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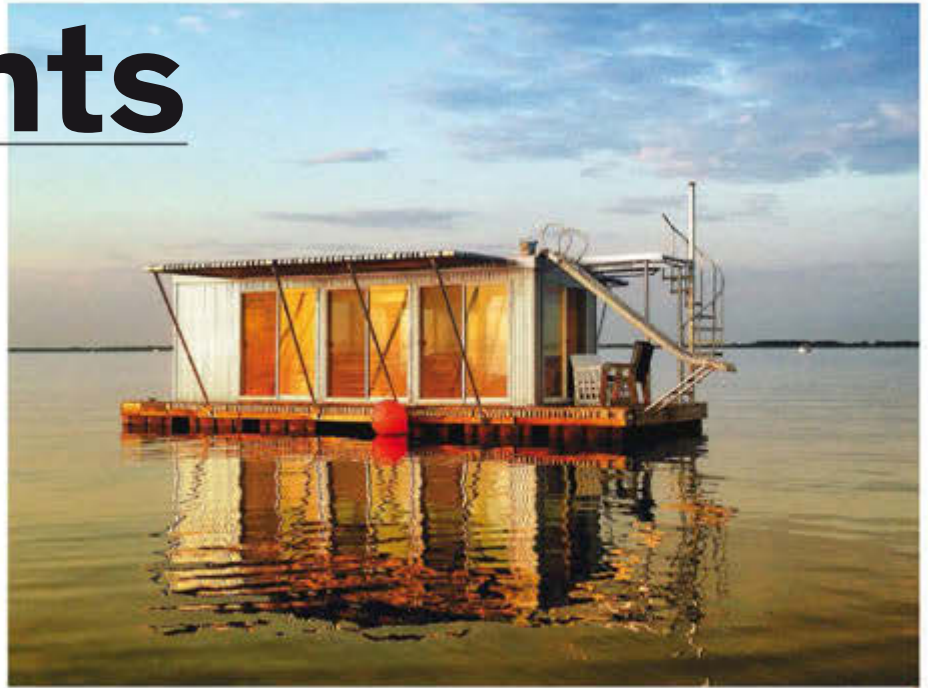






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A designer carves out a domestic oasis in Mexico City.



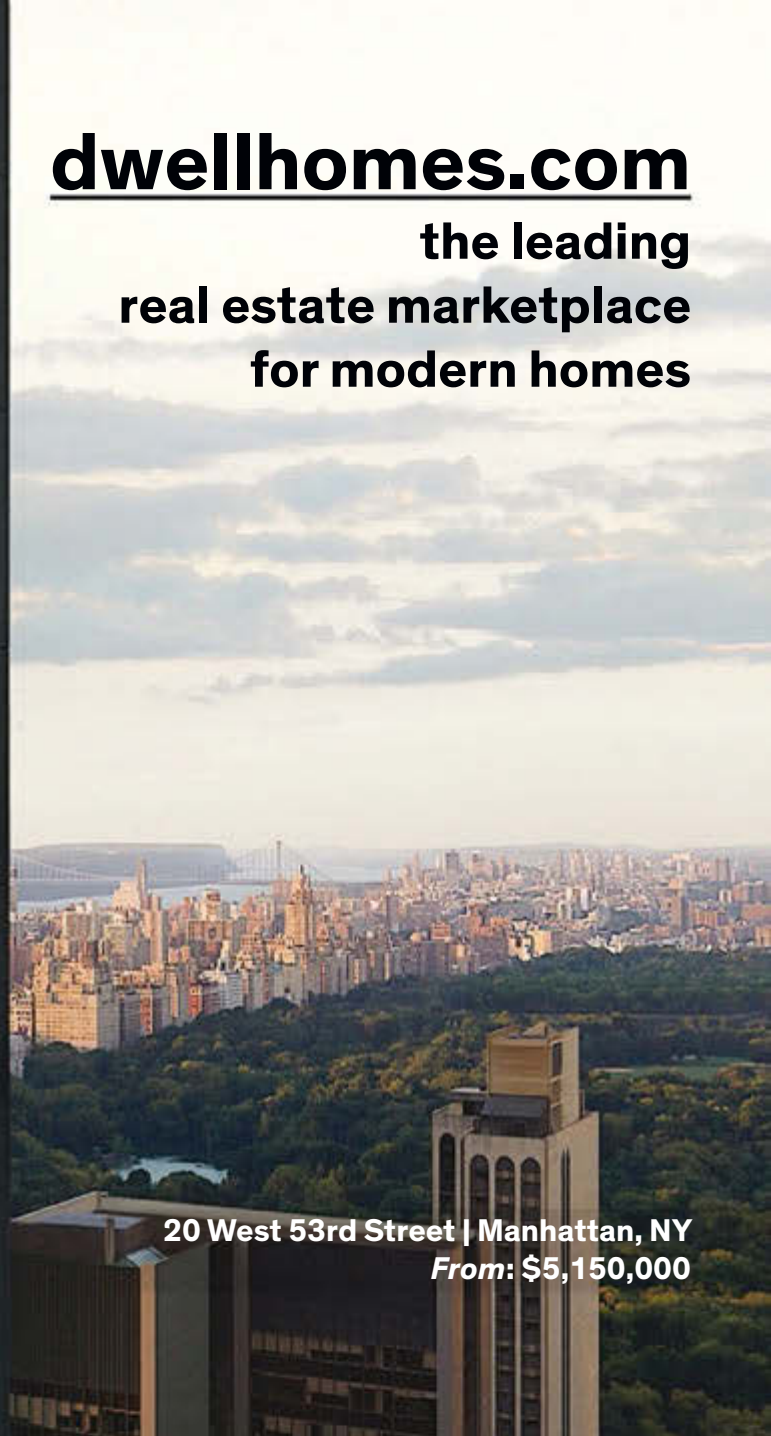
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On the cover: In Mexico City, architect Yuri Zagorin Alazraki designed his home to take advantage of the temperate climate. The living room opens on to a leafy patio set up for alfresco dining with a hand-crafted wood table and Bertoia wire chairs. Photo by Rafael Gamo

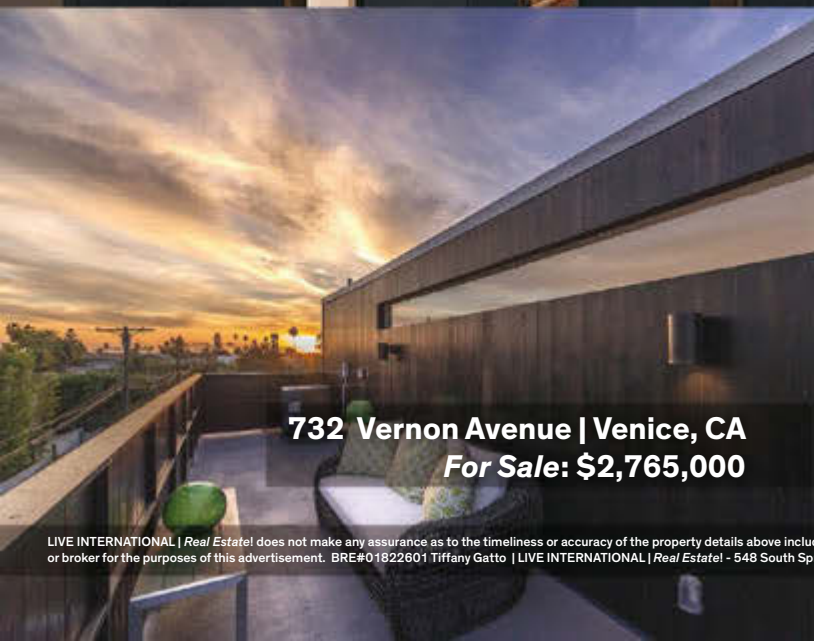
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# Your Rooms We Love

One's true self is unveiled at home—the objects and furnishings we pick broadcast our value systems, revealing what we aspire to be and what is most important to us. This special issue, Dwell's first ever devoted to our readers' own homes, taught us more about our audience than we ever imagined. Patterns emerged in photograph after photograph, and we noted how various hallmarks of modern design are translated in 44 different countries. Here are a few illuminating stats:

Of the **752** home submissions we received from our readers...

**3.9%** of homeowners included their cats  
whereas **10.4%** showed us their dogs.

**76%** of our readers sent in photos of their kitchens  
but only **35.4%** shared with us their bedrooms,  
while **34.6%** were most proud of their bathrooms.

**15.3%** styled their kitchens with wine glasses,  
although **15.6%** threw in the entire wine bottle.

**27%** of dwellings featured classic Eames chairs,  
and **4.5%** of houses displayed their guitars.

**40.2%** of the residences had houseplants,  
while **20.2%** decorated with fruit bowls.

And finally: The same percentage of people shared  
their Airstreams and bocce ball courts: **0.1%**.

Amanda Dameron, Editor-in-Chief  
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# West End House

Brisbane, Australia

Presented with a brief to create a “warm modern” home for a family of five, architect Shane Plazibat found that an internal courtyard was key. “The house reflects our lifestyle and matches our personality,” the resident says. “The courtyard is really the main feature of the house. It gives us the light, green space, and privacy we need.”

Throughout the interior, Plazibat kept the scheme minimal, but used striking natural finishes. Book-matched eucalyptus veneer covers cabinets in the kitchen, which boasts porcelain tile floors. Signature S bar stools from Freedom tuck under the granite island. In the bedroom, which is accented with an Artek stool and a Linen & Moore throw, brush box wood floors offset the white color scheme. □

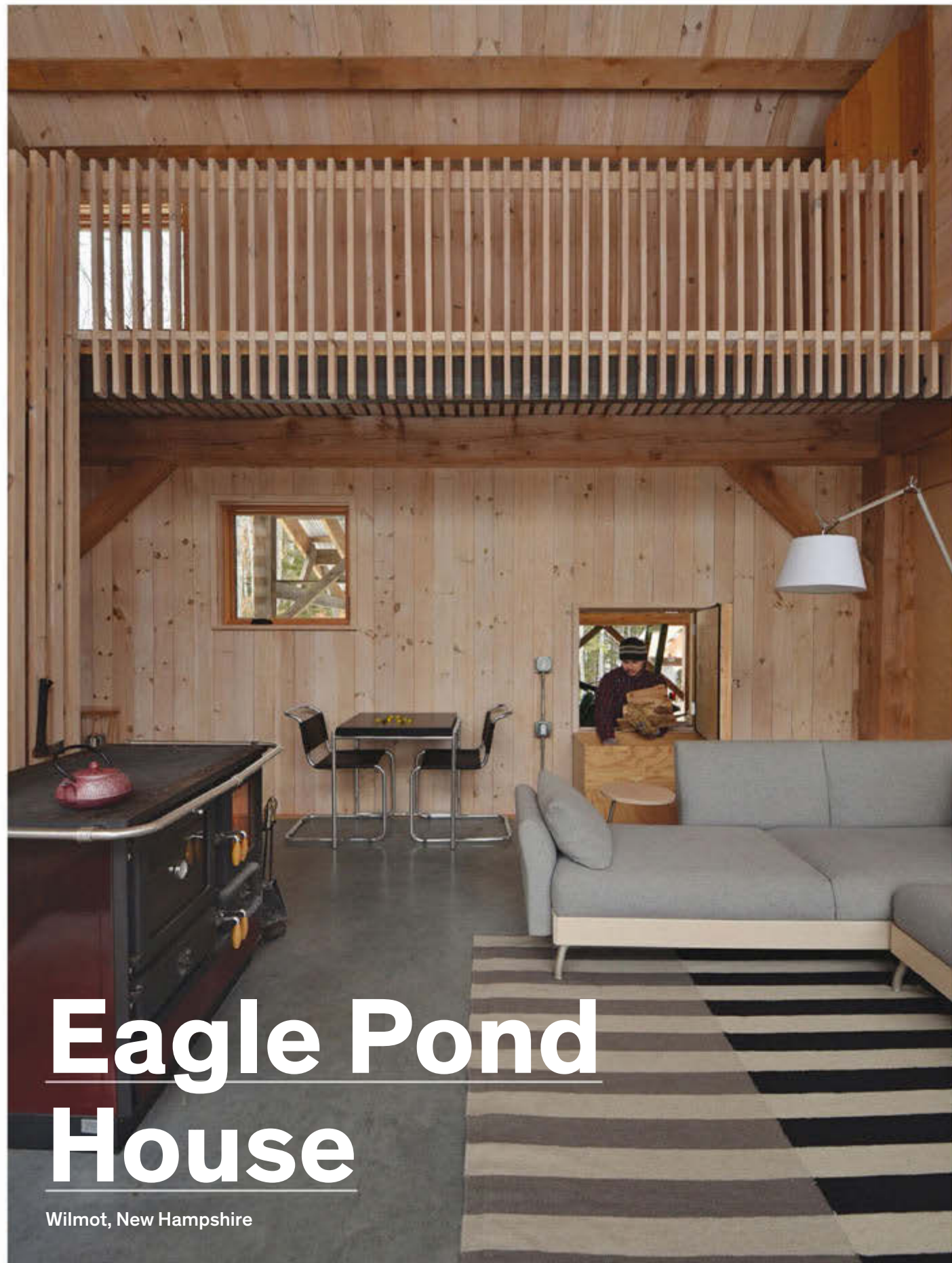






# Eagle Pond House

Wilmot, New Hampshire





For their modern home in rural New Hampshire, Scott McCullough and Jessica Cook, both architectural designers, sought to update the New England vernacular. “We believe that architecture should represent current technologies and methodologies while at the same time using lessons from the past,” McCullough says. Green building was paramount for the couple, so they incorporated a rooftop solar array, a heat recovery ventilation system, and a heat-pump hot water system. A Magnum wood-burning cookstove by Sopka provides heat. Eastern white pine finished with Monocoat white oil by Rubio clads the interior, while slatted wood accents the space and screens pipes and ducts. “Structure, rather than decorative elements, provides visual appeal,” Cook says. “The slats create interesting shadows and texture.” □







