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ULTRA GREEN CONDO • JENS RISOM • HIGHLANDS MODULAR

MODERN  DENVER

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ISSUE  
HELLO!

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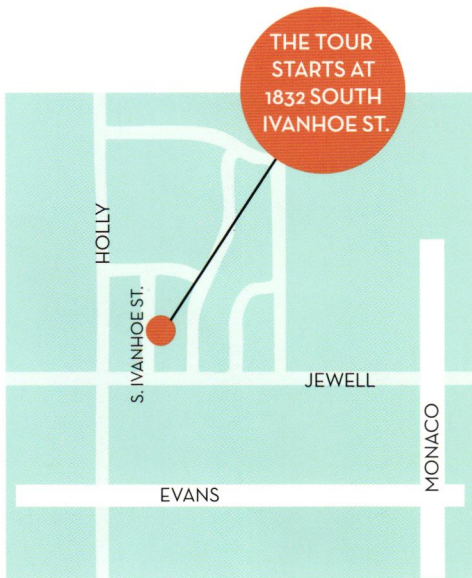


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# Lynwood

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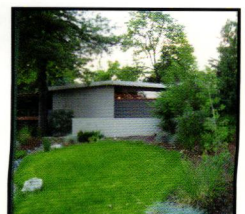
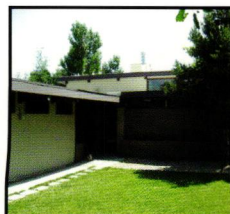
The neighborhood of Lynwood is an architecturally unique neighborhood in southeast Denver with fabulous Eichler inspired "California Contemporary" mid-century modern homes. Come check out this hidden gem in a home tour benefitting Challenge Denver and see how 50s modern meets today's modern living and designs.

For questions or info:  
[hometour@lynwooddenver.com](mailto:hometour@lynwooddenver.com)



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# TOC #1

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# hello.

**CERTAINLY**, the Frederic C. Hamilton Building at the Denver Art Museum and David Adjaye's beautiful design for the Museum of Contemporary Art have brought some excellent well deserved attention to Denver and its modern architecture, art and design (not to mention adding two significant buildings to the city's skyline), however, for me, those buildings don't tell the whole story of how the essence of modernism has really blossomed in Denver.

Over the last few years, virtually everywhere I go from Downtown to the Highlands, across Ballpark and the Central Platte Valley, around Cherry Creek, up Broadway and everywhere in between, I see new, modern residential and commercial construction.

Nearly every other infill project is modern in design or approach (think sustainability). Modern retail stores, large and small, continue to open their doors and thrive. Focus on renovating and celebrating mid-century modern homes and buildings has continued to gain momentum as prices for these gems keep rising against the current down market.

As a longtime Denver citizen and a lover of modern architecture, art and design, following this progress has been very exciting, yet finding information on all this growth has been scattered at best.

Simply put, it is why I decided to create Modern In Denver Magazine.

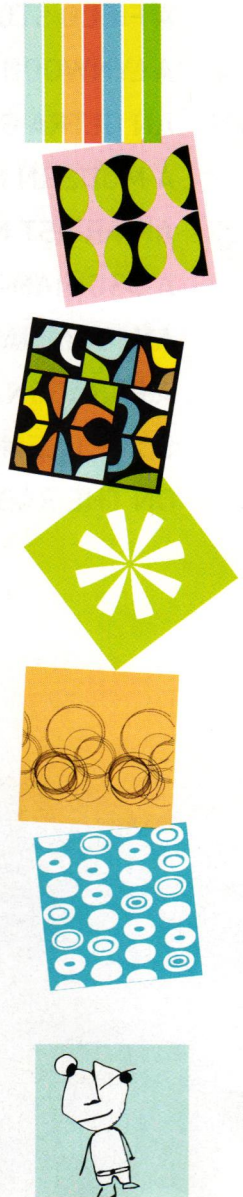
The magazine, both in print and on the web, will take you into the homes and buildings that embody Denver's modern spirit as well as introduce you to the talented community of architects, designers, artists, developers and entrepreneurs whose visions are shaping Denver's future landscape.

As Modern In Denver Magazine grows, I look forward to celebrating the fresh energy of forward-looking leaders, facilitating interaction between creatives and supporters, and informing both new admirers and long-time enthusiasts about the clean and simple aesthetic of modern art, architecture and design that has so enriched my life.

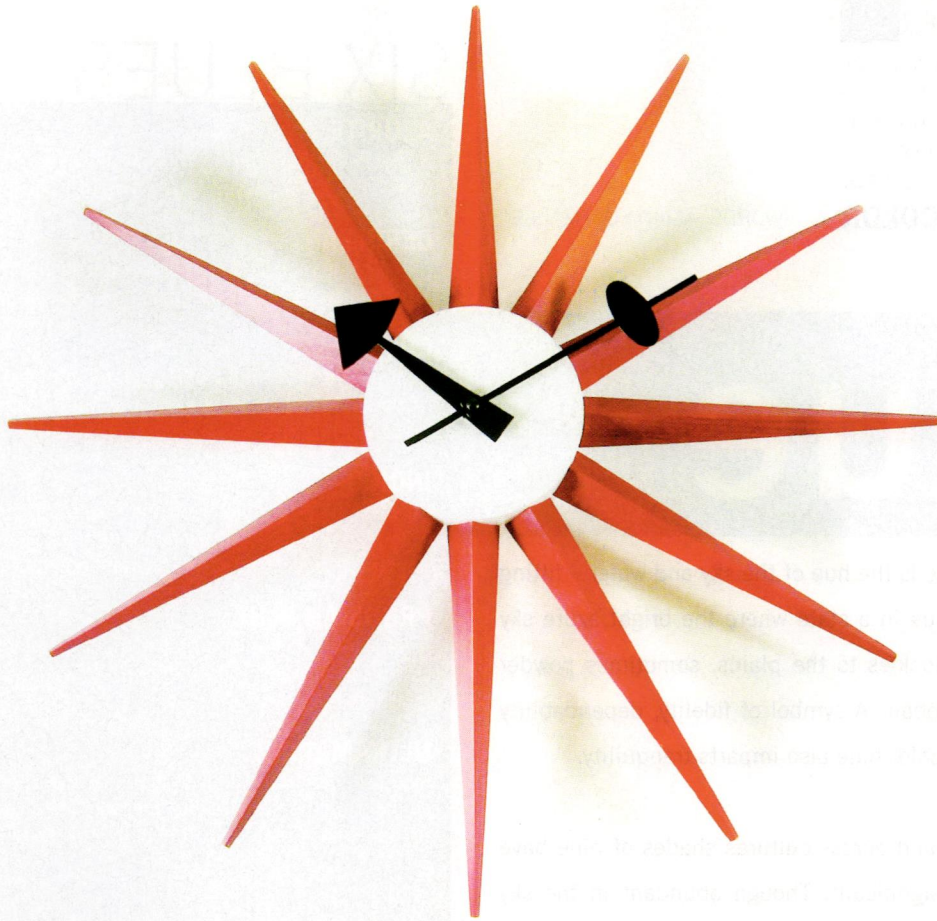
So I say "Hello" to you with this first issue and "Thank You" for taking the time to check it out.

Enjoy!

William Logan



starting off on the right foot...



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EACH ISSUE WE PICK A COLOR AND EXPLORE A LITTLE OF ITS HISTORY, CONNOTATIONS AND SYMBOLISM. SOME FUN, INTERESTING AND COLORFUL INFO! **A LITTLE COLOR**

WORDS: ALAINA GONZALES

## SIX BLUES

### AZURITE

A greenish blue. During the Middle Ages and Renaissance it was the most important blue pigment in European painting.

### CERULEAN

A fairly true blue (not greenish or purplish). Though introduced in the early 1800s, it was not widely available until 1860.

### COBALT

A pure blue. Although smalt, a pigment made from cobalt glass has been known at least since the Middle Ages, the cobalt established in 1802 was a greatly improved one.

### INDIGO

Between blue and violet on the spectrum. Originally prepared from plants, indigo was used in paintings by ancient Greeks and Romans. Since 1870 it has been manufactured synthetically.

### PRUSSIAN BLUE

A dark blue. It was the first modern artificially manufactured color. Discovered by accident in 1704 it was made available to artists by 1724.

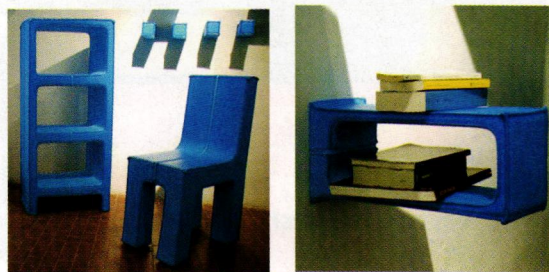
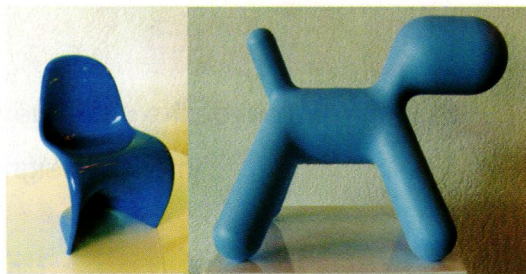
### ULTRAMARINE

Many shades from violet to green. It was more expensive than gold during the Renaissance and was first used in sixth-century Afghanistan. Created synthetically in 1824.

# Blue

A primary color, blue is the hue of the sky and water – fitting for this summer issue in a state where the bright azure sky glistens from the Rockies to the plains, sometimes powder blue, other times cobalt. A symbol of fidelity, dependability and freshness, the color blue also imparts tranquility.

Throughout history and across cultures shades of blue have been symbolically significant. Though abundant in the sky and sea, blue is scarce on the ground. Until the early-18th century blue oil colors were made from semi-precious stones, meaning that an oil painting containing blues was a status symbol for its owner. In Greek mythology blue was related to Zeus, the king of the gods as well as the ruler of the sky and weather. When sad the tears of Zeus would cause the rain; when angry there would be storms. Ancient Egyptians believed it was the color of the divine, the spiritual and the truth. Early Chinese dynasties used blue pigments to color their celebrated blue-and-white ceramics. Though it was later considered a color worn by commoners, during the Renaissance blue clothing ranked near silver and gold.





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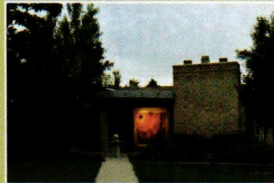
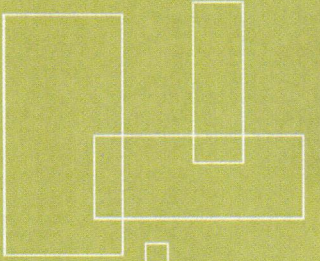


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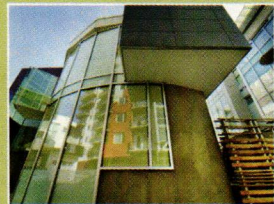


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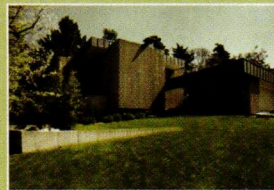
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**FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO KEPT US GOING: MUCH LOVE!**

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**THOSE WHO WENT THE EXTRA MILE: MANY THANKS!**

Jaime Kopke, Alaina Gonzales, Jesse Howard, Jim Howe, Heather Knight, Charles Krausz, Jake Newsom.

