

SUMMER 2018
MEN'S EDITION

THE GLOBE AND MAIL
style
ADVISOR

MERCURY RISING

Introducing the cinematic style and contemplative
songwriting of **JOSEPH OF MERCURY**

FASHION

Lighten things up with a wardrobe of linen

DESIGN

Build a bunkie for your growing brood

ENTERTAINING

Dive into the history of boozy punch



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EDITOR'S LETTER



A casual attitude infuses summer men's wear, from lightweight shirts to full trousers and woven accessories.

Earlier this year I bought a pair of airplane pants. I called them "airplane pants" because they are cut from a stretch-chino fabric and feature a drawstring waist, and because I swore I would only ever wear them on overnight flights where they would offer discreet comfort, the waistband hidden under a sweater or sports jacket. Within a week of returning home, however, I had quickly rationalized how equally well-suited said slacks were to Saturday-morning coffee runs, grocery shopping and entertaining at home.

As the ubiquity of Lululemon leggings, Uggs and, this season, men's wear that takes sartorial cues from athletic clothing teaches us, a sense of ease is addictive. And lucrative. This issue of The Globe and Mail Style Advisor opens with a profile of Reigning Champ ("Breaking sweats," page 8), the Canadian brand that saw the athleisure trend coming long before every Italian suit label started adding elastic cuffs to dress pants. An examination of the casualization of our wardrobes continues through Jeremy

Freed's column on the rise of dadcore ("Father knows best," page 20) to our fashion feature that advocates a summer wardrobe of rumpled linen ("Let there be light," page 32).

Of course, if you think a blazer layered over a hoodie is the seventh sign of the apocalypse, there's still lots of capital F men's fashion to covet for summer. From the bold Hawaiian prints worn by musician Joseph of Mercury in the cover feature ("Idol thoughts," page 28) to a round up of elevated espadrilles ("On the ropes," page 18) and designer dive watches ("Take the plunge," page 15), the men's-wear world still offers plenty of ways to play dress up. Just be prepared to show some respect to the guy sitting across from you in a designer bucket hat. As far as spring 2018's trend diviners are concerned, he's stylish too.

ANDREW SARDONE

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL style ADVISOR

MEN'S SUMMER 2018

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NEWSLETTER

Every Thursday, The Globe and Mail's style newsletter features fashion, design and entertaining news plus cross-Canada shopping tips. Sign up through theglobeandmail.com/newsletters.



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ON THE COVER

Marni polo, \$810 at Holt Renfrew (holtrenfrew.com). Paul & Joe trousers, \$400 at La Maison Simons (simons.ca). Shinola belt, \$120 at Nordstrom (nordstrom.com). Photo by Renata Kaveh.

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BIRKS

BIRKS.COM

CONTRIBUTORS

The magazine's writers, photographers and stylists debate that age-old sartorial conundrum: Is it better to be underdressed or overdressed?



BRADLEY WHITEHOUSE worked on two stories for this issue of The Globe and Mail Style Advisor: a profile of the Canadian athleisure brand Reigning Champ ("Breaking sweats," **PAGE 8**) and a piece on luxury dive watches ("Take the plunge," **PAGE 15**).

‘I’m biased because my personal style is casual, but I think to be well underdressed is the ultimate style achievement. Look around any party and the guests with the best style are usually the ones who are slightly undone.’

‘When in doubt, overdress. Life is too short to be boring and to worry about dress codes. If you feel like stepping out in a gown to play Ping-Pong, do it.’



Photographer **RENATA KAVEH**, an alumnus of The Globe and Mail's annual best dressed list, brings her impeccable eye to photographing cover star Joseph of Mercury ("Idol thoughts," **PAGE 28**)



A Toronto-based wardrobe stylist, freelance fashion editor and journalist, **ALON FREEMAN** styled an editorial shoot featuring linen men's wear ("Let there be light," **PAGE 32**), which he describes as a meditation on texture and detail.

‘I’m a believer in the Italian concept of *sprezzatura* – a certain nonchalance, a studied carelessness, artful dressing without looking like you’re sweating it.’

‘I lean toward being overdressed. This probably happens because of my obsession with vintage dresses. Sometimes people remark that I look fancy, but I’m actually just too lazy or incapable to coordinate a top-and-bottom outfit.’



Food writer, stylist and recipe developer **VICTORIA WALSH** took on bartending duties for a communal cocktail shoot ("A party with punch," **PAGE 42**), which included a recipe from the book she co-wrote with her husband, *A Field Guide to Canadian Cocktails*.



MATTHEW HAGUE writes about design, architecture and culture from his home base in Toronto. For this issue, he explores the growing number of small-scale options for cottagers looking to expand their holiday homes ("Top bunkies," **PAGE 40**).

‘Underdressed. I recently went to a fancy dinner party that I didn’t realize was fancy. I arrived wearing a bright red Coca-Cola sweater from the ’90s and blue jeans. At first, I was mortified. Everyone else was wearing suits and cocktail dresses. But in the end I was shocked by how many compliments I got on my outfit that night. It was really an act of stupidity, but people took it as a rebellion against uptight clothes.’

BOSS 0969/S





With its slimmer cuts and focus on the minutiae of stitching and sleeve lengths, Reigning Champ has built a rep for elevated athletic wear.

PROFILE

Breaking sweats

Canada's Reigning Champ has helped usher in a refined era in casual men's wear

Given the current ubiquity of sweatpants in men's wear, it's surprising to hear Reigning Champ founder

Craig Atkinson say the brand's signature joggers were considered "pretty niche" when the label launched just over 10 years ago. "I don't even know if 'athleisure' had been coined in 2007," Atkinson says, referring to the fashion portmanteau that describes athletic leisure wear designed more as street style than for working out. "That didn't even come onto our radar."

In the decade since, quality sweatpants, crewnecks and hoodies have become staples in men's wardrobes as innovators like Atkinson swap out bulky fits and basic fabrics for tailored cuts and custom-developed fleece. Five stores and umpteen brand collaborations later, the small-but-mighty Reigning Champ is living up to its name in the booming market for premium active wear.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »





play it like Hermès



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8 »

It all started in Japan, where Atkinson cut his teeth importing vintage men's wear for heritage-crazed customers before returning to Vancouver to set up his own apparel-manufacturing business. The attention to detail he'd learned overseas earned him big-name clients like cult skateboarding brand Supreme and premium outerwear outfitter Arc'teryx that appreciated his efforts to produce custom knitwear fabrics.

Eventually, Atkinson grew bored of making things according to other people's specs. In 2004, he launched Wings + Horns as a creative outlet. A few years later he decided to put his own label on the best-in-category fleece he'd perfected for other brands and Reigning Champ was born. Atkinson chose to drop his other clients to focus on his own brands in 2013 and Reigning Champ has since outpaced Wings + Horns in terms of sales. "The little brother has now become the big brother," Atkinson says.

With Reigning Champ, Atkinson has added a level of integrity to once basic sweatshirts, sweatpants and tees, creating a more dignified ethos of casual dressing that's infiltrating the collections of dressier, designer labels. He's added details like flatlock seams and bar tacks – geeky garment-industry stuff that might go unnoticed by the average customer but which Atkinson says add depth and longevity to a seemingly simple crewneck.

"The design details aren't blatant. They're really only visible to the discerning eye. That's part of good design," Atkinson says. "You don't know why you like a product when you like it, but when the fabric drapes a certain way or the length of the sleeve hits right, you might not be able to put your finger on it but you get it on a subconscious level."

Other brands certainly seem to get it. Reigning Champ's list of collaborators reads like a mall directory, with everyone from Club Monaco to Converse, New Balance, J. Crew, and New Era getting in on the action, not to mention athletic-wear giant Adidas signing up for a major partnership. Next up is a Tokyo flagship store opening early in 2019. Ten years in, it seems like Atkinson's primo sweats are here to stay. Might as well get comfortable. – **BRADLEY WHITEHOUSE**

For more information, visit reigningchamp.com.

Reigning Champ founder Craig Atkinson created the label in 2007.



Chanel's upcoming Bleu parfum concentrates the fragrance and adds a layer of sandalwood.