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# Marrone-Nocera Residence

Wilmington, Delaware

Originally built in 1959, George Marrone and Michael Nocera's residence was in a state of disrepair when they purchased it in 2010—a leaky roof, a crumbling chimney, and cracked plaster were on the roster of things to fix. “The house was a little ‘Grey Gardens’ when we found it and nearly torn down for its 1.5-acre lot,” Marrone says. The couple took a sensitive approach to the restoration, salvaging what they could—oak floors, the flagstone fireplace, and teak and walnut paneling—and adding energy-efficient heating and cooling systems. Avid collectors of midcentury design, the couple mixed classics like a Paul McCobb coffee table and Katavolos sling chair with a sofa from Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams in the living room. In the dining room, a mix of Norman Cherner, Arne Jacobsen, and Hans Wegner chairs hold court with a Design Within Reach table and vintage chandelier. “Great design comes in many price points, and I find the most interesting spaces mix and layer these effortlessly,” Marrone says. □

PHOTOS BY GEORGE MARRONE

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# Ross Residence

Raleigh, North Carolina

Digital strategy manager Abby Ross and her scientist husband, Sean, pulled off building a house in Raleigh, North Carolina, for \$150 a square foot by following a straightforward plan. The key elements, says Abby, were “using a simple palette, making the spaces adaptable and multifunctional, choosing a simple geometry for the shape of the house, and sticking to our top three must-haves: light, space, and energy efficiency.” In the kitchen, they installed a space- and money-saving wall of 47 Ikea cabinets, a stainless-steel-wrapped workspace, pendant lights from Foscarini, and a rolling ladder—a big hit with their young children, Noah and Chloe. “I’m proud of the fact that, even though we have iconic modern furnishings in our house, nothing is overly precious—in fact, much of it is secondhand,” says Abby. “Our kids can play in the house without our freaking out.” □











# Wilson Residence

Charleston, South Carolina

"Living in Charleston, I find the juxtaposition of old and new to be interesting and invigorating," says architect Mary Mac McFadden Wilson. In 2013, she and her husband, Cooper, purchased an 1890s house in the city's Cannonborough-Elliottborough neighborhood and embarked on an eight-month renovation. They opened up the floor plan, fixed termite damage and wear and tear (it was formerly a college rental), and added new finishes while keeping select historic details. For a guest bathroom addition located on a former porch, Wilson placed an original cast-iron tub in a new tiled shower and an Ikea vanity floats above the floor. The pendant is from Lowe's and the stool is CB2. "We wanted new interventions to look new so as to celebrate the existing," she says. "Everything about this house seems to have a story, and we are happy to contribute our chapter." ▣





# Box House

Los Angeles, California

Architect Jeffrey Eyster was doing a project for a client in Laurel Canyon a few years ago when he saw a lot for sale for just \$29,000. He soon found out why it was such a bargain: It occupied an almost impossibly steep slope, even if it did offer sweeping views of the Hollywood Hills. Eyster bought it and set about designing a 2,200-square-foot house that he describes as a “contemporary cabin, kind of a blend of midcentury-modern post-and-beam with

a little bit of Swiss rationalism.” The interior is Douglas fir with bamboo floors, and the kitchen is by Bulthaup. “The stainless-steel legs hold the cabinetry off the floor,” Eyster says. “You see the continuation of the flooring, so in a tight space it makes it a little more open.” Eyster took a cue from one of his mentors, Ray Kappe, for the staircase, using a zigzagging pattern that allowed him to slightly cantilever each tread over the one below it. □

PHOTO BY RON FINLEY





# Bates Flotel

Plum Island Sound, Massachusetts

Picture your fantasy home: Is it tiny? Does it float? Can you bounce up and down on it or catapult off the side? If you answered in the affirmative to any of the above, look to Daniel Bates's self-built project, the Bates Flotel. The architect's 200-square-foot homemade houseboat is moored in Plum Island Sound, Massachusetts, just north of Boston, and features seven sliding glass doors, two trampolines, and one slide. The structure is economical but sturdy: His first floating home experiment incorporated recycled windows, which didn't hold up in the harsh marine environment. For the latest iteration, Bates sourced vinyl-clad sliders from Lowe's, wrapped the structure in corrugated galvanized metal, and splattered the "bland" PVC roof with paint for a Jackson Pollock effect. □



# Bupp Residence

Phoenicia, New York

Have you ever considered where an innkeeper might sleep? In the case of Amanda Bupp, designer and co-owner of The Graham & Co. in Phoenicia, New York, it's an unassuming Catskills cabin painted "witchy black." She and her then-partner Bianca Barattini bought the abandoned 1,000-square-foot abode, then renovated it over eight months while planning her hotel business. "An animal of some sort was living in the house, and there were holes to the ground in the structure's floor," says Bupp. She reworked the entire floor plan to encourage an open layout between the original cabin and a "strange" addition built in the 1950s. Bupp painted the interior walls a >













soothing Silver Lining by Pratt & Lambert and used “raw, matte” wood planks salvaged from the roof deck of the Soho House in Manhattan for the floors. The furniture is a mixture of rustic and luxe, in a palette of black, white, and raw wood: a Togo sofa by Ligne Roset, perforated Tolix stools, and a platform bed inspired by Donald Judd—the first prototype for the beds at the hotel just up the road. Monochromatic prints by Sol LeWitt and a brass Satellite chandelier from Design Within Reach add a touch of collector credential. ■



# Knock, Knock



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Who's there? A group of intrepid Instagrammers with welcoming front doors. We spy bright colors, clever brickwork, and plenty of glass.



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@generalassemblybk Brooklyn, New York



@johannajiii Finland



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# Globa House

Vicente López, Argentina

Architect Ariel Glot undertook this renovation of a previously abandoned concrete house in a suburb north of Buenos Aires for himself, his wife, and their two daughters. The kitchen was conceived as the home's hub of activity, with a twist. "Here in Argentina, people are not used to open kitchens," Glot says. "So we arranged it so it could be used as an extension of the dining room or as an independent space." An enclosure fashioned from timbo, a durable wood native to Argentina and southern Brazil, has folding doors that open the space to the dining room or seal it off inside a box. Subway tiles and Italian quartz countertops were deployed as a bright counterpoint to the wood surfaces. □



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**Before**



PHOTOS BY JERI KOEGEL

## **Ballas-Morgan Residence**

**San Francisco, California**

Patrick Ballas and Melissa Morgan bought a modestly sized home in 2012, intending to turn the backyard of their 1,240-square-foot house into a nexus for outdoor entertaining. The couple rolled up their sleeves, completing the renovation over 40 weekends. They faced a few challenges in the remodel: Replacing an eyesore of a cinderblock retaining wall would have cost \$30,000, so they covered it with a screen of horizontal Kayu wood slats. To add privacy, they cut an 18-inch trench around the perimeter and planted it with black bamboo. A custom white concrete firepit, concrete pavers by Stepstone, and a repainted overhang add architectural interest to the outdoor living area, while a custom Caesarstone slab table, white Eames shell chairs, yellow Tolix chairs, and glass pendants from West Elm create a cozy eating area. ▢





## Hemmelig Rom

Ellenville, New York

Shortly after Jason Koxvold and Suzanne Cain of Brooklyn moved into their new upstate getaway in 2008, “it quickly became apparent that we needed an additional guest structure,” Koxvold says. He hired Brandon Padron to design one, drawing on Koxvold’s Norwegian heritage and using wood from 30 red oak trees that were felled to make way for the house. Padron arranged the oak planks to create the built-in shelves in

the single-room structure, which Koxvold dubbed “Hemmelig Rom” (“secret room” in Norwegian). The dark cedar cladding contrasts with the brighter, warm interior, particularly when the cast-iron Jøtul stove is in use. “There’s something super interesting about seeing this thing that from the outside is so cold and monolithic,” Koxvold says, “and then you get inside and it’s so rich and inviting.” □











# RoBe House

Saint John, New Brunswick

In 2014, architect Monica Adair of the Saint John- and Brooklyn-based firm Acre Architects tackled a project awfully close to home—a 1,200-square-foot renovation of her family's kitchen and dining room. Adair ripped out "tired" yellow hexagonal floor tile and cheap wood cabinets to clear the way for a black-and-white color scheme and a central island that is ideal for entertaining. She retained the hexagonal motif in applying Extro tiles by Ceragres in patterns of circulation around the island, counter, refrigerator, and doors to the deck, "as though they are tracking us around the kitchen," Adair says. "Designed as a party kitchen, the room is meant to be both functional and fun. It's a real shoes-on kind of house." Black oak cabinetry by local firm Kitchen Creations, topped with white Corian countertops, finishes off the monochromatic look. ▢







# Passini Residence

São Paulo, Brazil

A lifelong resident of São Paulo and founder of the design and lifestyle blog *Histórias de Casa*, Paula Passini moved into her current apartment three years ago. It's a deeply personal space and a respite from the city's notorious hustle and bustle. "For me a home is like a sanctuary," she says of her philosophy. "It must be peaceful and reflect the owner's spirit. Decoration can't be just about 'prettiness'— it has to do with your identity." Passini's apartment is adorned with objects she purchased on a yearlong trip around the world alongside homegrown pieces, like the Fernando Jaeger sofa and the João César de Melo painting that hangs above it. "In this apartment, the indoor plants, natural textures, and laid-back layout make us wonder if we're really in Brazil's biggest—and busiest—city," she says. ▢



PHOTOS BY IGOR GIROTO









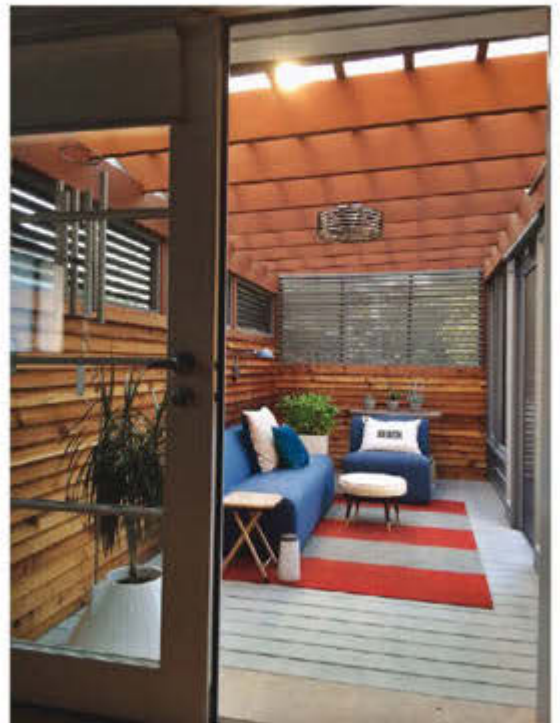
PHOTOS BY ALEC HEMER, LISA SANTOS (PORCH)