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# FIELD STUDY | OBJECTS | etc.

words: Jaime Kopke

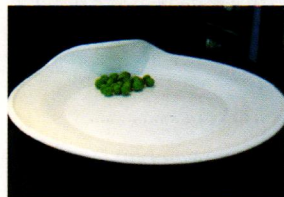
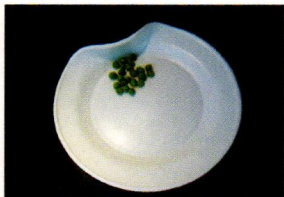
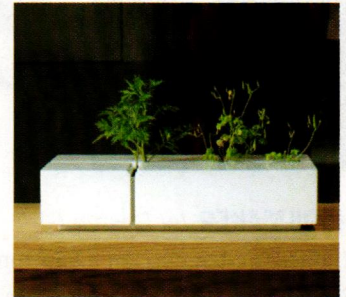
surveying what's new and exciting : inside and out



## INTERIOR WEEDS by Arwin Caljouw

Welcome new weeds with Dutch designer Arwin Caljouw's ceramic planter. Interior Weeds is designed to resemble cracks in a sidewalk, portraying the beauty of nature's perseverance in a human environment.

+ [arwinsontwerp.nl](http://arwinsontwerp.nl)



## BENTA PLATES by Angela Schwab

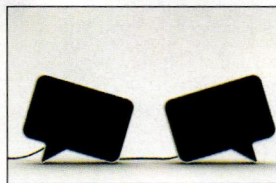
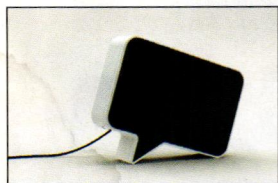
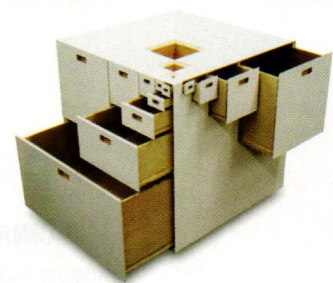
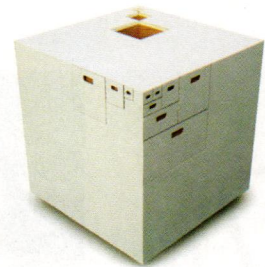
The brilliant Benta plates by Denver designer Angela Schwab have a curved edge, allowing you to scoop up every last bite! Made from bone china and produced by Umbra.

+ [umbra.com/ustore/product/462397/c660/benta\\_plates.html](http://umbra.com/ustore/product/462397/c660/benta_plates.html)

## FRACTAL 23 by Takeshi Miyakawa

Math and design join forces in Takeshi Miyakawa's Fractal 23 cabinet. In a salute to positive and negative space, every square inch of the cube has been utilized for storage.

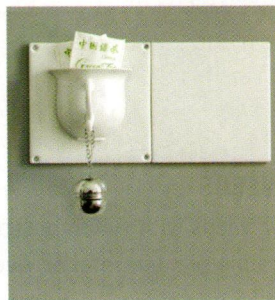
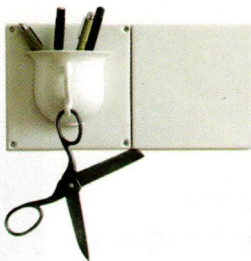
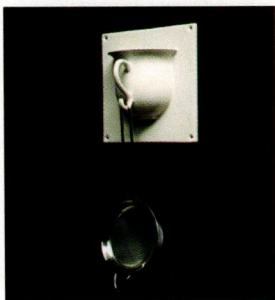
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## SPEAK-ER by Sherwood Forlee

Let the sounds from your stereo have a visual presence with Sherwood Forlee's word bubble speakers.

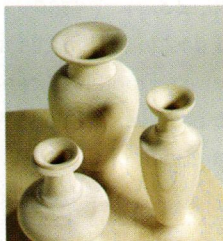
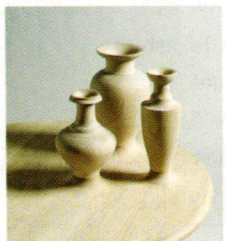
+ [skforlee.com/independent\\_work/speaker.html](http://skforlee.com/independent_work/speaker.html)



**HOOKMAKER** by *Design Glut*

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[+ designglut.com/hookmaker.html](http://designglut.com/hookmaker.html)



**VASE SPACE** by *Paul Loebach*

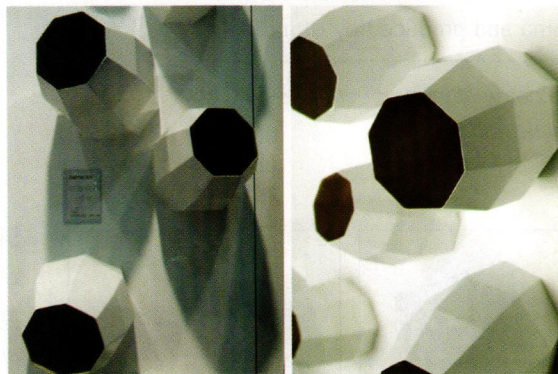
Inspired by the obsessive style of neo-classicism, Paul Loebach's fluid Vase Space incorporates three removable vases right into the tabletop.

.....  
[+ paulloebach.com/design/vasespace.htm](http://paulloebach.com/design/vasespace.htm)

**BARNACLES** by *Plodes Studio*

Finding inspiration from the world of clinging crustaceans, Barnacles is a series of storage containers designed by Houston-based Plodes Studio.

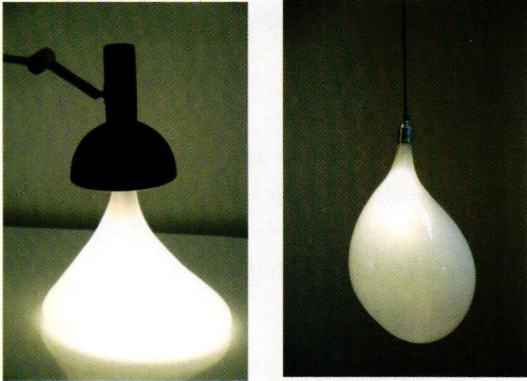
.....  
[+ plodes.com](http://plodes.com)



## LIGHT BLUBS *by Pieke Bergmans*

Lights bulbs gone awry by Pieke Bergmans. In the designer's own words, "...these Blubs have taken on all kinds of forms and sizes you wouldn't expect from such well behaving and reliable little products. Nevertheless, they seem to be enjoying their new free existences."

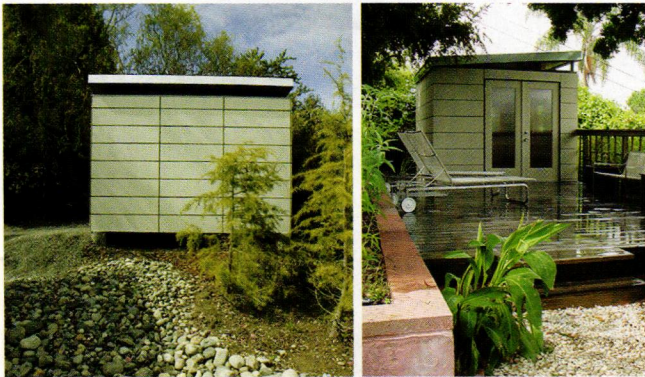
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## MODERN SHED

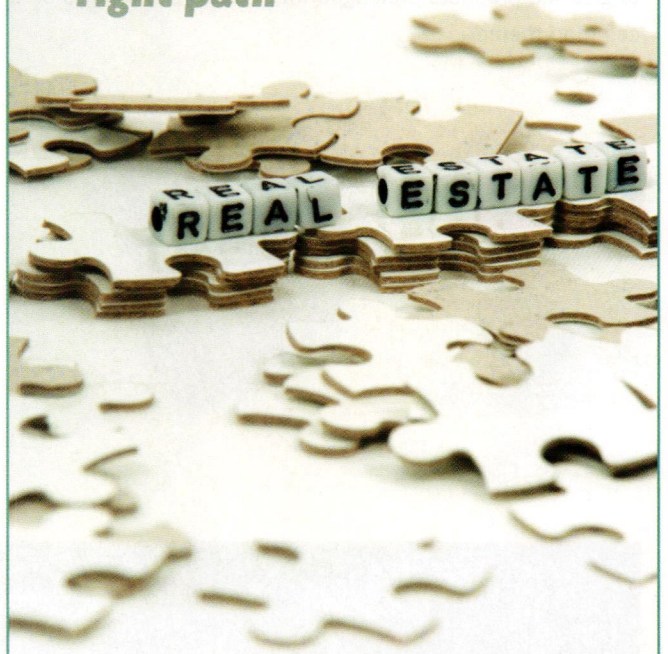
Say goodbye to the backyard eyesores of yesteryear and welcome the age of the Modern Shed. This versatile structure comes in a variety of sizes and styles, making it equally suited for everything from storage to studio space.

+ [modern-shed.com](http://modern-shed.com)

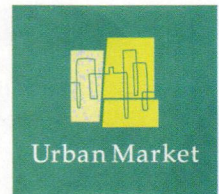


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## TWO TAKES

Every day American throw out more than 60 million plastic water bottles. In an attempt to keep more of these containers from the waste stream, designers are inventing new ways to give the products prolonged life. Here are two takes on a common theme:



### FACADE VASE *by Orcadesign*

Under the cloak of an industrial wool felt cover, any water bottle becomes stylish with Orcadesign's Facade Vase.