GROOMING

Feeling blue

For years, fragrance has been divided into two main categories: cologne for him and perfume for her. Aside from scent divisions being hopelessly outdated (it's been nearly a quarter century since

CK One launched to a unisex audience, after all), they are oversimplified and, in fact, incorrect. The distinction has nothing to do with the sex of the wearer, but rather references the concentration of perfume essence in the scent, with cologne having the smallest and perfume containing the greatest.

It's a misconception Chanel is set to challenge with the launch of its new Bleu de Chanel Parfum, a musky perfume for men. Available in June, it's the third chapter in the Bleu de Chanel saga, a cedar-scented story that began in 2010 with an eau de toilette marketed toward the brand's male clientele. This initial interpretation of the aromatic wood was one of a pine forest at the height of summer, accentuated by bitter grapefruit and dry vetiver. Four years later, the eau de parfum's ambery cedar and musky notes were heightened with the addition of tonka bean.

Today, Chanel's in-house perfume creator Olivier Polge expands on cedar's versatility with the addition of sandalwood from New Caledonia in the South Pacific to the mix. "The difficulty was trying to set the right tone to convey what a parfum for men could be," Polge explains. The result is a worthy contemporary of the more complicated and nuanced notes that women have been enjoying for years. – **CAITLIN AGNEW**

Bleu de Chanel Parfum, starting at \$116/50 mL at Chanel beauty counters beginning June 1 (chanel.com).



DESIGN

Throwing shapes

In design, oftentimes looking forward means looking back. So it came to pass that Catherine Bailey and Robin Petravic bought Heath Ceramics, the Sausalito, Calif.-based ceramics factory founded by Edith and Brian Heath in 1948. Since taking the helm in the early aughts, Bailey and Petravic have expanded the operation while maintaining Heath's core product line. "We have 70 years' worth of history and explorations around us that we're adding to every day," says Bailey.

Heath's popular Dwell Patterns series features diamond and hexagonal tiles in verdant made-to-order colours and matte, glossy and crackle glazes. "We took three simple shapes and started working on patterns. Then you layer colour on top and it's like the possibilities are infinite," says Bailey. The Mural series offers pre-configured combinations of matte and glossy diamond tiles in different glazes to create Escher-esque effects in large installations (think balconies or pools) or smaller spaces (powder rooms or feature walls).

Not content to sit still, Bailey et al. continue to play with the design continuum. Heath's original sculptural, three-dimensional tiles were reintroduced in 2003, and the Stan Bitters series is a rough-hewn tile inspired by the American sculptor who helped shape the organic Modernist craft movement of the 1960s. "Those are important legacy designs and they look amazing today," says Bailey, who reinterprets the classics in contemporary colourways. "You don't really know if it's old or if it's a nod to the design of that era." – **KRISTINA LJUBANOVIC**

For more information, visit heathceramics.com.



Heath Ceramics tiles adapt geometric shapes and bold hues.

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TRAVEL

Natural beauty

After enjoying a dinner of fresh lobster at a seaside table set up on the beach fronting the Mukan Resort on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, one of my dining companions suddenly pointed towards the water. "Look at the horizon!" she said. It was the start of the evening's moonrise and a glowing orange orb was slowly floating up into the sky. It was just one of several shows Mother Nature would stage during a weekend exploring the coast of the Sian Ka'an biosphere reserve.

While nearby Tulum bustles with boutique hotels, shops and restaurants, Mukan is another more intimate and luxurious world. The resort, which started welcoming guests earlier this year, is accessed by boat or via an unpaved road from the fishing village Punta Allen. The property's goal is to provide its 18 guests with the opportunity to truly relax in one of its nine suites (a 10th will open later this year) and serve as a jumping-off point for fly-fishing, sinkhole diving and lagoon tours.

The lagoon ride winds through the reserve's mangrove forests, home to an active bird population (345 species live in the biosphere). Simply spending half a day on the turquoise waters would have been enough to keep our group happy. But over the course of four hours, we enjoyed visits from several osprey, an eagle ray, turtles and a small family of dolphins. It was just the amount of excitement we needed to justify crawling into a sunbed upon our return, enjoying the view of the waves while we waited for Mother Nature's next performance. — **MARYAM SIDDIQI**

Room rates start at US\$420 per night. For more information, visit mukan.com.

Mukan Resort offers a front row seat to the beauty of Mexico's Yucatan region.

FASHION

Badge of honour

Like so many great human endeavours, almost four decades ago Italian cult streetwear brand Stone Island was born out of an experiment. "This truck tarpaulin ended up in the company and we tried to make jackets out of it," says Carlo Rivetti, the brand's owner and creative director. "They were as stiff as cardboard so we washed them over and over, and eventually, they turned into treasure."

Fortunately for Rivetti, the timing for such experimentation couldn't have been better. "On one side, designer men's fashion was starting, thanks to Mr. Armani and Valentino," he says. "On the other side, you had the American sportswear labels, like Ralph Lauren, really meaning something on the streets." Into this burgeoning scene Stone Island launched its first collection of stylish, utilitarian jackets with a removable logo buttoned to the left sleeve. Rivetti's brand bridged the gap between vintage military gear and designer sportswear, a perfect anticipation of the fashion zeitgeist to come.

The first people to adopt Stone Island in a serious way were British football hooligans, for whom the brand's combination of militaristic aesthetics and weatherproofing was a perfect fit. Its biggest boost since, however, has been an enthusiastic endorsement by Drake, who's regularly seen wearing Rivetti's creations both onstage and off.

Holt Renfrew recently unveiled a 2,000 square foot pop-up shop at its Mississauga, Ont. outpost, featuring 45 of the brand's spring/summer pieces. Rivetti himself was in town for the opening, dressed in a dark Stone Island sweater featuring the brand's signature logo on his arm. Thirty-six years after his first experiment, the world of fashion has changed completely, but the badge remains in place.

— **JEREMY FREED**

For more information, visit holtrenfrew.com.

Holt Renfrew is carrying a capsule Stone Island collection at its Square One location.



Don Guimond (above right) joined Innis and Gunn's Dougall Gunn Sharp at the company's brewery in Perth, Scotland earlier this year to brew a custom IPA.



DRINKS

Brew mastery

Think you've got what it takes to be Canada's Next Top Craft Brewer? More than a thousand Canadian beer geeks did when they entered an Innis and Gunn contest that asked the brewery's fans to submit ideas for creative new flavour combinations for a special limited-release beer. One entry stood out, netting New Brunswick's Don Guimond a trip to Scotland in February, where, working with master Brewer Dougall Gunn Sharp, he got to turn his dream of a rhubarb-coconut-vanilla Black IPA into a reality.

"It was kind of mind-blowing to be honest with you, because it was on such a big scale and with a famous and popular brewer," says Guimond, a carpenter. "It was all a lot to take in." Since Innis and Gunn barrel ages its beers, it's still too early to know how the final product will turn out, but Guimond says the first batches had a fresh, earthy flavour that balanced out the tartness of the rhubarb. He was aiming for a tart and sour profile that he thought would be interesting for a black IPA and present a challenge for Sharp. "Sometimes we feel the ideas are right on the edges of what we can do, and Don's is a perfect example of that," says Sharp. "But, after a few late nights and a lot of cursing and swearing, we came up with a way to do it."

Sharp is anxious for it to fully mature, so "Don's Choice" can head to Grand Bay-Westfield, N.B., for a late-summer launch. "I really can't wait to get this beer bottled and into his hands," says Sharp. "I just want to be there the minute he tries it for the first time. I think it will just blow him away." — **CHRISTINE SISMONDO**

For more information, visit innisandgunn.com.

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Holt Renfrew's Alexandra Weston, Calla Haynes and Devin Connell.



Linda and Phil Haynes.



Victoria Webster and Colette van den Thillart.

HOLTS AND CRUMB WELCOME THE BOUCHAROUIE PROJECT

Canadian-born, Paris-based designer Calla Haynes translates leftover textiles into a new line using boucharouite, a Moroccan weaving technique. Repurposed fabrics have made their way onto slippers, scarves and pillows.

All was on display at a private residence for the collection's Canadian launch on April 4, hosted by Crumb founder Devin Connell and Alexandra Weston, director of brand and creative strategy at Holt Renfrew, where the Boucharouite Project pop-up is being housed.



Alison Coville and Louanne McGrory.



Suzanne Boyd.

