

THE GLOBE AND MAIL\*

# style

## ADVISOR

MAY 2022

### ARCHITECTURE

How to build a cabin that's truly at one with nature

### FASHION

Celebrating creative phenom Virgil Abloh in Miami

### WELLNESS

Can a holistic approach to decor help you live better?



# Bold gestures

A fearless spirit in summer men's wear and design

10 YEARS OF STYLE ADVISOR: Home outfitters look beyond the latest trends in favour of a more personalized sense of space





LOUIS VUITTON

MAY 2022

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**ON THE COVER**

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to foster a real recovery?  
BY NIKE ONILE





A cabin at Beside Habitat in Quebec captures slow living in a style that brings visitors closer to nature.

The long view

At the Interior Design Show in Toronto in April, I hosted an on-stage talk with designer Nike Onile. The focus was her approach to revamping an interior and how it accounts for the ways our lives are constantly in flux. Onile's ideas feel current for prioritizing a sense of wellness as much as magazine-worthy style, but also because they embrace how the tempo of change in design has slowed.

In many ways, we have no choice in that decrescendo. The scarcity of building materials and decor means that an overnight, top-to-bottom revamp of a living space is an impossible challenge. More now than ever, to renovate and redecorate takes time and an openness to working with what's available. As frustrating as that can be if you've spent years building a Pinterest board of dream schemes composed of items that are perpetually out of stock, it may result in a more considered and sustainable home in the long term.

Beside Habitat, a community of cottages in Quebec that's profiled in "Into the woods" (PAGE 42), is an example of a building project that prioritizes the future as much as the present. Preserving its natural surroundings in perpetuity is essential to attracting second home buyers to the site today. The architects of the location for our men's shoot ("Power dressing," PAGE 28), the Niagara Parks Power Station, understood the value of thinking ahead over a century ago. Its marble hallways and copper staircases signalled to anyone who visited that its purpose – generating electricity – was a newfangled technology that was here to stay.

In her essay in this issue ("Living well" PAGE 46), Onile reflects on how her gradual and deliberate design strategy was tested when her own health demanded that her home become a place of healing. It's a personal story that emphasizes how deeply we can connect to our surroundings – and how a home that makes you feel good is unquestionably worth the wait.

ANDREW  
SARDONE

Andrew Sardone  
Editorial Director

Contributors

The faces behind this issue share how their sense of style has evolved over the past decade



A designer, spatial artist and principal of the firm, Studio Ode, **NIKE ONILE** contributes her thoughts on the value of a holistic approach to design in "Living well" (PAGE 46), an essay that explores how her connection to home relates to her wellness journey. Based in Toronto, she says that her fashion sense has become more unapologetic and refined over the past decade. In terms of interior design trends, she's happy to bid adieu to sanitized design, fast-fashion interiors and shades of grey in favour of a more mindful, personal and sustainable approach to decor. Later in 2022, Onile will create an installation for Nuit Blanche, Toronto's overnight contemporary art festival.



While at the Niagara Parks Power Station for this issue's cover shoot and men's fashion feature, "Power dressing" (PAGE 28), photographer **LAWRENCE CORTEZ** says that it was a surreal experience to have access to restricted areas of the building. "I felt like I travelled back in time," he says. One fashion trend that he's happy to have left in the past? Baggy trousers that cinch in at the ankle. "Never bringing them back," he says. Cortez's taste in fashion is influenced by his globe-trotting. "I've picked up a few pieces along my travels which have shaped my sense of style," he says. "But also hold a memory and feeling from those places."



For this issue, journalist **CATHY GULLI** penned a profile on textile maker Arounna Khounnoraj of Bookhou ("Object lessons," PAGE 8), who she says embraces experimentation and process rather than being fixated on the final product. Over the past decade, Gulli's own relationship to natural materials and local makers has evolved and she has developed a deeper understanding of the importance of slow and sustainable fashion. She's currently working on a collection of stories about the people and ideas that are pushing the circular economy movement forward. One fashion trend that she's happy to have left behind is shapewear that makes her feel worse rather than better. "Letting loose is a mindset as much as a physical expression," she says.

PHOTO BY MARIE H. RAINVILLE (BESIDE HABITAT), ANGIE CHOI (NIKE ONILE).



the saddler's spirit





# Designs of the times

The cover of the first issue of Style Advisor from the spring of 2012 was a wash of pastel shades that illustrated a feature about how pale, powdery hues were returning to interiors as an antidote for the overwhelming noise of daily life. Over the past 10 years, however, the magazine's design features have slowly moved away from prescribing trends (like the typography moment we advocated for in 2014) to a more one-of-a-kind way of living (see our round-up of handmade ceramics from 2016). A 2018 cover story about inspiring spaces in the Azores beautifully illustrates the decor world shift away from prioritizing must-have colours, surfaces and furniture pieces to thinking more personally about the mood you want to create in a room. In this final feature exploring how style has evolved over Style Advisor's first decade, we asked three creative leaders how they capture a sense of self in their new homes



2012



2014



2016



2018



**AVERY FRANCIS** is the founder of the workplace design consultancy Bloom

When I bought my first house – a heritage home built over 150 years ago – I loved the idea of taking something that has so much history and elevating it, not erasing it. I refrained from using Pinterest to make a mood board. I wanted to create something based on how the house was speaking to me. I'm single, and you can tell that this is a woman's home. I've spent a lot of time living in different parts of Europe and the U.K., and I reflected on my travels and some of my favorite places. The tiles in my bathroom look like a floor I saw in Croatia, where they use a lot of limestone. I brought in an old light from a school house in Paris. Some of my favourite pieces are an antique honey-coloured wood hutch and a figurative painting by Gigi Collins in the entry way. It's such a moment.



**DIANA LYNN VANDERMEULEN** is a multidisciplinary artist who creates acrylic furniture

I'm not the kind of person who says, "I'm getting new pillow covers for the new season." The things that we fit in our space have to be really special. I've always been interested in dynamic materials that can change depending on the light, and in seeing the artist's hand in an object. Last year, I bought a multicoloured beaded Haitian *drapeau* by Georges Valris from 100% Silk in Toronto. I also bought a Moroccan rug this year. I wanted to get one rug and have it my whole life. I'm so lucky to have artists as my friends. The house is filled with stuff that they have made. I've been collecting Sirius Glassworks' pieces for years. I love to drink water, and I want it to be from a beautiful vessel. I want to feel that inspiration with every sip and I feel like I see something new every time I drink from their glasses.



**CHRISTIAN ALLAIRE** is a writer, editor and stylist based in New York

When I moved into my new place in Brooklyn after living in a small studio for seven years, the first thing I bought was a white suede couch. It really set the tone for the rest of my space and I built on a palette of neutrals and a lot of wood. I tend to dress pretty colourfully. I decided with my home that I wanted something completely different. It was a fun challenge: how can I have a blank canvas but still have visual interest? I went really colourful with my art. I have several paintings by Indigenous artists. It's important to have elements of my culture in my home. I also have dream catchers, which my aunts make. Even though a lot of my furniture is cream and white, I don't really treat it precious. I think my friends would say my home is very comfortable. I don't want it to feel pretentious.

As told to Odessa Paloma Parker. These interviews have been condensed and edited.

PHOTOS BY NATASHA V (2012), RODRIGO DAGUERRE (2014), STACEY BRANDFORD (2016), VASCO CÉLIO (2018), CAMILLE STEWART (FRANCIS), CHRISTINA CIDDIO (ALLAIRE).





TIFFANY HARDWEAR  
**TIFFANY & Co.**



# Omnibus

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

In Bookhou's Toronto studio, Arounna Khounnoraj uses watercolours to paint a floral motif. They appear often on her home goods, which range from punch needle pillows to cotton quilts.

| PROFILE |

## Object lessons

Arounna Khounnoraj's work illustrates how traditional craft can thrive in a digital world

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
BECCA GILGAN

**T**HE WORK OF TEXTILE MAKER Arounna Khounnoraj is a study in contrasts. Her pieces are created using the most analog of tools – a needle and thread – but her company, Bookhou, is a social media star, with over 360,000 followers on Instagram. Such enthusiasm captures how the online world has become an important space to explore Old World craft and design.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »





JARDIN DE  
**VILLE**  
1956

SUMMER HAS A HOME

KOBO BY MANUTTI







CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8 »

Since launching Bookhou in 2002 with her husband John Booth, an architect who creates fine wood objects, Khounnoraj has cultivated a distinct role as teacher and cheerleader to a new wave of creatives who otherwise might never try traditional

techniques. A 2017 online video showing punch needling, which is akin to rug-hooking, went viral and led to her debut book, *Punch Needle*. “People love permission to delve into something they’re not familiar with,” says Khounnoraj, who has taught at the Art Gallery of Ontario, OCAD University and Sheridan College. “Certain techniques, I don’t want them to get lost.”

That’s why Khounnoraj posts so many tutorials, which are nearly silent and feature experimentation and imperfection. “There’s no right way or certain path,” she says of her approach. “And I think that makes it more accessible.” Her forthcoming book, *Embroidery: A Modern Guide to Botanical Embroidery*, puts a fresh spin on an ancient practice, illustrating how to embellish everything from handbags to cushions with neatly stitched flowers and leaves.

Khounnoraj knows the value of passing these skills along. After her family emigrated to Canada from Laos, her father worked at a designer furniture company and built pieces for their home using discarded items. Her mother became a tailor and sewed and repaired their clothes; she now helps with Bookhou. “That was a huge influence on me,” says Khounnoraj, who also wrote a book about visible mending. Whereas mending is often inconspicuous, Khounnoraj now considers it “a celebration and artistic expression.”

For Khounnoraj, who studied fine art and started out as a sculptor, living in Toronto has influenced her aesthetic. “The urban environment mixed with nature makes a difference,” Khounnoraj says, recalling summer days in Trinity Bellwoods Park with her two children and noticing the pattern of criss-crossing streetcar lines overhead. “I see beauty in that too.”

These days, Khounnoraj is also spending time in Montreal with an eye on relocating there when she and Booth become empty nesters. The big idea: to go back to the beginning of their practices, painting and sculpting. Still, Khounnoraj doesn’t plan on giving up her needle and thread. Bookhou has five licensing deals under way with companies as far away as Japan to use its hand-drawn designs on fabric and other goods. “It’s extending our artistry,” she says.

