on the golf course below was an unexpected bonus. “That never gets old,” says the wife. ■



The primary suite serves as a private sanctuary where the couple can enjoy unfettered views. The custom bed was repurposed from a previous home. “We rarely close the bedroom curtains because we enjoy the nighttime city lights and have complete privacy,” the wife says. The generous en-suite bathroom boasts substantial natural light with a spa-like soaking tub and glass-enclosed shower tiled in miniature concrete-style squares.



PROJECT CREDITS

- ARCHITECT:
HMH Architecture + Interiors
- INTERIOR DESIGN:
HMH Architecture + Interiors
- GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Collaborate Builders
- STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING:
DLK Engineering
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:
Elevate by Design
- KITCHEN & ENTRY MILLWORK:
Veselbrand Studios
- OTHER MILLWORK:
Aspen Leaf
- CUSTOM CONCRETE SINK:
Concrete Visions
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- CUSTOM STAIR:
Matik Metal
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HOUSE CALL

Interior architect Julie Doman transforms a mid-century modern ranch with a past life as a doctor's office into a cohesive home for her family of four.

WORDS: Vanessa Kauffman Zimmerly • IMAGES: Emily Minton Redfield



JULIE DOMAN LOVES SPACE PLANNING.

Out of everything the interior architect does for her full-service design studio, considering the scale and flow of rooms is not only what Doman does best, it's what she most enjoys about the process. So when she saw a mid-century home with an uncommon layout go up for sale in the Hilltop neighborhood, it caught her attention.

"Since the time it was built until we bought it, half of this house was a doctor's office," says Doman of her new home. The 1950s ranch was designed for two doctors, a cardiologist and dermatologist at the forefront of their fields, who practiced medicine right from their residence. The home was given to the original owners' son, also a doctor, who continued to operate the space in the same way up until the Domans bought it. When they did, it came with a waiting room, reception area, restroom, three exam rooms, and a metal-clad x-ray room—as well as an extensive 90s renovation in the living areas.



"It was a really cool history, but obviously we knew the doctor's office aspect needed to go," Doman laughs, sharing that they opted to gut the whole main floor to gain the ease of space she is so expert at achieving. The Domans (Julie and her husband have two kids, ages 11 and 13) purchased the home at the end of 2020 and took close to nine months transforming it from a part-time health care facility to their full-time family home. At the same time, Doman was in the process of founding her own full-service design firm, Julie Doman

Interior Design, where she does everything from identifying real estate opportunities for clients to working alongside contractors during construction.

"It was a big project from the very start," Doman says about their current home, "which is why it appealed to me." She was just on the heels of having finished a full renovation of a Cheesman Park Denver Square that the family was living in. Despite that having been a really big project too, one she completed in two phases,

"WHEN I'M WORKING FOR MYSELF, I TRY OUT NEW IDEAS, TAKE RISKS, AND PLAY. AT THE SAME TIME, I WANTED EVERYTHING TO BE COMFORTABLE, WELCOMING, AND WARM. THIS PLACE IS PERFECT FOR US, AND WHILE I KNOW MYSELF WELL ENOUGH THAN TO EVER SAY 'FOREVER,' IT'S HOME." - Julie Doman

ABOVE LEFT: Light streams into the entryway from original front windows in Julie Doman's mid-century modern ranch. Doman, an interior architect, fully renovated the ranch from its past life as a doctor's office for her family of four in 2021. **ABOVE RIGHT:** A vintage Knoll chair Doman found antiquing sits beneath built-in shelving where books, art, and objects are displayed.



Doman was ready for the next. “I don’t know how else to say it,” she says, “I just love these residential projects and can’t say no when I see a fun opportunity.”

Doman managed the project herself, working in close collaboration with Blue Divide general contractor Adam Watson. Her biggest objective was to nail the floor plan so that it worked for her family’s lifestyle. “I put every square foot to use,” she says. The main floor includes an open kitchen, dining, and living area;

primary suite; bedrooms and bathrooms for each of the kids; workout room that includes a golf simulator; mudroom and laundry; and an office each for Doman and her husband. The basement includes guest bedrooms and a bathroom, along with a living area for the kids to retreat to.

Tucked to the side of the living room’s restored brick fireplace is a window-seat and reading nook where Doman says her kids do homework and play music. “These corner windows are such

a sweet mid-century detail,” she says, indicating two others in the primary suite and her husband’s office. “I knew we absolutely had to preserve them.”