SHISEIDO UNVEILS A YAYOI KUSAMA COLLABORATION

Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors is breaking attendance records at the Art Gallery of Ontario, and scoring a ticket to the self-reflective show has been likened to winning the lottery.

Shiseido and Hudson's Bay hosted a cocktail reception on March 6 to launch Kusama's collaboration with the Japanese beauty brand. The lucky few in attendance hit the jackpot, with the evening culminating in a private, exclusive look at the exhibition.



Partygoers prep for their polka-dotted preview.

PARTIES

Spring flings

Fashionable Canadians, eclectic buys and artful launches kept **NOLAN BRYANT** busy early in the social season



Erica Wark and Eva Hartling.

THE BIRKS PÉTALE COLLECTION LAUNCHES OVER LUNCH

Spring was ushered in at an April 5 lunch hosted by Maison Birks to mark the debut of its newest collection of jewellery.

Fresh blooms filled Colette Grand Café in Toronto, fitting as the collection, Pétale, takes inspiration from the delicate petals of flowers. Actor Amanda Brugel, star of the latest Birks campaign called Canadian Rhapsody, was on hand for the midday do alongside photographer Caitlin Cronenberg, who shot the spread.



Birks CEO Jean-Christophe Bedos.



Caitlin Cronenberg and Amanda Brugel.

THE GLOBE TOASTS CANADA'S MOST STYLISH

The Globe and Mail hosted an event with Hudson's Bay on March 28 to mark this year's edition of its best-dressed list, which was populated with a bevy of Canadian creative spirits from coast to coast who share the belief that clothes and self-expression are symbiotic. Contributing fashion editor Odessa Paloma Parker lead a panel discussion with a trio of the list's stylish subjects, inspiring some post-talk shopping.



Madge Colleran.



Mirian Njoh.



Donté Colley and Jackie Kai Ellis.

YELLOW SUBMARINE

The Breitling Avenger II Seawolf packs a bold face inside a steel case rated water-resistant to a depth of 3,000 metres. A valve incorporated into the piece helps balance pressure inside and outside the watch. Avenger II Seawolf, \$4,460 at Breitling (breitling.com).

TAKE THE PLUNGE

For serious scuba buffs – and those who will never descend lower than the far end of a pool – the dive watch is reaching luxurious new depths

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **SATY+PRATHA**

Market edit by Bradley Whitehouse. Prop styling by Wilson Wong for PIM.ca.



SHIP SHAPE

Only 1,000 editions of this dapper diving watch were created to mark the 50th anniversary of its 1968 design. An athletic strap further updates its look and it's rated to a relatively shallow – but still altogether practical – 200 metres. Polaris Memovox, \$16,200 at Jaeger-LeCoultre (jaeger-lecoultre.com).



AQUA FINE

While its titanium case in a contemporary shape makes the Oris Regulateur "Der Meistertaucher" quite the looker, its maker emphasizes a safety-first focus with the addition of a dedicated minute display. Oris Regulateur "Der Meistertaucher," \$4,100 through authorized dealers (oris.ch).



GO UNDER

While a Rolex Sea-Dweller can dive to 1,220 metres, this Deepsea model can go deeper, descending to 3,900 metres. Its handsome Oyster bracelet guarantees the watch will still be on your wrist when you surface. Rolex Deepsea, \$13,850 through authorized dealers (rolex.com).



MARINE BAND

Cartier takes its rep for refined timepieces in a rugged direction with its rubber-strapped Calibre de Cartier Diver model, rated to 300 metres. Elements like indicators and hands are coated with photoluminescent Super-LumiNova pigment. Calibre de Cartier Diver, \$10,000 at Cartier (cartier.com).



Saint Laurent leather espadrilles, \$645 through ssense.com.



Fendi espadrilles, \$640 at Holt Renfrew (holtrenfrew.com).



Burberry checked espadrilles, US\$375 through mrporter.com.



Bottega Veneta suede espadrille slip-ons, \$670 at harryrosen.com.



Castañer canvas espadrilles, \$150 through matchesfashion.com.



Business meets casual at Paul Smith's spring 2018 show, where the London designer paired his slip-ons with suits.

ON THE ROPES

With centuries of Mediterranean tradition on its side, the espadrille has received a boost this season as brands like Paul Smith tweak the casual design to reflect a more sophisticated (and city-friendly) sensibility. Humble in silhouette and fabrication, the footwear is a quirky alternative to the loafer for summer. While Smith managed to make his colourful versions look respectable with suits, it's recommended you reserve espadrilles for less-formal occasions. Canvas uppers with woven rope soles are the style's most common combo, but Saint Laurent fashioned its slip-ons out of supple leather, making them perfect for pairing with crisp khakis and a white shirt. For beachy moments, Castañer, a Spanish brand founded in 1927, plays with nautical stripes. No matter which pair you choose, adopt a strict no-socks rule when wearing them. Your liberated ankles will thank you. — **ODESSA PALOMA PARKER**

A CUT ABOVE

The latest innovations for your morning shave play up unique ingredients and personalized performance



HOP TO IT

In 1967, Redken became one of the first brands to offer haircare designed for men. Its new grooming line, Redken Brews, includes three products to manage facial hair, and the skin beneath it, using beer-inspired ingredients. Redken Brews Shave Cream, \$20 at salons (redken.ca).



MAN'S BEST FRIEND

British skincare brand Bulldog has hopped the pond, bringing its vegan-friendly products to Canadians. Its Beard Shampoo and Conditioner uses aloe vera, camelina oil and green tea extracts to cleanse and soften your scruff. Bulldog Skincare for Men Original Beard Shampoo and Conditioner, \$23 at Shoppers Drug Mart and Pharmaprix (bulldogskincare.com).



CUSTOM CARE

Cater to your skin's changing needs with Schick's new customizable five-blade razor. Available in three gel formulas — Hydrate, Sensitive and Energize — there's an option for every mood and moment. Schick Hydro 5 Sense, \$11 at food and drugstores (schick.ca).

— **CAITLIN AGNEW**



LIME LIGHT

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. Or, if you're Christine Nagel, the in-house perfumer at Hermès, create a new cologne. For the main ingredient in the new Eau de Citron Noir, Nagel played with citrus, including a bold hesperidium, the black lime. It's a complicated fruit, marrying uplifting, sunny qualities with a mysterious smokiness. Eau de Citron Noir was inspired by the brand's original cologne, 1979's Eau d'Orange Vert, but layers elements that are both elegant and sophisticated. The result is a vibrant splash that highlights the black lime's dark side, bringing the often overlooked duality of citrus notes to the forefront. Billed by the French brand as a "midday to midnight cologne," it's the ideal off-duty fragrance, best spritzed after a lazy morning before heading out for a sunny day that stretches well into the evening. — **C.A.**

Hermès Eau de Citron Noir eau du cologne, starting \$154 at hermes.com.

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FATHER KNOWS BEST

A perfect storm of trends – including straight-cut jeans, thick-soled trainers and cotton caps – has, as reports **JEREMY FREED**, made dear old dad the season's men's-wear muse

The phrase, “You look like somebody’s dad,” was once considered an insult to anyone who cared about his clothes. This was for a good reason: To be fashionable often means being both uncomfortable and impractical, and the typical dad wardrobe is all about ease and utility.

Dads also generally have better things to worry about than the width of their trousers or whether mock-necks are still “in.” They’re busy earning salaries, making school lunches and doing their best to raise well-rounded, productive members of society. As such, dads have a reputation for wearing their obliviousness to fashion on their ill-fitting sleeves. Thanks to the emergence of the dadcore trend, however, the worlds of fashion and fatherdom have officially collided. Dressing like dear old Papa, down to the comfy shoes, straight-legged jeans and golf caps, is very in vogue.

It’s hard to say where dadcore began, but some point to the Ozweego 1 sneaker designed for Adidas by Raf Simons in 2013 as a pivotal moment. Chunky-soled and covered in oddly placed patches of pink, brown, yellow and emerald green, it was equal parts ugly and functional – a dog whistle to dads if ever there was one. Three years later, Kanye West appeared in front of 20,000 fashion zealots at Madison Square Garden to launch his Yeezy Season 3 collection dressed in baggy, mismatched sweats and a cap with a curved brim. There are many fashion designers who are dads, of course, but West is the first to actually dress like one.