That Khounnoraj would consider deviating from what’s become such an auspicious path speaks to her allegiance to the creative process rather than a fixation on a particular outcome. “The pandemic has taught us that life is too short. You should just do whatever it is you desire to do,” she says, echoing her open-minded design ethos. “It’ll work out some way in the end.” — **CATHY GULLI**

For more information, visit [www.bookhou.com](http://www.bookhou.com).

| BEAUTY |

## Raise the bar

Korean bathhouse culture inspires Binu Binu’s approach to wellness

When Karen Kim first travelled to South Korea with her family, a visit to a traditional bathhouse resulted in a profound experience. “As a first-generation Korean Canadian woman, you kind of struggle with all the issues with your identity and trying to relate to your parents,” Kim says. Unlike a typical solitary pampering session at a North American spa, Kim says the Korean bathhouse ritual is more of a humble, everyday bonding experience. “It was a way to connect with my mom and my aunts, where you’re literally stripped down.”

In 2015, this experience informed the development of Binu Binu, Kim’s line of wellness products. She launched the collection from New York with five rectangular bars of soap (“binu” is Korean for soap). “It’s the most simple, basic thing that people use in personal care,” she says. “I wanted the shape of it to reflect that simplicity but also be very striking and unique and infused with all the things that I like aesthetically.” Each bar has its own backstory, such as the Haenyeo Sea Woman sea salt soap inspired by female divers on Jeju Island, a resort destination in the Korea Strait. Kim, who is now based in Toronto, has since expanded her line to include marble soap dishes, incense and bath accessories.

It’s Binu Binu’s approach of going beyond its products to offer a complete cultural narrative that appeals to Lori Legaspi Moores, the vice president of merchandising at Ssense, which has stocked Binu Binu since the launch of Ssense’s Everything Else category of housewares in 2020. “Binu Binu’s focus on the daily ritual and community found within the bathhouse culture aligns with how our community views wellness,” she says. — **CAITLIN AGNEW**

For more information, visit [binu-binu.com](http://binu-binu.com).



| DESIGN |

## Glass act

Dear Heart’s mirrors reflect personal style through decor

“FOR THE LONGEST TIME, Dear Heart was just something I did in my spare time, but it’s quickly become another extension of who I am,” Toronto-based design consultant Katie Kohls says about her burgeoning mirror project. What started as an exploration of stained glass during a maternity leave has turned into a sought-after series of mirrors encased in irregular shapes that mimic a circle of stones.

In interiors today, mirrors are the medium that many designers and homeowners choose to reflect their perspectives on decor. Ettore Sottsass’s Ultrafragola mirror, with its glowing pink undulating frame that captures the playfulness of the Memphis movement, is one of the most collectable design objects today. Houseware brands such as Umbra and Ferm Living offer large selections of amorphic mirrors to top bathroom vanities and entryway consoles.

For Kohls, the starting points for her aesthetic were nature and fashion accessories. “The pebble mirror series started as a concept – sketches of organic shapes adorned by more organic shapes, arranged like jewellery,” she says. “Glass feels like it has magical properties with rich colour and varying textures – every piece is so unique.” While all of Kohls’ work explores a similar concept, no two mirrors are the same. Shards of glass that make up the frames vary from opalescent ovals to squares of marbled pastels.

The one-of-a-kind character of each piece means new collections sell out quickly via pop up sales on Dear Heart’s Instagram account (Kohls also takes on private commissions). While she says that working with glass can be challenging, Kohls can’t resist how it interacts with light, casting ripples and shadows around your space. — **NADIA PIZZIMENTI**

For more information, visit [@d\\_ear\\_heart](https://www.instagram.com/d_ear_heart) on Instagram.

PHOTO BY BECCA GILGAN (KHOUNNORAJ).





| OUTDOOR LIVING |

## Patio perch

With its Satao collection, Laminimal takes handsome seating outside

"Deceptively simple" is how Swiss industrial designer Simone Viola describes his latest designs for Laminimal, a Southern California furniture studio that's a creative collaboration between himself and American entrepreneur Joseph Boyraz. Satao, which is available through Stylegarage in Canada, includes a series of lightweight indoor-outdoor seats: dining chair, counter stool, lounge chair and bar stool.

Viola says the spectrum of landscapes found in California and its unique state of mind factored into how the concept came together, embodying two sentiments that are distinct yet harmonious. There's the laid-back element of SoCal chill. "California is renowned everywhere for its fresh, stylish, positive vibe," Viola says. That sun-soaked attitude is merged with his preference for finessed, understated Scandi cool.

"In the past few years, many companies have started to do more outdoor-oriented pieces," Viola says of the growing interest in eye-catching furniture that can weather the elements and be highly functional (the Satao dining and lounge styles are stackable). All four options are crafted from steel and painted in a variety of colours from a zesty yellow to cinnamon, plus classic black and white. The chair's mesh backs have a stretched-out shape that allows for a greater range of seating postures. It's also the source of the collection's name, the outsized ears of Satao, one of Kenya's largest elephants.

— ODESSA PALOMA PARKER

For more information, visit [stylegarage.com](http://stylegarage.com).

| FASHION |

## Home outfitter

Luke Edward Hall combines his sartorial and design sense in Chateau Orlando



"THE CRUCIAL THING IN MY DESIGN WORK is creating a sense of joy," British artist, designer and writer Luke Edward Hall says. So it's no surprise that he's dubbed his new lifestyle label, Chateau Orlando, an "optimistic new chapter" in his impressive list of accomplishments including interior design for Paris' Hotel Les Deux Gares and a capsule collection for the Rug Company.

Chateau Orlando combines made-in-Italy knitwear with home accessories such as birch veneer trays in one collection. What connects it all is a winsome character cultivated out of Hall's love of mixing the old and the new. "[It] felt quite right because there's an element of gender fluidity to it; I'm hoping that these clothes will be worn by everyone," he says. "I wanted a name that felt evocative and romantic – something that people would be curious to know what it meant." *Orlando* is drawn from the title one of Hall's favourite books by Virginia Woolf. "I liked the idea that it sounded a bit like a collapsing hotel," he says. "Or it could be a nightclub in Hollywood."

For the apparel, Hall found influence in his own wardrobe of vintage sweaters. For the whippet illustration featured on both a tray and a poster, he looked to his dog, Merlin. Medieval motifs played a big role in Hall's brainstorming process and the collection's Castle pattern mimics the shape of palace parapets. Floral-festooned



trellises and winding rivers also inform details rendered in unexpected combinations such as pastel blue and brown.

"There's a lot of very high end [design] featuring colour and pattern," Hall says of the men's-wear landscape. "I wanted to make a line that was a bit more accessible, and that had an exciting colour palette and take on print."

— O.P.P.

For more information, visit [chateauorlando.com](http://chateauorlando.com).

| GARDENING |

## Yard works

Artist Virginia Johnson's new book encourages you to get growing



**GARDENING'S ABILITY TO HELP** relieve the stress of daily life first caught textile designer and artist Virginia Johnson's attention over a decade ago. When the pandemic squashed plans for a book she was working on about coastal California style, she pivoted to documenting the past 10 years of finessing the greenspace behind her downtown Toronto home.

In *Creating a Garden Retreat*, the self-confessed amateur gardener wanted to give readers a greater sense of confidence in their own earthy endeavours, particularly people with petite plots like her own. "I've learned so much," Johnson says of tending her narrow rectangular lot that features a natty pergola and a studio building nestled among magnolia, lilacs and climbing hydrangea. "I never was frustrated with how little space it was. I love that because it took all the intimidation away." Her yard's dimensions revealed a world of possibilities and Johnson uses the book to coach readers about plant, flower and herb varieties as well as mood boarding and decor options. One chapter documents how fellow creatives such as artist Georgia O'Keeffe and fashion design Dries Van Noten translate their artistic visions to their own glorious gardens.

It all amounts to a pleasurable, heartening read – one that takes any doubt out of getting your own hands dirty. "I [started] studying websites, figuring out my favourite plants and the memories or different associations with them," Johnson says of how and why she wanted to illustrate the humble ways others can craft their own outdoor refuge. "I've always loved a field of peonies. But you can be just as happy having 12." — O.P.P.

*Creating a Garden Retreat: An artist's Guide to Planting an Outdoor Sanctuary* by Virginia Johnson, \$31.95 at bookstores and online ([workman.com](http://workman.com)).





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# Essentials

INSIGHT & ACQUISITIONS



**A**ll colours complement each other," says Yaw Tony, the founder of the creative project, Life Liveth in Me. "You just have to know how to use them." Tony's oeuvre has seen him splash bold prints on garments and silk scarves and he recently conceived homewares that promise to banish any sense of blah from your abode. Motifs focus on animals found in West African parables, as well as Ghanaian symbols called Adinkra. The Home Beautification collection debuted at the DesignTO Festival in Toronto.

"I think there's a glorious life that lives in everyone," Tony says. "Most of the time, it's suppressed because of their environment. The idea behind the concept is playing with colours in a way that it has the ability to speak to your soul."

With so much vitality in his work, it's no surprise that Tony is always pushing forward. Coming up this summer is an exhibition of paintings and prints that he describes as "artistic therapy" at Toronto's Broken Cage Gallery. The show will be accompanied by his first art book. After a few drab years, it will be an opportunity to uplift your outlook through art and design. — ODESSA PALOMA PARKER

For more information, visit [lifeliveth.com](http://lifeliveth.com).

Photography by Brandon Titaro. Prop Styling by Stacey Smithers/Plutino Group





Dior Maison X Pierre Yovanovitch Midi Collection Aux Oiseaux Mirror, price on request at Dior ([dior.com](http://dior.com)).



Shrimps Maria Hot Water Bottle, \$130 through [shrimps.com](http://shrimps.com).

Mary Katrantzou x The Rug Company Framis rug, price on request at Avenue Road ([therugcompany.com](http://therugcompany.com)).



La Double J Murano glass Champagne coupes, \$1,200 at Simons ([simons.ca](http://simons.ca)).



Saunders Fara cushion, \$820 at Ssense ([ssense.com](http://ssense.com)).

## DESIGN MODE

Through rounds of lockdowns that limited opportunities for dressing up, many of us turned a sartorial eye to our interiors. Luckily, many fashion brands extended their unique aesthetics into housewares at the same time. Designer Jonathan Saunders went from outfitting catwalks to couches with brightly coloured suede pillows. Fans of the playful, London-based brand Shrimps will appreciate its sweet take on a hand-knit hot water bottle holder. Occasions to wear Mary Katrantzou's signature prints may still be scarce so try covering your floor with a rug from her collaboration with the Rug Company instead. Miss accessorizing? Decorate your table with La Double J's candy-coloured coupes, or accent a wall with a Dior mirror that interior designer Pierre Yovanovitch created as an ode to the South of France. — **NADIA PIZZIMENTI**



In northern Paris, Chanel has opened Le19M, a contemporary campus for its ateliers that also includes a public exhibition space.