She also preserved the home’s front facade, only updating paint and landscaping. “I wanted to keep the exterior’s beautiful straight lines intact and enhance the home by simplifying the style and creating functionality for our family,” Doman says. A modest addition was incorporated off the back of one side of the house to →124

HOUSE CALL

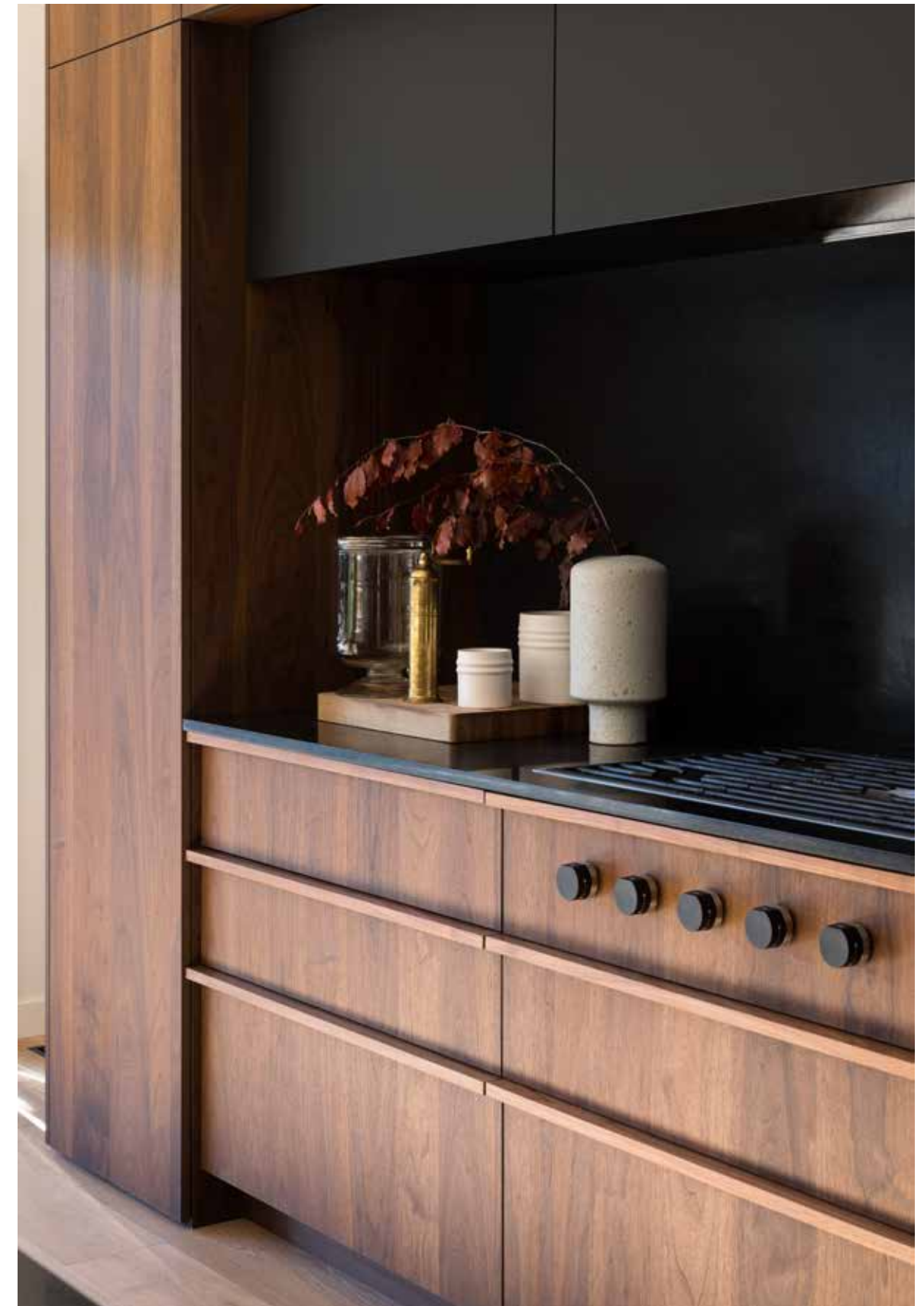
ABOVE: The indoor living and dining area includes 30 feet of glass door walls that open to a covered poolside patio where the family spends time grilling, entertaining, and playing pingpong year-round. **OPPOSITE:** Doman’s son Will sits in a sunny window seat. A handful of corner windows were preserved from the original 1950s ranch design.



“THESE CORNER WINDOWS ARE SUCH A SWEET MID-CENTURY DETAIL. I KNEW WE ABSOLUTELY HAD TO PRESERVE THEM.” - Julie Doman



Doman had a custom walnut cabinetry system created by Vonmod to define the kitchen's form and function by partitioning space and providing hidden storage. A concealed walk-in pantry can be accessed through the kitchen or the adjacent hallway and keeps appliances separate for a clean look. The rich walnut is offset by light, wide-plank oak flooring. Bar stools are by local furniture makers DoubleButter.



"I WANTED TO KEEP THE EXTERIOR'S BEAUTIFUL STRAIGHT LINES INTACT AND ENHANCE THE HOME BY SIMPLIFYING THE STYLE AND CREATING FUNCTIONALITY FOR OUR FAMILY." - Julie Doman



The ranch's footprint and roofline are true to the 1950s original with the exception of a small addition off the back for Doman's office and workout room. The new U-shape encloses a large outdoor patio. The backyard was leveled to accommodate a pool by Laguna Pools.

HOUSE CALL



make space for the workout room and Doman's office. The addition creates a U-shape footprint that hugs an outdoor patio and a pool that sits where there was once a pond and large-scale train set. Aside from these amendments, the essence of the home remains relatively the same from the outside, masking the interior's significant reconfiguration.