+ [orcadesign.net/Greenhouse.html](http://orcadesign.net/Greenhouse.html)

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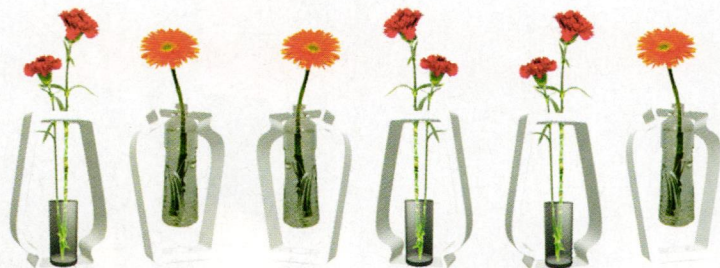
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# A CHANGE OF PLANS

## FROM LOUISIANA TO LYNWOOD

GOING WITH THE FLOW, NO BLUEPRINTS REQUIRED

words: Jaime Kopke • photos: William Logan



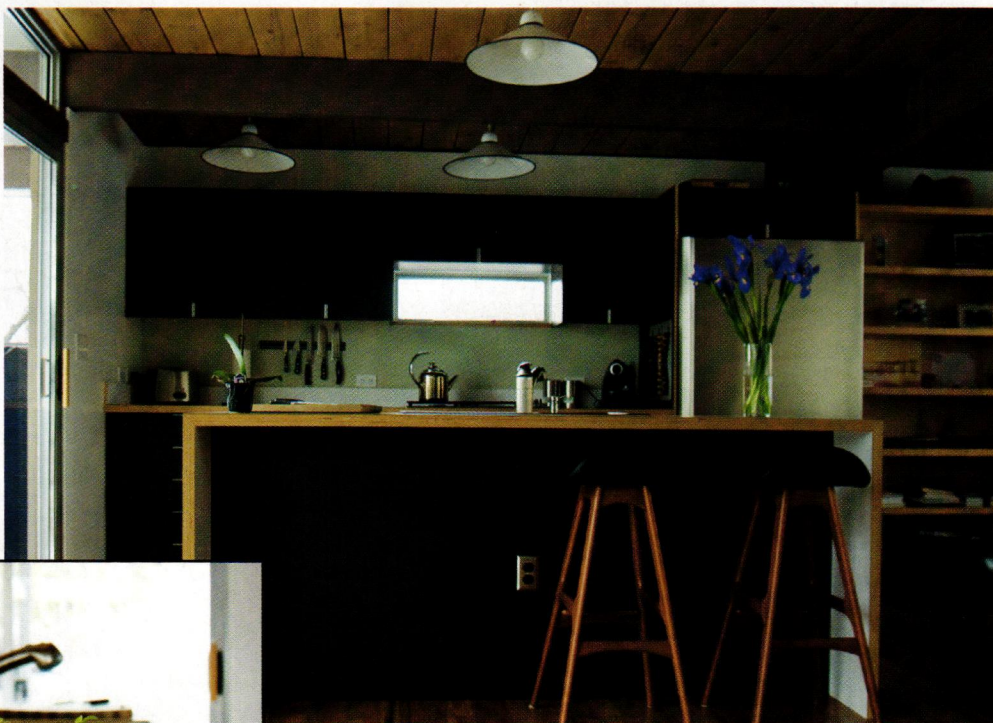
Denver contractor John Brooks did not set out to buy a mid-century modern home. In fact, John wasn't even intending on an immediate move to Denver when he came to visit from New Orleans in 2005. Hurricane Katrina, however, had other plans for him. On August 23 of that year, John was in town looking for land on which he could design and build a new modern home. The plan was to continue living in New Orleans while his dream house was being constructed.

But when the hurricane came ashore, John's future - like so many others' - shifted dramatically. Fortunately, John's New Orleans home was not badly damaged during the storm, and within two weeks of the catastrophe he had packed his things and settled in Denver. For the next year, John rented while working on the plans and construction of his new home in the Highlands. In the end though, conflicts with a neighbor forced him to abandon the building process at the location he had selected.

John Brooks sits in the front yard of his Lynwood mid-century modern with his dog Coltrane. Yard sculpture is by Daniel Harris.

## A CHANGE OF PLANS

Birch laminate countertops, cupboards and drawers in the kitchen. The barstools are of contemporary design.



One of the homeowner's bonsai rests in the dining room. The coat rack is called the Triple Hook-up Strip by threebythree.com.



Faced with the possibility of renting another year, John turned to Craig Mayer of Mile Hi Modern to help him find a more suitable alternative. Without any new contemporary houses on the market at the time, Mayer brought John to Lynwood, a southeast Denver neighborhood filled with mid-century modern homes. When Mayer showed him a 1,300-square-foot contemporary John immediately fell in love with its simple forms and abundance of light. Perhaps the biggest factor for John, though, was that the house had already been remodeled. Though this may seem surprising for a person who owns his own construction company, John easily explains, "Doing fix and flips of my own, I didn't want to take on a house that I was going to have to come home every night and do work on."

Lynwood is a Denver sub-division that was developed by father-and-son team H.B. and Brad Wolff in the 1950s. Coming off the success of their Krisana Park homes, the developers visited California to study architect Joseph Eichler's houses in greater detail. Borrowing heavily from Eichler's classic models, the two went on to build more than one hundred replica homes. Prior to

John, the home had been owned by local architect Bill Buyers. Buyers had spent a year completing a major renovation of the house, resulting in an extensive modification to the original layout, including the removal of walls and a re-positioning of the present-day kitchen. So much had been taken care of, in fact, that when John moved in during November of 2006 all that was left was the decorating.

Though John does not consider himself a collector, his selection of modern furnishings is well suited for the open, minimalist layout of the architecture. The center of the house is the single kitchen, dining and living area, which was created during Buyers' renovations. Here, John has filled the space with a balance of simple furnishings including a Noguchi table and an Italian sofa by Natuzzi. The one piece John does concede to tracking down is his classic Eames lounge, which was the result of a dedicated craigslist hunt. The rest of the room showcases finds from John's extensive travels, including handmade leather poufs from Morocco, which he bought at a market stall and carried with him throughout his journey.



Built-in bookcase in the main room with pouf from Morocco on the floor. The mobile is by Flensted Mobiles. Chair is by Jens Risom.



A Saarinen chair and wall decals by [www.acte-deco.fr](http://www.acte-deco.fr) decorate one of the guest bedrooms.

## A CHANGE OF PLANS

Beyond the main living space is a wall of glass windows leading to the backyard where one can, literally, relax in an oasis of trees. These are not your typical pines and cottonwoods, however, as John is an avid bonsai collector and cultivator. The backyard contains both a greenhouse and covered work table where his collection of more than 25 bonsai spend their winters and summers, respectively. For John the process of grooming and maintaining the trees is, "...completely meditative. I get to forget about the world - about the fact that I have bills I haven't paid - I just go out there and be creative."

John's next project is building a collection of artwork for his home. He is planning on focusing on black-and-white photography, both for the balance of light and simple color palette. First up is a set of prints by Herman Leonard, a former New Orleans-based jazz photographer who has shot the likes of Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald. John is also framing strips of metallic ground wallpaper made by another of his New Orleans connections, longtime friend Jon Sherman of Flavor Paper.

Though John says, "there is no rhyme to the reason," when it comes to his personal style, it is clear that balance and simplicity reign supreme. From the open expanse of the main room leading you out to a tranquil bonsai garden to the overarching black-and-white motifs, John clearly has an eye for design. However, just as in his construction business, John insists he never uses a plan, "...except for the house I was going to build in the Highlands." Ironic perhaps that the one project for which he had a blueprint is the one that never came to be. Though once one experiences the flowing, open nature of his mid-century haven, this all seems to make perfect sense.

*John Brooks is the owner of Denver-based On The Level Construction.  
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*Far Left:* The guest bathroom.



*Near Left:* Painting in guest bedroom is by Brian Brooks.

*Below:* John working in his backyard on his bonsai trees.



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# IT'S EASY BEING GREEN

A CONDOMINIUM PROJECT IN DENVER'S JEFFERSON PARK PROVES THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO SURRENDER STYLE TO PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT



WORDS:  
ALAINA GONZALES

PHOTOS:  
JESSE HOWARD &  
WILLIAM LOGAN

1



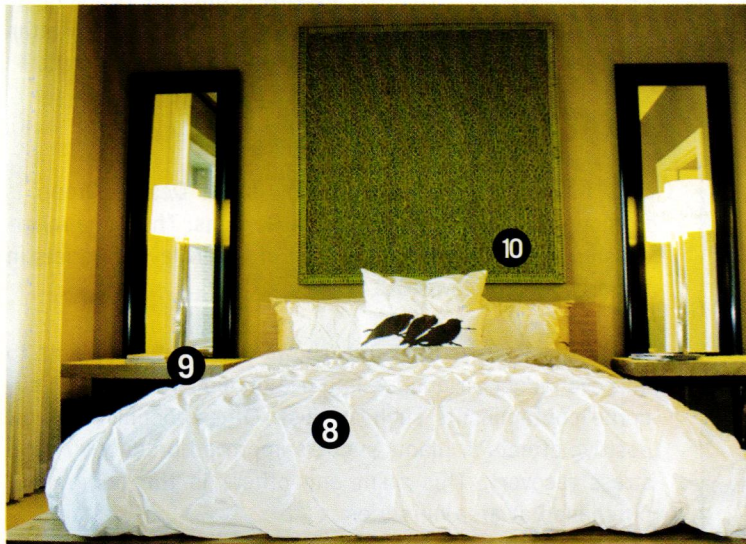
**RIVERCLAY** is slated to be the first Silver LEED-certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) multi-residence project in the Rocky Mountain region. It is a rigorous, third-party verified standard of building certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. Certified buildings exceed standards in energy and water efficiency, indoor air quality, thermal comfort, site sustainability, materials and resources.

Some “green” elements are less noticeable. Roof-mounted photovoltaics produce nearly 40 percent of the building’s electricity. All paints, stains, coatings and adhesives are low-VOC. Low-emission, insulated windows reduce heat gain. A switch in each condo shuts off the energy drain from idle electronics and unused, nonessential appliances

Other environmentally friendly features are more obvious, showing that style has not been sacrificed. In fact, some of the most striking elements are actually green. Floors are made from rapidly replenishable bamboo, while the custom cabinetry was made locally. Stainless steel appliances are Energy Star rated. Tile and stone are from local sources or are recycled. Toilets are dual-flush and faucets are low-flow.

#### WHEEL CHAIR (PREVIOUS PAGE)

**1 REPURPOSE:** The LCX Lounge Chair is made by Bike Furniture Design, [bikefurniture.com](http://bikefurniture.com), using recycled steel bicycle rims for the frame with new and used inner tubes as upholstery. The company also incorporates other bike parts such as handlebars and frames as well as components from other transportation industries into their table, seating and accessory designs.



## DINING AREA / KITCHEN

- 2 RECLAIM:** The Augusta dining table by Moe's Home Collection, moeshomecollection.com, is made from the reclaimed wood of old Chinese doors.
- 3 RECYCLE:** CB2, cb2.com, creates the Diego dining chairs from recycled leather.

**4 ACT LOCALLY:** The Colorado-based manufacturer of the cabinetry used local materials, reducing transportation emissions once again, and the adhesives and sealants used during construction were low-VOC to enhance indoor air quality.

**5 SUPPORT COMMUNITY:** Green-thinking consumers know that eating food from local growers cuts down on transportation emissions and allows for more organic consumption. The same is true of many of the wines produced by countless Colorado vineyards. For a list of Colorado wineries, visit [coloradowineassociation.com](http://coloradowineassociation.com).

**6 SUSTAINABLE:** Flooring is made from renewable plants such as cork and bamboo. Cork bark can be harvested every 10 to 12 years over each tree's 150-to-250-year lifespan. Harvesting does not damage the tree, and because cork regrows it is a renewable resource. Bamboo, a grass, reaches harvestable maturity in approximately six years - considerably less time than is needed for other trees used in flooring.