For summer 2018, Balenciaga designer Demna Gvasalia presented a men’s-wear collection of wide, strangely fitting blazers, billowy shirts and rumpled khakis inspired, he said, by dads he saw in the park. Shuffling down the runway with an assortment of small children in tow, his models brought that inspiration to life, minus the dad bods and thinning hair.

For those who pay close attention to fashion’s swinging pendulum, dadcore is both novel and familiar. “It’s a reaction to what fashion was five, six, eight years ago,” says Simon Rasmussen, creative director of Office, a New York-based fashion magazine. “It was super pretty – unrealistically pretty. A dad just puts on a jacket and weird colour combinations and stonewashed denim that’s not fashion at all... that’s the counter-reaction.”

Of course, this isn’t the first time fashion has rebelled against its own ideals. Forty years ago the punk aesthetic arose in protest of the glittery excesses of the disco era. Substitute thick-soled trainers and wide-leg chinos for combat boots and safety-pinned jeans (plus the comforting nostalgia of wearing your dad’s oversized clothes) and you’ve got at least part of the explanation of dadcore’s appeal.

Just as punk trended thanks to the popularity of bands like the Ramones and the Clash, dadcore has its own celebrity ambassadors, albeit often unintentional ones. In addition to West, Barack Obama is often cited for his very down-to-earth look, but not all dadcore influencers are actually dads.

“I feel like the face of dad style is Leonardo DiCaprio,” says Toronto-based stylist Marcus Tripp, citing the actor’s fondness for oversized cargo shorts, baseball caps and multi-pack T-shirts. “He doesn’t care! And when he decided to let it go, that made it okay for everyone else.” Shia LaBeouf has also earned a reputation for being something of a dadcore dandy, thanks to his penchant for Patagonia fleeces, Crocs and old T-shirts tucked into his trousers. According to LaBeouf, West recently raided his wardrobe for inspiration.

While dadcore may have launched from the runways of Balenciaga and Raf Simons (with other It brands like Vetements and Off-White offering their own takes on the look), it has proven an

unexpected boon for OG dad-style brands like New Balance, whose classic 990 sneaker has seen a resurgence in popularity. “The 990 is our king of dad style,” says David Korell, head merchandiser for New Balance Canada. Introduced as a high-end running shoe in 1982, what the 990 has lost in technical advantage over the years, it has gained in fashion cred. “Modern shoes are all sleek and thin, but these are intended not to be,” says Korell, citing Apple founder Steve Jobs – another dadcore icon – among the 990’s loyalists. “Comfort is the foundation, but now it’s become fashion.”

Korell estimates sales of dad shoes to non-dads will stay strong for at least a couple more years, an estimate supported by a Balenciaga fall collection full of boot-cut denim, fanny packs and oversized jackets. As with any trend, some will get it, some won’t, and eventually designers will move onto their next muse.

There’s one group, however, who will certainly remain unchanged by the dadcore era: dads themselves. Despite being the most fashionable people in the world right now, dads remain obviously immune to the whims of fashion as ever. ■

Balenciaga emphasized its dad influence by sending models toting children down its spring runway (left). A selection of dad-inspired buys (below, clockwise): Marni shirt, \$850 at Holt Renfrew (holtrenfrew.com). New Balance 990, \$260 through newbalance.ca. Calvin Klein 205W39NYC cap, \$200 through ssense.com.



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EASY GOING

The Ace Hotel company is launching a minimalist counterpoint to its eclectic locations

Nineteen years ago, the first Ace Hotel opened in Seattle as a home away from home for the creative class. The signature Ace experience included eclectic decor, thoughtful arts-driven programming and a convivial lobby used as much as a hang-out by locals as guests. This fall, the team behind the Ace name, which now operates nine properties, will debut a new brand called Sister City, in Lower Manhattan.

While the look of Ace Hotels is all about lush leathers, art in every corner and Edison bulbs aplenty, Sister City will take a more refined and minimalist approach that the company calls “essentialism.” The 200-room property takes inspiration from Finnish and Japanese design, incorporating simple wood furniture with soft angles and hidden compartments that ensure travellers have what they need without superfluous clutter. The aesthetic is what Kelly Sawdon, chief brand officer of Atelier Ace (the company’s in-house creative department), calls “inviting, yet refined.”

Sister City’s minimalist ethos isn’t so much about blazing a new trail in hospitality but answering a call. “We always go where our instincts take us and put a lot of trust in new ideas. This hotel is a response to the noise of the modern world, an experiment in considering what’s truly needed for today’s travellers,” says Sawdon. “We asked ourselves what we’d want from a hotel and found that it was something that championed functional design and simple pleasures.”

It’s all about creating an oasis from a rushed and often over-stimulated urban life. “Yes, we need warmth, food and shelter,” Sawdon says. “But we also need beauty, moments of curiosity and respite, too.” — **MARYAM SIDDIQI**

For more information, visit sistercitynyc.com.

SCREEN TIME

For all the strides that have been made using clever industrial design to make the ever-present objects of everyday life more aesthetically pleasing, television sets are still, literally, the black holes of refined

aesthetics in our homes. So it’s somewhat surprising that a TV launched two-and-a-half years ago to tackle the mundane nature of screens has remained so under the radar. The Samsung Serif, which is now carried by EQ3 in Canada as part of its In Good Company lineup, is a 40-inch 4K set with all the Smart TV bells and whistles, but it stands out for its style. Created by French brothers Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec, a white case with a profile that mimics the letter “I” sits atop thin black legs. It’s accented by a fabric panel on the back that hides wires and connections, allowing the television to float anywhere in your space, so you can fixate on your favourite Netflix show and not the nasty tangle of cords. — **ANDREW SARDONE**

Samsung Serif TV 40”, \$1,999 at EQ3 (eq3.com).

SHOT LIST

The best souvenirs are the pictures you take yourself, which is why travel companies are focusing on photo-centric experiences



DEPTH OF FIELD

While the itinerary for the G Adventures and National Geographic Paris and Normandy Highlights trip includes visits to the D-Day landing beaches and Claude Monet’s garden in Giverny, shutterbugs will covet their time visiting the studio of renowned NatGeo photographer Reza, meeting with his assistants and learning about his work in conflict zones. For more information, visit gadventures.com



ZOOM IN

You’ll want to relive your encounters with the Big Five at home, which is why Londolozi, a Relais & Châteaux property in South Africa, has a comprehensive camera-equipment rental shop and editing studio on-site. Photographic safaris are also an option, with a private vehicle and professional photography tutor along for the ride. For more information, visit photography.londolozi.com.



WHITE BALANCE

Capture captivating icebergs with Silversea’s My Photo Academy program, which launches this year on Antarctica cruises aboard the Silver Cloud ship. Passengers, via personal and group lessons, can make use of an onboard photo studio equipped with computers, photo-editing software and printers. For more information, visit silversea.com. — **M.S.**



Built in 1919, the Troutbeck manor house (left) is home to quiet reading nooks (below), a handsome bar (below left) and 17 of the estate's guest rooms (bottom).



UPSTATE UPTAKE

A centuries-old New York property has been revamped as a hub for the area's creative renaissance. **CHRIS JOHNS** books a room at Troutbeck

Awinding path takes you past ancient trees, over an arched stone bridge that spans a babbling creek and leads to the front door of a stately stone and slate manor house. Inside the hearths are lit, filling the air with a subtle smokiness, and staff bustle about. This is Troutbeck, a magnificent 250-year-old hideaway that has drawn the smart set – naturalist John Burroughs, writers Mark Twain and Ernest Hemingway, and civil rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois included – to Dutchess County in New York's Hudson Valley for centuries.

By the time Anthony Champalimaud saw it in 2011, however, the property was rundown and dated. Nevertheless, the Montreal-born hotelier, who spent his childhood summers in nearby Lichtfield, CT, saw immense potential and reinvented the private home as the ideal upstate summer escape.

Over good coffee in the bright lounge, Champalimaud explains what drew him to the project. “We were immediately taken by the property and its story,” he says. “But what’s typically done with places like this is people turn them into housing museums. You fix them in time and they become a caricature. We thought, well,

another approach is to live in it, to restore its spirit and energy and set it in motion again.”