Indeed, a big part of what makes the house feel so easy and graceful is what you don't see. Perfecting the subtle balance of reveal and

conceal is another one of Doman's space planning strengths. "I like a super clean kitchen, where appliances feel more like built-in pieces of furniture," Doman says. She worked with the cabinetmakers at Vonmod, who she fittingly and ironically describes as being able to "think outside the box," to design a walnut architectural console that further organizes the layout between the kitchen and living areas and the primary suite.

The unit not only provides cabinetry and a heightened level

of finish to the home's central areas, but also serves to divide rooms while creating new, hidden ones. Tap on one panel and a doorway opens to a spacious walk-in pantry where appliances and food storage reside. Nudge another to expose a silverware drawer or the refrigerator. With the bespoke unit commanding so much of the space, Doman elected to leave room between it and the ceiling above to avoid blocking the flow of natural light. Although it's no longer the uncanny site of a medical office, the home still has its tricks.



"Once I figured out the spatial arrangements, I focused on bringing it back to that mid-century style," she says of the material finishes, furnishings, and textiles. White oak flooring from Arrigoni Woods tempers the rich, classic walnut paneling, and white walls remain steady throughout the home, allowing art and houseplants to pop. In the bathrooms, Doman played with color, introducing blush-toned Heath tiles in the guest bath and terrazzo in the primary. "I like there to be material through lines

in a home without things feeling too matchy-matchy," she explains. "When I'm working for myself, I try out new ideas, take risks, and play," says Doman. "At the same time, I wanted everything to be comfortable, welcoming, and warm. This place is perfect for us, and while I know myself well enough than to ever say 'forever,' it's home." ■

PROJECT CREDITS

ARCHITECTURE + INTERIORS:
[Julie Doman Interior Design](#)

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
[Blue Divide](#)

MILLWORK:
[Vonmod](#)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:
[Ivy Street Design](#)

LANDSCAPING:
[Singing Hills Landscape](#)

POOL:
[Laguna Pools](#)

AV:
[Vision Integrated Services](#)

The primary bedroom was designed to be small and serene. "I'd much rather give the square footage to other places," Doman explains. And she did: the modest bedroom is complemented by a spacious en-suite bathroom and closet **OPPOSITE, ABOVE**. "I don't need a lot of room to sleep, but I absolutely love having big closets and spaces that make the house really functional and keep our things organized."



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A

DISCOVERING AURORA

Famously coined The Gateway to the Rockies, the city of Aurora has long been a point of entry to Denver and the West. But now historic Aurora is home to numerous cultural centers, ethnic restaurants, robust development, and a rapidly growing population nearing 400,000, making it a vibrant destination all its own.

IT'S A BALMY SATURDAY AFTERNOON IN "ORIGINAL AURORA," THE HISTORIC HEART OF COLORADO'S THIRD-LARGEST CITY.

About a dozen people have gathered in Fletcher Plaza, next to Martin Luther King Jr. Library, to hear chamber music performed by members of the Aurora Symphony Orchestra. The musicians, dressed in black, do their best to be heard over the sound of cars whizzing by on East Colfax Avenue. Vendors in booths sell clothing, hats, and jewelry, while non-music lovers check out the Denver Museum of Nature & Science's Curiosity Cruiser, an interactive museum on wheels.

The monthly Colfax Art Jam is sponsored by the Aurora Cultural Arts District, a nonprofit created in 2009 to promote arts and culture in Aurora. "It's a way to engage with the community," says Bliss Coleman, ACAD's executive director. "And we want to educate people about Aurora, to show them who we

are, what's here, and what makes us beautiful."

Walk along Colfax through this part of Aurora, and you see a neighborhood in flux. Amid the pawn shops and liquor stores, new businesses have popped up. There's Bánh & Butter Bakery Cafe, which is doing brisk lunchtime business. Next door is Baba & Pop's Handmade Pierogi, which started as a food truck. Across the street, Denver's Cerebral Brewing opened its second location last year. Another taproom, Lady Justice Brewing, is just down the block. About a mile east, on a side street south of Colfax, Jubilee Roasting Co. has been serving customers since 2016. Owner Peter Wanberg rents out studio space in the back of the building, a renovated auto parts warehouse, to local artists.

WORDS: David Hill

IMAGES: James Stukenberg



A



In recent years, new businesses have popped up along Aurora's East Colfax corridor. Bánh & Butter Bakery Cafe [ABOVE], in the Aurora Cultural Arts District, serves Asian-French inspired pastries and sandwiches. Sushi-Rama [RIGHT] opened in 2019 near the Anschutz Medical Campus.



“THERE'S GOOD MOMENTUM IN THE AREA, AND WE'RE EXCITED FOR THAT TO CONTINUE. BUT HOW DO WE ENCOURAGE REINVESTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY WITHOUT SEEING DISPLACEMENT OF LONGTIME RESIDENTS?”