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# Santos Residence

Chicago, Illinois





For chef Lisa Santos and her husband, Joel, converting a 100-year-old switching station to their home was made easier with the help of a team from local firm Beaux Bo Properties, who had already divided the building into condominiums. The open two-story space was still very much a tabula rasa, and appeared larger than its 2,400 square feet. Upstairs, what Santos calls a “very, very raw” screen porch stood off the master bedroom; the couple enclosed it to accommodate a seating area overlooking an interior courtyard. Downstairs, century-old subway tile and copper windows keep the new kitchen gritty; it gained a stainless-steel island, new appliances, and a wall of Ikea storage. “The tile, with its sporadic bolts and nails, doesn’t need a lot of art, as it is art too,” Lisa says. “The copper windows... Well, you just can’t find those anymore.” The couple supplemented the rawness of the open living area with funky secondhand finds from the 1960s, ’70s, and ’80s. □









# Cocoon Cabin

Southampton, New York

For a pool-slash-guesthouse on his Hamptons property, venture capitalist Chris Burch wanted to think outside of the box. He worked with project architect Steven Chen from New York- and China-based Cocoon9, a prefab company in which he's an investor, using the opportunity as a case study for the nascent business. Cocoon9 sources materials from around the world—like bamboo, used in this project for the interior cabinetry and exterior siding—then assembles them into units in the United States. The 480-square-foot cabin is an exercise in clean-lined efficiency, with built-in furniture, appliances, and storage areas that open up and fold back into walls, floors, and ceilings. This particular unit, the smallest of four offered by Cocoon9, sports a kitchenette, a private bedroom, and a material-rich bathroom that wouldn't look out of place in a luxury hotel. □



PHOTOS BY COCOON9





## **Vollmer-Smith Residence**

Costa Mesa, California

This 1952 bungalow, renovated by residents Val George Vollmer and Kevin John Smith, features a dining room outfitted with a roster of modern furnishings, including a walnut dining table and chairs designed by Charles and Ray Eames for Herman Miller and a George Nelson Ball lamp. Throughout the room, painted in Flagstone gray by Benjamin Moore, is artwork by Eva Zeisel, Jonathan Adler ceramics, and other small objects picked up during travels in Asia. □







## Varon Residence

Mexico City, Mexico

This home—which the Mexico City firm Migdal Arquitectos designed for one of its partners, Jaime Varon and his wife and two children—is located on the Lomas Country Club golf course in Interlomas, a suburb. Designed to integrate with the surrounding greenery, the house features a two-story atrium with a skylight covered in glass mullions that pulls natural light deep into the interior. A window at the end of the upper hallway exposes the adjacent foliage. A library and study next to the atrium can be concealed behind a large sliding door. The upper level also includes two bedrooms and the master suite; the living spaces and a guest room are located on the first floor. ▣







# Reckendorfer Residence

Schönkirchen-Reyersdorf, Austria

In renovating her home, Katharina Reckendorfer repurposed what she could—like a bathtub and vanity—and streamlined the rest. “I studied graphic design and photography, so visual things are so important to me,” she says. “I love sleek, light-filled Scandinavian designs, but I also love flea markets and pieces with history.” For the bathroom, she wanted a shower for daily use, but opted to keep a 1950s bathtub that she discovered in her basement. The space-saving Murphy tub, as Reckendorfer calls it, was jury-rigged by the previous owner to tuck into a cabinet, which features a water heater and towel rack. Placed on a hinge, it’s easy for one person to lower it into place. New cement tile from Mosaic del Sur, Hansgrohe fixtures, a shower plate from Bette, and Farrow & Ball’s Chappell Green paint round out the room. □



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Cool modern hardware takes myriad shapes, from drawer pulls to door handles to bathroom fixtures. We scoured Instagram for the best and spotted some inspiring examples at every scale.



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# Spiral House

Surabaya, Indonesia













In the house he designed for himself and his family, architect Ivan Priatman explored his view of tropical modernism: "I try to reinterpret the tradition or the vernacular into the contemporary," he says. The house is intended to be experienced as a continuous sequence from the public living areas to the private office and bedrooms. Instead of organizing the plan linearly, Priatman thought of it as a spiral that wraps around a central green space. "The intimate courtyard, with a concrete floor and plants, is an homage to many charming places in Southern California, where my wife and I lived for four years before getting married." In his studio, Priatman blew up an aerial photograph of Surabaya, where he is based, to map his current architectural projects. For the kitchen, he selected an oven, hood, and cooktop from Teka and a Samsung refrigerator. The table is his own design and the bar stools and chairs are from Informa. □





## Zerbey Residence

Seattle, Washington

An unsightly 770-square-foot bungalow, built in 1910 in Seattle, gained 530 square feet without changing its footprint at the hands of Lauren and Kyle Zerbey. To make the space more comfortable for their growing family, the couple, who run an architecture firm, enclosed a small porch to use as a place for stashing jackets, incorporated the back porch into the kitchen, and removed the master

bedroom's walk-in closet to increase the bathroom size. An unused attic, formerly accessible by a hatch outside the house, now serves as the duo's office. Kyle, already familiar with woodworking, took a welding class to learn how to build a steel and fir ladder for access. Though steep, it's allowed under Washington regulations, which permit ladders that lead to spaces under 200 square feet. □





Before



After



Before



After









# McMahon Residence

Fredericksburg, Texas



PHOTOS BY DROR BALDINGER

Located on a cottage-lined street in the historic district of Fredricksburg, Texas, Cavan McMahon's 1,900-square-foot house is oriented around a courtyard. "From the onset of design, we looked to create as open and inviting of a home as possible," he says. Each of the rooms in the L-shaped abode looks out to the yard and pool area. Extra-deep eaves protect the porch off of the living room so McMahon and his family can use the space during the rainy season. An avid concrete artist and craftsman by trade, McMahon built custom details throughout the home, like the outdoor occasional tables, kitchen counters, dining table, and inlay detailing on the hallway floor. In the dining room, a pendant light was sourced from the local store Red, and cypress wood clads the exterior. ▣

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# Ladouceur Residence

Oakville, Ontario

In 2010, Priscilla and Miguel Ladouceur were hunting for a larger house in which to raise their three boys. “We were looking for something that had nice, clean lines, that wasn’t too big,” Priscilla says. They didn’t want to venture far, and lucked into one of the few midcentury-modern houses in Oakville, Ontario, a Toronto suburb. Priscilla, who works as an architect, and Miguel, who trained as one, were intent to preserve the surrounding trees, so they carved out more living space without adding to the footprint. They moved the stairs from the kitchen to the center of the house, freeing up room for an expanded master bathroom and an area where the boys do their homework, sitting on pair of vintage folding theater seats. “It was important that we have a hub where the kids can be on the computer while I’m cooking and I can see what’s going on,” Priscilla says. □



PHOTOS BY PRISCILLA LADOUCEUR

DWELL



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## Kubik Verde

Sopó, Colombia

Tapping into the idea of New Urbanism with a dose of sustainable architecture, Kubik Verde is a planned community 27 miles north of Bogotá with 250 houses set within a nature reserve. The iteration shown, home to two actors, is 2,917 square feet and sports traditional shell construction that's designed to rest lightly on the land. Views from the kitchen overlook local flora and fauna, ecological trails, and the nearby Valle de Sopó. ▣



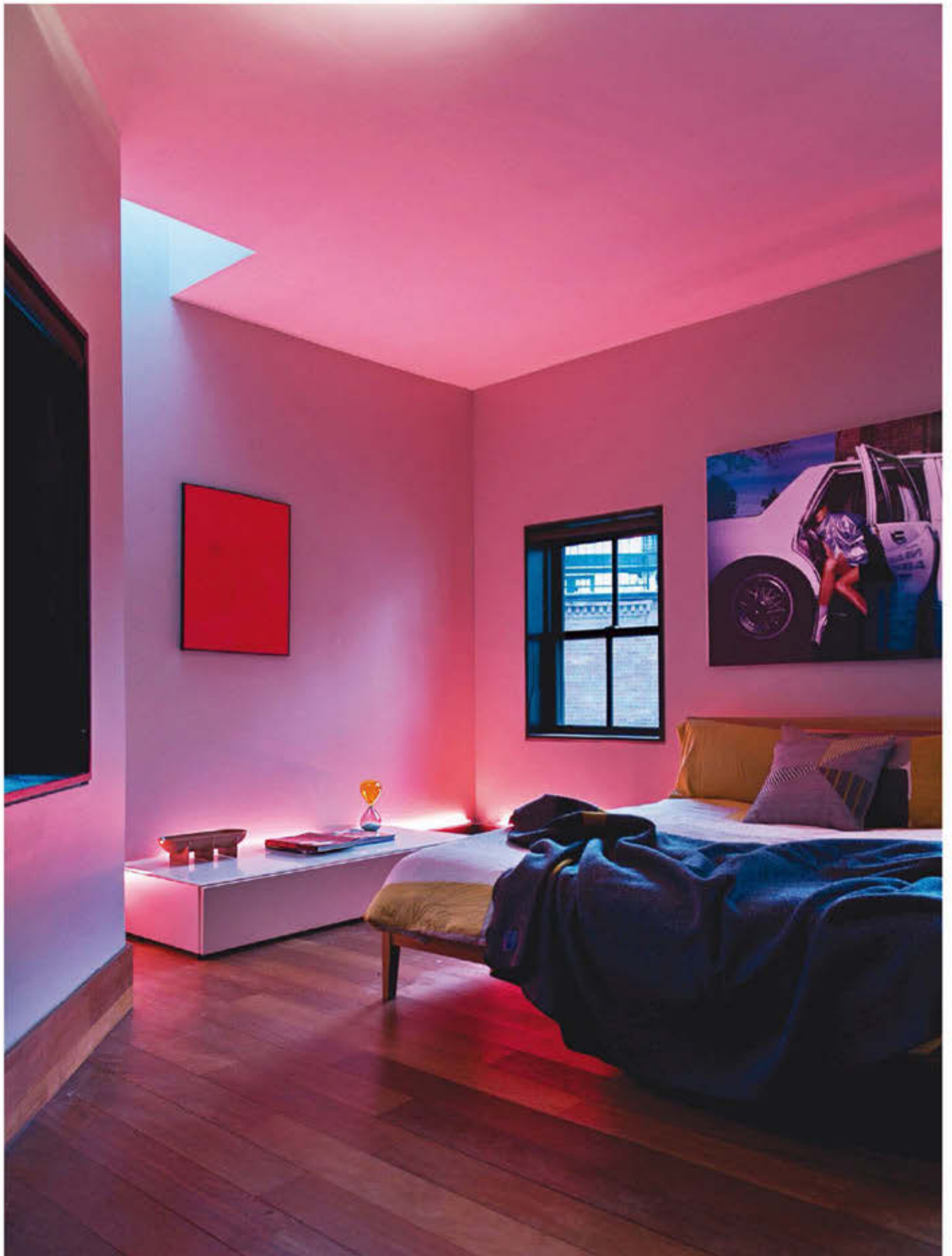


# 719 Rosemont

Los Angeles, California



A little over two years ago, Trevor Kelley and Angie St. Louis were expecting their first child and looking to leave their cramped rental in Pasadena. At the time, Kelley was checking in on Marcus McNerney, a friend since middle school who was giving a 1913 Craftsman house in Los Angeles's Echo Park neighborhood a modern makeover with plans to sell it through a new business, sheet/rock. Kelley and St. Louis were so enamored with McNerney's design choices—tearing open the ceiling above the living-dining area, installing skylights and custom bare-bulb pendants, and crafting an angular cedar rail for the entry stair—that they bought the house. A half-bathroom off the living room features a Moroccan-tile floor and a Duravit basin sink sitting on a slab of old-growth Douglas fir that McNerney salvaged from the pre-renovation demolition. The vintage pendant lights are from Shop Class in nearby Highland Park. □





# Rogard Residence

New York, New York

A central stair spanning three floors was both a defining element and a challenge for Crina Tuloiu Arghirescu Rogard, an architect who undertook the restoration of the century-old Manhattan apartment that she shares with her husband, Martin, and their one-year-old daughter, Jade. "We had to improvise solutions to transform the house into a childproof place for our daughter without damaging the architecture," Rogard says. One safety hack was the graphic barrier Rogard devised to block the bottom of the stairway. In a bedroom, Rogard paired one of her monochromatic paintings with a portrait by the fashion photographer Steve Hiett, and hid neon lights behind the bed and cabinet to emit a glow. "Our house is a mismatch of colors and textures, emphasized by artwork and curious objects," Rogard says. □









# Alazraki Residence

Mexico City, Mexico

PHOTOS BY JAIME NAVARRO (LEFT), RAFAEL GAMO (RIGHT)

TEXT BY  
Robert Landon

Architect Yuri Zagorin  
Alazraki's refined home in Mexico City is oriented as a series of stacked boxes. In the outdoor dining room, wire chairs by Harry Bertoia for Knoll surround a mango wood table made by a local carpenter, Diego Madrazo.