## CULTURE HUB

Architect Rudy Ricciotti weaves together a home for Chanel's craft studios

A new workspace in Paris is ushering in an architecturally ambitious approach to honouring the craftsmanship behind high fashion. Chanel's Le19M, a 25,000-square-metre hub located between the city's 19th arrondissement and the suburb, Aubervilliers, houses 11 of its *maison d'art* including feather and flower maker Lemarié, milliner Maison Michel, shoemaker Massaro and embroiderer and tweed atelier Lesage. The space brings together more than 600 artisans, administrators and apprentices through workshops, collaboration space and exhibits via la Galerie du 19M, an exhibition area that's open to the public.

"We are convinced that hand-craftsmanship professions are, more than ever, the professions of the future for France," says Bruno Pavlovsky, president of Chanel SAS and president of Le19M. It's a statement backed up by the brand's participation in the French government's "1 young person, 1 solution" scheme and its commitment to recruit and train more than 1,200 people under the age of 30 per year over the next three years.

The building, designed by architect Rudy Ricciotti, is itself a work of art. Its seven storeys are wrapped in vertical weaves of concrete "threads" inspired by a textile grid and set around a biodiverse garden. On the ground floor sits the public gallery, a multidisciplinary space exhibiting examples of the fashion and decorative crafts that are important to the cultural heritage of Chanel and France.

One inaugural exhibit offered visitors a chance to retrace the development of the architectural process, following Ricciotti as he designed the building. Another peered into the world of Le19M's resident Maisons d'Art with 11 doors conceived by each studio inviting the viewer into their creative realms. New public programming for September and October will be announced over the summer. — **N.P.**

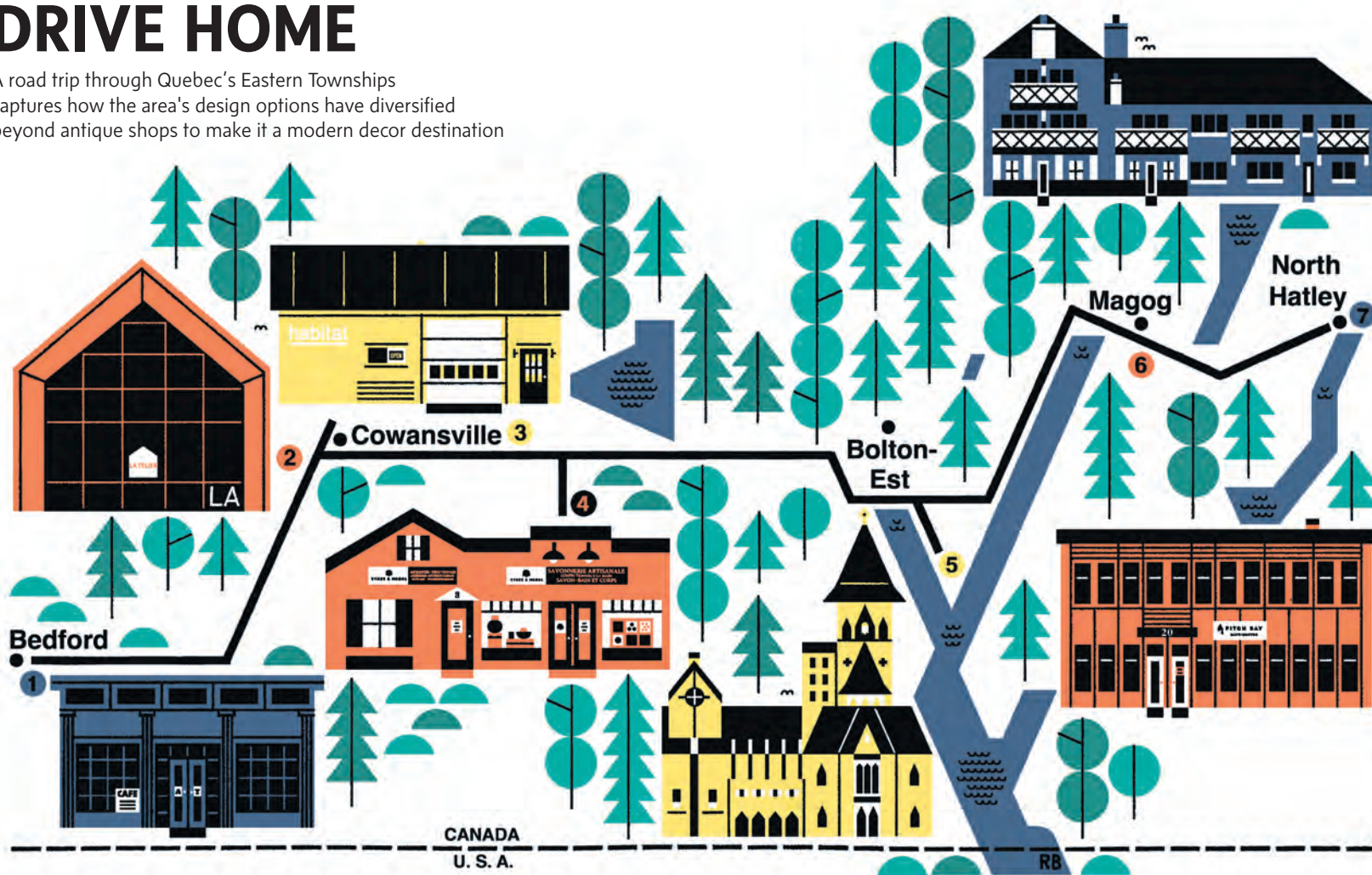


For more information, visit [le19m.fr](http://le19m.fr).



# DRIVE HOME

A road trip through Quebec's Eastern Townships captures how the area's design options have diversified beyond antique shops to make it a modern decor destination



## 1 SEA AND BE SEEN

Ceramics studio Atelier Tréma may be landlocked in Bedford, Que., but its heart is the Maritimes and a seaside aesthetic that's reflected in the rustic texture and watery palette of its wares. The look is most literally translated through buoy garlands that are like jewellery for your wall and tableware such as a glazed pitcher with a handle of chunky rope. New this season is a café and *terrasse* that serves up pastries, coffee and sandwiches sourced from other local businesses. For more information, visit [ateliertréma.com](http://ateliertréma.com).

## 2 LIGHT HOUSE

Located in a former grocery store, the Cowansville head office of Quebec lighting manufacturer Luminaire Authentik offers visitors a behind-the-scenes look at how its contemporary fixtures come together. In the showroom, shades, canopies, hardware and other components are on display, highlighting the endless combinations of shape, colour and texture that can make up your new sconce or pendant. Behind a wall of windows is the studio where custom and ready-made pieces are manufactured. For more information, visit [luminaireauthentik.com](http://luminaireauthentik.com).

## 3 TEAK CHIC

Habitat, Benoit Hébert's garage

gallery of vintage Scandinavian furniture, forces visitors to focus on the unique shapes, finishes and details that are often lost in overloaded mid-century modern showrooms. In the spare West Brome space, the craftsmanship of a bent teak plywood table base or the curved frame of a rocking chair takes on a sculptural quality. Hébert also specializes in restoration, both for pieces he plans to resell as well as customer heirlooms that are ready for their second, third and fourth lives. For more information, visit [habitatmobiliier.com](http://habitatmobiliier.com).

## 4 FINE VINTAGE

Antique hunters who prefer to peruse a selection of vintage items that have already been vetted by an expert eye will appreciate Sykes & McGee in West Brome's smart mix of farmhouse and industrial pieces. There are speckled enamel kettles, retro patio chairs in shades of ketchup and mustard and handsome wood storage cabinets perfectly tablescaped with candlesticks and oversized bobbins. DIYers can also shop Annie Sloan chalk paints, waxes and brushes. For more information, visit [sykesandmcgee.com](http://sykesandmcgee.com).

## 5 TEMPLE OF ARCHITECTURE

For many design lovers, a visit to this part of Quebec is worth it just to gaze at (and Instagram) the geometric tile and brickwork at Saint Benedict

Abbey. Built starting in 1938 based on a design by architect Dom Bellot (a postmodern church was added in 1994), the monastery on Lake Memphremagog is still home to an order of Benedictine monks. They maintain the property with proceeds from a cheese factory, apple orchards and cider mill. For more information, visit [abbaye.ca](http://abbaye.ca).

## 6 SHALL WE EAT

In Magog, the restaurant options include the local ingredient-focused Taverne 1855 and the more formal French fare at Pinocchio. For a caffeine fix, Fitch Bay Café roasts its own beans in an industrial building along the Magog River. Southwest in Sutton, brewery L'Abordage operates a restaurant and neighbouring taproom

where you can sample its lagers and SOUS. For more information, visit [taverne1855.ca](http://taverne1855.ca), [restaurantpinocchio.com](http://restaurantpinocchio.com), [fitchbaycafe.com](http://fitchbaycafe.com), [brasseriealabordage.com](http://brasseriealabordage.com).

## 7 GOOD MANOR

Manoir Hovey, a charming Relais & Château retreat in North Hatley, is in the middle of upgrading its amenities. A new lakeside pool is scheduled to open in June and a spa will debut early next year. During the summer, guests have access to bikes and boats to explore the landscape. For foodies, sommelier Jérôme Dubois spends the season schooling guests on apiculture and how the hotel's own honey is produced. The 90-minute experience ends with a honey-based cocktail. — **ANDREW SARDONE** For more information, visit [manoirhovey.com](http://manoirhovey.com).

## GETTING THERE

While Manoir Hovey offers its guests the opportunity to arrive by seaplane, anyone planning to return from the Eastern Townships with a big design haul needs a mode of transportation with a bit more space. Cadillac's 2022 Escalade maxes out at almost 3,500 litres of cargo area (more than enough for a teak credenza and a few statement pendants). It can also be ordered with Super Cruise, a road trip friendly, hands-free driving system that works on 320,000 kilometres of highways in Canada and the U.S. For more information, visit [cadillaccanada.ca](http://cadillaccanada.ca).







## SKIN DEEP

Blair + Jack offers solutions for men with tricky grooming routines

**D**r. Bimpe Ayeni's foray into the skincare industry was inspired by her husband Ade Ajayi's own grooming challenges. To save time in the morning, Ajayi would often shave his own face and head, which led to his skin developing painful, inflamed bumps, a condition that affected his morale. "He's an otherwise pretty confident guy but was hiding himself in turtlenecks and hats," says Ayeni, a board-certified plastic surgeon based in Toronto. She did what any supportive spouse would do and took to Google, looking for products that could maintain skin while preventing and treating bumps. Coming up short, Ayeni developed skincare options for Ajayi and, in 2020, began selling her formulas under the label Blair + Jack.

Named for Ayeni and Ajayi's twins, Blair + Jack aims to care for men's skin through clean products. With regimens for morning and night, the line also includes treatments for preventing bumps and correcting dark spots. "Aside from this being an effective line, it was also important to make it simple and easy to incorporate into one's daily activities," Ayeni says. "We didn't want to create something that would be daunting."