**7 NONTOXIC:** Soy candles are made from soybeans, a renewable resource. Soy wax is biodegradable, burns longer than petroleum-based products, and is non-toxic making it safer to burn around children, pets and, of course, you.

## BEDROOM

**8 RENEWABLE:** This bed is made of rapidly replenishable bamboo, which releases approximately 35 percent more oxygen than a comparable hardwood tree. By sequestering carbon, bamboo reduces the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide, the main contributor to reduce global warming. The duvet is made from organic, undyed cotton, westelm.com.

**9 REDUCE:** The nightstands are topped with New Mexican sandstone quarried in the region and purchased from a local stone yard. Sourcing locally significantly reduces transportation-related emissions.

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**10 REGROWTH:** The wall hanging behind the bed is made of rattan, which quickly grows hundreds of feet long. Rattan is easier to harvest and transport than traditional timbers.

**GREAT ROOM**

**11 DETOXIFY:** The painting by Jones Design Group is from a photograph taken at Elitch Gardens. The same roller-coaster can be viewed to the east of RiverClay. Materials in the artworks are low-VOC.

**12 CLEAN AIR:** Research shows the ability of plants to improve indoor air quality, improve humidity and reduce airborne contaminants such as dust. Other documents show positive effects of plants such as improved productivity and stress recovery. This plant and others in the home were purchased at area nurseries.

**13 RECOVER:** The sofa and loveseat are upholstered with 60 percent bamboo fabric. The manufacturer, Rowe Furniture, rowefurniture.com, is a founding member of the Sustainable Furniture Council (SFC) and a member of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). The company uses lumber harvested from domestic forests, which are replanted. The cushions are made of durable and renewable plant-based materials and natural duck feather and down rather than traditional petroleum-based ones.

**14 SALVAGE:** This sculptural coffee table is made from reclaimed wood.

**15 HANDMADE:** The rug is hand woven from New Zealand wool, a renewable resource that is naturally flame resistant.

**16 FUEL-EFFICIENT:** More efficient than a hybrid: a bike. Even more efficient: A vintage bike. One of RiverClay's developers uses this antique Schwinn to get around Denver.



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**Interior Decorating:**  
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# EASY DOES IT.

A mod modular in the Highlands fits perfectly in place.

This prefabricated home is anything but a standard option.

WORDS:

Alaina Gonzales

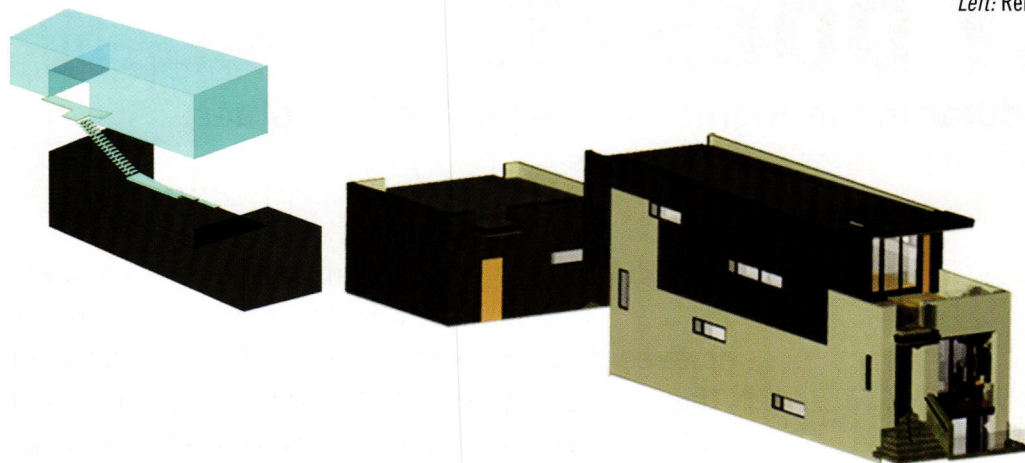
PHOTOS:

Jesse Howard  
& William Logan

**THE** neighbors sat in lawn chairs to watch Brad and Christa Tomecek's home be lowered by crane onto the foundation last summer. Their 2,750-square-foot, four-bedroom, four-and-half-bath home, which arrived on two flat-bed trucks, was built in a factory in Berthoud. But this is not the modular of previous generations. This is something different, something better, something evolved.



**EASY DOES IT.**



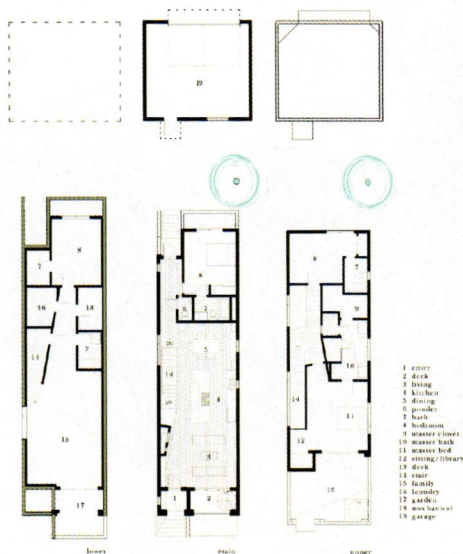
*Below left: Floor plans.  
Left: Rendering of the house.*

**B**rad, a founding partner of Boulder-based studio h:t, says that as architects, “we like to explore all kinds of building methods. There are many ways to build.” Studio h:t is currently working on a home built from shipping containers and has completed projects using structural insulated panels (SIPs), which are like Oreo cookies. They have plywood on the outside and polystyrene on the inside, creating an effective insulation system. Such solutions, along with modulares, are tighter and better insulated with fewer places for air to leak out. Systems

such as modular, prefabricated homes are part of studio h:t’s vocabulary. “It’s inline with what we do, but we do different things each time we do something. Also, we use ourselves as examples for our clients that way we know the pluses and minuses,” Brad notes. Studio h:t is always striving to be better informed in order to enhance the design poetics and knowledge they bring to their commercial and residential projects, using the right tools in each situation.

But why modular for his own home? A modular home also worked well with the site. “This lot is only 25-feet wide and 125-feet long, so it was obvious this was going to be a boxy project. It made sense to explore modulares,” explains Brad.

And the time savings. “A controlled labor force builds modulares in a controlled environment - no more delays from one subcontractor throwing the entire project behind schedule; inclement weather is no longer an issue,” Brad says. This ultra-tight and well-constructed structure was built in the factory in two and a half weeks. Excavation of the foundation and work on the structure began simultaneously (note: parallel, not linear, construction) in July, and the home was ready for a move-in date in early December. Without the six-week delay from Xcel, completion could have been in the four-month range – less than half the time of a traditional build.



It took approximately a year and a half to find the lot, where originally, a plain, 600-square-foot brick home sat, but the Tomeceks knew they wanted to live in the Highlands. "It's growing, it's so eclectic. Not like some areas that have all million-dollar rebuilds or only restored Victorians. Here, it's happening naturally," reveals Christa, "We were sold on the neighborhood!" The architecture is indicative of the type of community it is - older homes rests next door to new infill, taquerias dot the side streets while hip hotspots anchor the area's core commercial districts. And with their son Austin, aged 18 months, it is important that the neighborhood is walkable. It takes 15 minutes to reach Riverfront Park and five to the pedestrian bridge over I-25.

A reduced footprint is a goal of both the Tomeceks and studio h:t. The home is enrolled in the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program and should be awarded a Silver Certification. The brick from the site's original home was deconstructed and used in another studio h:t project. Factory construction reduces waste. All windows and appliances are Energy Star rated. Water is used conservatively from pressure regulation to drought-resistant landscaping (native plants, rocks and gravel surround the home) and a lack of a sprinkler system.

*Right*: The house being craned into place.  
*Below*: The house being assembled at the factory.



photo by: Heather Knight





*Above (Clockwise from left):* Looking up to the master suite's deck. A guest bedroom. The kitchen.

*Right:* Light flows through the open-backed staircase.

Low-VOC paints and bamboo flooring are used throughout the home. Tires are given a second life in the form of rubber pavers, which line the master deck allowing rain water to drain. The home is situated near bike and walking paths, bus lines, restaurants, shops and other community resources making car use negligible. Windows that face neighboring homes are positioned higher or lower than traditional placement because neighbors are only five feet away, and translucent panes increase solar gain and enhance passive cooling strategies on the back and front (north and south) of the house. "Being green takes thinking. It's not about major stuff, it's about choosing correctly," Christa remarks.

It is of that thoughtfulness that Brad wants to remind other potential prefab homeowners. "You can't go to the factory and buy my house. This isn't a stock plan. It's custom. This has an architectural design. It is critical to have someone guiding

the design process," states Brad. "Our goal was to leverage the efficiency of the factory with a well-designed project" to overcome the stigma that comes with modular.

Most of the time, prefabricated models are not cutting edge or very thoughtful when it comes to design. Nearly all finishes and fixtures can be installed at the factory, with only a few choices available. The Tomeceks' home came with bamboo and tile floors, plumbing, lighting, heating, electrical components and cabinetry installed, and though they chose fixtures and finishes from the same manufacturers the factory stocks, they special ordered upgraded product lines. The granite countertops were created from material leftover from another studio h:t project and the appliances were purchased separately although these features could have come standard from the factory.

It was a learning process for Brad and his colleagues. They had some control and negotiated for details such as eight-foot doors to allow more light and a sense of openness in, but were constrained by other parameters. However, according to Brad, we are going to see more and more prefabricated structures on the market, "especially as these systems get refined and as options become more available." As for this experiment, "I think so far it's been very positive. We had constraints due to the site but were able to work within them."

