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WESTERN LIVING // OCT 2016

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Wine Country Inspires
a Chic Calgary Home

Retro and Modern:
Hot New Furniture
for 2017

PLUS
Recipes: The Ultimate
Chicken Dinner





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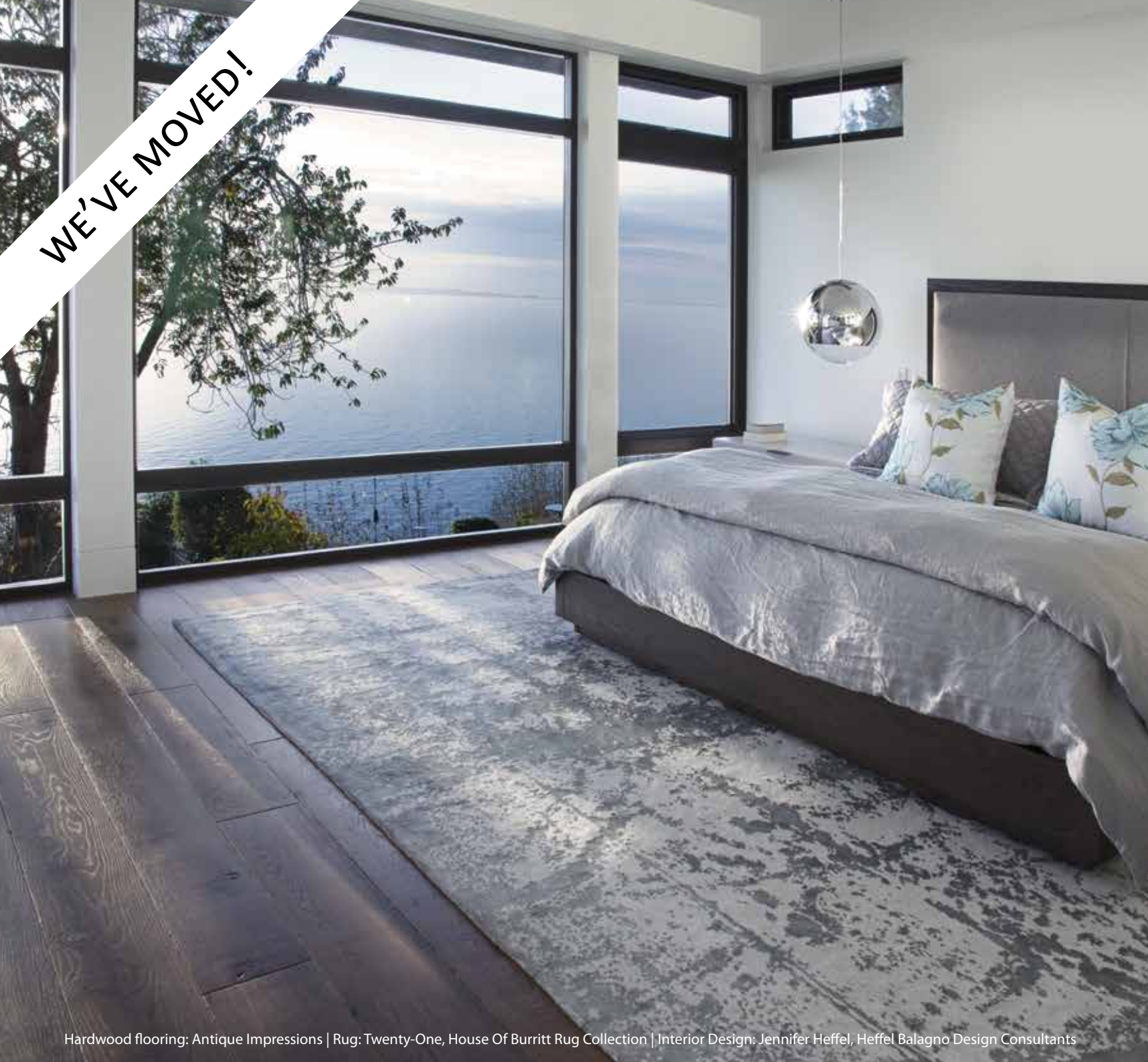
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Roll On

Smoked glass was one of the stars of this year's furniture fair circuit; pieces like this Come As You Are bar cart mix the vintage-inspired element with sleek modernism. Story, page 36.