Beyond skincare, Blair + Jack encourages its clientele to have conversations about personal health and wellness, whether that's about the creams and lotions they're using on the outside or how they're feeling on the inside. "As a physician, when it comes to men, discussions of health overall can be challenging," Ayeni says. "Overall, men prefer to keep a lot of discussions about health quiet." — **CAITLIN AGNEW**

For more information, visit [blairandjack.com](http://blairandjack.com).

## LIGHTEN UP

Stylist Jason Lee debuts his haircare line, Mela & Kera

After nearly 30 years of tending to thousands of clients, it's safe to say that hairstylist and colourist Jason Lee has heard a lot about haircare needs. "We listen very closely, because every day in the salon, you hear feedback," Lee says. This spring, Lee tapped into those insights to launch Mela & Kera, his first haircare offering. The line includes two collections: Touche Velours, designed to leave all hair types looking shiny and feeling soft, and Balayage Exceptional, which caters to the multitonal texture of locks that have been subtly painted with a gradient of colour. "There's a new generation in hair care right now, which includes techniques, like balayage or a shag cut," he says about why products need to adapt. "It's very lightweight and it's a different type of hair than it's been in the past." — **C.A.**

For more information, visit [melaandkera.com](http://melaandkera.com).



## BEST IN SHOW

These new beauty products were created to be put on display



### SUPER STACK

Mascara is a makeup workhorse that just earned show-pony status with the introduction of MACStack, a sleek tube filled with a formula that can be layered to your lashes' content.

M.A.C Cosmetics MACStack, \$35 at M.A.C, Sephora and Hudson's Bay ([maccosmetics.ca](http://maccosmetics.ca)).



### ON PAPER

Housed in an unmistakable orange *coffret*, Hermès' delicate blotting papers (made of hemp, wood pulp and kozo fibres from the paper mulberry tree) are adorned with petite letter Hs.

Plein Air blotting papers, \$56 at Hermès ([hermes.com](http://hermes.com)).



### WINGS OF DESIRE

Made of a zinc alloy that's coated in gold, Valdé's lipstick cases are meant to have and to hold on to. They can be refilled with a creamy satin lip colour or a lip balm. — **C.A.** Valdé Black Gold Armor lipstick, \$235 at Holt Renfrew ([holtrenfrew.com](http://holtrenfrew.com)).



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A gallery of Gérald Genta's watch concepts (above) capture the Swiss designer's angular aesthetic. As part of a series of Sotheby's auctions, his personal Audemars Piguet Royal Oak timepiece (left) will be sold later this season.

unknown outside the world of watch enthusiasts, he's a legend to those in the know, with a following of collectors devoted to anything bearing his distinctive geometric aesthetic. "To me, Genta has always been about sculpture," says Philip Toledano, a New York-based photographer who shares his collection of Genta-designed Rolexes and Patek Philippes under the Instagram handle, @misterenthusiast. "He understood more than any other watch designer the relationship between dial and watch, and watch and wrist. There's a purity to the shapes that's simply glorious."

While Genta's most famous watches attract an exceptional amount of hype today, his impact was far greater than any single design. Vintage watch fans will be familiar with the turbulent era of the 1970s known as the Quartz Crisis, a period when the future of traditional mechanical watches was threatened by the arrival of mass-produced quartz watches from Japan. In an industry defined by tradition, Genta's bold, modern creations were like nothing that had come before and helped to transform Swiss watches from time-telling jewellery to wearable works of art. "It was the birth of watch design," says Evelyn Genta, the designer's widow and unofficial chief archivist. "People suddenly realized that watches were objects by themselves, and they needed to be designed."

In recent years, as the popularity of vintage watch collecting has grown around the world, Genta's profile has grown with it, along with the prices for his most coveted designs. But Evelyn says there was far more to Genta than these few models, citing a body of work spanning utensils, eyeglasses and automatons that she hopes to illuminate through the Gérald Genta Foundation. "He designed every day, so there's a legacy of designs that nobody has seen," she says.

First, however, she will part with perhaps the most important piece of Gérald Genta memorabilia in the world: the artist's own Royal Oak wristwatch. The piece is scheduled to go up on the auction block in Geneva in late spring and will likely fetch seven figures, a portion of which will be used to fund a grant for up-and-coming watch designers who embody Genta's creative spirit. "I can't be modest and say that he never expected this," Evelyn says. "He always thought he deserved much more popularity."

— JEREMY FREED

For more information, visit [sothebys.com](https://sothebys.com).

## THE PICASSO OF WATCH DESIGN

A larger audience is beginning to understand how Swiss designer Gérald Genta turned watches into fine art

In February, a small watercolour sketch of a wristwatch sold at Sotheby's for more than half a million Swiss francs, or about \$750,000. While that's not a particularly remarkable sum for an art sale, it is by far the most money ever spent on a painting by the artist, the late Swiss watch designer Gérald Genta.

The auction, dubbed Gérald Genta: Icon of Time, is the first of three sales of Genta's watch paintings taking place throughout 2022. The timing is no coincidence. This year marks the 50th anniversary of one of Genta's most famous creations, the watch pictured in the Sotheby's watercolour: the Audemars Piguet Royal Oak.

While Genta's name remains relatively

## BLUE MOOD

Celebrity fans are raising the profile of Tiffany & Co.'s watch collection

In early 2022, a collaboration between Tiffany & Co. and Swiss watchmaker Patek Philippe resulted in a limited-edition collection of watches with Tiffany blue dials. Jay-Z got one and so did Leonardo DiCaprio. You don't have to be a mogul or a screen legend to get your hands on a Tiffany-stamped dial of your own, however. In fact, Tiffany & Co. has been quietly making and selling watches under its own brand for more than a century and the timepieces remain as underrated as they are elegant. The latest of these is the Tiffany 1837 Makers model, which features a unique T motif and details drawn from Tiffany's legacy as a revered silversmith. It's powered by a self-winding Swiss-made movement and is available in 18-karat yellow gold, rose gold or stainless steel. — J.F.

1837 Makers watch, \$4,450 to \$10,000 at Tiffany & Co. ([tiffany.ca](https://tiffany.ca)).





# ALTERNATE REALITIES

Online dreamscapes have become a key source of inspiration for offline architecture and interiors

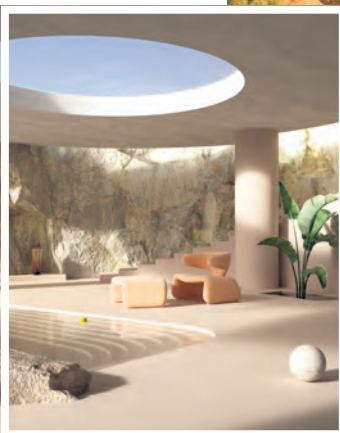
If you're someone who is interested in architecture and design and active on Instagram, you may have noticed a genre of images emerge early in the pandemic: buildings and rooms that are plausible, yet subtly surreal. Upon closer inspection, they aren't photographs of real places, but works of 3-D rendered digital art known as "dreamscapes," created by a growing number of designers including Italy's Evoque Lab, London's Charlotte Taylor and Stefano Giacomello of Montreal's Studio Rotolo.

Dreamscapes are ethereal but their popularity is rooted in the practical creative challenges of the past two years. At the pandemic's start, many lifestyle brands found themselves cancelling traditional product photo shoots (which usually require travel and amassing large teams in a physical space) and started looking for other ways to situate their wares in evocative advertisements. Suddenly, 3-D rendered worlds went from being an artistic hobby shared on social media to an in-demand service influencing contemporary aesthetics.

"We have started to see [designers of real life] coffee shops and stores using the same colours, the same types of objects or architecture that you would see on Instagram," Giacomello says. To illustrate this influence, he points out the popularity of dreamscape details such as archways, pastel hues and desert-inspired decor in interiors today. Curves are easy to render digitally so fluid styles and objects, from curvaceous soaker tubs to plump chairs and sofas, are having a moment digitally and in our homes. Popular housewares such as sculptural candles and Gustaf Westman-inspired curved



Dreamscape concepts by Montreal's Studio Rotolo include details such as curves and pastel hues that are popular in real decor.



mirrors all feel plucked from the computer-generated serenity of virtual realities.

While dreamscapes may influence IRL design, ultimately, they're not intended to be physically replicable. "They're impossible spaces," Giacomello says. Nonetheless, he is working on creating real furniture inspired by the organic shapes of dreamscapes for clients and his own studio.

If metaverses (immersive, sophisticated virtual worlds) emerge as some tech leaders hope, today's dreamscapes could become the blueprints for how the virtual spaces we may one day visit look and feel. Already, firms of metaverse architects have emerged and interior designers can't be far behind. How these worlds evolve is only limited by their creators' imaginations. — ADRIENNE MATEI



## NEW VIEW

The vastness of space comes down to earth via Vespera's compact telescope

Gazing at the stars can be endlessly fascinating but to really enjoy deep-sky phenomena such as galaxies and nebulae, you're going to need a good telescope. Vespera is a new smart option from French company Vaonis, designed to make astrophotography more accessible than ever. The compact, 38 centimetre, 5 kilogram device has no eyepiece at all. Rather, it displays images on your mobile phone or tablet, using GPS and Vaonis's own star pattern recognition technology to locate objects in the sky. The built-in 1080-pixel camera can stack images taken over time, creating beautiful, high-resolution photos. — A.M.

Vaonis Vespera telescope, available for pre-order for \$1,908.33 through vaonis.com.

## NOW SCREENING

These portable projectors will make your yard or balcony the place to be for summer movie nights



### FILM BUFF

This auto-adjusting projector can produce a level picture from any angle on any surface including the uneven ground of a backyard lawn. A built-in 360-degree speaker mimics multiplex sound.

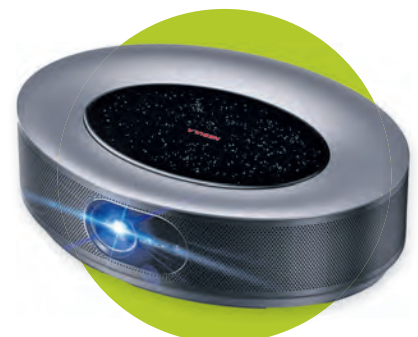
Samsung Freestyle Smart FHD portable LED projector, \$1,450 through [samsung.com](https://samsung.com).



### CLOSE UP

Kodak's projector is smartphone-compatible. It packs three hours of battery life and the ability to project an image almost four metres wide from as little as three-and-a-half metres away.

Kodak Luma 400 portable HD smart projector, \$570.50 through [kodakphotoplus.com](https://kodakphotoplus.com).