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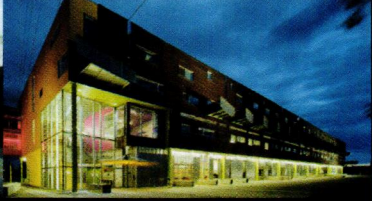
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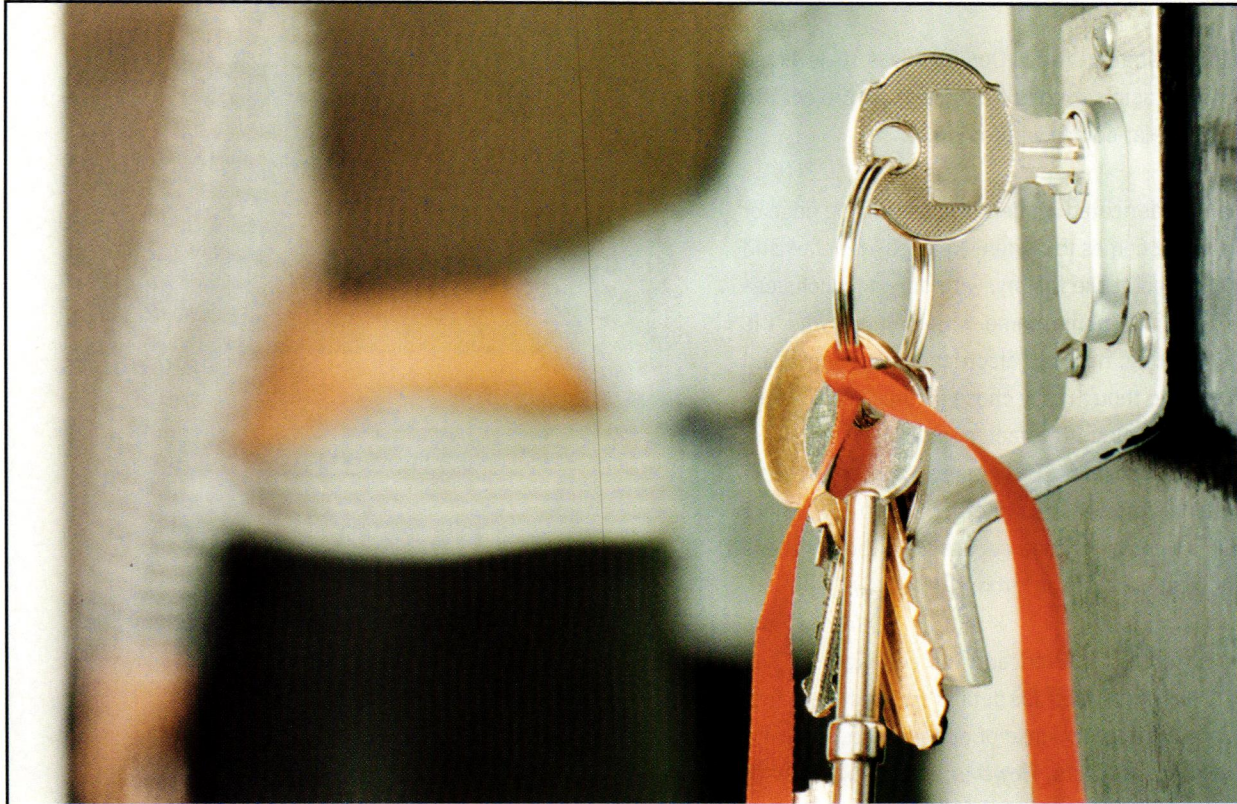
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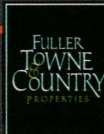
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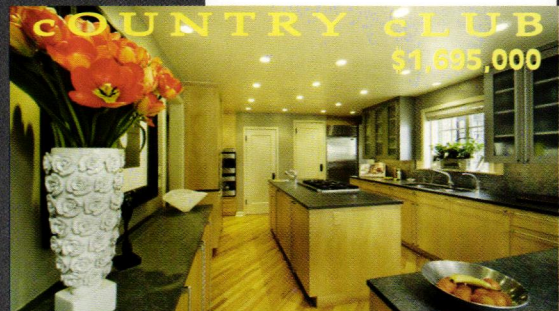
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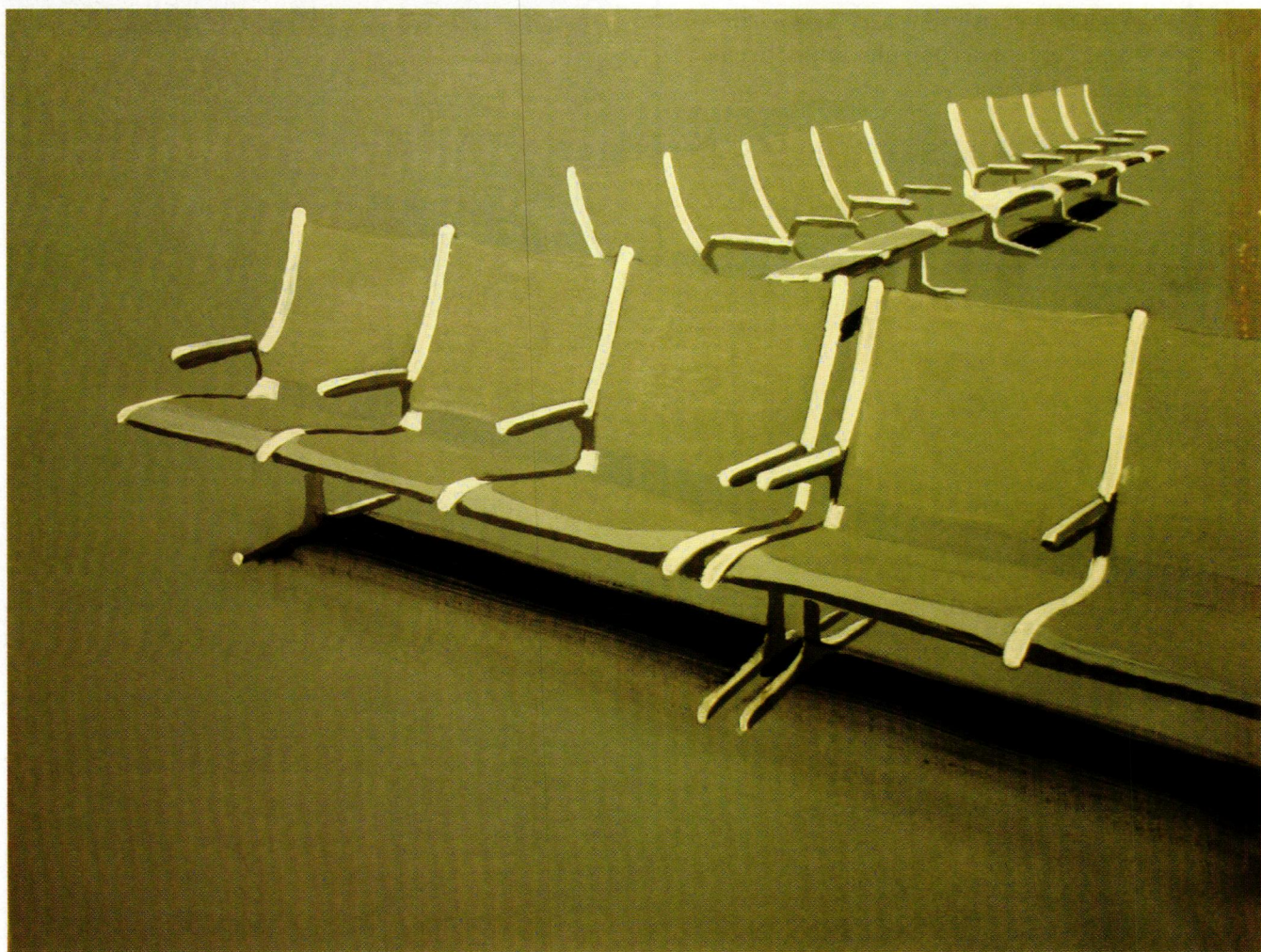
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ARTIST | PROFILE

# VANTAGE



# NATHAN ABELS

WORDS: KATIE TAFT

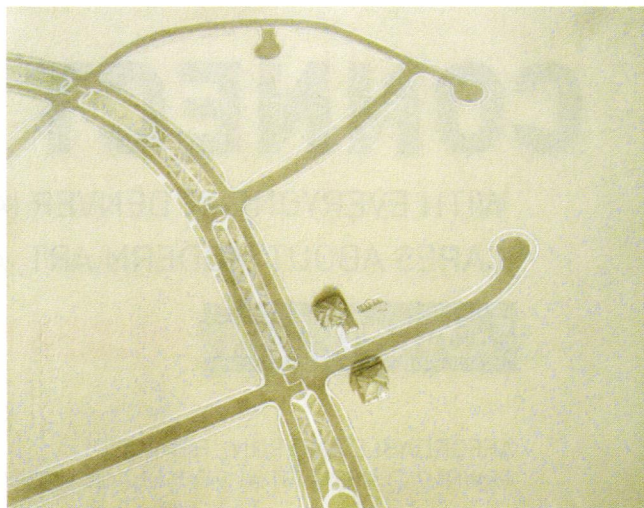
## POINT

**B**ig skies, encroaching development and the spaces in between are the focus of Nathan Abels' paintings and drawings. There is an object or two in each piece but the space surrounding them is what you really notice. The work is almost minimalist, and, indeed, he lists Agnes Martin as one of his influences. Martin's grids inspired his paintings of empty billboard signs; apparently they are everywhere in Abels' hometown of Ft. Wayne, Indiana. "There are lots of them here, too, if you look carefully," says Abels.

Looking carefully is exactly what Abels does. His landscapes began when he was in graduate school, traveling back and forth from Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia to Ft. Wayne, where his future wife was still living. During his travels he noticed things: airport seating, parking lots and empty billboard signs, and he became interested in these objects, or at least their relationship to each other. He chooses the exact objects carefully, not for their uniqueness but for their universal qualities. The objects sometimes take on an almost expressive quality, as in "crane painting," a diptych with the panels stacked. The top panel is almost entirely blue sky and the bottom is filled with construction cranes in practically conversational poses.

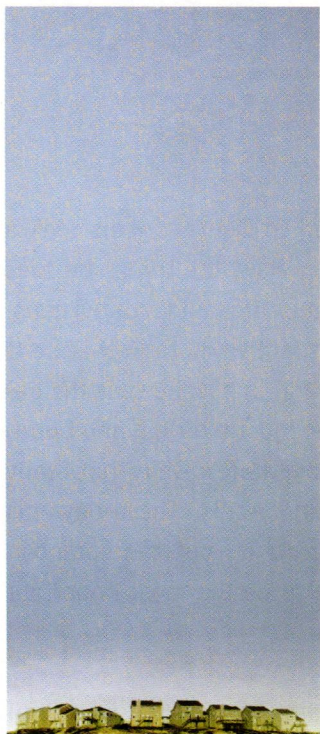
When he and his wife moved to Denver, Abels took a job as an aerial photographer. Now, the things he sees most often are planned communities and subdivisions. The job has changed his perspective, both in that he is seeing the world from above and in how he sees the development of the land. "We are just building and building and covering up the whole state...we're not really thinking that far ahead," states Abels. These days his subject matter is new construction but the compositional relationships continue to be the most important elements of the work.