- Jason Batchelor, City Manager

Meanwhile, in a former J.C. Penny department store on Colfax, the Mango House refugee center continues to thrive. Founded in 2014 by Dr. P.J. Parmar, the center houses a medical clinic, a dental office, a grocery store, clothing boutiques, a money-transfer business, and a half-dozen or so food stalls offering cuisine from Burma, Syria, Somalia, Nepal, Ethiopia, and more. There's even an indoor play area, where a group of kids are kicking a soccer ball next to a sign that says, “Refugees Welcome.” (It's no surprise that Mango House is located in Aurora, Colorado's most diverse city and home to a sizable refugee population. More than

20 percent of Aurora's residents were born outside of the United States, and students in Aurora's public schools come from families that collectively speak more than 160 languages.)

Then there are the galleries and cultural offerings, including two theaters: the Aurora Fox, a 1946 movie theater with a Streamline Moderne entrance and a 61-foot neon sign; and the Vintage Theater, which has three stages under one roof. Another performance space can be found inside the People's Building, a former rent-to-own furniture store acquired by the City of Aurora's Office of Urban Renewal

and Redevelopment in 2013 and transformed by the Denver firm Architectural Workshop into a 4,000-square-foot cultural center.

The ACAD itself, with offices, art studios, and gallery space, is headquartered on Colfax in a former liquor store. Another community arts organization, Downtown Aurora Visual Arts, or DAVA, occupies what was once a 1950s strip mall one block south of Colfax.

Coleman says she's seeing more young families move into the area, no doubt given Original Aurora's proximity to Denver and the area's → 134

DISCOVERING AURORA

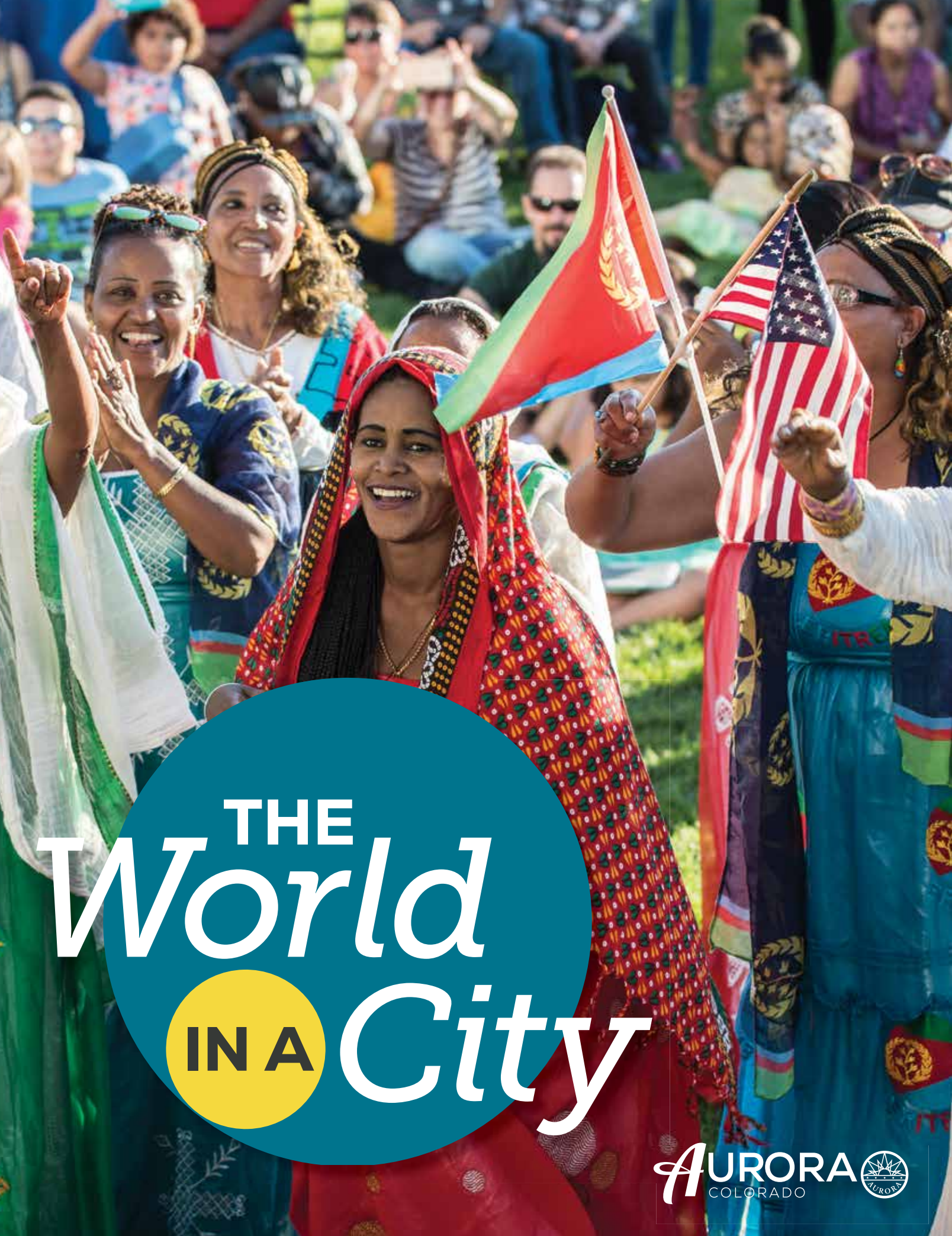


On a side street just off East Colfax, Jubilee Roasting Co. has been serving customers since 2016. Owner Peter Wanberg rents out studio space in the back of the building, a former auto parts warehouse, to local artists.