### STREAM IT

With 4,500 lumens, the Nebula projector boasts excellent picture quality, Dolby sound and Android TV streaming capabilities. Plus, it scales up the quality of non-HDR content in real-time. — A.M.

Nebula Cosmos Max projector, \$2,017 through [us.seenebula.com](https://us.seenebula.com).





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A room in the Drake Hotel's Modern Wing (top) incorporates multimedia works by Luke Van H. The Royal Mansour Marrakech's art therapy sessions (above) and Hotel Xcaret Arte's clay class (right) both add creative expression to a hotel stay.



## ART OF HOSPITALITY

At hotels around the world, exploring creative expression has become one of a stay's best perks

**D**rake hotels have always prominently featured art in their decor. But the recent unveiling of the new Modern Wing at the hotel's Queen Street West location in Toronto illustrates how the hospitality chain is turning enjoying art from a consumer experience to a participatory activity.

"Art, for us, is a way to engage in our local community and the international community in a way that is unhindered by operations," says Joyce Lo, creative director at Drake Hotel. "It's not about direct revenue – it's really a softer experience for everyone." Aside from the playful application of textures and colours in the textiles and illustrated wallpaper in the 32 new guest rooms, over a dozen original works were commissioned for the hotel's expansion, curated by Ashley Mulvihill of the online gallery Ninth Editions.

"Ashley really wanted every piece to be a conversation starter," Lo says. One artwork in particular, *The Newspaper (for the Drake Hotel)* by Micah Lexier, is something that guests can make their own. The 20-page booklet made from vintage materials is filled with prompts that guests are encouraged to fill in, essentially turning it into a co-creation with the artist.

Using art as a means of exploring a destination is something hotels around the world are increasingly offering. In Playa del Carmen, Hotel Xcaret Arte showcases Mexican artisan and craft traditions through live performances, resort decor and the gift shop. The property delivers a variety of hands-on instruction. Themed around dance,

textiles, painting and pottery, guests have access to workshops to learn about Mexico's history, culture and creation. At the weaving workshop, guests are taught two traditional techniques that they can use to customize a pouch or create a traditional crocheted toy. The pottery class allows participants to design and hand-paint a ceramic dish.

In Scotland, the Fife Arms, located in Cairngorms National Park, runs sketching and photography workshops to complement the hotel's extensive art collection, which features over 14,000 works, among them pieces by Picasso and Bruegel. Morocco's Royal Mansour Marrakech launched its own art therapy programming in the fall. Guided workshops ranging from drawing to macramé to calligraphy involve meditation along with the opportunity for creative expression. "Beyond traditional treatments, we wanted to provide a series of workshops that provide an overall personal transformation," says Jean-Claude Messant, Royal Mansour Marrakech's general manager. "The creative workshops aim to reduce anxiety, relieve stress and encourage self-reflection by learning a new skill."

The response from guests is that many appreciate how the art-driven experiences are both playful and therapeutic. Like Lo at the Drake, Messant says this new programming has been a great tool for communicating. "Art is at the service of self-discovery and new passions," he says. As we adapt to a new normal, it's an amenity that is sure to be in high demand. — MARYAM SIDDIQI

## BE WELL

From the Andes to Vancouver, these spa options will help you return home refreshed



### FACE FIRST

A new offering at Shangri-La Vancouver's spa, the Dermalist Ageless Facial is a gentle but intensive cleanse. Lactic acid, glycolic acid, mandelic acid and pomegranate enzyme cleansers work in tandem for a powerful exfoliation, while a Skinwand uses vibration to shake loose dead skin and other buildup in pores. Dermalist Ageless facial, \$250 at the Shangri-La Vancouver ([shangri-la.com](http://shangri-la.com)).



### FOREST BATHING

Iceland's newest destination thermal spa is Forest Lagoon, a 1,300-square-metre complex in the Vaglaskogur forest near the northern city, Akureyri. It features two geothermal-heated infinity pools with swim-up bars, a cold plunge and sauna. The interior is inspired by its environment with floor-to-ceiling windows that foster connection to the natural surroundings. Visits from approximately \$55 through [forestlagoon.is](http://forestlagoon.is).



### SLEEP WALK

The Dreamscapes package at the Bahamas' Rosewood Baha Mar harnesses local traditions to help achieve restful nights. Included is the Bush Tea Sleep Session, a guided walk through the property's garden with Bahamian herbalists. Identifying medicinal plants helps guests create their own custom tea to promote a calm mind and body. For more information, visit [rosewoodhotels.com](http://rosewoodhotels.com).



### IN THE BAG

At Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba, near Cusco, Peru, the Mayu Spa wellness centre offers treatments inspired by local ingredients and traditions. The Garden Pindas body treatment involves filling cloth bags called *pinda* with seeds and medicinal herbs, which are then heated to create an aromatherapeutic effect. — M.S. For more information, visit [inkaterra.com](http://inkaterra.com).



# SMOOTH OPERATOR

The latest Range Rover puts a modernist spin on a utilitarian classic

**B**efore every automaker from Germany to Japan padded its fleet with upscale SUVs, Land Rover's Range Rover was the first truly luxurious utility vehicle. It was a model built for stalking deer in the Highlands but elegant enough to be parked outside your Mayfair flat. Little wonder it's Queen Elizabeth's car of choice (she's owned several over the years, which she drives herself).

So how do you redesign a classic, which for more than 50 years has been an icon of modern British automotive design? "It is possible to respect your DNA and still project forward," says Gerry McGovern, chief creative officer at Jaguar Land Rover. "The modernist nature of our design philosophy doesn't follow fashion or trend, resulting in a form which speaks to modernity yet is full of charm."

The new Range Rover cleans up its iconic lines with flush surfaces and a contemporary frame that looks like it came out of Apple's design studio. But the real star is the interior. Awash in leather and wood accents, it isn't a cabin that's all that suited to a muddy fox hunt (even your Labradoodle might want to wipe its paws before jumping in). Long-wheelbase SV versions feature a Signature Suite design that is intended for those who'd rather be driven, but in all models you'll find options that maximize comfort, including a commercial-grade air purification system. There's also an active noise cancellation system that uses the car's speakers, including two in each headrest, to reduce outside noise to practically zero.

The new Range Rover will be offered in a variety of powertrains including a plug-in hybrid option and a forthcoming all-electric version. While Her Majesty might not care about all these bells and whistles, the new Range Rover is now, more than ever, fit for a Queen.

— PETER SALTSMAN

Range Rover, starting at \$122,500 at Land Rover dealerships (landrover.ca).



The Range Rover's sleek silhouette complements an interior fitted with tech savvy features including a noise cancelling audio system.



# FAST FOOD

Ferrari and Massimo Bottura team up at Ristorante Cavallino

Since it opened in 1950, a small, family run restaurant across the street from Ferrari's legendary Maranello factory has been a gathering place for automotive enthusiasts.

The automaker's founder, Enzo Ferrari, used the café as his de facto boardroom, inviting Formula 1 drivers and visiting VIPs to share a meal and talk shop. After shutting its doors in 2019, Ristorante Cavallino is back in business thanks to a partnership between Ferrari, interior designer India Mahdavi and Massimo Bottura, whose famous Osteria Francescana put Modena, just a few kilometres up the road, on the culinary map. Helmed by long-time Bottura disciple Riccardo Forapani, the menu features a selection of classics including *gnocco fritto* and *tortellini in brodo*. This summer, Forapani and Bottura will introduce a grill-focused menu that will showcase the region's meats and vibrant produce. The one thing that's stayed the same: Enzo Ferrari's private dining room, which has been restored to the way it looked when he was the restaurant's most frequent regular. — P.S.

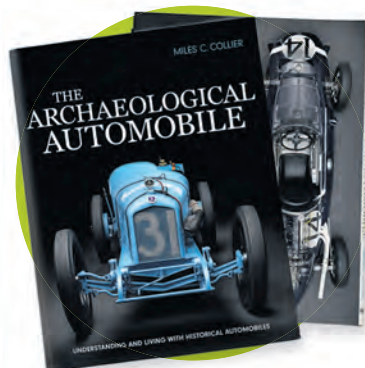


Chef Riccardo Forapani oversees the Cavallino restaurant, which is located next door to Ferrari's Italian headquarters.

For more information, visit ferrari.com.

# DRIVEN BY LOOKS

Awe-inspiring automobiles are the focus of this season's car books



## JUST CLASSICS

Car collector Miles C. Collier explores 100 years of automotive history, interpreting the automobile as a cultural artifact and exploring how it has shaped our world.

The Archeological Automobile, \$195 at Indigo (indigo.ca).



## ITALIAN JOB

Celebrated photographer Piotr Degler takes on the world of Italian automotive design from speed racer Lancias to sleek Alfa Romeos in this stunning coffee table tome.

Made in Italy by Piotr Degler, €135 through madeinitalybook.com.



## SHAPE SHIFT

The work of Peter Schreyer, one of the most influential automotive designers of the last half-century, is celebrated here including his concepts for the Audi TT and the Kia Stinger. — P.S.

Roots and Wings, £45 through gestalten.com.



# Van Cleef & Arpels

Haute Joaillerie, place Vendôme since 1906



**Frivole collection**  
Ring 8 flowers and earrings,  
rose and yellow gold, rubies,  
emeralds and diamonds.



# IF YOU BUILD IT

In B.C., wine magnate Anthony von Mandl has commissioned ever more conceptual architecture for his vineyards

**W**hat few really realize is that making great wines and building a wine region takes generations,” says Anthony von Mandl, who owns a stable of Okanagan wineries including Mission Hill Family Estate Winery, CheckMate and Martin’s Lane Winery. When von Mandl speaks about building, he could also be talking about the winery structures themselves and how their design captures the growing sophistication of the Okanagan. “Everything that I’ve done always started with the wine itself and the architecture followed.”

The idea behind Canada’s first destination winery, Mission Hill, came from the surprising success of its Grand Reserve Chardonnay 1992, which was named best chardonnay at the 1994 International Wine & Spirits Competition in London. That world-beating win turned von Mandl’s winemaking aspirations toward bricks

and mortar and a partnership with Tom Kundig, owner of the Seattle-based architecture firm, Olson Kundig. “I felt the need to create a place, something architecturally significant, something that would be there in 300 or 400 years,” von Mandl says. His wish list included a bell tower to chronicle the cadence of the day.

Since Mission Hill’s completion in 2002, von Mandl has retained Kundig to design and execute other projects. It’s been a 25-year collaboration that’s evolved with the growth of the Okanagan wine industry. “A well-designed winery is first and foremost about functionality,” von Mandl says. “From an architecture point, it needs to have a sense of place.” To that end, Martin’s Lane’s design hugs the topography of its site, while CheckMate saw an existing cinderblock winery recreated as an angular structure that mirrors the rugged hills behind it.