The house features several courtyards, conveying an ever-present sense of indoor-outdoor living. Concrete walls are lined with yellow jasmine, and the wall sculpture is taken from Manuel Felguérez's fence for the National Anthropology Museum (left). The master bedroom is shaded by exterior slats in cumaru, a sustainable tropical wood. Alazraki designed the custom bed frame (below left). A vintage Lightolier pendant and sleek Arclinea cabinets by Antonio Citterio stand out against a wall paneled in reclaimed pine in the kitchen (right). Seating is a mix of Bertoa wire chairs and armchairs by the Mexican designer Hector Esrawe.



"The longer I work as an architect, the more I want to deepen my skills as a gardener," says Yuri Zagorin Alazraki, founder of the Mexico City firm ZD+A. In building his own house in Mexico City's Lomas de Chapultepec neighborhood, his commitment has produced results that appear miraculous. In fact, they grow out of a carefully choreographed series of bravura design moves.

Alazraki was working with a lot that had little to recommend itself. Narrow and awkwardly sloping, it was squeezed between neighbors whose high walls cast long shadows. Remarkably he designed a house, completed in 2011, in which the interior spaces feel not just connected to, but also immersed in bright exterior gardens.

Just as remarkable, he managed to smuggle generous doses of natural light into spaces that seemed determined to be denied such a luxury.

Tricks include white, highly reflective resin floors, an open floor plan, south-facing light wells, and a pair of oculi that bring sunlight through a rooftop garden all the way down to a practically subterranean ground floor.

Given the degree of difficulty, the home's ground level measures as the most impressive. A stepped garden, at once rocky and radiant, reaches down toward the main living space. At the opposite end of the room, a patio with vine-covered walls adds its own share of light, air, and greenery. And so, the living room, which could have been tunnel-like





PHOTOS BY RAFAEL GAMO (EXTERIOR), JAIME NAVARRO (BEDROOM),  
YOSHIHIRO KOITANI (KITCHEN)

and forbidding, feels like part of one continuous outdoor space. To amplify the connection, roughly finished concrete walls echo the rugged stones in the garden.

On top of the poured-concrete ground floor lies the truss-and-concrete-beamed second floor. Except for the door to his daughter's bedroom—she lives with Alazraki part-time—there are no barriers between any rooms on the first two levels. And beyond a sitting area lies a patch of manicured lawn that, when the floor-to-ceiling windows are open, turns the indoor-outdoor space into one

big, bright room. “The first two floors have a very fluid plan,” Alazraki says, “which is ideal, because I spend much of my time alone here, and I inhabit the space in a very fluid way.”

The third and final floor is formed by steel cage, much of which cantilevers over the back garden. It includes a light-saturated bedroom, a bath, and a very private terrace. “It is my private realm, the place where I spend most of my time,” says Alazraki. “There is a long weekend coming up, but I feel no need to leave the city. I am going to spend my days up there on my little terrace.” □



# Casa do Pego

Comporta, Portugal



Seven years ago, several generations of a Lisbon family—a pair of doctors, their three grown children, and their daughter’s husband and two daughters—carved out a multigenerational retreat in the beach town of Comporta. They built a house dubbed Casa do Pego with the help of a local architect, Pedro Ferreira Pinto, then filled it with a carefully-curated selection of modern furniture. “We all love modern architecture and midcentury-modern furniture and art,” says resident Andre Antunes. “In the last few years we’ve dedicated our time to picking just the right pieces, keeping in mind that it’s not a city house, but a beach house.” The open-plan living and dining area is furnished with an appropriate mix of laid-back yet design-forward pieces: a table and chair from Roche Bobois, Tom Dixon pendant lamps, Circle chairs by Hans Wegner, and lamps by Greta Grossman and Achille Castiglioni. The family’s most frequent gathering spot requires a little extra heat: “Our most beloved piece is the Gyrofocus fireplace from Focus,” Antunes says. □

PHOTOS BY ANDRE ANTUNES





# 91 Versant Ouest

Shefford, Quebec



Nestled on a hill overlooking the Bromont Ski Station in Shefford, an hour's drive east of Montreal, Sylvain Bélanger's cozy modern cabin uses modular design to bold effect. Bélanger owns a building company, Unseize, and is launching a new venture, Kabin, in spring 2015. He espouses the idea of bringing modernism to rustic locales. His own house, which serves as the first Kabin prototype, fits three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a garage into 2,200 square feet. Reclaimed barn wood supports a mezzanine that is accessible from the living room, while a double-sided fireplace heats the public spaces as well as the master bedroom tucked behind it. ▣

# On Top of It



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**@adriana.ibanez** Wynwood, Florida



**@craftworkdesign** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



**@laurenswells** Boston, Massachusetts



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@hillaryjaffe Montclair, New Jersey



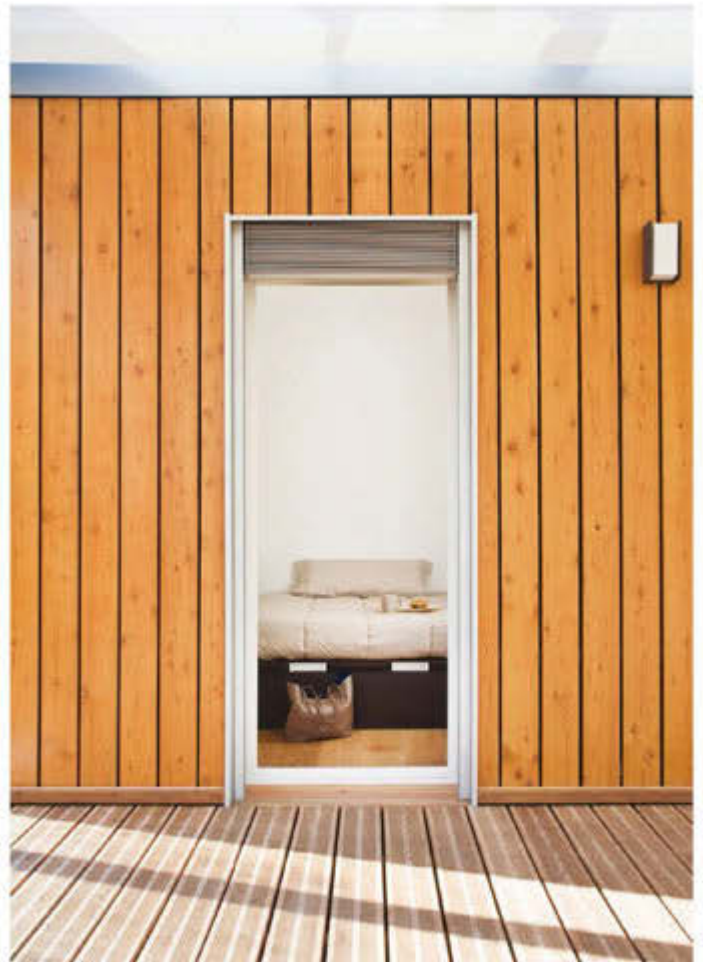


# El Refugio

Castellón, Spain

When a couple sought to build a weekend house near Valencia, Spain, they didn't go far. For a small, flexible home that would accommodate the two of them and their son, they approached the Barcelona-based prefab company Noem. The couple were not content with a basic weekend house: Their getaway is light on the land (prefabricated offsite and built according to passive house energy principles) and highly adaptable, thanks to a self-managed intelligent control system. The designers installed WiFi-controlled sensors throughout the structure that continuously analyze lighting, heating, and cooling to achieve levels of energy efficiency and comfort "hitherto unimaginable."





The prefab dwelling is supercharged with smart features, from a customizable, radio-controlled lighting system to soil sensors in the garden and automatic blinds and awnings. The resident—a self-professed “100 percent geek”—can access data from his smartphone on electricity production from the solar panels, the amount of hot water in the solar tanks, or household electricity consumption in real time. Aside from all the home tech, the passive house principles in the design allow the residents to consume 90 percent less energy than they would in a traditional dwelling, and the home is not only zero carbon, it’s also carbon negative. □

PHOTOS BY NOEM.COM

# Miller Residence

San Diego, California

Chad and Rachel Miller lucked out when they found a budget-friendly 1950s cottage two blocks from the beach in San Diego. The 570-square-foot space was large enough for the Millers and their first child, but with another one on the way, they decided to expand. Enter architects Pamela and Hector Magnus. They extended the narrow one-story house deep into the lot, increasing its size to 1,350 square feet. "They worked hard to create an open feeling that brought much-needed light and space into our home," Chad says. "It is not showy or ostentatious, but reflects the core values of modern architecture." In the dining area, inexpensive Ikea pendants are tied into a contractor's wrap (a chain of successive slipknots). To keep the kitchen clutter-free, the Millers installed an "appliance garage" on the counter to hold their toaster, microwave, and coffee maker. The cottage's facade is clad in new stucco that mimics the original finish. □



PHOTOS BY PAMELA AND HECTOR MAGNUS





## Kasimoğlu Residence

Beykoz, Turkey



PHOTOS BY MELIH TANER TANYELI

A little over ten miles from central Istanbul, a modernist glass box functions as a quick sanctuary for an urban couple, Sinan and Sevtap Kasimoğlu, and their two grown daughters. The glass-enclosed, flat-roofed cabin was designed by the architecture firm Siska to blend completely with its surroundings, from house to garden to forest. The 800-square-foot layout is simple—one living space with an open kitchen, plus one bedroom—and the materials are unfussy. Hundred-year-old oak reclaimed from a former flour depot clads the interior. (Craftsman Gursan Ergil had to remove more than a thousand nails from the wood before installing it in the house.) The same oak was used for the custom kitchen cabinetry, bookshelves, fireplace, and dining table. Contemporary touches—like B&B Italia sofas, Flos lighting, and Eames chairs—round out the mix. □



# Maison Conteneur

Sainte-Adèle, Quebec

From the outside, it's not apparent that Claudie Dubreuil built her house with four shipping containers. The town of Sainte-Adèle, in the Laurentian Mountains, is particular about exterior cladding (Dubreuil opted for birch), and the containers are only eight feet wide, so she put the insulation between the birch and the container walls. The latter move not only preserved precious square feet (of which there are only 1,280), it also lets the corrugated container walls take the spotlight on the inside. Working with TLA Architectes of Montreal, Dubreuil's building company, Collections Dubreuil, installed radiant heating beneath the concrete floors and warmed the interior by cladding some walls with weathered barn wood. Beat Light pendants by Tom Dixon illuminate the kitchen and adjacent dining area. □









# Willson Residence

Napa, California



Charles Willson, a marketing executive, wanted to build prefab for his Wine Country retreat. His new 1,200-square-foot home from Stillwater Dwellings complements an old barn that Willson renovated with the help of architect-builder Josh Chandler and now serves as a space for entertaining. Recycled materials, such as reclaimed redwood planks found on Craigslist, are used throughout the property. Five seating areas, an outdoor kitchen, a vertical garden wall, a pathway with timber arbors, and a koi pond are some of the site's most striking features. The home is fully integrated with smart technology; seven Dropcams allow Willson to view the property remotely on his iPhone and be notified of security breaches. Belkin switches control the power and lights, and Sonos provides music in every room. Willson also uses Netatmo sensors in the yard. "If the nighttime temperature drops below 35 degrees, the anti-frost lights turn on in the orchard and the chicken coop warming light goes on," he says. □



PHOTOS BY RUSSELL ABRAHAM/STILLWATER DWELLINGS, INC.