Champalimaud didn't have to look far to find a collaborator to help him reinvent the space. His mother is the renowned designer Alexandra Champalimaud, whose high-profile hospitality projects include the Carlyle Hotel in New York City and the Hotel Bel-Air in Los Angeles. At Troutbeck, she played mid-

century elements (curved wainscoting around the headboards, Hans Wegner chairs in the dining room) against contemporary light fixtures and the home's historic details. Whimsical touches – such as pink bar stools around a copper-topped bar or a nook lined with vintage Chinoiserie wallpaper – lighten up what could otherwise feel like a formal space. In the library, among the vintage board games and children's books, volumes from the collection of the original owners, the Benton family, line the shelves.

The space is so comfortable that, by the second day of my visit, I'm padding down to the pantry in my slippers to grab a cookie for my daughter and living in the space as if it were the private home of some especially generous friends. In addition to the main 17-room house, there's a 12-room annex and two four-bedroom cottages scattered among the tennis courts, pool and hammocks. Another four bedrooms are slated for a house that overlooks a walled garden and the old indoor swimming pool complex will be transformed into a wellness space as the revamp of the 45-acre estate continues.

It would be all too easy to visit and never leave the grounds, but there's lots happening nearby to tempt you off property. Twelve miles of winding, tree-lined road away, the posh Connecticut town of Kent is gaining renown as a destination for serious intellectual heft thanks to the four-year-old KentPresents Ideas Festival. Henry Kissinger is a regular at the mid-August gathering along with New Yorker theater critic Hilton Als and *60 Minutes* correspondent Lesley Stahl. In nearby Sharon, Conn., the renowned painter Jasper Johns has reached an agreement with the bucolic town to turn his 170-acre estate into an artist's retreat after his death.

Ten minutes south of Troutbeck is the industrial hamlet of Wassaic, N.Y., which used to be a centre for steel production. Now Bowie Zunino, her husband Jeff Barnett-Winsby and their co-director Eve Biddle have transformed its grain elevator into a massive exhibition space. The old saloon has become, according to Zunino, “a dive bar for kids,” with a bouncy castle and delicious pizza. Artists come from around the world to work from studios in a converted livestock auction building. In August, the annual Wassaic Project festival draws thousands of art, music and dance lovers.

“We're not alone in being young people who have moved here and who are making lives here. That's really started to pick up in the past three years,” says Champalimaud of the area's new inhabitants, many of whom are accustomed to a more organic mode of socializing. “Our parents' generation used the place a bit differently. There are shooting clubs and polo clubs and fly fishing clubs and all sorts of great stuff, but people kept to themselves a little bit. There were very few places to congregate. We think that was missing and believe Troutbeck satisfies that.” ■

Room rates start at \$375/night. For more information, visit troutbeck.com.



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HOT TIPPLE

A Canadian hotel capitalizes on its on-site garden to distill a unique new spirit

When Toronto's Royal York Hotel opened its doors across from Union Station in 1929, it wasn't just the heyday of elegant railway travel. It was also the golden age of Prohibition-era gin cocktails like the Southside, French 75 and Bee's Knees. The hotel's storied Library Bar still mixes top-notch versions of these classics, and now it will be crafting the libations using a spirit that takes the notion of drinking local to a whole new level.

All the way up to the 14th floor of the hotel to be exact, where its urban garden provided the fragrant lemon verbena that's the dominant aromatic in the Royal York's new 14th in Line gin. To create its exclusive spirit, Fairmont turned to Dillon's, a small-batch distiller based in Beamsville in Ontario's Niagara wine region. Since opening in 2012, Dillon's has crafted several notable gins, ryes and other spirits as well as a wildly popular range of bitters, all using ingredients sustainably sourced nearby. A sense of place infuses the craft distillery's first-ever collaboration, from the 100-percent-local rye base to the pineapple sage and nasturtium picked at the Royal York by head distiller Peter Dillon to give 14th in Line its bright and savoury freshness.

As the hotel's stately name suggests, its illustrious guests have included noted gin fan HM Queen Elizabeth II, and the moniker of the Royal York spirit is also a nod to the British sovereign's succession list. As any diehard royal watcher knows, number 14 at the time of the gin's conception was Princess Anne's granddaughter Savannah Phillips, whose mother Autumn Kelly happens to be Canadian. — **NATHALIE ATKINSON**

For more information, visit fairmont.com.

GRILL POWER

If you roll your eyes at a grill pan and turn your nose up at a hibachi, it might be time to procure a professional-grade barbecue



EGG HEAD

Descending from ancient Asian clay Kamada cooking vessels, the Big Green Egg evolved to feature ceramics originally developed by NASA. The brand is widely respected in the food industry and not just because the XXL size holds up to 16 chickens.

Big Green Egg XXL Egg Kit, \$5,799 through biggreenegg.ca.



PULL PORK

The mobile Lil' Pig Pellet Grill gives new meaning to the words "hog roast." A built-in pellet drawer infuses the meat (including up to four chickens at a time) with a variety of smoky wood flavours and a digital dual thermometer ensures thorough cooking.

Traeger Lil' Pig Pellet Grill, \$2,499.99 through traegrills.ca.



SMOKE SHOW

Its shape might resemble a refrigerator, but the Bradley Smart Smoker is nothing but hot. The 5,032 cm² cooking space can be controlled via a smartphone, and with an automatic chip-refilling function, it can smoke for up to nine hours. — **ALEX LAWS**

Bradley Smart Smoker, \$799.99 at canadiantire.ca.



DINING IN STYLE

Housed in the Roman and Williams Guild design studio in Lower Manhattan, la Mercerie Café provides a unique opportunity to shop while you eat — tables, pendant lamps and candle holders are part of Roman and Williams Guild's Founding Collection and are all available for purchase. The same goes for the plates and napkins, meaning customers can take home their leftovers and the dish ware and

utensils to eat them with. Conceived by dream-team designers Robin Standerfer and Stephen Alesch, the 44-seat café opened in March and features a handsome scheme of pale-grey floors offsetting an indigo enamel kitchen. The French-focused menu, overseen by James Beard award-winning restaurateur Stephen Starr and executive chef Marie-Aude Rose, includes classics such as buckwheat crepes, chicken with haricots verts and boeuf bourguignon. Chase your meal with a visit to the Guild's library stocked with Phaidon titles or pick up some blooms from on-site florist Emily Thompson. — **A.L.**

For more information, visit rwguild.com.

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Ovadia & Sons jacket, \$1,200 at La Maison Simons (simon.ca). Maison Margiela shirt, \$690 through ssense.com. Acne Studios jeans, \$338, Ted Baker belt, \$109, at Nordstrom (nordstrom.com). Grenson x Gravity Pope shoes, \$650 at Gravity Pope (gravitypope.com).

JOSEPH OF MERCURY

STARS IN

IDOL THOUGHTS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY

**RENATA
KAVEH**



STYLING BY

**MATTHEW
CHOW**



GROOMING BY

**TAYLOR
SAVAGE**

Joseph of Mercury's style is both cinematic and sensitive. As **RANDI BERGMAN** writes, it's a timely combination for a moment when pop culture is rethinking the men it reveres



Paul Smith shirt, \$370, BOSS watch, \$215 at Nordstrom (nordstrom.com). Paul Smith trousers, \$370 at Hudson's Bay (thebay.com). Tiger of Sweden belt, \$150 through ssense.com.

A

NOSTALGIC NOTION OF Americana has been used and abused as a creative reference point since the days when James Dean and Marilyn Monroe ruled the silver screen. At its best, it's Beyoncé's reclamation of antebellum aesthetics on her 2016 visual album, *Lemonade*, or designer Raf Simons' riffs on the

abstract stars and stripes of artist Sterling Ruby in his reboot of the Calvin Klein label. At its worst, it's a throng of festivalgoers mashing up feathered headdresses and cowboy boots at Coachella.

With America's political and social climate maxed out on disruption, it's increasingly rare to find any homage to the country's golden era that rings relevant. But an exception might have to be made for Joseph of Mercury, a Toronto-born crooner whose widow-peaked guise seems plucked right out of dreamy 1950s celluloid.

Mercury, 29, whose real name is Joseph W. Salusbury, is riding the buzz of his first EP, a

self-titled synth-pop ode to love and longing that feels perfectly timed for a world so over toxic masculinity. His lyrics are piercing, but his gaze is tender. His first single, *Find You Inside*, is all about being ditched at a party. When Salusbury arrived on the Canadian scene a few years back, clad in a beat-up white leather motorcycle jacket and skin-tight jeans, he was impossible to miss. He was Brando meets Bowie, but there was something different about him. He was...evolved.