Von Mandl’s latest project for Red Barn at Jagged Rock is another case of breathing new life into an existing building, taking inspiration from agricultural buildings in the area. It opens to visitors this summer and like all of Kundig’s properties, it invites you to drink in the surroundings as you enjoy a glass.

— CHRISTOPHER WATERS

For more information, visit [markanthonywineandspirits.ca](http://markanthonywineandspirits.ca).



Red Barn at Jagged Rock is the latest Anthony von Mandl winery to make a design statement in its landscape.



## JUST A SPLASH

While spirits are their focus, Canadian distillers are making a mark with their swish mixers too

With continued growth in the popularity of vodka and tequila across Canada, there’s increasing interest in premium mixers that elevate the cocktail experience. For anyone looking for an alternative to Schweppes or Canada Dry, artisan tonics have been released by the likes of Eau Claire Distillery and Elora Distilling Co. “I think people are experimenting more with cocktail making and becoming more mindful, in general, of what they are consuming,” says Whitney Rorison, hospitality manager of Dillon’s Small Batch Distillers in Beamsville, Ont. “There’s definitely interest for products that are made in a more natural way with some cool ingredients.” Dillon’s produces a range of mixers, including its bespoke tonic syrup as well as peach and lavender options that are a sweet addition to any glass. — C.W.

Dillon’s syrups, starting at \$20 each through [dillons.ca](http://dillons.ca).

## CLEAR WINNERS

Gin seasons has arrived. The latest releases balance tradition and novelty in a crisp sip



### GARDEN VARIETY

There’s a fresh and fragrant edge to this appetizing spirit that suggests a summery mix of juicy peach, sweet rose and citrus flavours. Enjoy it with sparkling wine or lemonade.

Haymans Peach And Rose Cup Gin, \$49.95 in Ontario ([haymansgin.com](http://haymansgin.com)).



### COOL BREEZE

A limited-edition gin inspired by the sea, this bottle displays herbal and spice notes with a crisp citrus character. Try a shot or two with tonic or soda and a slice of lime.

Hendrick’s Neptunia, \$62.99 in British Columbia ([hendricksgin.com](http://hendricksgin.com)).



### ROYAL TREATMENT

When mixed with tonic or lemonade, the striking violet-hue of this rich and fruity spirit stands out as does its juicy blackcurrant and vanilla notes. — C.W.

Tanqueray Blackcurrant Royale Distilled Gin, \$35 in Alberta ([tanqueray.com](http://tanqueray.com)).



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# Power

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
**LAWRENCE CORTEZ**

STYLING BY  
**NADIA PIZZIMENTI**

Energetic colours and  
utilitarian details recharge  
summer men's wear

## DRESSING





**ELECTRIC HUE**

Amp things up with a generous dose of acid green. Bottega Veneta jacket, \$2,900, trousers, \$1,970, boots, \$830 through [bottogaveneta.com](https://www.bottogaveneta.com). Craig Green vest, \$700 at [Ssense \(ssense.com\)](https://www.ssense.com).





**CHARGE IT**

The double lapel of a McQueen jacket creates a silhouette that's extra sharp. Blazer, \$3,950, trousers, \$1,070 at Alexander McQueen ([alexandermcqueen.com](http://alexandermcqueen.com)).





#### CURRENT SEASON

Erdem Moralioglu's first foray into men's wear is a romantic mix of vibrant knits and work slacks. Erdem cardigan, \$925, shirt, \$770, trousers, \$820, hat, \$410, cummerbund, price on request through [erdem.com](http://erdem.com). Camper boots, \$250 at Gravity Pope ([gravitypope.com](http://gravitypope.com)).



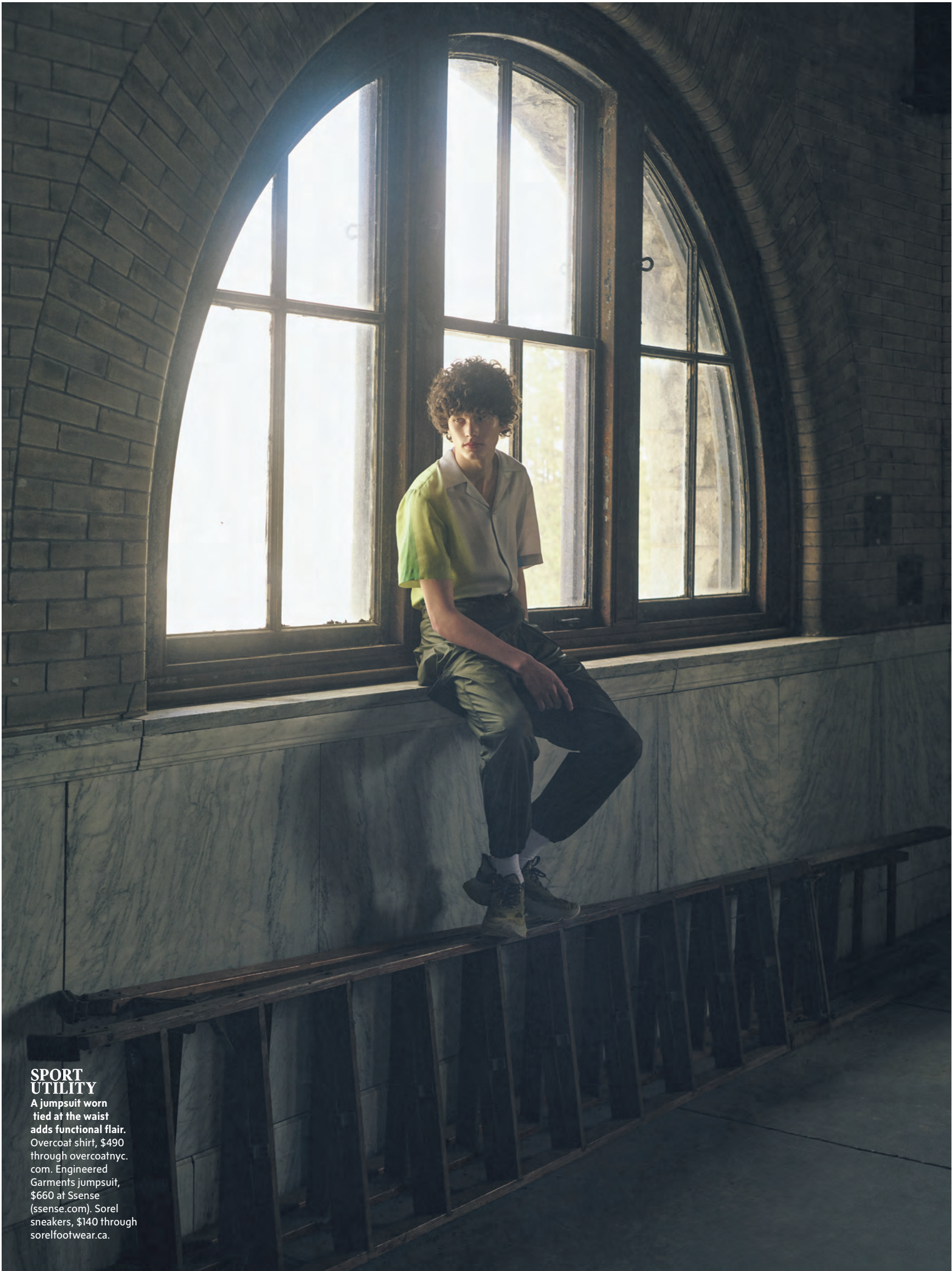


### MOVE THE DIAL

Combining shades of khaki and tan is a novel approach to wearing neutrals.

Wooyoungmi jacket, \$1,290 at Ssense ([ssense.com](https://ssense.com)).  
Jil Sander shirt, \$1,320, Loewe trousers, \$1,150 at  
Holt Renfrew ([holtrenfrew.com](https://holtrenfrew.com)). Camper boots,  
\$250 at Gravity Pope ([gravitypope.com](https://gravitypope.com)).





**SPORT  
UTILITY**

A jumpsuit worn tied at the waist adds functional flair. Overcoat shirt, \$490 through [overcoatnyc.com](https://overcoatnyc.com). Engineered Garments jumpsuit, \$660 at [Ssense](https://ssense.com) ([ssense.com](https://ssense.com)). Sorel sneakers, \$140 through [sorelfootwear.ca](https://sorelfootwear.ca).





**LINE ITEMS**

Tailored staples relax when cut from Issey Miyake's layers of pleated textiles. Homme Plissé Issey Miyake coat, \$1,587, jacket, \$720, trousers, \$530 through [isseymiyake.com](https://isseymiyake.com). Sneakers, \$1,530 at Louis Vuitton ([louisvuitton.com](https://louisvuitton.com)).





#### SPARK CREATIVITY

Play around with how you tuck and cinch a suit to create a softer shape. Ermenegildo Zegna jacket, \$1,100, trousers, \$1,645 through [zegna.com](https://zegna.com). Overcoat shirt, \$425 through [overcoatnyc.com](https://overcoatnyc.com).





## ON LOCATION

The Niagara Parks Power Station is a monument to how design can inspire us to see the world in new ways

**I**t was built at the turn of the century when inventors such as Nikola Tesla, George Westinghouse and Thomas Edison were locked in a fierce battle – dubbed the War of the Currents – to see who could bring electricity to the masses first.