# ARKhouse

Honeoye, New York

PHOTO BY AMANDA AND CHRISTOPHER COSTANZA

Amanda and Christopher Costanza—partners both in life and in the Rochester, New York, architectural firm 9x30 Design—designed a house for themselves in New York’s Finger Lakes region as a mission statement in efficient, low-maintenance living. A highlight is the room that their children, Maya, eight, and Asher, five, share. Two large skylights above the beds are outfitted with low-iron glass, allowing for clearer stargazing at night, with no color distortion. But the star of the show is a wall covered entirely with Lego base plates. “The kids love it and the adults love it,” says Christopher Costanza. “On a rainy day, or even when it’s nice outside, the kids flock to it.” □

# Hagit House

Ramat Yohanan Kibbutz, Israel













A kibbutz—an agricultural collective community in Israel with roots in socialism—might not be the first place you’d expect to find a blue-chip collection of Scandinavian antiques. For two *kibbutznik*, a woman and her 18-year-old daughter with a trove of inherited vintage modern furniture, a 1950s house outside Haifa merited an intervention. The woman hired Merav Sade Interior Planning & Design to handle a renovation, which updated the three-bedroom abode and attached garden. Sade helped her restore the family heirlooms, including a slatted rosewood side chair by Hans Brattrud, then sourced a selection of coordinating vintage pieces including 1958 Norman Cherner bar stools and graphic art by the Swedish designer Olle Eksell. A new sofa by Israeli designer Kastiel rounds out the living room décor. □



# Johnson-Leeds Residence

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

In 2011, Heather Johnson and Camden Leeds bought a dilapidated, century-old Victorian on Pittsburgh's North Side and completely renovated it. They restored a ramshackle shed out back by replacing the vinyl siding with corrugated steel, installing a transparent garage-style door and a concrete floor, and lining the back wall with weathered pine planks from a 150-year-old barn in Ohio. "It's a hangout area," Johnson says. "We have people over and have parties there. It's mostly used for entertaining, and relaxing, too." □



PHOTO BY CRAIG THOMPSON





# Unger Residence

Orlando, Florida



PHOTOS BY RYAN BEGLEY

When designing a family home for branding executive Mark Unger in the College Park neighborhood of Orlando, Florida, architect Michael Wenrich envisioned a modern, open-plan space that would stand out from its more traditional neighbors. While the warm climate largely limits building material options, Wenrich chose ipe rainscreen and stucco—the latter a nod to the style of the other houses on the block. Though situated on an infill lot, the house, with interiors designed by Steele Street Studios, feels spacious due to high ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows. The bright kitchen features white-painted brick walls, custom cabinetry, and Wolf appliances. The lights are Globe pendants from West Elm. □



## Browne-Chenier Residence

Ottawa, Ontario

Jonathan Browne and Tienne Chenier have a healthy respect for the origins of their three-story red brick town house in the Golden Triangle section of downtown Ottawa. Not content with a basic renovation, Browne and Chenier delved into the history of their home, which was the residence of one of the city's early architects, John W.H. Watts. The couple prepared all of the plans and supervised a complete renovation down to the joists, as well as designing a private back garden. To withstand Ottawa's extreme temperatures—minus 40°F in the winter and more than 100°F in the summer—the space maximizes natural light and the insulating effect that comes with being a middle unit. The gallery-white walls provide a canvas for artwork by Canadian Aboriginal artists like Norval Morrisseau and Carl Beam. The house is furnished with classic modern pieces from Knoll and Vitra, and by Charles and Ray Eames for Herman Miller, interspersed with original 18th- and 19th-century pieces. The kitchen features a Halo suspension lamp from Artemide, fixtures by Dornbracht, and Miele and La Marzocco appliances. ■







# Avery-Rhoda Residence

Southampton, New York



When Sean Avery, a former hockey player with the New York Rangers, got engaged to his girlfriend five years ago, the pair decided to find a retreat away from the city. They picked a ramshackle cottage five minutes from the beach by bicycle and set to work fixing it up. “The house had shag carpet, and every room was painted a different color,” Avery says. He and his fiancée, model Hilary Rhoda, streamlined the kitchen with stainless-steel restaurant tables and a red Smeg refrigerator, ripped out a wall dividing the master bath, and painted floors and ceilings a crisp white. The pair’s favorite designers crop up throughout the house in pieces like side tables by Zoe Mowat, a Bluff City pendant lamp by Jonah Takagi, seating by Norm Architects, and artwork by Corey Arnold. Avery relished the renovation project so much that he’s now pursuing a design-build career, with two other projects on tap in the Hamptons, plus a burgeoning prefab collaboration with a Danish manufacturer. ▣





# Dansie Residence

Salt Lake City, Utah

After renovating three houses over 15 years of marriage, Matt and Amy Dansie bought a 1918 bungalow as a “landing house”—a last fixer-upper that they could call home for years to come. They demolished a wall that had separated the kitchen from the rest of the house, and incorporated an old mud porch at the back into the space. Matt designed and built everything himself, including the walnut shelves and fridge box, the quartzite countertops, and the backsplash of hexagonal basalt tiles. He used some surplus steel that he had on hand to create the custom fixture above the table. The cloth-covered lamp wires can be wound around the pegs in the center, letting the pendants take on different configurations. □







# Marquardt Residence

Chicago, Illinois

"I'm not a fan of having stuff just for the sake of having stuff—I like purpose," Stacey Marquardt, a marketing director, says. When it came to furnishing her Chicago apartment, she patiently and diligently shopped for items on Craigslist and eBay (like her Broyhill Brasilia dining table and chairs) and scored a few finds from estate sales. She worked with craftsman Dylan Patterson of Rapid Woodworks to build a custom credenza and hung prints from local artists, like Jason Frohlichstein and Chuck Anderson, throughout the space. "Our definition of 'home' involves having an association or story in the things we surround ourselves with," Marquardt says. "We have friends' artwork hanging on our walls, plants filled with random rocks we've smuggled back from vacations, and vases from some great new store randomly discovered while walking through the neighborhood." □



PHOTOS BY CLAYTON HAUCK



**Before**



## Rome Drive

Los Angeles, California

At architect Oonagh Ryan's insistence, she and her husband, Marcus Baird, a chef, lived in their 1953 post-and-beam house in Los Angeles for a full year before embarking on a renovation. The idea, Ryan says, was to "better understand the strengths of the building and how the house and landscape behaved throughout the year." After studying these nuances, the couple removed the air conditioning system in favor of deeper overhangs and low-tech ventilation panels for passive cooling. They updated the kitchen (the cylindrical Franke hood is new), but retained original touches such as the cabinet hardware. "Simple detailing strategies, like lining open plywood shelves with green plastic laminate to pick up the hues in the garden, articulate the indoor-outdoor connections," Ryan notes. ▣





PHOTOS BY SCOTT MAYORAL (BEFORE) / STUART GOW (AFTER)





# Pichai House

Bangkok, Thailand









After buying a lot in the medium-density residential area of Bueng Kum—a neighborhood of detached houses, small apartments, and undeveloped land in Eastern Bangkok—owner Pichai Charoenpong wanted a respite. He hired architect Kittiya Choowanthanapakorn to build a simple getaway from the city's potent mix of air pollution, high temperatures, humidity, and rainy-season flooding. The result is a geometric 3,014-square-foot, single-story abode set on pillars, oriented to take advantage of natural light and ventilation. Two squares joined at the corner create the primary layout, separating the living room, dining room, master bedroom, and terraces from the guest rooms, kitchen, laundry, and storage spaces. Each room has its own view to the bamboo-filled garden and features built-in closets and cabinets. The striking all-white exterior employs simple materials: plastered brick walls, reinforced concrete pillars, and a terra-cotta roof. □







# Number Ones



@\_david\_moore Los Angeles, California



@in3interieur Madison, Wisconsin



@emmettmoore Miami, Florida



@jeremykjensen Isaquah, Washington



@souleven Minneapolis, Minnesota



@audelo\_cs California



@bleached\_black Vancouver, British Columbia



@cherylleescott Los Angeles, California



@krysosandchandi New York City, New York



Though Dwell's Instagram audience is awfully creative with house number placement—bonus points for anything suspended from an awning or applied to fritted glass—one thing is clear: sans serif fonts for the win.



@roinla Palm Springs, California



@las3464 Wauwatosa, Wisconsin



@zenboxdesign Portland, Oregon



@caseyloter Salt Lake City, Utah



@mcelroyarch San Francisco, California



@ryanjohnsonp Cincinnati, Ohio



@pablohannon Hasselt, Belgium



@jordesign3 Dallas, Texas



@marcel\_camposilvan Hamilton, Ontario





# Beautiful Rug. Beautiful Story.



© U. Roberto Romano

Little Sanju was trafficked from her village at the foot of the Himalaya to a carpet factory in Kathmandu. She wove carpets from 4 in the morning until 8 at night and thought her life would always be this.

Then Sanju's life changed forever. She was rescued by GoodWeave and now goes to school with GoodWeave's support.

Stand with Sanju. Watch her courageous story at [GoodWeave.org](http://GoodWeave.org).



Certified child-labor-free  
Ask for the GoodWeave label





# Robison Residence

Chicago, Illinois

Before



Named for its origins as a candy factory on Chicago's Northwest side, Candyland is home to artist Nicholas Robison, who bought and restored the 4,200-square-foot 1916 building himself. "It was vacant, falling apart, and overgrown," says Robison, who recruited what he calls "a very small team" to retain the salvageable parts—such as the concrete floors with their distressed green patches—and shore up the rest, enclosing the living space on the second floor and adding recycled elements throughout. Much of the art, lighting, and furniture was built by hand from reclaimed materials. "It was a daunting task as I am not an architect or engineer, but aside from a few hiccups along the way, it proved to be the most gratifying DIY project I have ever attempted," Robison says. □