OCTOBER 2016

BRITISH COLUMBIA // VOLUME 46 // NUMBER 8

FRESH FOR FALL

36 // **Photo Finish**

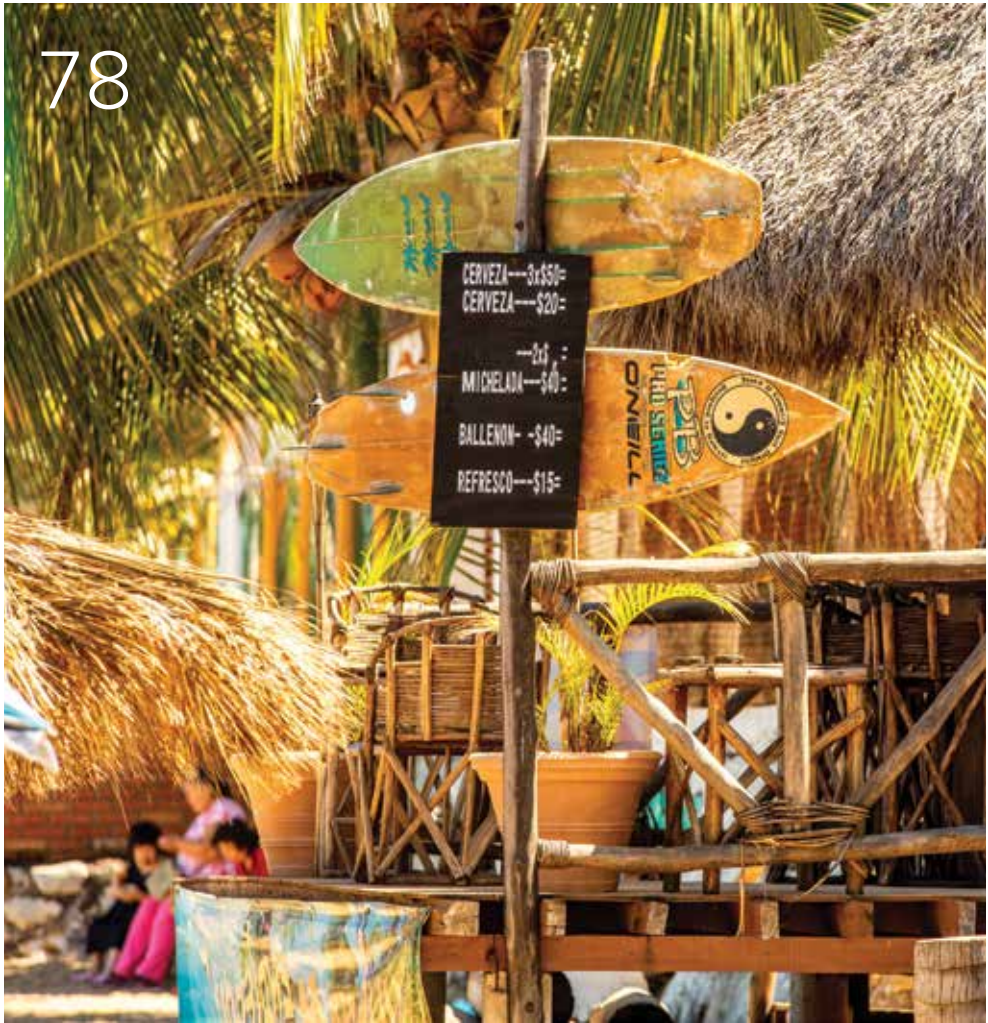
We're lifting the curtain to reveal the secrets behind the latest furniture design trends: think geometric structures, smoky finishes, soft metallics and a rebellious edge.

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MOOD design S. Barsacchi

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PEEKING BEHIND THE CURTAINS

» One of my first gigs as an editor was back in the early '90s at my student paper. I was the entertainment editor—essentially, the job was a ticket to meet my favourite Brit Pop bands. (I thank my music-geek past for introducing me to the deadlines that I now live and breathe—where would I be today if I hadn't had to score last-minute tickets to the first Oasis show?)