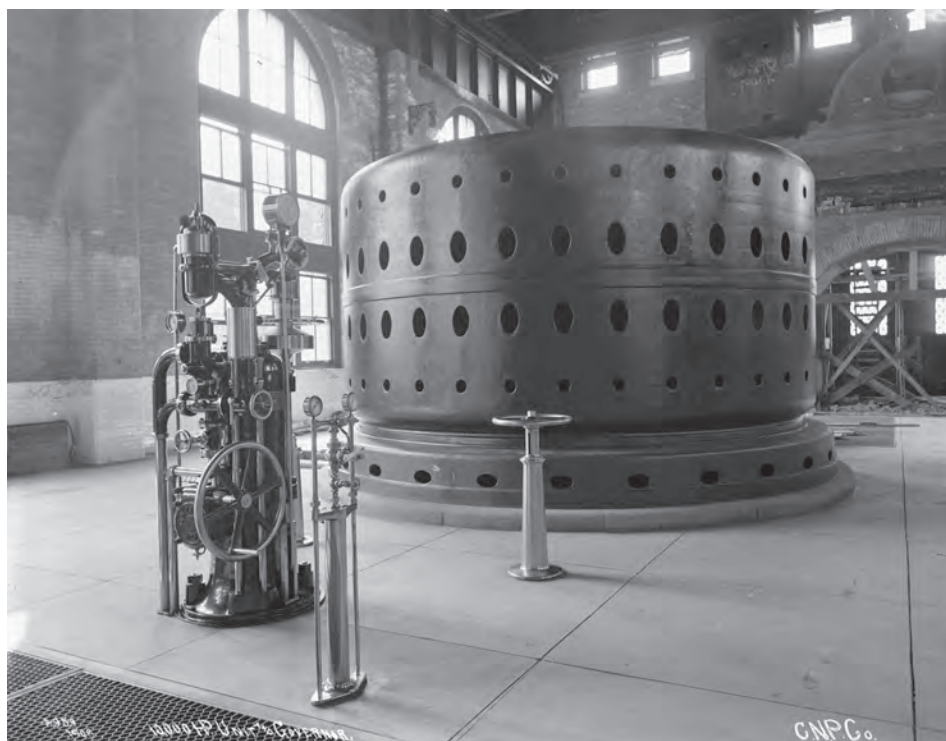
The year was 1901 and an American lawyer named William Birch Rankine had raised the \$5.2-million needed to construct the first hydroelectric generating plant on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls, where Tesla and Westinghouse's alternating current technology was to be used (besting Edison, a proponent of direct current) to transmit electricity to western New York and Southern Ontario. It was a monumental undertaking. The technology was new, the financial stakes were high and the dangers were all too real for the hundreds of workers who used rudimentary steam-powered machinery and literal horsepower to blast rock, dig tunnels and haul stone to construct the Canadian Niagara Power Company.

When it was finished in 1905, the 60,000-square-foot facility was considered an architectural, design and engineering marvel. The team who has spent the past two years painstakingly restoring it to its former glory believe it still is one today. "Back then, people built with exceptional materials," says Marcelo Gruosso, senior director of engineering in charge of the \$25-million refurbishment of what is now called the Niagara Parks Power Station. "The entire structure is limestone, granite, slate, stainless steel, copper, marble, nickel and brass. It was built to last – and to make a very good first impression." The latter was important, Gruosso says, because in the early 1900s, hydroelectric power plants were a radical new concept. "Rankine built, in effect, a monument to electricity because he wanted to instill confidence in investors and the public that this technology was not only legitimate, but going to be around for a very long time."

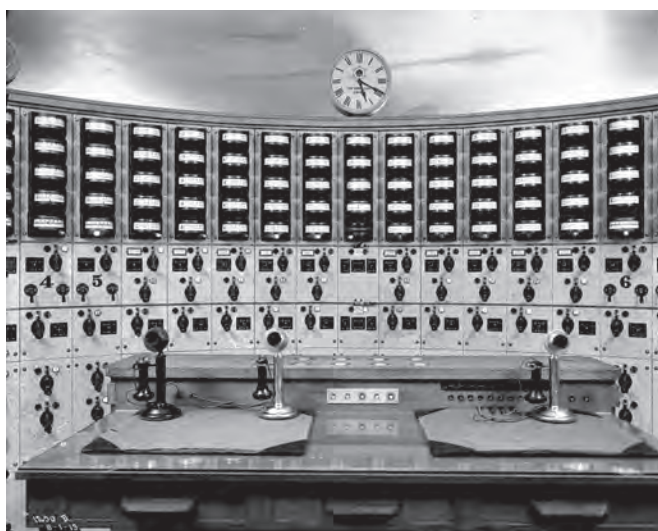
Last summer, phase one of the revamp opened and guests had their first glimpse of Generator Hall with its 11 massive generators (painted "Ford Blue"), graceful arched windows, interactive exhibits and retail space. This July, visitors will be able to explore the subterranean levels for the first time. "Guests will take two glass elevators down 180-feet into the vast underground portions of the power station where they will arrive at the 2,000-square-foot Tailrace Tunnel," says Kim Viney, senior director of business development for Niagara Parks. "Guests can walk through the massive tunnel before arriving at a new viewing platform that looks out onto the lower Niagara River, right at the base of Horseshoe Falls."

Eventually, Gruosso and his team also hope to restore the upper levels, which include the control room ("It looks like something right out of Star Trek," he says) and the administration offices, where plans include two more viewing decks that will overlook the falls. "Architecturally, I admire the beauty of this place but I'm equally in awe of the ingenuity and sheer grit that went into its construction," Gruosso says. "It's incredible to me how these inventors were able to bring all these abstract concepts to life and pull it all together."

Viney agrees, adding that it is believed to be the last power station of this vintage that's fully intact. "We call it the Cathedral of Power," she says. "Which we think is a perfect name for a facility that was so far ahead of its time." – **GAYLE MACDONALD**



After years of construction next to Niagara Falls, the Canadian Niagara Power Company building opened in 1905. The interior's most distinct features are its 11 generators (above). The original control room (right and on page 32) will be part of future phases of its resortation by Niagara Parks.







**NEW ENERGY**

Shift proportions by pairing elongated shorts with boots or wearing a vest over a coat. AMI vest, \$2,165, jacket, \$1,920, shirt, \$410, shorts, \$900 through amiparis.com. Bag, \$1,690 at MCM (mcmworldwide.com). Boots, \$380 at Coach (coach.com).

Grooming by Jodi Urichuk for Kérastase/L'Oréal/Plutino Group. Model: Finn Creeggan at Niwa Models. Styling assistant: Alex Petropoulakis. Photo assistants: Brandon McEachern, Andrew Moreno. Photographed at the Niagara Parks Power Station in Niagara Falls, Ont. For more information, visit niagaraparks.com.





Louis Vuitton toasts the creative contributors behind its men's wear and design collections at Art Basel

BY **NADIA PIZZIMENTI**

O

ne evening in late November, 1,500 of the world's fashion and art cognoscenti sailed toward an abandoned waterfront stadium on an island in Miami's Biscayne Bay. They were met by hundreds of Louis Vuitton staff, who were putting the finishing touches on a show that would be one of the most emotional and memorable runway events in recent history.

The spring-summer 2022 presentation marked the first time one of American-born artistic director Virgil Abloh's men's-wear collections would be shown in the U.S. The grandiose spectacle coincided with Art Basel, as well as the opening of Louis Vuitton's second freestanding men's-wear store and the debut of new furniture and houseware collaborations.

Forty-eight hours before the festivities were due to start, 41-year-old Abloh died from a rare and aggressive form of heart cancer. While many who had received an invitation assumed the events would be cancelled, the Louis Vuitton team pushed ahead with what became a celebration of a man who inspired not only the fashion world, but music, art, design and popular culture.

PHOTO BY BRAD DICKSON







# Blue

In today's vintage market, some of the most collectable pieces were first sold at Ikea

BY ODESSA PALOMA PARKER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRANDON TITARO

# side decor

**S**tanding in the location where the first Ikea store was built in Almhult, Sweden, in 1943, is a museum dedicated to the history of the decor behemoth. Opened in 2016, its exhibitions examine aspects of the Ikea business, from its now discontinued catalogues to a show about sibling designers Knut and Marianne Hagberg (the pair are credited with conceiving over 2,100 products for the brand, which is now based out of Delft in the Netherlands).

The museum's extensive collection speaks to the depth of Ikea's almost 80-year archive and the shopping public's interest in the provenance of their Billy bookcases and Poang loungers.

"You can really see the scale at which people are curious," says Alicia Carroll, the commercial activity and events leader at Ikea Canada, about the museum's popularity. Prepandemic, it counted almost 180,000 guests annually. Last September, Ikea Museum Digital launched online (the platform includes electronic issues of its catalogues dating back to 1950) and the company hopes to attract over a million visitors to the site this year.

The interest in older Ikea pieces is also being stoked by a surprising corner of the design world. The most discerning vintage furniture retailers, who fill their boutiques and e-commerce channels with Togo sofas and Eames chairs, are now seeking out Ikea's more idiosyncratic pieces, especially items that were created with some of the biggest names in interiors including Verner Panton, Ettore Sottsass and Monika Mulder.

Be prepared to pay a pretty penny for these items. The most collectable Ikea furniture and accessories sell for many multiples of their originally humble prices. Take, for example, Panton's Vilbert chair. Released in the early 1990s in a limited run of just a few thousand pieces for just US\$74 each, a set of four of the colour blocked designs recently sold through the luxury re-commerce site 1stDibs for over \$5,000. Other auction house favourites include the Singoalla chaise lounge, an asymmetrical design from 1961, and the Amiral easy chair with its svelte chrome frame.

While some may question the economics of splurging on used, big box housewares, the hype around vintage Ikea isn't surprising to Lawrence Blairs, owner of Atomic, a Toronto boutique that attracts clients with an interest in 20th-century objects. The allure of owning a Verner Panton-designed piece aside, he says that the modern-meets-quirky look of the Vilbert chair should resonate with anyone who appreciates eclecticism and forward-thinking creativity.

"I think good design endures, no matter who the designer is or who the company is that produced it," he says about why something affordable sold through a mass market retailer can experience a surge in prestige. Blairs says that, ironically, during the time it was produced, the Vilbert chair wasn't a runaway success. "It can take time for a design's merits to be recognized and viewed in an objective manner," he says.

Blairs says he first noticed a renewed interest in postmodern Ikea design around five years ago. He has shown several items through Atomic's collection including Memphis-style Konfetti candlesticks designed by Anna Efverlund, which originally hit the market in 1994. There's also been the orb-like Jonisk lamp by Carl Ojerstam and Niels Gammelgaard's Jarpen wire chair, a particularly popular retro piece in the resale market.

While these pieces are reappearing in the market more often, one of the tricky aspects of collecting older Ikea is that many of its eras and aesthetics are becoming popular among buyers and sellers simultaneously and price tags can vary widely. The slime splat silhouette Barnslig mirror, for example, is perfectly in step with the look of many playful millennial brands and can be bought off Etsy for around \$100. A table from British designer Ilse Crawford's cork topped Sinnerlig collection, which is only seven years old, can pop up on Facebook Marketplace priced into the thousands.

U.S.-based visual artist Inga Schunn, who resells fashion and decor online, has a fondness for older Ikea. A scroll through her Instagram feed reveals a translucent blue Espresso lamp that the company produced in the early 2000s. Evocative of the decade's aesthetic – very Y2K while also embodying the loungey look of the more recent vapourwave trend, she notes in the item's caption – Schunn was obsessed with the desk light in her youth. Schunn says deciding which of the trio she acquired would be sold was a difficult decision. She kept the white version because she says it's harder to find and goes with all manner of interior styling.

Schunn has quite a few old Ikea items in her Richmond, Va., home including a low, L-shaped couch purchased almost a decade ago that she continuously refurbishes. Its practicality (you can manipulate which direction the arm rest goes), as well as its pedigree (the piece is based on a design from the 1970s) makes her feel like it's worth the ongoing investment.