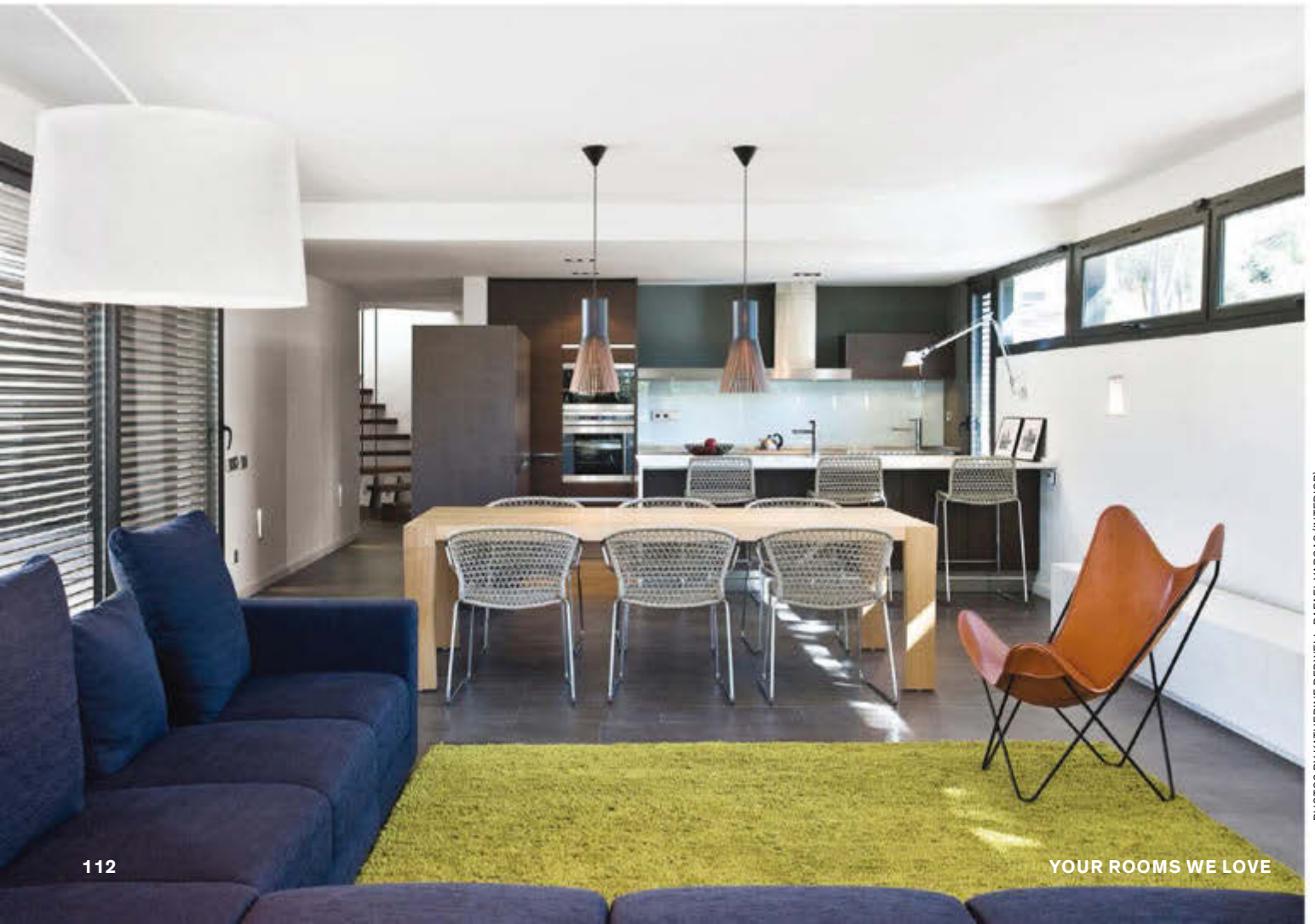




# Casa Rambed

Barcelona, Spain

Architect Katherine Bedwell—an American who graduated from Pratt Institute—moved to Spain for graduate study, later partnering with Catalan architect Quim Larrea. She enlisted Larrea to help design her own family’s house in Barcelona, a 3,350-square-foot abode that Bedwell shares with her partner and their two daughters. The design brief, Bedwell says, entailed “a functional house with lots of transparency and fluid spaces that are in continuous contact with nature.” The resulting volume comprises two wings that form a V shape, with the foyer acting as the hinge between the daytime “public” zone and nighttime “private” zone. Larrea and Bedwell chose materials for their ability to blend with the surroundings: primarily limestone, wood, and steel. Accademia’s Vela chairs surround a Margo dining table from Do+Ce. A Twiggy floor lamp by Foscarini is situated by the Loft sofa from Perobell. The kitchen is by Hacker. □



PHOTOS BY KATHERINE BEDWELL, RAFAEL VARGAS (INTERIOR)





# Hills Residence

Lakeland, Florida

Tim and Vanessa Hills were so smitten with this house, which the architect Bruce Spencer designed as his own residence in 1958, that they uprooted themselves from Bellevue, Washington, to make it their own. The previous owners, an older couple who bought it from Spencer in 1968, were hoarders. "The lady collected antique looms, and they seem to have kept every single newspaper they ever received," Tim Hills says. The accumulated detritus filled four Dumpsters, but their habits had an unexpected benefit. "They didn't do anything to the house, so there were a lot of original features," Hills says, all of them exquisitely preserved. These include the terrazzo floors, stone fireplace, and wooden built-ins, which inspired Hills's own design for the plywood coffee table. ▣





# Flude Residence

Sheffield, England

After Sally Flude decided to study interior design, she and her husband, Andrew, moved to Sheffield, England. They traded the 200-year-old farmhouse in southern Spain that they had called home for a decade for a newer house, built in 1960. They demolished a wall between the kitchen and living room, creating a large, inviting space where the Fludes and their son, Rufus, five, spend most of their time. Andrew made the pine kitchen table, and the shelves were fashioned from oak offcuts that were left over after the countertops were installed. "The white walls and high-gloss kitchen units provide the perfect blank canvas on which to sit our treasured pieces from Spain," Sally says. ▣





A photograph of a modern courtyard. In the foreground, there is a black rectangular table with four bright orange plastic chairs. A large potted plant with green leaves is on the left. In the background, a glass door leads into a house with a dark interior. The courtyard is paved with light-colored concrete. The house has a dark roof and a light-colored wall. The overall atmosphere is bright and modern.

# Wimmer-Permenter Residence

Concord, California

While living in Oakland, California, Hunter Wimmer and Casie Permenter started looking for a safe, quiet neighborhood to settle down before starting a family. They stumbled upon a 1963 Eichler that had fallen into disrepair in Concord. The couple purchased it from the estate of the original owners, a family with nine children that had cut the garage into two bedrooms in order to maximize sleeping space. Wimmer, who teaches graphic design, and Permenter, a civil engineer, undertook a six-year renovation on their own—with the help of licensed professionals only when they thought it was absolutely necessary, like for the complicated electrical wiring. >



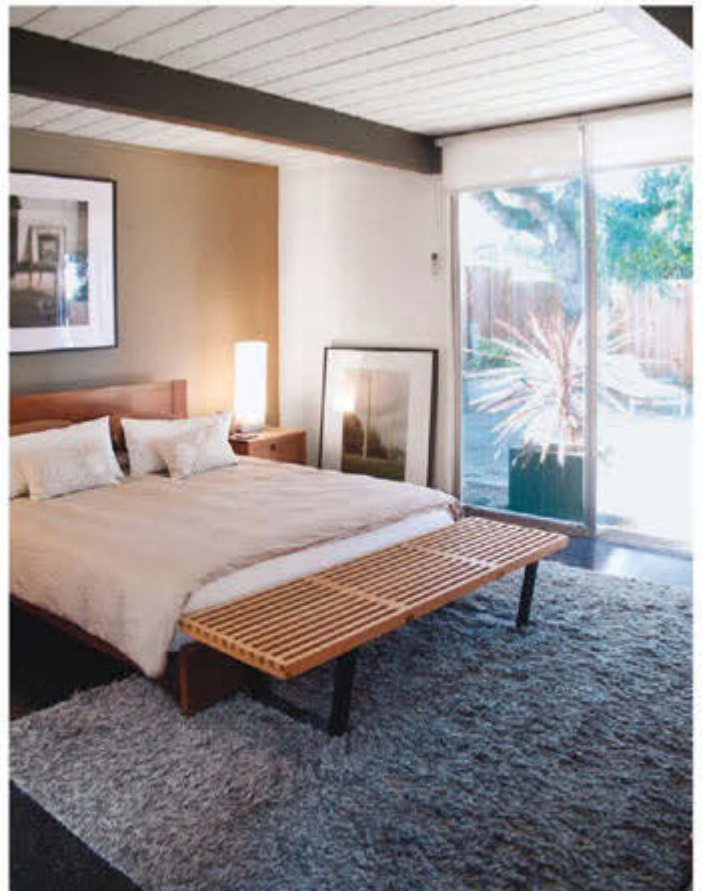






The extensive overhaul included everything from adding HVAC systems and new drywall to putting in a pool. The duo, who now have a young son, chose budget-friendly solutions every step of the way, such as a full Ikea kitchen with Nexus wood cabinets. “[Ikea’s] flat-pack ethos of ubiquity and democratic design seemed to go with the spirit of Eichler,” Wimmer says. Midcentury scores, such as a 1950s Danish shelving unit in the playroom, also help preserve that energy. □









# Tube House

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Developed in Hanoi in the late 19th century, Vietnamese tube houses can extend further than 65 feet into their respective lots while their front-ages remain narrow. When building a home for a family in Ho Chi Minh City, designer Minh Tran experimented with this typology when his clients purchased a slender lot in the heart of town. "In Vietnam today, there's a big problem with noise and dirty air," he says. "We proposed a new concept for tube houses in the city." Tran dedicated 70 percent of the lot to courtyards and outdoor space, which usher air and light into the house and offer an oasis from the bustling city. "We still get a sense of surprise when we enter through the front door," says the resident, "a type of *Alice in Wonderland* experience." A motley collection of chairs found on eBay stands around the dining table, which Tran designed and the owner fabricated at his furniture company, Square Roots. □











# Estomba House

Buenos Aires, Argentina

As an architect, Camilo Policastro strives to create open and integrated spaces with a toolkit of simple, raw materials. For a family home in the Coghlan neighborhood of Buenos Aires, he used textured, rendered, and exposed concrete; aluminum; and wood to forge a three-story structure. The home becomes progressively more private as it ascends from the open-plan living area to the upstairs rooms. “My favorite space in the house is the ground floor,” he says. “Especially in summer when you open the windows, the garden enters into the room, and it becomes a singular space.”



PHOTOS BY ALBANO GARCIA

# Bucktown House

Chicago, Illinois

Located on a challenging infill lot, a Chicago house designed by Miller Hull and built by Ranquist Development grapples with the seemingly contradictory needs for natural light, outdoor space, and privacy. “The home is a perfect balance of privacy and open spaciousness,” Bob Ranquist, the general contractor, says. It achieves this with the help of unique elements such as custom perforated-steel screens, tiered flooring levels, custom-made 12-foot-tall steel doors with glass portholes, and a glass-enclosed staircase leading to a private rooftop garden with striking city views. The kitchen owes its sleek minimalist look to cabinets from Arclinea and a Dornbracht faucet. Tile from Ann Sacks clads the master bathroom’s shower, which is kitted out with fixtures from Hansgrohe. □









# **Duran-Werner Residence**

Altadena, California







Meghan Duran, a set designer, and Josh Werner, a musician, renovated their 800-square-foot guesthouse with an eye to California modernism: Walls in Ultra Pure White paint by Behr, unfinished oak furniture, leather accents (like a thrifted Ingmar Relling chair), and a minimalist vibe prevail in what was once a mishmash of paint, tile, and shoddy renovation work. Built in 1949 by Frederick Monhoff, an architect and UCLA professor, the funky little structure served as a studio space for the sculptor David Green, who lived in the house until 1963, when he turned the original building into a metal shop. The guesthouse now sports a bedroom, a white-tiled bathroom fitted with square and hexagon tile from Daltile, a kitchenette with a marble surround, a vaulted living area, and an alder wood sliding barn door that opens into the bathroom. □

PHOTOS BY CANDACE BO

# Color Wheel



@francesasales Manila, Philippines



@jodieruegs Cincinnati, Ohio



@sarahirenemurphy Connecticut



@sonyayu San Francisco, California



@dsignedby Belgrade, Serbia



@jimmyschonninghem Lund, Sweden



@battophoto Cincinnati, Ohio



@laneylaine Los Angeles, California



@xxruthmichelle Jakarta, Indonesia



The quickest route to a home makeover is found in a gallon of paint (then shared via Instagram). While creative applications add punch, from zigzags to stencils, even a solid wash of color can take a room from boring to Barragán.