It was my first glimpse into how publishing worked—and something to reflect back on now to see how much things have changed. Back then, we had to turn photographs into print-friendly rows of dots with a “stat cam,” a machine so massive it occupied an entire room. (I shudder to think how it was decommissioned when digital images came in.) Once I had my screen print, I used an X-acto knife to literally *cut a hole* out of a story and glue the screened photograph in. Anyone taking a close look at the pages back then could see who had steady hands. (Spoiler: not me.)

I was thinking back to those days as we planned the photo shoot of our favourite furniture trends for the coming year (“Photo Finish,” page 36). As you'll see on these pages, our art director, Paul Roelofs, wanted to do a bit of a reveal this time—a sneak peek behind the scenes to show you the stands, reflectors, lighting and equipment that go into a typical shoot each month. Yes, there's magic when all you see is the final result of a perfect room or a wonderfully presented recipe, but we thought it was also just as compelling to pull back a little farther and share with you what goes on behind each shot. (The furniture is pretty darn compelling, too, I'm sure you'll agree.)

Follow us on Instagram if you want more glimpses into how we create each issue—it's where we love to present shots of our favourite homes, food and travel, but it's also where we share what we actually do, and how and where we do it. A magazine is more than a set of pages; it's a process. And we want to invite all of you to be a part of it.

ANICKA QUIN, EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
ANICKA.QUIN@WESTERNLIVING.CA

Q&A

This month we asked our contributors, what piece of furniture is currently on your wish list?



Clinton Hussey
“Photo Finish”
page 36

The piece of furniture on our wish list is a pendant light for our house—I'm a fan of Lukas Peet's work. Our original one broke in an aggressive Ping-Pong game. We will see.



Lila MacLellan
“Photo Finish”
page 36

My wish list includes a chandelier. Nothing overly ornate or dripping with crystals, but just twinkly or even modernist. I like to imagine holding a dinner party under the sparkling light in an otherwise no-frills room. Then again, I haven't had a dining room or kitchen table since I moved to New York in 2004, so it may be the designated dining space that I'm really missing.



Behind the Scenes

The Tom Dixon light on page 37 was more than a work of art—it was the perfect funhouse mirror for the photo crew (left to right): photography assistant Makito Inomata, art director Paul Roelofs, stylist Nicole Sjöstedt and photographer Clinton Hussey.

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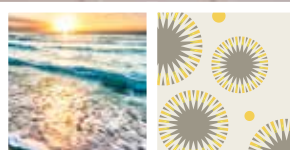
Tracy Christman
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In her role at Budget Blinds, the world's largest window coverings franchise, Tracy travels the world to bring the newest must-have window fashions to your door. Her strong relationships with leading manufacturers help her identify the colours, styles, and trends that will transform your rooms, beautifully. For even more of Tracy's style forecasts and ideas about how you can incorporate them into your home, go to blog.budgetblinds.com

PATINA LUXE

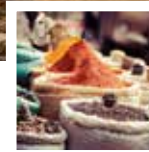
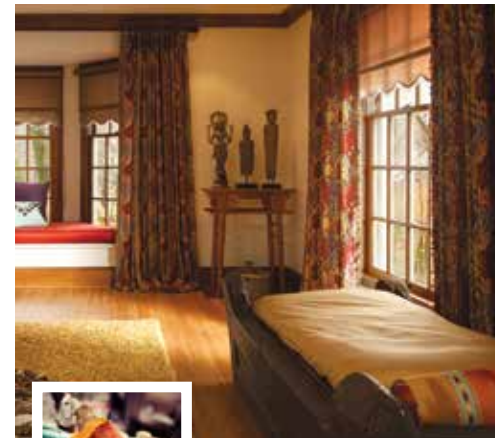
Texture and shine take center stage, with jewel-like accents amping up the glamour.

Now more than ever, vintage shapes executed in modern materials look new and fresh. Velvets, linens, and leathers provide the all-important contrast of matte and gloss for a sophisticated overall look.