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AuroraEats.org

relatively affordable housing stock. But she and others hope to see the area avoid the negative effects of gentrification.

“There’s good momentum in the area, and we’re excited for that to continue,” says Jason Batchelor, Aurora’s interim city manager. “But how do we encourage reinvestment in the community without seeing displacement of longtime residents?”

Original Aurora is, in fact, where the city of Aurora began, in 1891, though it was incorporated as the town of Fletcher. Renamed Aurora in 1907, by 1928 the population had reached 2,000. According to the Aurora History Museum, growth accelerated after World War II primarily because of three military bases: Buckley Air Force Base, Lowry Air Force Base,

“WE’RE DEVELOPING MORE OF A SENSE OF PLACE. WE HAVE SOME OF THE BEST ETHNIC RESTAURANTS AND GROCERY STORES IN THE ENTIRE STATE, RIGHT HERE. AURORA IS ALL ABOUT DIVERSITY. IT’S THE ENTIRE WORLD IN ONE CITY.”

-Jason Batchelor, City Manager

and Fitzsimons Army Hospital. Aurora became known as the “Gateway to the Rockies” largely because East Colfax Avenue, part of U.S. Highway 40, was the main thoroughfare for motorists heading to Denver and points beyond. (That of course changed when I-70 was constructed in the 1960s.)

Aurora’s history can be seen in its architecture, which includes Queen Anne houses from the 1800s, Mission Revival buildings from the early 1900s, and Googie commercial structures from the 1950s and 1960s.

Denver architect Victor Hornbein, perhaps best known for the concrete-and-glass Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory at Denver Botanic Gardens, designed a small public library



Denver architect Victor Hornbein designed a small public library [ABOVE] inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright’s Usonian style. The landmark 1954 building is now occupied by Red Delicious Press, a nonprofit printmaking cooperative [RIGHT].