When I meet Salusbury in Toronto in March, he's wearing his latest sartorial calling card: a silk varsity jacket embroidered with an image of Mercury, the Roman god of eloquence. He seems authentic when he explains the philosophy that drives him as an artist. "I'm trying to reach forward and reach back at the same time," he says.

Salusbury's deep baritone is something he's been crafting since his grandfather introduced him to Frank Sinatra at an early age. "I was always a musical kid, but even before that I was a real mimic," he tells me. "I would try to mimic other people's voices and I



Off-White shirt, \$885 at CNTRBND (cntrbndshop.com). Paul Smith trousers, \$400 at La Maison Simons (simons.ca). Paul and Shark belt, \$230 at Harry Rosen (harryrosen.com).

had a really good memory for little monologues from old films. It became a party trick for the adults.”

As a teenager, Salusbury began writing short stories and poetry, which drew him to major in English at the University of Toronto. “Being forced to write in an academic way really broke my relationship with writing,” he says. On his time off, he’d write unstructured, stream-of-consciousness verses and teach himself to play a variety of instruments including guitar, bass, piano and drums. “I would just tap on a counter in an echoey stairwell and sort of begin to sing-talk,” he says. “At first, I was imitating Elliott Smith – that unassuming, whispery, breathy vocal – but then I sort of accidentally slipped into the crooning way I sang when I was a kid,” he says. “So I landed somewhere in the middle: early rock ‘n’ roll meets Chris Isaak. It felt romantic and dramatic.”

As much as he found sonic kinship with singers from the past, his lyrics (i.e. “Tell me everything you’re feeling. Spare no detail from me now.”) speak to a much more contemporary idea of attraction and affection. “I have grown up and have found, through friendship, love, some very strong women, men and

others of every shape, colour, age, truth and romantic preference,” he says. “I don’t think I’ve ever isolated myself from the knowledge and influence of any of them, just because they didn’t look or behave like me at first glance.”

After giving up on school, Salusbury began travelling and experimenting with bands both big and small, eventually leading him to connect with guitarist Patrick Greenaway, a regular collaborator with The Weeknd. “We put down like 50 songs over the course of six months,” he says. He earned his chops working with other artists, including co-writing Majid Jordan’s hit *Something About You* and doing vocal production on Nelly Furtado and Blood Orange’s collaboration *Hadron Collider*. “I’m the person that comes into the room, angles all the furniture seven and a third degrees to the left, dims the lights until things feel a certain way, and then stands back to let all the work of others shine through,” he says of the collaborations. “Because they don’t really need you, but perhaps they just want that little something more that you have to give.”



Ami shirt, \$300 at La Maison Simons (simons.ca). Sacai trousers, \$675 at Holt Renfrew (holtrenfrew.com).
 Tod's shoes, \$615 at Harry Rosen (harryrosen.com). Moscot sunglasses, \$440 at Spectacle (spectaclelovesyou.com).

**"I HAVE
 NO DESIRE
 TO BRING
 BACK ALL
 THE THINGS
 THAT WERE
 WRONG WITH
 THAT TIME"**

After a series of tragic events, which included two of Salusbury's close friends dying from heroin overdoses, he and Greenaway connected for another fruitful recording session. There, the groundwork for his debut EP was laid, including the song *Angel*, which alludes to both romance and Salusbury's late friends. "There's so much music out there that seems purely derivative, and there's something so beautiful and rare about what he's doing," says Greenaway.

"When I saw the white leather jacket, of course I thought of James Dean or Elvis, but there was a lot of darkness about the idols of the '50s and '60s, too," says Salusbury. "I have no desire to bring back all the things that were wrong with that time."

Salusbury's first two videos, instead, focus on a stylistic throwback. In the black-and-white *Find You Inside*, he drives aimlessly around mid-century modern Palm Springs in a vintage Mercedes. In *Angel*, he croons from a pristine podium, surrounded by

choreographed dancers à la Frankie Avalon in *Grease*. "Joseph, like myself, has a really strong sense of identity and what he stands for which is something I really appreciate and respect," says Gemma Warren, who directed both videos. "I think it's hard with so many people trying to shape you, to brand you and to see where you can fit into the already saturated industry. So he is someone that really spends time and energy making sure he represents something really true to himself and his music."

"I don't gravitate to the 'bare-all' way of interacting with your audience," says Salusbury. "I don't want to spend time and effort trying to paint a beautiful picture [in lyrics and music videos] and then also hand you a crayon drawing that I've just done really fast because something needed to go out."

Salusbury has taken his time working on a follow-up EP to be released this summer. It will blend his usual proclivity for vintage sounds with a bit of '90s rock. "I've always been someone who is obsessed with progress," he says. "I feel so much better when I can look at myself in the mirror and ask myself the question, 'Am I more than I was yesterday?'" ■



LET THERE BE LIGHT

Layers of easy-wearing pieces in rumpled linen, raw-edged knits and gauzy cotton are the staples of summer

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **LILY+LILAC** / STYLING BY **ALON FREEMAN**



TOP CROPS

Shorts in a fuller silhouette and with a built-in belt add ease to your look and your life.

Sacai jacket, \$1,370, shorts, \$885 at Holt Renfrew (holtrenfrew.com). Shirt, \$2,600 at Louis Vuitton (louisvuitton.com).

Sunglasses, \$645 at Cutler and Gross (cutlerandgross.com). Rings, \$25 to \$35 at Courage My Love (416-979-1992).

Socks, stylist's own. Hender Scheme shoes, \$1,150 at Harry Rosen (harryrosen.com).



LITHE BRIGHT

Slim-cut suits adopt a more casual spirit when worn with layered, barely there shirts. Dries Van Noten jacket, \$1,250, trousers \$750, shirt, \$550, at La Maison Simons (simons.ca). Dries Van Noten tank top, \$180 at Holt Renfrew (holtrenfrew.com). Socks, \$3.90 at Uniqlo (uniqlo.com). Shoes, \$1,520 at Louis Vuitton (louisvuitton.com). Sunglasses, \$675 at Cutler and Gross (cutlerandgross.com).

ROUGH AND TUMBLED

A combination of natural textures – including wrinkled linen and unravelled knits – create a look that's part dapper, part dishevelled. Marni coat, \$2,495 at Hudson's Bay (thebay.com). Song for the Mute sweater, \$1,150, Robert Geller trousers, \$530 through ssense.com. Hat, \$49 at Cos (cosstores.com). Vintage Hermès necklace, stylist's own. Sandals, \$1,375 at Hermès (hermes.com).



FINE GAUGE

A warm-weather sweater should have an open weave to let your skin breathe.

Acne Studios coat, \$1,200 through ssense.com.

Our Legacy sweater, €350 through ourlegacy.se.

Needles trousers, \$540 at Neighbour (shopneighbour.com).

Thom Browne sunglasses, \$1,615, at [Spectacle](https://spectaclelovesyou.com) (spectaclelovesyou.com).

Backpack, \$895 at [Boss](https://boss.hugoboss.com) (hugoboss.com).

Belt, \$540 at [Hermès](https://hermes.com) (hermes.com).





NAVY HUES

Breaking up a linen suit adds interest, but stay within one colour palette to keep the look dressy. Atelier Munro jacket (part of a suit), \$1,298, John Varvatos zippered jacket, \$1,598 at Harry Rosen (harryrosen.com). Our Legacy vest, €200 through ourlegacy.se. Yohji Yamamoto cropped trousers, \$1,378, Room 101 cuff, \$200 at Nordstrom (nordstrom.com). Necklace, stylist's own. Belt, \$250 at Courage My Love (416-979-1992). Socks, \$11 at Cos (cosstores.com). Cesare Paciotti shoes, \$545 at Davids (davidsfootwear.com).



SHEER GENIUS

The transparent nature of this Fendi jacket allows it to adopt the hue of whatever's underneath. Fendi jacket, \$2,500 at Holt Renfrew (holtrenfrew.com). Our Legacy shirt, \$310, Marni bracelet, \$305 at Neighbour (shop-neighbour.com). Cropped pants, \$1,040 at Louis Vuitton (louisvuitton.com). Oliver Peoples sunglasses, \$500 at Spectacle (spectaclelovesyou.com).