MODERN GEOMETRY

Bold patterns and shapes executed in a brighter palette are anything but staid. The look is eclectic, with artisanal patterns and geometric shapes clashing—in a good way. Black and white temper the riot of colors and help anchor the space.



GLOBAL ARTISTRY

Inspired by travel and adventure, the trend is a modern take on global patterns, fabrics and crafts. It's all in the mix. Embroidery, caning, animal hides, even macramé, give a handcrafted, organic feel to accessories. Soft pastels contrast with deep blues and greys. Ethnic accents complete the look.

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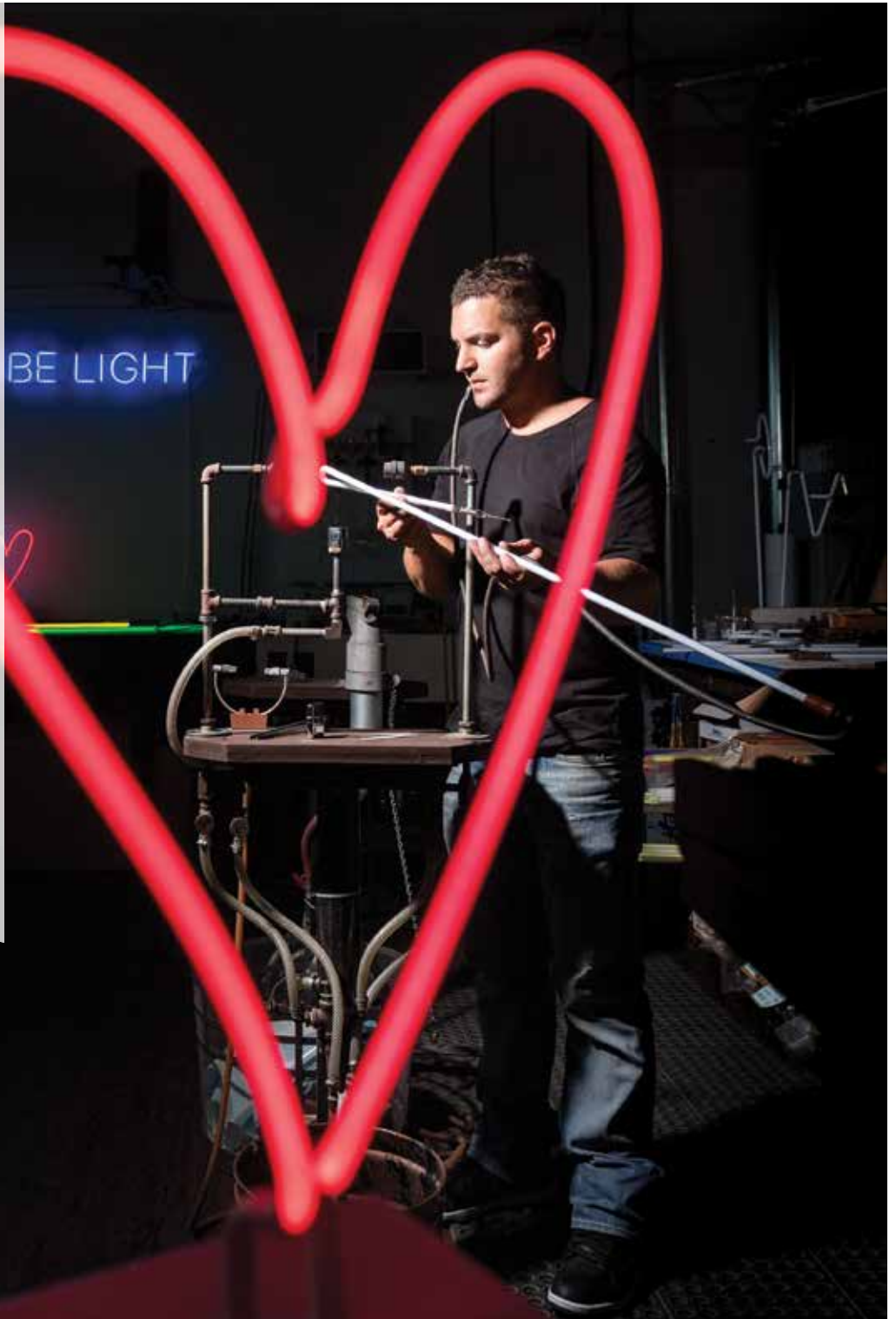
Light Now

ANDREW HIBBS,
Endeavour Neon, Vancouver

When he was still a teenager, Andrew Hibbs was already helping his neon-worker father pump gas into fire-bent tubes; today, the two still work together, but while dad runs the commercial side, Hibbs indulges his creative leanings with his side gig, Endeavour Neon.