AROUND THE WORLD IN AURORA

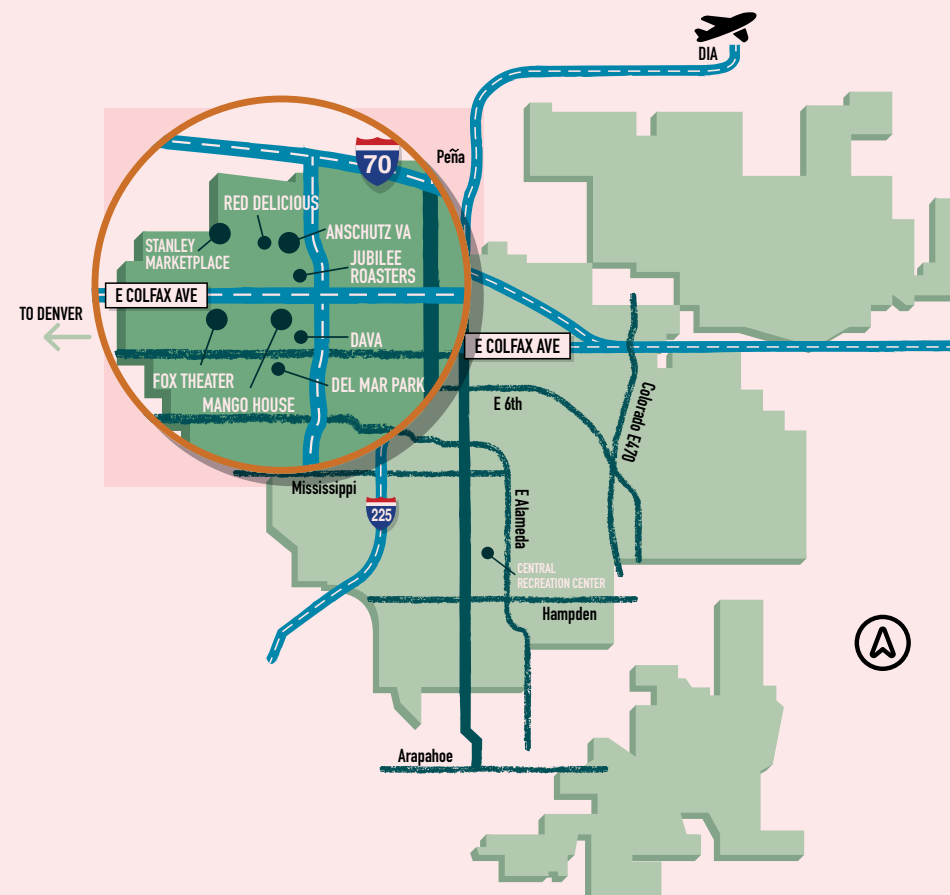
WHERE TO EAT

Aurora has 250 locally-operated ethnic eateries representing culinary cultures from six continents—making it the number one place in Colorado to find global cuisine. Here is a short list of spots to taste your way around the world. Go to visitaaurora.com for a complete list.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Addis Ababa Ethiopian | La Costa |
| Bánh & Butter Bakery Cafe | Langano Ethiopian |
| Baba & Pop’s Handmade Pierogi | The Madras Cafe |
| Elita Specialty Market & Kitchen | Misaki Sushi |
| Churreria de Madrid | Natoli Coffee |
| Chi Lin Asian Eatery | Nepali Spice |
| Maria Empanada | Silla Korean BBQ |
| Comida | Swahili BBQ & Grill |
| Cuba Bakery & Cafe | Urban Burma |
| Dae Gee | Yemen Grill |
| Golden Sky Asian | Tofu Story |
| Jasmine Syrian | Top Pho |



Artist Jason Needham spent six months working with young artists to create “Uptown: A Place for Art and Community,” a colorful mural outside the Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA) building. The nonprofit, in the Aurora Cultural Arts District, offers free art classes for students ages three to 17.



WELCOME TO AURORA Gateway to the Rockies

SOME NUMBERS

- ELEVATION: 5,435 feet
- POPULATION 2022: 398,018
- AREA: 163.20 sq. miles
- PARKS: 103
- PUBLIC LIBRARIES: 7
- HOUSING UNITS: 139,091
- MEDIAN HOME VALUE: \$322,200
- MEDIAN AGE: 34.8 years old

INDUSTRY

- EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, SOCIAL SERVICES 19.1%
- PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, MGMT, ADMIN 13.6%
- RETAIL TRADE 10.9%
- ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, REC, FOOD SERVICE 10.4%



Aurora may not have a dedicated enclave of mid-century modern houses, like Denver's Krisana Park, but several striking examples from the 1960s can be found on Del Mar Circle, overlooking Del Mar Park.



Building 500 on the Anschutz Medical Campus [ABOVE], completed in 1941, is one of Aurora's architectural jewels. For years, it was the main building at Fitzsimons Army Hospital. Today, it's the center of administration and education for the campus. The sprawling Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center [RIGHT], designed by the celebrated architecture firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, was completed in 2018.



Aurora's Friend Furniture Co. hired Denver architect Richard Crowther in 1951 to modernize its East Colfax storefront. Crowther branded the facade with the word "Friend" in large italic letters. Today, the logotype can be seen on a smaller building [BELOW] around the corner, on North Dallas Street.



in Aurora in the Usonian style, conceived by Frank Lloyd Wright. The landmark building, which opened in 1954, is similar to another library designed by Hornbein, Denver's Ross-Broadway branch. These days, the Aurora structure is occupied by Red Delicious Press, a nonprofit printmaking cooperative.

Another Denver architect, Richard Crowther, left his distinct mark on Aurora. In 1951, he was hired by Friend Furniture Co., at 9605 East Colfax, to modernize the storefront. Crowther, a brilliant graphic designer, branded the façade of the building with the word "Friend" in large italic letters. (Crowther used similar signage at Lakeside Amusement Park.) Today, the logotype can be seen on a smaller building around the corner, on North Dallas Street.

Crowther was also responsible for the Riviera Motel, at 9100 East



ZGF, in partnership with Anderson Mason Dale, designed the 2021 concrete-and-glass Anschutz Health Sciences Building [ABOVE]. Users enter through a large "forest" of concrete columns that lead to an expansive, plant-filled atrium. Aurora's Central Recreation Center [RIGHT] is one of two recently opened rec centers designed by the global architecture firm Populous.





Photo: Parrish Ruiz de Velasco

Colfax, a fine example of exuberant Googie architecture. The 1956 building features a dramatic overhanging porte-cochère at the entrance to the property. The motel still operates but has fallen into disrepair. If the motel were in Palm Springs, it would have been lovingly restored years ago—and maybe, with Aurora gaining as a cultural hotspot, it will be yet. (Crowther died in 2006. Sadly, his former house at 401 Madison Street in Denver, which the architect designed with passive solar technology, was recently demolished.)

According to a 2015 guide to Aurora's historic architecture, the city is "nearly a textbook example" of post-World War II residential development, with "ubiquitous Ranch homes built on mostly curvilinear streets to accommodate both nuclear family living and the automobile." Most of

those houses still stand in Aurora's older suburbs, including Hoffman Heights, Lynn Knoll, and Delmar Parkway. And while there's no particular enclave of mid-century modern homes—think Denver's Krisana Park—you can find several striking (and recently renovated) 60s-era examples on Del Mar Circle, facing Del Mar Park.

Today, Aurora is a sprawling city of 163 square miles with a population of 398,000. And it continues to grow. "We're seeing really strong development activity," Batchelor says, "across all sectors, residential and commercial." He rattles off the names of some of the city's new or planned residential neighborhoods: Painted Prairie, Aurora Highlands, Windler. What's driving the city's growth? Affordability is one factor, Batchelor says, but proximity to Denver International Airport is another. Plus, he adds, "We try to be very development friendly."