TECH SUPPORT

Mixed with more technical separates, tailored pieces take on a modern feeling.

Haider Ackerman coat, \$3,100 through ssense.com. Hugo anorak, \$450 at Boss (hugoboss.com). Shorts, \$850 at Hermès (hermes.com). Our Legacy bag, €250 through ourlegacy.se. Belt, \$740 at Louis Vuitton (louisvuitton.com).



Grooming by Sabrina Rinaldi for Oribe/PIM.ca. Set design by James Reiger for PIM.ca. Model: Ryan Williams at Elmer Olsen Model Management.



A spring-loaded bed allows a small structure by the Bunkie Co. to adapt to multiple functions.



TOP BUNKIES

The solution for space-starved summer getaways, writes **MATTHEW HAGUE**, is a diminutive but still entirely design-savvy structure

WHEN BILL AND LINDA MCMASTER met their future son-in-law, Jeff, a few years ago, they realized they had a problem. Jeff, who at the time was dating their daughter Liz, is generally lovely (polite, good with tools), but quite allergic to cats. Any contact with the animal makes his throat close up. He was so allergic that he had a hard time visiting the McMasters' picturesque, 50-acre farm in Meaford, Ont., where a feline, Nia, prowls the premises.

To ensure Jeff and Liz felt comfortable visiting from their home in Toronto, the McMasters considered several options. They could put up a custom guest house on the property, but it would have been prohibitively expensive ("at least \$200,000," says Bill). They could build a hermetically sealed addition, but didn't want to mar the farmstead charm of their board-and-batten Victorian home, with its gingerbread trim. Instead, they decided on an increasingly popular option: A pre-fab bunkie, where Jeff and Liz could sleep comfortably and cat-free.

Bunkies are popping up all over the country, from Halifax to Haida Gwaii. They are the architecture of choice for budget-wise owners of homes and cottages who don't want to move, bulldoze and rebuild, or get

into full-on construction projects to meet the needs of their growing broods. With their increasingly contemporary architecture, the little outbuildings are aspirational yet achievable, accommodating and affordable. The bunkie that Linda and Bill bought starts at \$22,000.

Most importantly, they generally require minimal fuss – at least, as minimal as you can expect from any building endeavour. At their smallest (just under 100 square feet, the size of a garden shed) they often don't require a permit or zoning approval. And they can be installed in a weekend or two. After the flat-packed components were offloaded from a truck, it took four full days of work to build the bunkie, says Linda. "We had a contractor, but we all helped. It was really fun, like putting together a giant jigsaw puzzle."

Prep work had to be completed beforehand, including levelling the land in a wooded enclave where the McMasters wanted to install the bunkie. And the couple had to arrange concrete footings for the structure to sit on.

"People tend to hear 'pre-fab' and think a structure will magically appear in the backyard," says Evan Bare, a furniture designer and co-founder of the

Bunkie Co., who created the McMasters' structure. "The reality is somewhere in between. It's easier than building from the ground up, but still requires some work."

For the McMasters, the results were well worth the effort. Cool grey cladding offsets warm wood interiors that are flooded with light from a wall of windows. And the layout is ingenious. The bunkie is a hobbit-sized 99 square feet, but it can accommodate sleeping, eating and post-dinner card games because it is so easy to reconfigure. The bed is spring loaded and folds up into the wall with minimal muscle, Murphy-bed style. Meanwhile, a panel above the fireplace pops out and becomes a table. One day, when Jeff and Liz have children, says Bill, "It will make a really nice play space."

Back in 2015, when the McMasters started searching for a bunkie, well-designed options were limited. Since then, a spate of small-space solutions have appeared, including a line from Toronto-born, Los Angeles-based architect Alexis Rivas and another series by Vancouver-based pre-fab bunkie maker the Backcountry Hut Company, which will install its first pavilions this spring. Even minimalist lifestyle retailer Muji offers a predictably perfect-looking design, though it's currently only available in Japan.

The new book *Small Innovative Houses*, written by Philip Jodidio and published by Rizzoli, gives an immediate sense of the myriad options. One diminutive, 86-square-foot box juts out over a pond and, covered in shimmering steel, appears through the reeds hinting at a future when we might all be living smaller, but not less stylishly.

Or unaffordably. Vancouver architect Michael Leckie runs his own, eponymous studio where he makes high-end custom homes. But a few years ago, he was inspired by Ikea founder Ingvar Kamprad's mission of making good design available to everyone at a reasonable price. Instead of furniture, though, he wondered if there was a way to "develop a system to allow people to self-assemble architecture, and still ensure a successful outcome," he says.

So he developed a modular system that starts at 100 square feet but grows up to 1,500 square feet. At the smallest scale, a homeowner might construct a stand-alone bedroom, at the largest a fully functional cottage, including a kitchen, bathroom and sleeping quarters. The concept is elegant – warm, Scandinavian-inspired interiors with clean lines and lots of sunshine – and can be assembled by a group of relatively unskilled volunteers. "Though, it would help to have some building experience," says Leckie. Unlike Ikea, he says, "you can't assemble one with an Allen key."

The base price is around \$300 per square foot, which would be very difficult to achieve on a custom, ground-up project with the same quality aesthetic. And Leckie plans to lower the price as more people order. The tricky part is that when a structure is larger – typically over 120 square feet for most Canadian municipalities – the bureaucratic building hurdles get higher and "things get caught up in the permitting and zoning requirements," says Leckie. Of course, if you plan to keep things small and focus on the structure's style, those restrictions shouldn't matter at all. ■



Modular structures by B.C.-based Backcountry Hut Company (above) will start to go up this spring. In Japan, Muji offers a contemporary hut with burnt wood cladding (left) that takes inspiration from shipbuilding.





A party with punch

CAP'N
CRUNCH
PUNCH

Once a staple of swinging soirées, the punch bowl is back. As **JULIE VAN ROSENDAAL** writes, the classic mix of spirits, fruit and spice is easily adaptable for sparkling summer entertaining

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **BARRY+KIRN**

ON ANY GIVEN WEEKEND, the collection of ornate, vintage cut glass and crystal punch bowls at Wolf in the Fog in Tofino, B.C. are being put to good use, spread out among its tables and filled with seasonally inspired large-batch cocktails. “They’re kind of contagious,” says bar manager Hailey Pasemko, who has been at the restaurant since it opened four years ago. “People will see a punch bowl go across the room and say, ‘What is that?’ and order one.”

In many ways, punch bowls are the beverage version of sharing menus; communal cocktails that serve two, four or



ROSEMARY
PALOMA
PUNCH



THE
PEARL
PUNCH

SPICED
RYE
PUNCH



CAP'N CRUNCH PUNCH

To make a non-alcoholic version of this fun punch, skip the rum and amaretto and make it fizzy with ginger ale. The recipe can be halved if you don't need quite so much. It comes from mixologist Micah Dew, Beverage Development Manager at Gateway Casinos & Entertainment Ltd.

1 bottle (750 mL) Captain Morgan White Rum
½ bottle (375 mL) amaretto, plus extra for misting
4 cups orange juice
4 cups pineapple juice
½ to ⅔ cup lemon juice
Cap'n Crunch cereal, for garnish

Preheat oven to 300 F.

Place a couple of handfuls of Cap'n Crunch on a parchment-lined baking sheet, mist with amaretto or almond extract and bake for 20 to 30 minutes to dry out. Allow to cool.

Combine all the ingredients except the cereal in a large punch bowl and stir gently. Chill with a large ice block or use frozen orange slices and chunks of pineapple.

After pouring the punch, instruct guests to add a spoonful of the cereal to add flavour and crunch.

Serves 20.

six pair well with Wolf in the Fog's family-style fare, sparking interaction and conviviality. "People can just dip in and take as much as they want," says Pasemko, who regularly scours thrift shops across Vancouver Island for Wolf in the Fog's sets.

Although we may associate fishbowl-sized vessels full of fruity, fizzy concoctions kept cool with floating fruit-studded ice rings with the cocktail parties of the 1950s, punch has been around for centuries. The concept was brought to England from India by members of the British East India Company and they were particularly popular in the late 1700s, when unrefined distillation methods produced harsh spirits that benefited from some masking with juices and spice.