"I've always been happy doing the smaller stuff," says Hibbs, who's made a name for himself with his residential installations and hanging desktop lights (Endeavour's heart-shaped lamp is a bestseller). But that's not to say he doesn't still have a connection to public spaces: Vancouver, along with cities like New York, Los Angeles and Las Vegas, is lit with giant neon quotes crafted by Hibbs, including Kit and Ace's "Time Is Precious" sign in Gastown. It's a fresh take on neon that brings life back to an art form that faded with the arrival of LED. Glow on. —Ames Bourdeau

Bright Young Thing
Andrew Hibbs uses
old-school techniques
in his Vancouver
workshop to create
modern light designs.





Anicka's
Pick

S'well x Gray Malin

\$58, available at Indigo
chapters.indigo.ca

I've become a little obsessive about my S'well bottle, which manages the miraculous task of keeping tea hot all day, or water ice-cold in a steaming-hot car. Problem? It can't do both at the same time. So I've got my eyes on their latest collection, a collaboration with artist Gray Malin. His bird's-eye photos adorn the bottles—think ocean swimmers, or sunbathers under candy-like umbrellas—and will up my collection of S'wells to a handy two.



For more of Anicka's picks, visit westernliving.ca



Say Anything

Speak your piece with the vintage-cool **My Cinema lightbox** (\$60), a three-line backlit box with 72 interchangeable letters to share messages and reminders. (Good news: no messy chalk dust!) *Welk's General Store, Vancouver, welks.ca*



Bird Brained

Look up at the **Moool Perch Light Branch lamp** (price on request) and you'll spot a row of origami-style birds made from paper and brass and glowing from the inside out. *Gabriel Ross, Victoria, grshop.com; Lightform, Vancouver, lightform.ca*

NOTEWORTHY

New in stores across the West

Balancing Act

It may look like the top of the Marc Krusin-designed **Clay table** (starting at \$6,175) from Desalto is balancing precariously on its conical base, but the Red Dot Award-winning MDF-and-polyurethane piece is as solid as they come. *LivingSpace, Vancouver, livingspace.com*



Let's Do Lunch

Ditch the brown-bag lunch and pack up something worthy of the pretty, mint-hued **Takenaka double bento box** (\$45). The adjustable partition inside the BPA-free case compartmentalizes without sacrificing flexibility—in case you still want to squeeze a PB&J in there. *Indigo, across the West, chapters.indigo.ca*



Love Seat

There's plenty of configurations to love from **Bensen's Endless modular sofa system** (from \$7,725), but our fave is the curving L-shape that uses a slightly rounded mid-seat to create a totally unique design—it's like the seat is giving you a little hug. *Chester Fields, Victoria, chester-fields.com; Inform Interiors, Vancouver, informinteriors.com*



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Shine On

Sorry, stainless steel: copper's making a triumphant return to the kitchen with Williams-Sonoma's new collection of shiny, sturdy **utensils** (from \$17) in the year's hottest metallic finish. *Williams-Sonoma, Vancouver, williams-sonoma.com*

Two Become One

It takes inspiration from both the Bentwood armchair and Børge Mogensen's Spanish chair, but the curved-frame **Menu Afterroom lounge chair** (\$2,200), made of leather and steel, manages to be one of a kind. *Vancouver Special, Vancouver, vanspecial.com*



Back to Black

We like the rustic-modern stoneware **Stelton Theo slow-brew coffee maker** (\$105) like we like our coffee: black. *Inform Interiors, Vancouver, informinteriors.com*