INSIDE STANLEY MARKETPLACE

Bordering the Central Park neighborhood in northwest Aurora, the Stanley Marketplace has over 50 independently-owned Colorado businesses, offering dining, retail, and recreational experiences. Here's our list of favorite spots to shop and play.

Aktiv
Annette
Bounce Gymnastics
Clementine's Salon & Skincare
Create Kitchen & Bar
Element Knife Co.
FLY Kickbox
Friend Assembly Ceramics Studio
Industrial Luxury Home
Lubird's Light Playground
MindCraft Makerspace
Mr. B's Wine & Spirits
Tattered Cover Kids
Trunk Nouveau
Zero Market

For a complete list of businesses, visit: stanleymarketplace.com



When it opened in 2016, Stanley Marketplace, a food-and-shopping hub inside a 140,000-square-foot former aviation factory, seemed risky if imaginative. But it's been a huge success, drawing visitors from Aurora, Denver, and beyond. "It's become a kind of town center," says developer Jonathan Alpert of Denver-based Westfield Co. "It's a place where people can gather and be together and eat, drink, smile, and play."



Photo: Parrish Ruiz de Velasco



The success of Stanley Marketplace [OPPOSITE] inspired Westfield Co. to develop Stanley House apartments [ABOVE] just across the parking lot. Designed by Denver architecture firm SAR+, the complex is made up of two four-story, wing-shaped buildings meant to pay homage to Stanley Aviation's history.

For decades, the main building at Fitzsimons Army Hospital was the tallest structure in Aurora. Completed in 1941 in the Streamline Moderne style, it was (for a time, at least) the largest building in Colorado. In 1955, President Dwight Eisenhower spent seven weeks at Fitzsimons recuperating from a heart attack.

Mountain Regional VA Medical Center, designed by celebrated architecture firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and completed in 2018. Another notable work of architecture is the 2021 concrete-and-glass Anschutz Health Sciences Building, designed by ZGF in partnership with Anderson Mason Dale.

Today, Building 500 (as it was called) houses administrative offices for the University of Colorado's Anschutz Medical Campus, and it's surrounded by a number of medical facilities, including the massive Rocky

As the campus has grown, so has the surrounding area, with a number of new hotels and apartment buildings now dotting the skyline. And it's not just along East Colfax. To the north is the rapidly growing Fitzsimons

A

DISCOVERING AURORA



“THERE WERE SOME SKEPTICS, BUT WE WERE EXCITED ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE A BRAND-NEW PLACE FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD, AND WE KNEW IT WOULD BE A CATALYST FOR MORE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA.” - Jonathan Alpert, Westfield Co.

Innovation Community, with a mix of biotech companies and residential offerings. The 106-room Benson Hotel and Faculty Club, designed by Denver’s Tryba Architects, opened in April.

In recent years, the city has opened two state-of-the-art recreation centers, funded with taxes collected on the purchase of recreational marijuana. Both were

designed by the global architecture giant Populous.

Perhaps the biggest success story in Aurora these days is Stanley Marketplace, the food and shopping hub inside a 140,000-square-foot former aviation factory, about two miles west of Fitzsimons. When it opened in 2016, the adaptive-reuse project—located in a mostly industrial part of Aurora, but close

to Denver’s Central Park (formerly Stapleton) neighborhood—seemed risky, if imaginative.

“There were some skeptics,” says Jonathan Alpert, a partner with Denver-based Westfield Co., which teamed up with Stanley’s visionary founder, Mark Shaker, to develop the project. “But we were excited about the opportunity to create a brand-new place for the neighborhood, and we knew it would be a catalyst for more development in the area.”

Indeed, Westfield was so encouraged by the success of the marketplace that it decided to build Stanley House apartments just across the parking lot. Designed by Denver architecture firm SAR+, the complex is made up of two four-story, wing-shaped buildings meant to pay homage to Stanley Aviation’s history. (The company, founded in 1948, designed and manufactured ejection seats for military aircraft.) The development’s 168 studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments are targeted to young professionals who may work nearby at Fitzsimons—doctors, nurses, medical-school faculty, Alpert says. “And there’s a handful of business owners in Stanley Marketplace who have rented units to be closer to work.”

An even larger multi-family complex, the Alexan Westerly Creek, with 300-plus apartments, is taking shape just to the south, across the street from a self-storage facility. Drive around and you can’t help but notice new coffee shops, breweries, and co-working spaces popping up.

Aurora, Batchelor says, is finally becoming a destination, not just a place to drive through on the way to DIA. “We’re developing more of a sense of place,” he says. “We have some of the best ethnic restaurants and grocery stores in the entire state, right here. Aurora is all about diversity. It’s the entire world in one city.”



With 168 studio, one-, and two-bedroom apartments, the Stanley House complex is designed to appeal to young professionals who may work nearby at the Anschutz Medical Campus—doctors, nurses, medical-school faculty, and the like. “And there’s a handful of business owners in Stanley Marketplace who have rented units to be closer to work,” says developer Jonathan Alpert.