In Abels' paintings the incredible detail is counterpoint to his minimal aesthetic. His compositions are spare and carefully planned. There is a lot of empty space,



*Opposite:* "Untitled," acrylic on panel, 9" x 12"

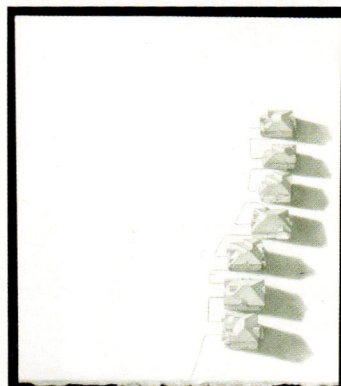
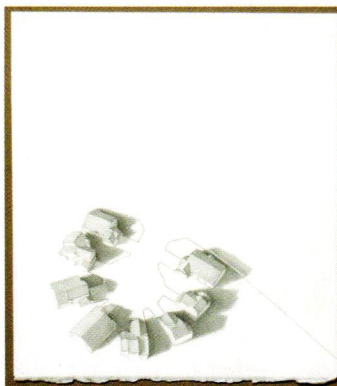
*Above:* "Outer Edge," graphite & colored pencil on paper, 11" x 14"



*Near right:* "Culdesac,"  
graphite on paper, 11" x 10"

*Far right:* "Untitled,"  
graphite on paper, 11" x 10"

*Left:* "Indiana,"  
acrylic on panel, 80" x 36"



making it clear that they were not inspired by the city. The sky Colorado is known for 300 days out of the year is featured prominently, acknowledging that this is still indeed the Western frontier and keeping in mind that we have to be careful with our natural resources. Abels' drawings are also about the land and what we are doing to it, but they have a warmer feel, the graphite is a little softer than the sharp edges of the paintings. Abels finds them more immediate, you can see his hand in the work, and they are somehow a little more personal.

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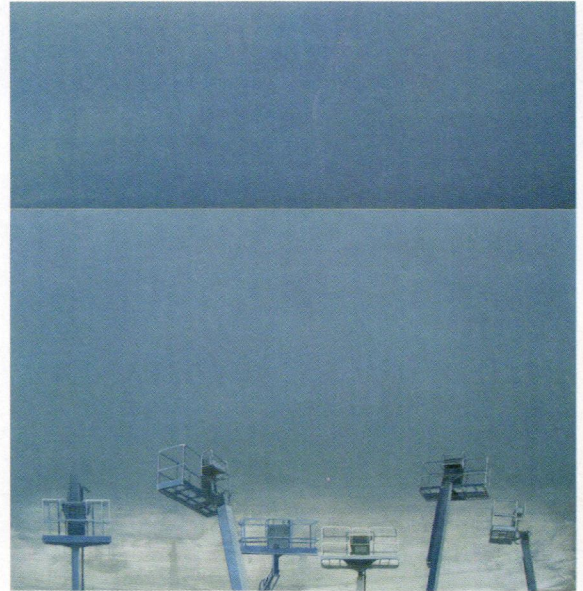
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Abels has been a bit of a whiz kid since arriving in Denver. In the last year alone he has had three solo shows, two at Sliding Door Gallery and one at Now Artspace, shown work in a group show at Plus Gallery and is preparing work for a show at the Philip J. Steele Gallery at the Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design opening on August 6 where he'll be showing with Patti Hallock and Daniel Sprick. The show will feature local landscape artists as well as French street artists.

*Learn more about Nathan Abels at  
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"Untitled," acrylic on panels (diptych), 2' x 3' each



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# A GOLDEN GEM

A USONIAN-STYLE BEAUTY NESTLED ATOP THE FOOTHILLS  
ABOUNDS WITH ARCHITECTURAL GRACE AND DETAIL



**W**HEN owner Robert Savi saw this home it was love at first sight. “We like mid-century design and found several enclaves: Lynwood, Arapahoe Acres. We actually found another house down the street from this one, but, while driving, we saw a ‘for sale’ sign in the yard [of this house]. As soon as I saw the details on the front door I said, ‘this is the house,’” explains Savi. “I’m an architect. I like the simplicity. The spaces, the openness. Simple lines, simple materials.”

Built in 1962 by then-Boulder-based Nixon & Jones, this home is all about simple lines and materials, though it lacks nothing in its details. From the meticulous elements in the doors, glass and lighting to the built-in seating and mitered glass corner windows this house is anything but plain.

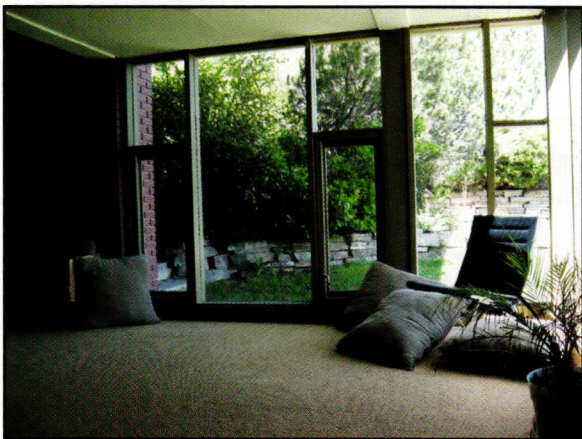
Outside corner windows are a nod to Frank Lloyd Wright, who advocated for unobstructed views of the outdoors. Their mitered glass corners have no mullions or other supports.

*Left: 8-year-old Remy answers the door, which is anchored by Wrightian details.*

*Above: A view from the front yard reveals the strong lines of the cantilevered roof.*

words: Alaina Gonzales • photos: William Logan

## A GOLDEN GEM





It is difficult to tell where the structure supports the cantilevered roof, which features a repetitive pattern of three small fins. Patterns of three can be found throughout the house including in the fireplace, stair railing, wood structure supports and built-in bookshelves. Strong lines and red squares line up in the entry doors and windows.

“The design is dynamic,” admires Savi. “A lot of thought went into the details. The drawers and closets are all built in. The dining room table was built specifically for this house. This is a well-built house. Certainly not inexpensive to build.”

Because the Savi family purchased the home from the original owners, very few changes had been made to the architects’ original design save an avocado green countertop and a Mexican tile-style backsplash, which have been remedied. Rather than undoing alterations, Savi was able to restore and update elements accord-

*Opposite, top:* The removal of a wall in the entry allows the custom doors, ceiling and transom to take center stage.

*Opposite, bottom left:* Windows in the ground floor living area provide a connection to the outdoors.

*Opposite, bottom right:* Mitered glass corners call attention to Frank Lloyd Wright’s influence on the home’s architects.

*Left, top:* Ceiling detail.

*Left, bottom:* This custom sconce is original to the house.

*Below:* The dining room table and light fixture were built specifically for the home.

## USONIAN STYLE

The term “Usonian” was coined by architect Frank Lloyd Wright to refer to his vision for the intersection of the built and natural landscape in the United States. His dream was a distinctly American style available to everyone.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STYLE:

- Affordable
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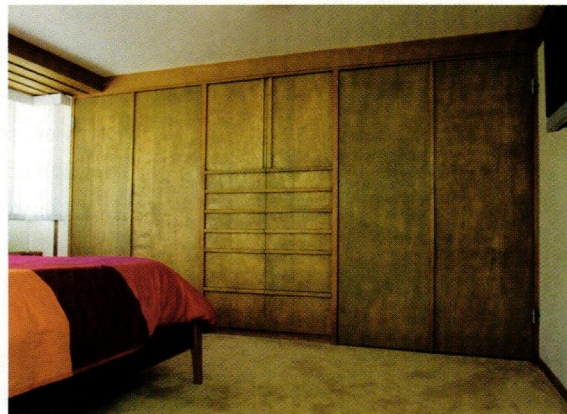
## A GOLDEN GEM

ing to original architectural drawings. He kept the stairs' tread but restored the structure. Another modification was the removal of a wall in the center of the entryway. In keeping with the home's central themes, this change allowed more natural light in and opened the flow.

The home has a fairly open floor plan – “each space makes sense with the other spaces. They flow together. Details are carried from the outside in,” explains Savi. The home fits its location and takes full advantage of the site's views. “There was a lot of thought put into everything – even the things you don't see.” Simply put, “we like living here.”



*Above right:* Built-in closets in the master bedroom.  
*Above:* A view from the front yard highlights the mitered glass corners and roof details.



## ABOUT THE ARCHITECTS

Tom Nixon and Lincoln Jones, the architects of the Savi residence began their collaborative partnership, Nixon & Jones, in 1957, five years before they built this home. The architects are known as designers of prominent public architecture in Colorado including the Fremont County Court House, Faith Lutheran Church in Golden, the Foothills Lab building at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and First Christian Church in Boulder, among others.

The duo's characteristic design solutions include the liberal use of glass to allow natural light into structures, inclusion of woodwork, exposure of structural elements and incorporation of dramatic cantilevered projections. The firm was also known for consciously designing buildings to fit the site and area in which they were constructed. Nixon and Jones felt it was the responsibility of Colorado architects to help the state develop its own architectural design style.

Nixon was killed in a plane crash near Helena, Montana in 1997. Jones left the firm in the 1970s and moved to Steamboat Springs. What happened to him after that is a mystery.

If you have any information, please email [alaina@modernindenver.com](mailto:alaina@modernindenver.com).

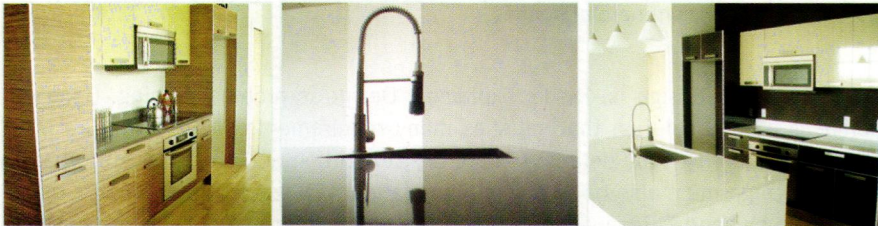


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# DESIGN ICON: JENS RISOM

Born in Denmark in 1916, Jens Risom, a student at the School for Arts and Crafts in Copenhagen, worked for Danish architect Ernst Kuhn and for a furniture design studio in Stockholm before bringing Scandinavian values of function and craftsmanship to the United States in the late 1930s. According to Risom, “Good design means that anything good will go well with other equally good things – contemporary or traditional.” However, “Furniture is not sculpture, nor is a particular design created only for visual appearance... It should be used, enjoyed and respected.”

Upon arrival in New York and through connections at the Museum of Modern Art, he was introduced to fabric and interior designer Dan Cooper, for whom he created his first textile designs. Edward D. Stone, architect of the *Collier's* House of Ideas, a model home built at Rockefeller Center, chose Risom to design all of the furnishings. This project increased attention in his ability to create furniture that fit perfectly into the new style of smaller open-plan homes being built.

In the following years he completed a furnishings department for Georg Jensen and joined forces with Hans Knoll creating a successful collection of pieces for the Hans G. Knoll Furniture Co.

In 1946 Risom launched Jens Risom Design, Inc. (JRD). Though Knoll continued to produce Risom-designed furniture the company removed his name so JRD's new designs would not be competing against Risom's earlier designs. By the end of the decade JRD shifted its focus from residential furnishings to designs for commercial spaces.