OPENINGS *Hot new rooms we love*



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Structube

Striking sectional sofas in vibrant colours? Minimalist dining tables that range from rustic to sleek? What about versatile storage units primed for maximizing your condo space? This Montreal-based furniture retailer comes to Vancouver equipped with Ikea-like prices and a collection perfect for the city dweller. *structube.com*



VANCOUVER

This Monkey's Gone to Heaven

Picture a home decor boutique crossed with a taxidermist, then add a hint of voodoo chic and you get This Monkey's Gone to Heaven, a Main Street shop packed with quirky curiosities like boar skulls, medical models and honey-mustard crickets. *thismonkey.ca*

MORE NEW ROOMS



VICTORIA

Hold: Tools for Simple Living

Cherish simplicity and the fundamentals with Hold's collection of traditional housewares with a minimalist bent. The beautifully basic linens, handcrafted cleaning brushes and bespoke tools bring a sense of sophistication and style to formerly unglamorous domestic chores. *holdgeneral.ca*



EDMONTON

Hunt Amor

Edmonton jewellery designer Amor Carandang gears up to launch her new studio for custom designs, coinciding with WL's Fashion Designer of the Year, Truvelle. Expect a collection of engagement rings and wedding accessories that exhibits both precision and originality. *huntamor.com*



EDMONTON

Saks Off 5th

With nearly 32,000 square feet of space and 800 designer brands, including big-name players like Ralph Lauren and Alexander Wang, Saks Off 5th, the outlet store for the famed Saks Fifth Avenue, looks to make a big splash with its Edmonton debut. *saksoff5th.com* —Carlo Javier

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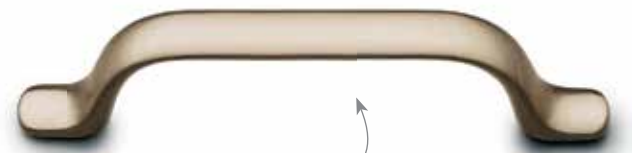
An underutilized kitchen nook becomes a cozy command centre.

» Centrally located at the side of the kitchen, the airy office nook of this mid-century Shaughnessy home gives the family a space to work and to keep an eye on their three boys—without cluttering up useful counter space. “It’s a nice thing for every family home to have a bit of office space tucked away so it’s not right in the middle of the action, but it’s close by,” says lead designer Sophie Burke. “It’s the command centre of the house.” Hidden neatly behind the cabinet doors is a shelf for each of the boys that acts as a landing pad for the inevitable school projects and paperwork, while the drawers give easy access to everyday items. To keep the look unified without feeling matchy-matchy, Burke’s team opted to use the same soft grey millwork throughout, while mixing metallic elements (like the vintage Tolix chair and silver desk lamp—both European flea-market finds) alongside the brass hardware.



Pretty Pinning
Upgrade your message centre with a chic linen **pinboard** (from \$166). potterybarn.ca

Cut a Rug
The handwoven **Pappelina rug** (\$223) mimics the look of lined paper. orlingandwu.com



Handle It
These **Adelaide cabinet and drawer handles** (from \$17) are well suited for both kitchen and office storage. restorationhardware.com



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Designs that Light It Up

The best new furniture designs for the coming year might feel a little familiar. Like the fashion trends that inevitably supercede them, furniture designs are taking some of our favourite looks from decades past—smoked glass, gold finishes, geometric shapes—and tweaking them for the modern era. Ready for more? Turn the page to get inspired.

Spotlight Volumes lights from Andlight (from \$900), andlight.ca.



PHOTO FINISH

We're lifting the curtain to reveal the secrets behind the latest furniture design trends.

by LILA MACLELLAN

photographs by CLINTON HUSSEY

styling by NICOLE SJÖSTEDT

GO GEO

Geometric patterns are back—a trend the U.K.'s *House and Garden* recently cheered as an “antidote to the ‘shabby chic’ prettiness of the late ‘90s and 2000s.” And we’re seeing these striking motifs everywhere: in puzzle-like floor tiles; on chic trays, cabinetry and tabletops; and on textiles of every sort. Furniture pieces and lighting are going angular, with clean, graphic lines that are often art deco-inspired. The European Furniture Group, a major office design firm, spotted the trend at the 2016 Milan Furniture Fair and attributed its arrival to the “anthropological influence of Eastern and African art flowing into the West.”