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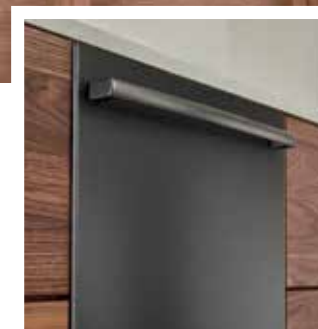
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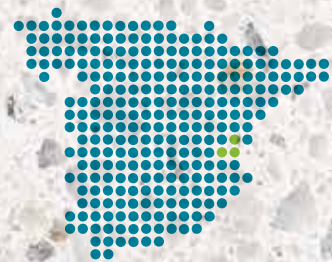
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BOLD IN VALENCIA

SPANISH TILE MAKERS BRING THE STYLE AT ANNUAL CEVISAMA SHOW

WORDS: Nigel Maynard

SPANISH TILE MAKERS ONCE AGAIN GATHERED IN VALENCIA, SPAIN, TO SHOW OFF DRAMATIC DESIGNS AND CUTTING-EDGE LOOKS THAT THE U.S. ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN COMMUNITY WILL SEE IN 2023. THE TAKEAWAYS? COLOR AND TEXTURE.

Celebrating its 39th year, and convening for the first time since the pandemic broke out in 2020, Cevisama is the annual tile show where Spanish brands release their latest offerings and reflect on the successes or challenges of the previous year. Fortunately, 2022 was a good one.

“The Spanish tile industry surpassed expectations with overall sales increasing by 16.2 percent since last year,” the Spanish Ceramic Tile Manufacturers Association announced at the show. “With approximately 50 percent of all sales made abroad, Spain currently exports to 187 countries worldwide with a total export growth of 16.6 percent since 2021.”

During the four-day show, which ran from February 27 to March 3, more than 800 exhibitors showcased new production methods, bold looks, nostalgic revivals, oversized formats, and innovative installation systems.

Ryan Fasan, a tile designer, and technical consultant to the Spanish Ceramic Tile Manufacturers Association, says that in the impressive array of things to see some things really stood out. One was tinted neutrals. “While whites are never on the wane, I did notice a surprising

lack of true mid-spectrum grays and blacks,” he says. “These non-color neutrals that have been our obsession across the pond for decades are losing ground to washed out, or grayed-off blues, greens, and rust tones. The neutrals are more color-forward than gray-forward this year.”

As usual, texture and shape had a big showing. Spanish tile makers frequently push boundaries with textured treatments on wall tiles and subtle surfaces on floor products. This year, a wide variety of hexagons, new subway sizes, and “modular formats allowed avant-garde silhouettes to become more than just a decorative statement, transforming large-scale surfaces into conversation pieces,” Tile of Spain said at the show.

Bold personality pieces also had a moment. “Whether this is presented in the form of supergraphics that can be used like wallpaper or deeply decorated third-fire pieces, the industry presented more statement pieces than they have in years,” Fasan says. “Since the advent of digital, the focus has been on creating single-fire decorative options that are minimally more expensive than the field tile.”



Aparici

Kintsugi Collection arises from the reinterpretation of a Japanese technique that highlights areas of repair by using a varnish mixed with gold. The porcelain tiles are highly decorative and full of character. It comes in three colors, two types of designs, and up to 24 variations.



Natucer

The tile maker who specializes in extruded products (think Play Doh) introduced Folk to its collection of textured wall tiles.



Roca Tile

Giving off a retro 60s vibe, Pigment has the look of terrazzo and the material integrity of porcelain and natural stone. Ideal for residential applications, Pigment is also durable enough for commercial spaces with high foot traffic. The tile bodies measure a little thicker than a quarter inch.



Keros Ceramica

As the name implies, Zen is designed to invoke a relaxed spa-like vibe that also feels at home in a modern house. The three by 12 inch pieces come in a wide variety of subdued colors.

Fabresa

Wallpaper looks, such as this Jungle tile by Fabresa, are always a hit at the European tile shows. This one from the Pick collection measures six inches square.



Decocer

The Dreams collection by small-format tile manufacturer Decocer draws its shapes from seabird feathers and Art Deco geometries. It comes in several pastel colors that can be applied uniformly or in unique patterns.



Apavisa

The Barro collection has an earthy look. Apavisa says the line is based on adobe bricks traditionally made in African communities using a mix of clay, water, and straw. Made of recycled materials, Barro comes in four colors: beige, brown, gray, and black.

Arcana Cerámica

Crocante porcelain tile collection has subtle graphic and chromatic nuances that create a soft mid-century modern aesthetic. It comes in five colors, three sizes, and mosaic.



Equipe

Equipe designed Wadi with a warm, natural color palette to evoke calm emotions. Measuring two and a half by 12 inches, each tile features elegant decoration in minimalist and geometric styles. The collection comes in 10 colors.

Harmony

LOG by the French designer Alexandre Touguet is a collection of three-dimensional wall tiles that draw inspiration from woodworking techniques, specifically log cabin construction. The tiles measure roughly five inches by 20 inches and come in six colors.



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