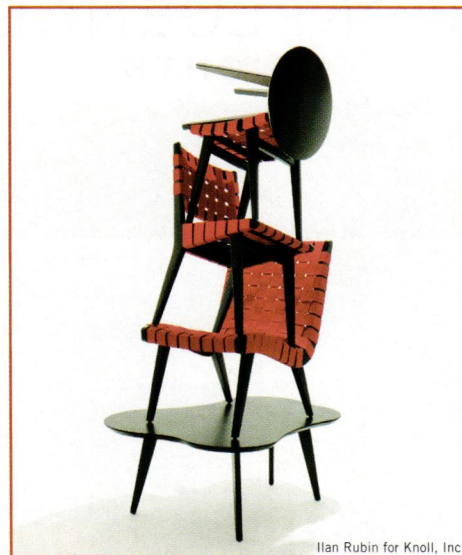
When asked what good design is, Risom explains, “Design is problem solving. Good design therefore is a good solution that satisfies many requirements. While furniture must be attractive in appearance, the detailing, materials, execution and craftsmanship that go into the overall design must also be of a very high standard, whether the product is mass-produced or made by hand.” Because these qualities are inherent in all of Risom's designs, the icon's chairs are in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Rhode

Island School of Design (RISD) Museum, and the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, among other institutions. Risom was knighted with the prestigious Danish Knight's Cross by Queen Margrethe of Denmark.

In the late 1990s Knoll reissued a collection of Risom-designed side and lounge chairs, stools and tables, and several years ago, Ralph Pucci International introduced a new line of Risom-designed furniture—some totally new and others inspired by older designs. Risom, at the age of 92, currently resides in New Canaan, Connecticut.

+ [risom.org](http://risom.org)

words: Alaina Gonzales



Ilan Rubin for Knoll, Inc

## DESIGN PARAGON:

# HELLA JONGERIUS



words: Jaime Kopke

Hella Jongerius is a modern day design icon whose work has spanned numerous mediums, technologies, even time periods. Beyond any one product, Jongerius is best known for her style; blending traditional with modern and technology with craft.

The Dutch designer's rise to stardom was a relatively quick one. Shortly after her graduation from the Design Academy Eindhoven in 1993, her first product was picked up by the influential Droog collective. Over the next several years, Jongerius lived many designers' dream; creating with relative freedom under the auspicious Droog name and producing pieces such as her famous Soft Urn and b-Set tableware.

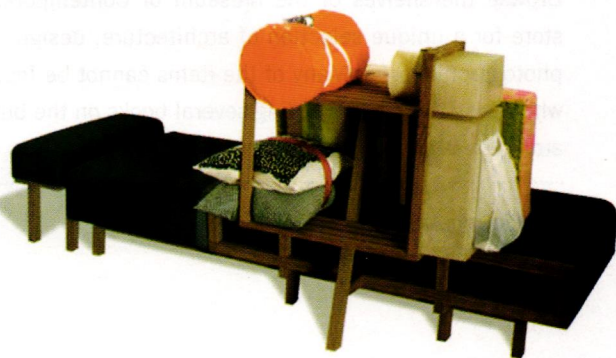
In 2000, she set off on her own, establishing the studio Jongeriuslab in Rotterdam. With a staff of less than ten, today Jongerius works with a wide range of manufacturers producing everything from mass-market pieces to one of a kind collector's items. Her portfolio includes textiles for Maharam, furniture for Vitra and ceramics for both IKEA and the prestigious Royal Tichelaar Makkum.

For Jongerius, the process of creating is just as important as the final product itself. As a result, her work often leaves intentional traces of how the piece was made; whether it's

an imperfection in a ceramic mold or a hand-sewn piece of thread. All of these elements lend a history and narrative to the work, which is the central point of Jongerius's creations.

In recent years, she has moved beyond the world of accessories to designing full lines of furniture for the Swiss-brand Vitra. In her Worker series, Jongerius fuses the history of carpentry with high-end production methods, while still incorporating a handmade touch in the form of a small pillow. Jongerius's affection for craft crosses all disciplines. In 2008 she was asked to design a modern-day interpretation of a 17th-century Dutch flower pyramid for Makkum. The result is a ceramic masterpiece that infuses modern day practicality with the traditions of a centuries old company. While Jongerius continues to carefully unite the past with the present, we'll all be looking forward to what this design legend has in store for the future.

+ [jongeriuslab.com/site](http://jongeriuslab.com/site)



# eomd

concise looks at people, places and things in modern denver.

## ELEMENTS OF MODERN DENVER

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GIMME GIMME PILLOW TOAST

BOOK SHOP AT MCA

DIKEOU COLLECTION

PAJAMA BAKING CO.



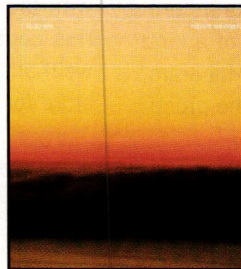
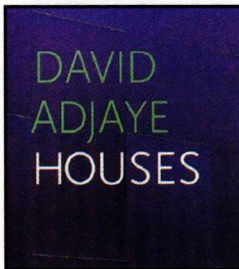
### GIMME GIMME PILLOW TOAST

Gimme Gimme Pillow Toast is a one stop shop for all your Japanese pop culture needs. Located in Belmar, this store carries everything from clothing to comic books (and they have those tasty Pocky treats).

.....

303.872.7706

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



### BOOKS: MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART DENVER

Browse the shelves of the Museum of Contemporary Art's store for a unique selection of architecture, design, art and photography books. Many of the items cannot be found anywhere else in town, including several books on the building's architect David Adjaye.

.....

+ [shop.mcartdenver.org](http://shop.mcartdenver.org)

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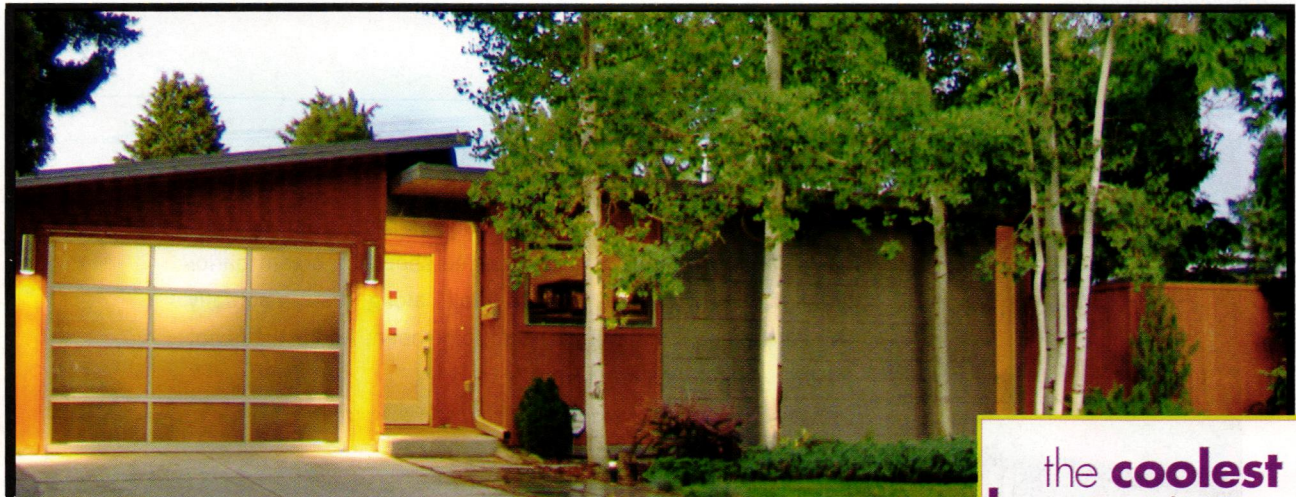
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## ELEMENTS OF MODERN DENVER

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### DIKEOU COLLECTION

This gallery, located off the 16th Street Mall, is one of Denver's hidden gems. The space showcases an impressive array of contemporary art from the private collection of Devon and Pany Dikeou. Best of all, the gallery is free and open to the public.

.....  
*+ [dikeoucollection.org](http://dikeoucollection.org)*



### PAJAMA BAKING COMPANY

Pajama Baking Company recently opened on South Pearl Street, and not only does it sell delicious breads and pastries baked in-house but it is also a coffee shop, ice cream parlor and specialty foods market. The "wall" along Pearl is actually two garage doors that always seem to be open. And if that's not enough - the tables are Eames!

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*+ 303.733.3622*



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# on the **RADAR:**

..... events, and other current info of note.

In June, the United States Postal Service™ issued commemorative stamps featuring 16 of Charles and Ray Eames' designs including architecture, furnishings, film and sculpture, among others. Derry Noyes of Washington, DC designed the stamps.

## DAILY

### DENVER ART MUSEUM TOURS

Tour the architectural marvel that is the Daniel Libeskind–designed Frederic C. Hamilton Building including the Boettcher Canyon Walk, the Bartlit Sculpture Deck and views from Duncan Pavilion, among others. Tours meet on level one of the Hamilton Building at 1:00 p.m. and are 45 minutes long.

+ [denverartmuseum.org](http://denverartmuseum.org)

## AUGUST 2

### ART IN THE CITY FASHION SHOW

Let'em Have It! in association with Art in the City presents "Forever Darling II" fashion show. The show features local designers, professional models, DJ Segue and food and drink. It also supports Dress For Success - a not-for-profit organization that promotes the economic independence of disadvantaged women. The show, at The Space Gallery, is \$25.00.

+ [artinthecitydenver.com](http://artinthecitydenver.com), 720.201.1897

## AUGUST 2 & SEPTEMBER 6

### PENNY SATURDAY AT MCA

The first Saturday of every month it costs just one cent for admission to the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver. Penny Saturdays are sponsored by the Thickman Foundation.

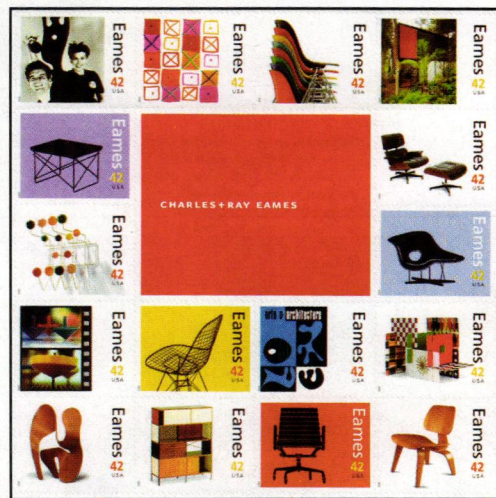
+ [mcadenver.org](http://mcadenver.org)

## AUGUST 2 & SEPTEMBER 6

### FREE ADMISSION TO DENVER ART MUSEUM

Colorado residents enjoy free general admission to the Denver Art Museum the first Saturday of each month. To prevent overcrowding, tickets are available for staggered entry times.

+ [denverartmuseum.org](http://denverartmuseum.org)



## AUGUST 3

### CITY PARK JAZZ

Before attending the last free City Park Jazz concert of the summer, make time to stroll or bike through the surrounding neighborhoods where impressive new construction and notable restorations abound. Concerts are 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

+ [cityparkjazz.org](http://cityparkjazz.org)

## AUGUST 6-SEPTEMBER 20

### PARALLEL III

Works by Modern in Denver-featured artist Nathan Abels will be included in the Philip J. Steele Gallery's (at the Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design) "Paralleled III." Works by six contemporary American landscape artists juxtapose pieces by seven French street artists in order to explore the artists' reaction to and relationship with their environments.