Because of an interest among tastemakers such as Schunn to retain the function and finesse of rediscovered designs, Ikea itself is also investing in seeing its older pieces stand the test of time. Furniture such as the Lovbacken side table, the brand's first flat-pack table, has been reissued. The

retailer offers sustainability workshops where customers learn repair and maintenance techniques. Since 2019, it has operated a sell-back program in Canada that allows customers to earn store credit through an online portal where Ikea staff assess the second life potential of pieces. "Canadians have made a lot of changes to their homes," Ikea's Carroll says. "We've seen a lot of interest from our customers in upcycling old Ikea finds and we've seen an increase of movement in people wanting to come to our circular hubs to find hidden gems."

As the company forges new design partnerships with creative leaders including the late polymath Virgil Abloh and London-based, print-heavy designer Zandra Rhodes, Ikea's back catalogue of covetable pieces continues to grow. For some, it's only a matter of time until they become part of the collection in Almhult – and demand top dollar from collectors. ■



Verner Panton's Vilbert chair for Ikea originally sold for under \$100 in the early 1990s. A set of four recently fetched over \$5,000 on the website 1stDibs.

Styling by Odessa Paloma Parker. Prop styling by Stacey Smithers for Plutino Group. Photo assistant: Hao Nguyen.





A selection of Ikea's more collectable vintage and contemporary pieces includes (clockwise from top left): Ulk mirror, courtesy of @studiomontcalm on Instagram; Konfetti candlesticks by Anna Efverlund, at Atomic Design (atomicdesign.ca); Lovbacken table, at Ikea (ikea.com); Piffig lamp, courtesy of @teaktoronto on Instagram; Jonisk lamp by Carl Ojerstam, at Atomic Design; Froset chair, at Ikea; Skuggbräcka fabric by Niina Aalto, at Ikea; Clock, courtesy of @shopdarkstar on Instagram; Sinnerlig bench by Ilse Crawford, private collection; Markerad bag by Virgil Abloh, private collection; Sinnerlig pitcher by Ilse Crawford, private collection; Tradig fruit bowl, at Nouveau Riche Vintage (nouveau richevintage.ca); Skamt vases, courtesy of @shopdarkstar.





# Into the WOODS

North of Montreal, a campus of contemporary cottages captures the growing desire for low maintenance living close to nature

BY **MATTHEW HAGUE**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **MARIE H. RAINVILLE**





The scale of Beside Habitat's cabins mean interior spaces benefit from a close connection to the world outside. Beds and desks are often up against glass and the forest is reflected in the natural timber structure.

It was dark when I arrived at Beside Habitat, a new, master-planned community of 75 architectural cabins spread over 485 hectares an hour north of Montreal. In the night, obscured by a dense forest of trees, details in the landscape were hard to discern. On the road in, I could only glimpse a few of the steep, peaked roofs that top the cottages. My drive from Toronto had been long and frustrating but I felt an instant sense of calm when I got out of the car and smelled fresh pine in the air.

That first night, in almost complete silence, I poked around inside my cottage. The great room soared up to a cathedral ceiling. A muscle-melting sauna in the spa-like bathroom beckoned. In the middle of the space was a wood stove with a built-in cooktop where you could fry an egg while warming your toes.

The next morning, I woke up in a loft above the kitchen wrapped in yards of white bedsheets, bright light flooding through a tall picture window. According to the architect of the development, Kim Pariseau of Montreal's Appareil Architecture, each structure is sited to avoid any awareness of neighbours. As I made my way down for breakfast, all I could see outside were bluejays hopping from branch to branch.

Throughout the day, with the rural internet connection weak enough to calm any impulses to work, I simply sat by the window. As the sun arched across the sky, the shadows of the trees swept across the living room floor like hands on a clock. The cabin's concrete floor, pine walls and plywood cabinets all captured a humble way of living but there was an unquestionable hint of luxury in the restorative way the design forged a connection with the natural world outside. Instead of the pandemic blur of one moment fading meaninglessly into the next, I became acutely, happily aware of passing hours. As each new bird fluttered in and out of view, time started to mean something again.

Beside Habitat's ethos entreats people to "experience architecture in nature." On a tour of the property, Hugues Fournel, a retired Olympic kayaker and the site's general director, said that the goal of the project is to connect people and the great outdoors. The cabins, which are still being developed, are each privately owned but many are available to rent through the community's online hub.





To maximize the sense of escape, cottages are positioned to limit views of your neighbours' homes while gathering places such as a porch are nestled within the structure.



This kind of design-centric project is being offered up at an opportune time in Canada. Demand for cottages is exploding. According to Remax, the price of second homes in the country increased by at least 15 per cent in 2021, with bumps of up to 70 per cent in some regions. The trend has been driven by buyers eager to get away from cramped and pricey urban addresses – and has been further fuelled by the lucrative short-term rental income a stylish and well-maintained property can earn. Many people are also making the decision to leave cities altogether. Between 2020 and 2021, nearly 50,000 people departed Montreal, the highest drop in 20 years, according to the Institut de la statistique du Québec. A similar number left Toronto during the first year of the pandemic.

Toronto architect Brenda Izen has been busier than ever designing country homes and sees many homeowners eschewing monster cottages in favour of modest, easier to maintain spaces like the Beside houses. “A large footprint can present a number of challenges,” she says. “If you’re doing a massive house, that’s more than one storey, you don’t have a lot of opportunity for skylights to get natural light into the core of the home and into the central rooms. And the deeper you are in the house, the farther you are from the windows and the relationship with nature.”

To Izen, there is an inverse relationship between size and enjoying a rustic site. “It’s almost like those little one-bedroom cabins in the woods where everything is really consolidated. That’s where you have the best connection,” she says.



The cabin I visited at Beside Habitat belongs to Nicholas Dumensil, a former tech executive who bought the property preconstruction before the pandemic. He wasn't looking for a cottage but became intrigued when a friend posted a link to the project on social media. "It ticked every box," he says. "Architectural construction, turnkey, simple."

Dumensil had to select his layout from a series of plans proposed by designer Appareil but the finishes, furniture and overall contemporary aesthetic were all fixed. The upkeep and rental of his place, which was booked for almost 11 months last year and can cost renters up to \$340 per night depending on the season, are managed by Beside, a company that also produces a popular outdoor life magazine of the same name.

Something else that appealed to Dumensil: While Beside's developers plan to incorporate community buildings including a music studio and café into the property, 80 per cent of the site is protected from any further development.

One day, hiking through the backwoods, which includes several pristine lakes and ponds, Dumensil bumped into one of Beside's founders and expressed how much he loved the concept. The conversation turned into a job offer and Dumensil is now Beside's chief financial officer.

Although Dumensil only spends about 35 days a year at his place, some of his fellow owners don't rent their cabins out at all, preferring to spend longer stretches of time away from Montreal or Quebec City.

The community is located in Rawdon, a small town that has long been used as an escape from one world and a way to reconnect in another. One hundred years ago, it saw an influx of Russians – including a few aristocrats – seeking refuge from the revolution. Two onion-domed chapels remain as a legacy of this migration, one on a street called Rue de Petrograd, an old name for St. Petersburg. Although far from home, the new arrivals appreciated Rawdon because the thick pine forest reminded them of where they had come from. Today, it creates a similar grounding effect for a new community seeking out the comforts of nature. ▀

Model: Stéphanie St-Jean Aubre at Details The Agency.

The Beside Habitat site includes many spots to take in the wilderness and freshwater lakes. Though the property is still being developed, 80 per cent of the landscape will remain untouched by future projects.







# Living well

After a health scare, designer **NIKE ONILE** reflects on the value of a holistic home that feels as good as it looks

ILLUSTRATION BY **LAUREN TAMAKI**

**I**n the summer of 2021, I was diagnosed with cancer. The news came with a heavy fog of confusion and disbelief. I was at the peak of a dedicated yet taxing run in my career with the fruits of my labour low hanging and ready to be enjoyed. Clients who connected with my work were consistently flowing in, along with industry accolades and recognition in design publications that I had admired since the beginning of my career.

The abrasiveness of those three words – “you have cancer” – cut through me like sharp glass. In an almost dreamlike way, the things I had always known to be true weren’t any more. I felt betrayed by my body, healthy lifestyle and the holistic practice I had grown proud of. Here I was, in a time where there was such momentum in my life, being run over by something I felt that I had no control over.

Before my diagnosis, I was at a height in my professional life, yet I felt I was at my weakest and as if my body was fighting against me. The hustle felt violent and things that were once so natural felt incredibly laborious. My capacity to push forward felt empty and a heaviness loomed being surrounded by beautiful things that no longer served me. It was clear that I needed a new sense of home.

I moved out of Toronto’s core and

completed a home renovation focused on wellness. I did for myself what I have done for so many others: create space that aligns. I let go of so much (metaphorically and physically) and kept close only the things that added value, elicited positive emotion and carried meaning.

My new home felt bright and personal. It featured elements of nature along with space dedicated to gathering, rest and work. It had enough flexibility to change and adapt as I evolved. I felt lighter and more rooted. With the noise surrounding me eliminated, I could pay attention to my body, and she was telling me that I was not okay. It had been over five years since my body had stopped feeling like my own, but now I could hear her differently, in a way that resulted in a life-changing visit to my doctor.

In the middle of my treatment, I realized that this new home I had been urgently completing was meant for this exact moment. It was the place where I was meant to heal, the space that was going to pour life, joy and comfort back into me as I undertook the next stage of my life.

My home contains elements that centre me. My bedroom walls are lined with muted murals of waterscapes, as if I am sleeping outside under willow trees. They instill a sense of freedom. My bathroom, covered with a marbled tile that looks like concrete,

is modelled on spaces dedicated to wellness that I experienced on a visit to Morocco. It helps create tranquillity and fosters the ritual of self-care. Filling my office with a jungle of ficus trees and other plants not only purifies the air but brings nature into my home year-round.

I have spent so much of my career focused on understanding people and why they live the way they live, studying how space and the things we surround ourselves with work hand in hand and how the magic of their connection influences change. I call this the Ode philosophy, a term that is also part of the name of my design firm, Studio Ode.

The approach focuses on creating spaces that support who you are now while allowing flexibility for your home to adapt and grow as you evolve.

In my moment of need, my home reflected these principles of holistic living. It was the warm cocoon I needed to break apart, rest, heal, find inspiration and redefine life. It showed me, in a more comprehensive way, how deeply connected we are with every space we’re in. Spaces live and breathe like we do. They can be tools to help support who we are and who we will become. There is real magic in places where design meets wellness, regardless of what you are going through. I just happened to deepen this understanding while fighting cancer. ▀



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