@jeffmindell Los Angeles, California



@apeironzool Lima, Peru



@kem3d Detroit, Michigan



@hiroshimalws Hiroshima, Japan



@zuluniner Los Angeles, California



@winkingplum Pretoria, South Africa



@nellejea Los Angeles, California



@heleneopedal Norway



@tipla\_berlin Berlin, Germany

# Sharam-Menke Residence

Berlin, Germany









In a space that was once two classrooms in a middle school built around 1900 in Berlin, Germany, architects Richard Sharam and Anne Menke created a home for themselves and their two children, Lilli and Pete. The couple referenced the building's origins with an erasable chalkboard-paint backsplash and an industrial sink in the kitchen; elsewhere, they departed from this theme and introduced higher design elements. In the living room, a sofa from Hay grounds the space; the master bedroom holds a Cole & Son wallpaper-covered storage space and sleeping loft; and in the hallway, to which they added a bright yellow accent ceiling, Menke placed one of her pixel portraits of Che Guevara. The couple put in two new bathrooms and covered the floors with colorful cement tiles. "We designed everything ourselves," says Menke. □





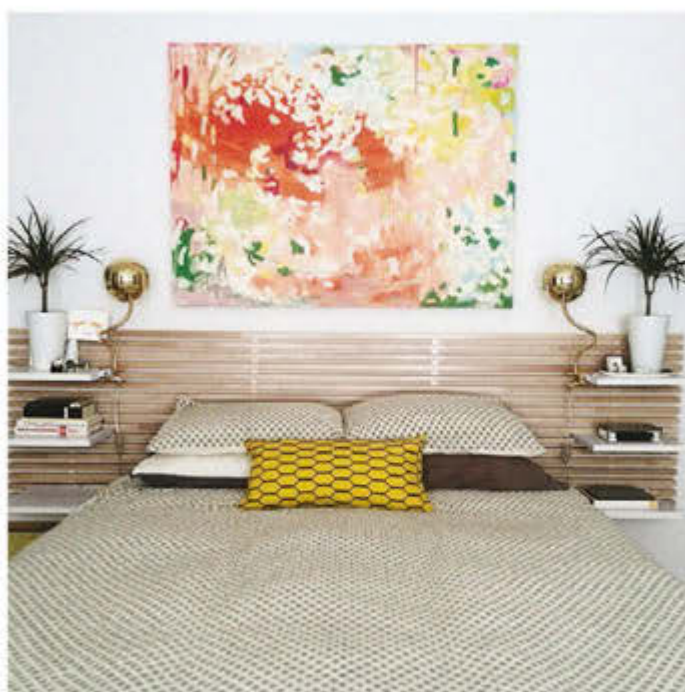




# Carroll Street Duplex

Brooklyn, New York

The 1,399-square-foot duplex of Carol Wang and Hua Hsu, located between Gowanus and Park Slope in Brooklyn, was built in 2011, but lacked the charm that the residents sought. Though newly married and on busy schedules as academics—Wang spent a year in China doing dissertation research after they moved in—the couple undertook a DIY renovation to add personality to the space. The secondhand dining chairs in the open-plan living area were acquired at a shop in Beacon, New York, and the pillows are from Etsy. An Ikea Mandal bed and headboard is paired with a Michelle Armas print. □



PHOTOS BY CAROL K. WANG



# Tuovinen Residence

Helsinki, Finland



Sofia Tuovinen's 506-square-foot studio apartment in Helsinki, Finland—in a 1936 structure built to house factory workers—consists of a living room with a sleeping alcove and an open kitchen-dining area. When Tuovinen bought the apartment two years ago, the kitchen had ill-conceived elements like a tall refrigerator and space-hogging cabinets. "Because the apartment is relatively small, it was important to me to

make each area inviting," Tuovinen says. To that end, she improved the flow of the kitchen-dining area by devising a stepped tile pattern along one wall, so that, she says, "the two parts of the room flow together in a more natural way." She outfitted the kitchen completely in Ikea finds, including the cabinetry, oven, cooktop, and mirror, and added a ladder she found at a local shop to keep pans within easy reach. □







## Fitzpatrick-Sill Residence

Mayfield Heights, Ohio

In 2010, Molly Fitzpatrick and William Sill settled in a 1955 bungalow in the Cleveland suburb of Mayfield Heights, Ohio. Sill, a mason who specializes in restoration projects, opened the ceiling in the living-dining-kitchen space, stripped away the kitchen tiles, and built a concrete countertop that clammers up and across a cabinet and over the top of the refrigerator, mimicking the trajectory of the steps. Fitzpatrick, a textile designer, created a pattern that Sill re-created in marble and slate tiles on the floor in front of the sliding closet door—a favorite hangout spot for their one-year-old son, Malachi. (Fitzpatrick also designed the pillowcases and the throw blanket on the Bernhardt sectional.) Sill built the cantilevered bench from pine that he salvaged from a Cleveland factory, imbuing the space with a flavor of the city's industrial past. □



PHOTOS BY WILLIAM SILL





# Lo-Koo Residence

Toronto, Ontario

Kitty Lo and Jeffrey Koo were excited to make their first home together in a two-level apartment in a new condominium tower in Toronto, but the undertaking came with its own set of headaches. "You have to extend your imagination beyond the two-dimensional floor plan and make decisions wisely," Lo says. They figured a large, spherical Random Light by Bertjan Pot for Moooi would fill the 17-foot double-height living space, but they were not able to get it through the apartment's lone entrance. "We exchanged the large light for two lights, one small and one medium, which fit through the door," Lo says. A Parsons desk from West Elm fits snugly under the stairs and pairs nicely with a Setu chair from Herman Miller. The Tintin posters are souvenirs from a 2009 visit to the Musée Hergé in Belgium. □



# Stanford Street Townhouse

Houston, Texas



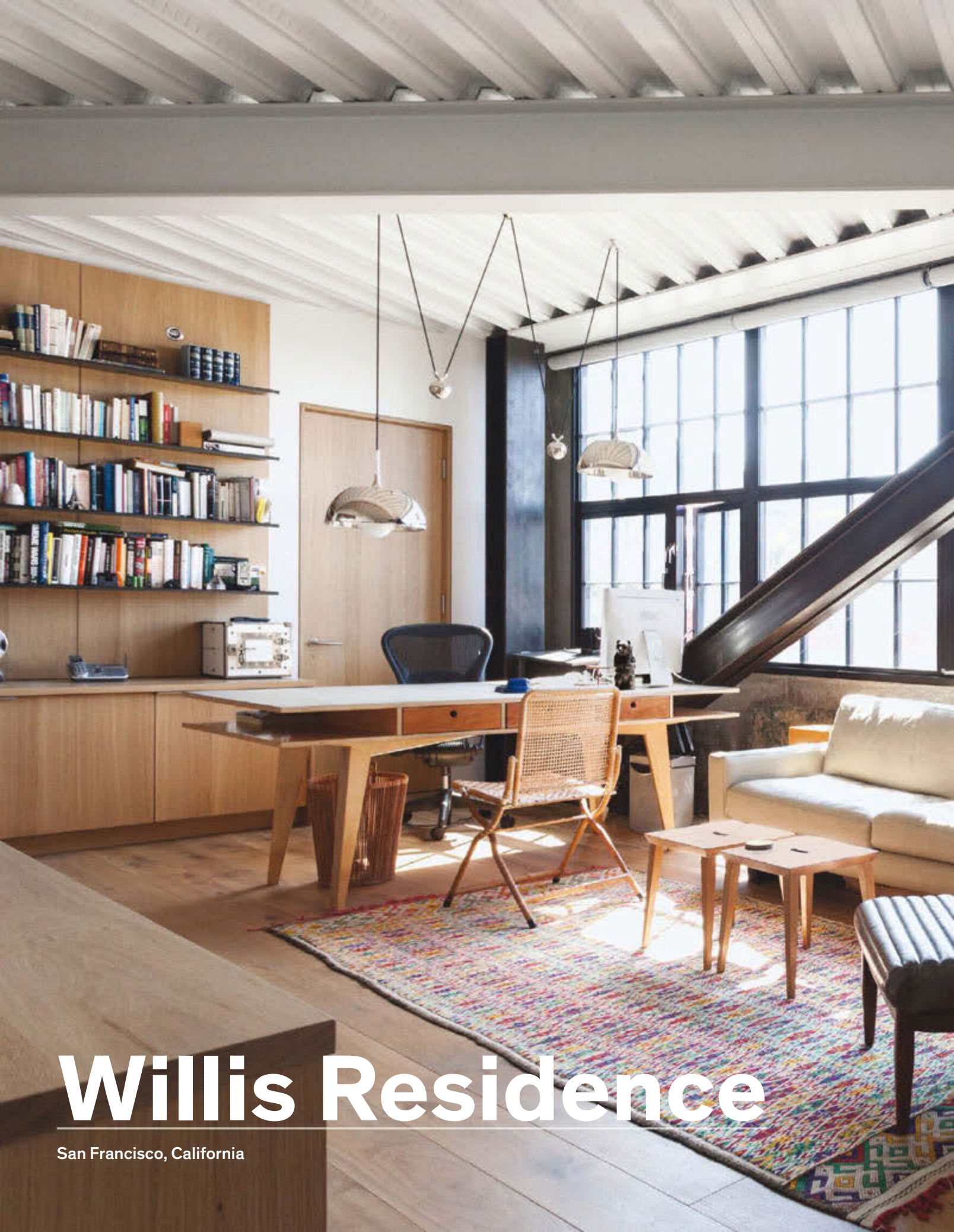
When renovating a middling 1970s townhouse in the Montrose neighborhood of Houston, designer Chris Nguyen added a modern edge by subtracting existing elements to optimize flow and functionality. He took the spaces down to the studs, excised closets, and tore down walls. “Borrowing from Dieter Rams’s mantra of ‘as little design as possible,’ my own philosophy could be informally

described as ‘just enough design as necessary.’ I kept lines straight, hardware spare, and anything built-in, such as cabinetry, featureless” he says. “I just removed things until I knew an Eames Compact sofa would look right at home.” Other modern classics furnishing Nguyen’s space include a Bertoia Bird chair, Franco Albini ottoman, and Tolix bar stools. □









# Willis Residence

San Francisco, California









Among the directives for architect Erica Severns from her client, John Parker Willis, was “some chaos in the kitchen design” of his home in a converted San Francisco garage. Others included saving the old concrete walls and uncovering the history of the building, which Willis, a developer, divided into eight units, keeping one for himself. In the new 2,770-square-foot apartment, original I-beams brace the structure at dramatic angles and collide overhead, and the raw concrete is tempered by blackened steel, white-oak flooring, and bush-hammered Carrara marble—all selected by Willis. Severns put in a glass-block wall to separate the office from the guest bedroom, and created brand-new bathrooms. “The structural elements were left rough and exposed while the baths were designed to be clean and sleek,” Severns says. □













# Lee Residence

Queens, New York

In 2014, Kristin and Yong Lee left their cramped Manhattan studio for a three-bedroom, 1,350-square-foot apartment in a prewar building in Jackson Heights, Queens, where Kristin had grown up. Kristin, who works in retail design, opened the kitchen by demolishing a wall that had separated it from the dining room, enlivening it with a new island and a glass-tile backsplash. The dining table and two of the chairs were hand-me-downs from her grandmother that fit in well with the contemporary look of the redesigned space. The other chairs she either salvaged from work, accepted as secondhand gifts from friends, or, in one instance, picked up off the street. Two items of note—the chandelier above the dining table and a large mirror over the living room mantel—were in the apartment when the Lees moved in, and were preserved as nods to its past. □

# Logan Residence

Fayetteville, Arkansas

Trisha and Boyd Logan's midcentury ranch house in Fayetteville, Arkansas, is close to downtown and adjacent to a 15-acre nature reserve. They needed more space after having children, but moving was out of the question, so the couple embarked on a renovation that included a light-filled bathroom. "We wanted an economical design and wise material choices," Trisha says. "Our architects, Albert and Lisa Skiles of Skiles Architect, became great friends of ours through the design and construction process." The backsplash and shower walls are clad in Hakatai's Classic standard blend glass mosaic tile in China Blend. The floors and vanity are Daltile's Fabrique in Noir Linen and Blanc Linen. Doug Smith of Smith Cabinet Shop fabricated the custom cabinet using clear-finish birch plywood and white laminate sliding doors. The Enso dual-flush toilet from Mansfield helps conserve water. "Our favorite aspects are the views into our natural surroundings as well as the ample natural light," Trisha says. □







## Glencoe House

Venice, California



PHOTOS BY ZEKE RUELAS

Matt Freeman and Greg Henderson bought a run-down three-bedroom bungalow in Venice, California, after they learned that they would be adopting their daughter, Mazzy, now two. They completely renovated the interior, installing two sets of French doors to open an expanded den to a deck and a detached garage, which they converted into an office, sitting area, and sleeping space for guests. Henderson, a psychologist, built the fence with a contractor friend, Doug Barry, incorporating green planks salvaged from bleachers that had been demolished at a nearby park. "They were piled up and they were throwing them out," says Freeman, who works in real estate and film production. "We asked the city, 'Can we just take this?'" They deployed some of the planks around the house to add accents of weathered color. □



# Mailboxes, Etc.



@bashplease Los Angeles, California



@bh\_67 Montreal, Quebec



@mckimm\_ Brighton, Victoria, Australia



@clutchfabrication Bloomington, Indiana



@dawnkiko Glendale, California



@jnovak83 Phoenix, Arizona



@kryosandchand New York City, New York



@javi\_design Melbourne, Australia



@stuartsample Austin, Texas



What better way to spiff up a property line or a streetfront facade than with a punchy modern letterbox? These versions, in powder-coated steel and wood, submitted via Instagram, ensure that the postman always rings twice.