In 1829, George IV ordered up a bathtub-sized silver-gilt wine cistern that Queen Victoria later converted into a punch bowl, commissioning a massive shell-shaped ladle to match. Moulded, gilded and decorated with Bacchanalian figures, lions and unicorns, it weighs 567 pounds and is big enough to accommodate 144 bottles of wine. It is currently on view at the Tower of London.

In a more manageable size, punch is perfect for parties today, especially more casual affairs where the host wants to actually spend some time socializing. "When you're hosting 10 people, by the

time you get around to making the 10th cocktail, the first person is already done," says Pasemko. "Putting together punch bowls for guests to help themselves is a really low-maintenance way of providing drinks for a crowd."

The basic building blocks of a punch haven't changed much over the centuries, and the combination of sour, spicy and sweet gives bartenders plenty of room to play with recipes. The name itself comes from a Sanskrit word meaning five, as punch was originally made with five basic elements: spirits, sugar, water, citrus and spice. Barbadians have a rhyme to remember the formula for their famous rum punch: one of sour, two of sweet, three of strong, four of weak. Water is often replaced with wine or tea – anything that will stretch out harder spirits. Spices can come in the form of bitters or an infusion that adds an extra layer of flavour. Pasemko and her team regularly come up with new combinations, inspired by local ingredients and the seasons.

It's a simple formula to experiment with at home. Most punch recipes are easily doubled or tripled. Just taste as you go, top with sparkling water, soda or wine before serving, and freeze fruit or use large blocks of ice to prevent diluting the mix. And don't forget to invite a few friends over. The more, the merrier. ▀

ROSEMARY PALOMA PUNCH

To turn this into a greyhound punch, swap vodka for the mezcal or tequila. If you have plenty of fresh sage, it makes a delicious alternative to rosemary. You can freeze slices of grapefruit before adding them to the punch bowl to help keep your punch cold. Add a small sprig of rosemary to each glass so you experience the aroma with each sip.

ROSEMARY SUGAR
2 sprigs fresh rosemary
½ cup sugar

PUNCH
1 cup mezcal or tequila (optional)
2 cups pink grapefruit juice
2 tbsp freshly squeezed lime juice
2 cups sparkling water (or to taste)
Sliced pink grapefruit and sprigs of rosemary (for garnish)

Make the rosemary sugar a few hours or even a few days ahead of time. Pull the leaves off the rosemary sprigs, discarding the twigs. Blitz the leaves with the sugar in the bowl of a food processor or finely chop and shake together in a zip-lock bag (roll the mixture with a rolling pin to release even more of the flavour and aroma). Shake the sugar through a fine sieve and discard the rosemary bits.

To make the punch, combine the mezcal, grapefruit juice, lime juice and 2 to 4 tbsp of the rosemary sugar in a punch bowl. Add sparkling water just before serving and garnish with pink grapefruit slices and fresh rosemary.

Serves 6.

THE PEARL PUNCH

Meyer lemons would work well in this cocktail. Believed to be a cross between lemons and mandarin oranges, they're more mellow and less harsh than typical lemons. From *A Field Guide to Canadian Cocktails*, by Scott McCallum and Victoria Walsh, this unique punch uses barley water infused with tea as a base. The starch from the barley adds nutrients and body. Use the cooked grains in a soup or salad.

2 to 3 Meyer lemons, or a mix of lemons and oranges
⅓ cup sugar
1 cup pearl barley, rinsed
3 orange pekoe tea bags
4½ oz shochu, gin, whisky or vodka (optional)
Ice cubes

Pull 18 long, thick strips of peel from the citrus. Add to a large pitcher along with the sugar and muddle. Squeeze and finely strain ½ cup of the juice from the lemons into the citrus-sugar mixture and let stand for 30 to 60 minutes.

Place the barley in a saucepan with 8 cups of water and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes. Strain into another pitcher or a bowl, add tea bags and let steep for 6 minutes. Remove the tea bags.

Stir the barley mixture into the citrus-sugar mixture and chill for at least 3 hours. It's excellent served as is over ice, or mix a 5 oz serving with ½ oz of your favourite spirit.

Serves 8 to 10.

SPICED RYE PUNCH

Hailey Pasemko at Wolf in the Fog shares a recipe from the restaurant's opening menu, one she says is approachable for the home bartender and calls for familiar ingredients. The five spice syrup recipe can easily be halved and will keep in the fridge for a month.

FIVE-SPICE SYRUP
3 whole star anise
6 whole cloves
½ cinnamon stick
2 tsp fennel seeds
1 tsp Szechuan pepper
4 cups sugar
4 cups water

PUNCH
½ cup five spice-syrup
1 cup rye whisky
½ cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
2 healthy dashes Fee Brothers Whiskey Barrel-Aged Bitters
2 12-oz cans soda water
Whole star anise and lemon slices (for garnish)

Make the syrup by heating the spices over low heat in a medium saucepan. Add the water and sugar and bring to a simmer, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Remove from the heat and let cool, leaving the spices to infuse the syrup. Once cool, pour through a sieve and discard the spices. Store the syrup in the fridge for up to a month.

Combine all the remaining ingredients in a punch bowl and gently stir. Serve over large blocks of ice, garnished with whole pods of star anise and lemon slices.

Serves 4.

Food styling by Victoria Walsh. Prop styling by Alanna Davey.

PREVIOUS SPREAD: Etched glasses, \$95/set of six, Anglo crystal bowl, \$295, Vaseline glass dish, \$275, silver plate ladle, \$95, silver plate bowl, \$95, Limoges oyster plate, \$195 at Cynthia Findlay Antiques (cynthiafindlay.com). Swan glasses, \$9.95 each at CB2 (cb2.com). THIS SPREAD: Amare alabaster and silver salt and pepper shakers, \$315 at Hopson Grace (hopsongrace.com). Silver plate bowl, \$95, silver plate ladle, \$125, small punch glass, \$195/set of eight, glass cocktail dish, \$75, Manhattan glass bowl, \$175, china saucer, \$25, silver plate tongs, \$95 at Cynthia Findlay Antiques.



Musical cheers

‘M’usic is the wine that fills the cup of silence.” That quote, often attributed to King

Crimson guitarist and frequent Bowie collaborator Robert Fripp, opens André and Tenaya Darlington’s new book, *Booze and Vinyl*, setting the tone for the catalogue of records and drink recipes that follow.

Anyone who’s found themselves in a bar when the playlist pauses knows how important music is to maintain social momentum, but the Darlingtons draw a more direct line between sonic stimulation and spirited enjoyment. André and Tenaya – both cocktail columnists who have experience as a DJ and a pop-group theremin player respectively – organize the playlists into four moods (Rock, Dance, Chill and Seduce). Vintage albums are combined with pairs

of mixed drinks, one libation for Side A’s lineup, another for Side B.

Listening to Beck’s 1996 breakthrough *Odelay*? Start off the evening with a Matador (tequila mixed with pineapple and lime juice) before settling into a Tequila Negroni (tequila, vermouth, Campari and orange bitters). Throwing it back to Madonna’s iconic *Like a Virgin*? Get yourself in the mood with a Between the Sheets (white rum, Cognac, Cointreau and lemon juice, shaken with ice) then keep the party going with a Beauty Spot (gin, vermouth and Chartreuse topped with a twist of orange).

There’s even the occasional munchie suggestion. Who knew Marvin Gaye’s groovy *What’s Going On* and a slice of silky avocado toast would work as a successful duet?

– ANDREW SARDONE

Booze and Vinyl: A Spirited Guide to Great Music and Mixed Drinks, \$32.50 at bookstores (runningpress.com).



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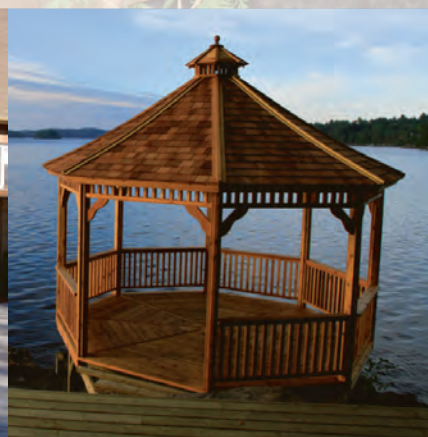
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