+ [rmcad.edu/exhibitions/philip-j-steele-gallery](http://rmcad.edu/exhibitions/philip-j-steele-gallery), 800.888.ARTS

## AUGUST 7, 14, 21, 28

### MIXED TASTE AT THE LAB

The Lab at Belmar presents tag team lectures on unrelated topics. "Mixed Taste" subjects include Craft Beer & Renaissance Polyphony, Roller Derby & Verismo Opera, Cover Songs & Giant Wombats, and Artificial Intelligence & The 1908 Democratic National Convention. Tickets are \$7.50 for members and \$12.50 for everyone else. + [belmarlab.org](http://belmarlab.org)

**AUGUST 9**

**OLD SOUTH PEARL STREET SUMMERFEST**

Old South Pearl Street presents "SummerFest Blues & Brews" - a showcase of local and national Blues musicians and bands as well as beers by local breweries. Before, during or after, enjoy the street's many shops and restaurants.

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

**AUGUST 13 & SEPTEMBER 7**

**FREE ADMISSION TO DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE**

Admission and exhibitions at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science are free for Colorado residents. "Dinosaurs: Ancient Fossils, New Discoveries" begins in September.

+ [dmns.org](http://dmns.org)

**AUGUST 15-17**

**3RD ANNUAL DENVER MODERNISM SHOW**

Modern in Denver magazine is pleased to be one of the sponsors of the 3rd Annual Denver Modernism Show at the National Western Complex. View and purchase modernist, mid-century, vintage and retro furnishings, artwork, lighting, housewares, accessories, textiles, jewelry and more. Cost is \$5.00 per day. Friday's preview party is \$10.00. Sunday, enjoy an automotive show featuring American and European cars from 1947 to 1977. + [denvermodernism.com](http://denvermodernism.com)

**AUGUST 17**

**MOD LIVIN' LIVE AUCTION**

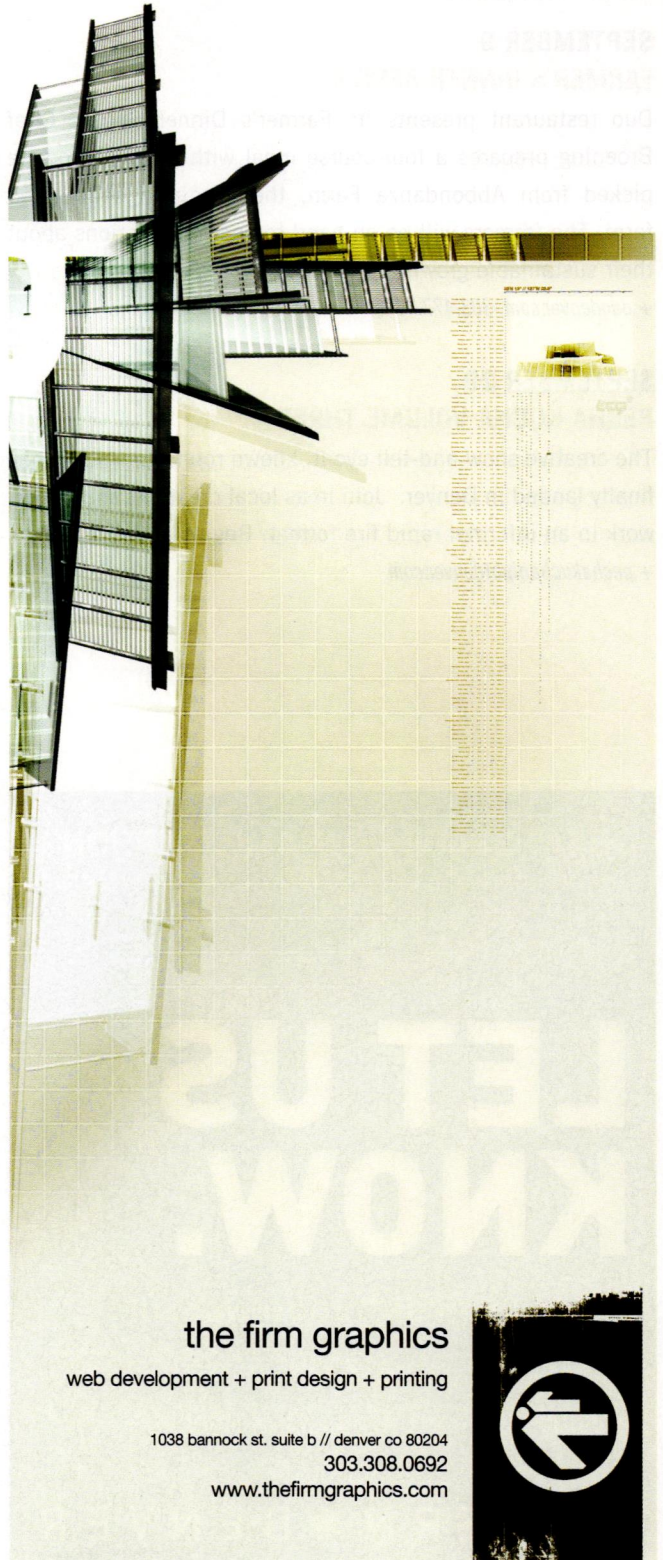
Local showroom Mod Livin' is holding a live auction in conjunction with the 3rd Annual Denver Modernism Show. Bidders can join at the store or via the Internet for the auction, which begins at 4:00 p.m. The showroom is also seeking pieces for consignment. + [modlivin.com](http://modlivin.com), 720.941.9292

**SEPTEMBER 7**

**LYNWOOD MID-CENTURY MODERN HOME TOUR**

The Lynwood Home Tour offers mid-century architecture aficionados the opportunity to view a number of mid-century gems in what promises to be a favorite annual event.

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



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on the **RADAR:**

**SEPTEMBER 9**

**FARMER'S DINNER SERIES**

Duo restaurant presents its Farmer's Dinner Series. Chef Broening prepares a four-course meal with organic produce picked from Abbondanza Farm, the evening's spotlighted farm. The farmers will be on hand to answer questions about their sustainable growing practices.

+ [duodenver.com](http://duodenver.com), 303.477.4141

**SEPTEMBER 29**

**PECHA KUCHA VOLUME THREE**

The creative show-and-tell event, known round the globe, has finally landed in Denver. Join in as local creatives share their work in an informal rapid fire format. Begins at 8:00 p.m.

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

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Log on to [moderninddenver.com](http://moderninddenver.com), click on the story ideas button and share with us who and or what you think would be interesting and fun to see in the magazine. thanks!

**MODERN IN DENVER**

**BLOGS / SITES ON OUR RADAR**

**ARCHITECTURE:**

**PLATFORMA ARQUITECTURA**

**plataformaarquitectura.cl**

Great coverage of European architecture. Yes, it's in Spanish, but that's what google translator is for!

**GRAPHIC DESIGN:**

**IT'S NICE THAT**

**itsnicethat.com**

Started by Brit designers Will Hudson and Jez Burrows, it's nice that focuses on graphic design and illustration, but covers all kinds of creative work.

**CREATIVE TECHS**

**creativetechs.com/iq**

A terrific blog that serves up concise and useful tips for graphic designers

**PHOTOGRAPHY:**

**I HEART PHOTOGRAPH**

**iheartphotograph.blogspot.com**

Laurel Ptak highlights amazing work from photographers around the globe.

**SHOPPING:**

**BETTER LIVING THROUGH DESIGN**

**betterlivingthroughdesign.com**

Bltd has a clean design and is a excellent resource for great design products that are available for purchase on line.

**ADVERTISING:**

**AD GOODNESS**

**frederiksamuel.com/blog**

Blogger Freddy Samuel presents many of the most creative and clever ad campaigns from around the world.

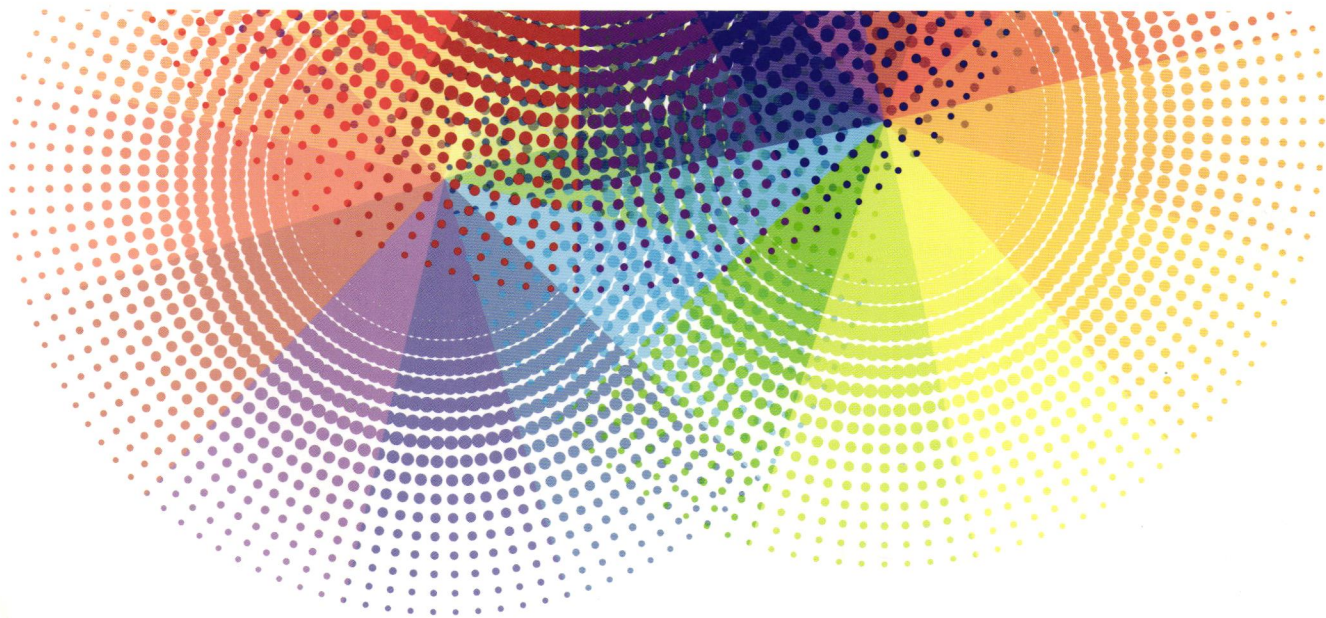
**AD MASHUP**

**admashup.blogspot.com**

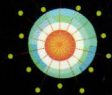
This blog encourages creatives to "masup" and repurpose existing campaigns into new ads. Very clever and funny.



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retro slide show

### THE VELVET ELVIS

### 60S GO-GO GIRLS

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### HULA GIRLS

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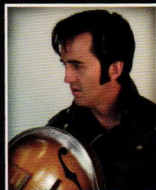
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