@irvindallas Dallas, Texas



@emilymhowe Santa Fe, New Mexico



@the\_metal\_lab Perth, Australia



@debbiechang Los Angeles, California



@nathanpollock Byron Bay, Australia



@tarzanman Torrance Beach, California



@steppenwolfdesign Paris, France



@mattycintheplace



@lowbrow\_literati Valencia, California



# Donnelly-Lam Residence

Montreal West, Quebec

When Heidi Donnelly and Edmund Lam were preparing to trade their loft in Montreal's Plateau neighborhood for parenthood and a house in the close-in suburbs, they expected to settle for a more conventional living space. They were floored to find a colonial house from 1892 that an architect had completely reconfigured sometime in the 1970s. "He added all these extensions and skylights, and all these mezzanines that make use of every little nook of the house," Lam says. He and Donnelly added a few touches of their own, including a You Make It chandelier by Lindsey Adelman and a walnut coffee table from EQ3. □







## Ann Street House

Melbourne, Australia

In 2011, architect Tufan Chakir completed his own house in Geelong, a provincial Victoria town west of Melbourne. Chakir shares the 3,200-square-foot structure with his wife, Adrienne, a yoga teacher, and their two “very indulged” Dalmatians. The plan for the three-bedroom home is basic, oriented around a square structure with a living room, deck, and plunge pool on the ground floor, a bedroom and private courtyard downstairs, and an upstairs office-bedroom. The showstopper is the north facade, which takes advantage of Australia’s strong sunlight with 30 feet of glazed multi-fold doors, allowing the interior to open completely to the outside. The ground floor is finished in white aggregate polished-concrete slab with hydronic heating, and the envelope is made efficient with expanded foam insulation—which combine for an eco-friendly system that requires no air conditioning and reduces heating bills. ▣



## Miller Duplex

Los Angeles, California

Carolyn Miller works professionally in the film industry as a writer and director, but she's honed an expert eye for interiors. "This foundation in building worlds and understanding composition has helped to train me with interior design," she says. A lifelong treasure hunter and midcentury furniture collector, Miller outfitted her living room with a sofa and rosewood coffee tables by Brazilian designer Percival Lafer and a Paper Knife armchair by Kai Kristiansen. "Most of my furniture is vintage from the 1950s or 1960s, so they all contain long histories and have lived in other homes," she says. "I love finding them, restoring them, and infusing them with new life. It's my small way of celebrating the legacy of great design." Miller built the wall sconces using components she found on the website Grand Brass, and the abstract painting is by Sarah Stockstill. □









# Easton Residence

New York, New York

Susan Easton's career as creative director of From the Road, a home accessories brand, takes her away from her home in New York's Lower East Side for about six months of each year. But when she's in town, the 700-square-foot apartment in the Forward Building—once the headquarters of the *Jewish Daily Forward* newspaper that was converted into condominiums in the late 1990s—is a comfortable live-work space. Easton travels the world, working with artisans to learn and then replicate their craft techniques. Among the apartment's minimal furniture—a Martin Visser sofa, Living Divani chairs, and a B&B Italia coffee table—are treasures she's gathered from abroad. A mobile made of indigenous weaving batons by an artist in Chiapas, Mexico, an alpaca blanket that's smoothed with a unique thistle-brush technique in the Andes, and a pillow made from handwoven yak hair in Nepal are highlights. □







Recinto lava stone lines a patio adjacent to the living room in designer Ezequiel Farca's house in Mexico City. He designed the teak outdoor furniture, including two armchairs. In the sitting area (opposite), two leather Paulistano chairs by Paulo Mendes da Rocha top a rug by Yerra; the wall paint is Comex.



TEXT BY  
Robert Landon  
PHOTOS BY  
Grant Harder

PROJECT  
Barrancas House  
ARCHITECT  
Ezequiel Farca  
LOCATION  
Mexico City, Mexico

## Concrete Jungle

A designer carves  
out a domestic oasis  
in Mexico City.









Farca furnished the living room with a Serge Mouille three-arm floor lamp, custom sofas from EF Collection, and Surface tables by Vincent Van Duysen for B&B Italia. Oak veneer lines the stairwell in between the master bedroom and the children's wing (below). Chairs in the second-floor playroom are by Lievore Altherr Molina for Andreu World (right). Oak sliding doors can close off the playroom to minimize din.



**To most eyes, Ezequiel Farca's 1970s-style** concrete home in Mexico City looked like a tear-down. Even the lot itself—shallow and crammed against a steep hillside—wasn't particularly alluring. But Farca saw through all the restraints to create a spa-like refuge in one of the world's most energetic cities. "It's is such a hectic place. You're bombarded by so much information the moment you step into the streets," says Farca, who first gained prominence as a furniture and interior designer. "So we envisioned this house as a retreat, a kind of a temple."

In many ways, his redesign of the massive structure, which sits in the city's hilly Lomas de Chapultepec neighborhood, is an elaborate disappearing act. The white exterior is painted a neutral gray-green, helping it recede into its setting. Attention-grabbing balustrades were stripped away, and strategic plantings were allowed to creep over the façade, softening boundaries between house, garden, and street. Finally, Farca and team stripped the interior back to the posts.

Then Farca set about transforming an inelegant warren of rooms into a series of bright, interconnected spaces. The first floor became a single room encompassing the kitchen, dining area, and living room. To merge the plant-filled terrace with the living room, an awkward series of windows gave way to a single wall of glass. >





The rooftop courtyard is lined with a verdant mix of indigenous plants, including banana trees, palm trees, lion's claw, Mexican breadfruit, and native vines. The chaise longues were designed for Farca's EF Collection.







The striking master bath is lined from floor to walls in silvery gray marble. An Almond bathtub by Porcelanosa is accented by a tub filler from Hansgrohe (opposite).











**“The minute you leave your home in Mexico City, you’re in the middle of the rush.” —Ezequiel Farca, designer and resident**

The master bedroom, painted in Whisper by Comex, sports a bed that Farca custom-designed as part of his EF Collection (above left). Farca also designed the custom millwork throughout the house, such as the swinging door leading into the dining room (above right). The leather Siren dining chairs are by Holly Hunt.



Farca, who is the father of four children, including 11-year-old triplets, devoted much of the square footage to the youngsters. Relatively small bedrooms are pushed to the edge, and the middle floor includes a large, flexible space that Farca calls the “playground,” though it can easily be converted to other uses as the triplets hit adolescence.

While the structural interventions were very modest, Farca completely re-skinned the interior in a rich variety of natural materials. Marble lines the kitchens and bathrooms. Interior floors are planked in European oak with a natural finish, while a smokier veneer covers select walls. And the terraces are tiled with recinto, a locally sourced volcanic stone. The variety breaks up the building’s mass, says Farca. Natural textures and a warm, neutral palette help turn the bunker-like structure into a series of welcoming spaces.

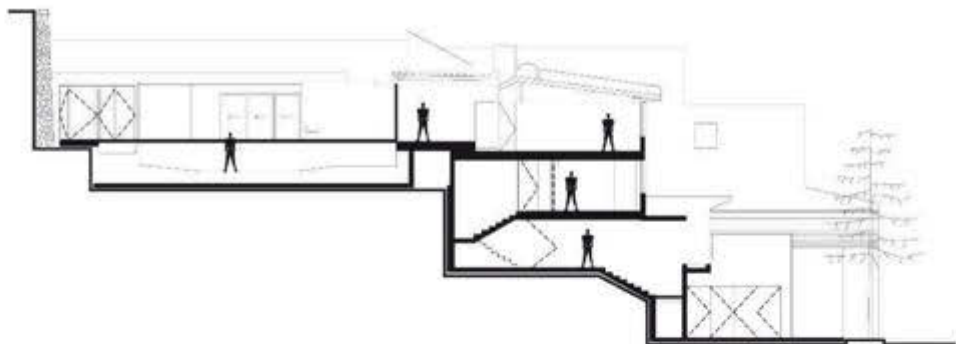
However, Farca’s most transformative work was reserved for the top floor, which includes a pool, an indoor-outdoor dining space, and a master suite. When the enormous glass doors disappear into pocket walls, the whole floor becomes what he calls “our idea of the perfect hotel suite.”

“The minute you leave your home in Mexico City, you’re in the middle of the rush,” says Farca. “Now we cross the threshold and feel we’ve left the city far behind.” >



**Barrancas House  
Floor Plan**

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>A</b> Kitchen        | <b>I</b> Gym             |
| <b>B</b> Bathroom       | <b>J</b> Playroom        |
| <b>C</b> Bar            | <b>K</b> Lap Pool        |
| <b>D</b> Dining Area    | <b>L</b> Garden          |
| <b>E</b> Living Area    | <b>M</b> Family Room     |
| <b>F</b> Patio          | <b>N</b> Bedroom         |
| <b>G</b> Laundry Room   | <b>O</b> Master Bathroom |
| <b>H</b> Screening Room | <b>P</b> Master Bedroom  |



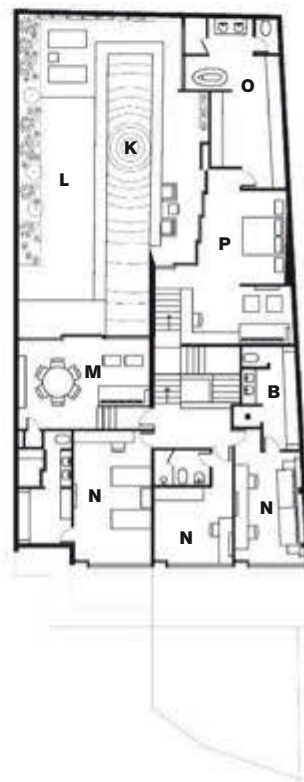
**First Floor**



**Second Floor**



**Third Floor**



Solid European oak flooring by DuChateau runs throughout the home (below left). The sculpture is by Jorge Yázpik. A window in another bedroom overlooks protected woodland (below right).



In the dining room, antique wooden busts and a machiche cross designed by Farca are arranged on a resin counter-top by Monica Calderon. The bar conceals a service area with an espresso machine.



## Sourcing

The products, furniture, and materials featured in this story.

Ezequiel Farca [ezequiefarca.com](http://ezequiefarca.com), Paulistano chairs by Paulo Mendes da Rocha [dwr.com](http://dwr.com), Surface tables by Vincent Van Duysen for B&B Italia [bebitalia.com](http://bebitalia.com), Three-arm floor lamp by Serge Mouille [dwr.com](http://dwr.com), Rug by Yerra [yerrarugs.com](http://yerrarugs.com), Paint by Comex [comex.com.mx](http://comex.com.mx), Rdl chairs by Lievore Altherr Molina for Andreu World [andreuworldamerica.com](http://andreuworldamerica.com), Natural European oak flooring from DuChateau Floors [duchateaufloors.com](http://duchateaufloors.com), Tub filler by Hansgrohe [hansgrohe-usa.com](http://hansgrohe-usa.com), Almond bathtub by Porcelanosa [porcelanosa-usa.com](http://porcelanosa-usa.com), Siren dining chairs by Holly Hunt [hollyhunt.com](http://hollyhunt.com), Jorge Yázpik [yarpik.org](http://yarpik.org)



Think choosing the right color takes time?  
It's taken her 5 years.



**Sara McLean**

Color Expert, Designer and Blogger  
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**300 NEW  
COLORS**  
*Then, Now & Forever™ collection*

Dunn-Edwards® Paints Color Expert, Designer and Blogger, Sara McLean, curated 300 new colors for the *Then, Now & Forever™* collection, which features 142 historically accurate colors of the American West and 158 colors trending today. See the 300 new colors and get a free color sample at [dunnedwards.com/300](http://dunnedwards.com/300).



a better  
way to live



David Jameson Architect  
Alexandria, Virginia

► multi-slide door ► pocket door ► bi-fold door ► sliding glass door ► hinge & pivot door ► **window wall**



**western**  
window systems  
[westernwindowssystems.com](http://westernwindowssystems.com)