Lucy chair by Bend (\$875), providehome.com;
Yang ottoman (\$5,715) by Rodolfo Dordoni for
Minotti, livingspace.com

WILD THINGS

The design authorities who plan Paris's twice-yearly Maison et Object shows always choose one theme to define the times, and in February the driving concept was, simply, wild. "Confronted with a world formatted by technology, urbanization and excessive domestication, the imaginary gets wilder," wrote Marie-Jo Malait, editor of the inspirations book that accompanied the event, "and finds refuge in the innocence of an essential, preserved landscape, untouched." This aesthetic isn't just about bringing nature inside, she says, but in living with shapes that are raw, misshapen, corroded, burned and scarified. With their seemingly unformed shape, Tom Dixon's new Melt copper pendant lights bring this organic ideal home. Pair them with salvaged wood and other irregular and natural materials for a primordial vibe.

Melt pendant light (from \$819) by Tom Dixon, informinteriors.com



WHERE THERE'S SMOKE

This year's Milan Furniture Fair featured some stunning pieces in smoked or coloured glass, including new work by Amsterdam-based designer Germans Ermičs. His latest collection of sleek tables and chairs was tinted in gradients of purple, yellow, green and blue to create an ombré effect. "It's always been a problem with glass that I never found it comforting enough," he told *Dezeen*—infusing glass with colour gave it "a different meaning" in his eyes. Coloured glass also added life and dynamism to wood cabinetry, and more than one design group reinterpreted the sacred stained glass of church windows in statement pieces for the home.

Come As You Are bar cart (\$2,730) by Christophe de la Fontaine for Dante, informinteriors.com



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CELEBRATES

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Ten years ago the top floor of Vancouver's Inspiration Furniture was transformed into an independent BoConcept location, and locals have never looked back. The world-renowned furniture brand, which features quintessentially Scandinavian design, is known for its hands on creative team and personalized home décor solutions.

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countries we remain open-minded to global influences," says Machenaud. "We control everything from manufacture through to distribution, with pieces that suit every lifestyle, every space and every budget."

BoConcept is celebrating their first decade in Vancouver with a trip for two to Copenhagen; the stunning Danish capital and longstanding epicentre of Nordic design. Originally a fishing village, the millennium-old city is known for its colourful architecture, stunning canals, and forward thinking style. For your chance to win the 5-day, 4-night trip, simply snap a photo of yourself with a BoConcept product or catalog, post the photo to the BoConcept Vancouver Facebook page, or email it to info@boconcept-vancouver.ca, and don't forget to sign up for the BoConcept Vancouver newsletter. The winner will be announced at the official 10th Anniversary Party.

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SHINE ON

High-shine metal finishes continue to bring glamour to interiors this year, though some design pundits have issued a warning: the rosy golds and coppers that have taken over 2016 may look dated and garish before long. Pure gold has a more timeless appeal—and mixes well with smart-again matte black metal.

Cage coffee table (\$6,475) designed by Gordon Guillaumier for Tacchini, bloomfurniturestudio.com; **Captain Flint floor lamp** (\$1,995) by Michael Anastassiades for Flos, livingspace.com; **Paris chair** (\$1,125) by Nuevo Living, omgitssmall.com

LIGHTENING UP

"The days of heavy, layered furnishings and textiles," L.A.-based interior designer Katie Hodges told *Vogue*, "have come to an end." Maybe it's the influence of the queen of tidying up, Marie Kondo, or perhaps the celebrity declutterer-turned-author's popularity is itself a product of a larger shift, but the freshest designs in furniture are more minimalist than ever: think airy pieces, tables and chairs with delicate, pencil-thin lines. Marble is having its moment, too, but it's incorporated with a light touch.

bloomfurniturestudio.com



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PRETTY IN PINK

Although it was rose quartz that had the distinction of being a Pantone Colour of the Year (alongside “serendipity blue”), pinks of all hues are gaining currency this year. Is our surrender to pink a reaction to our hard-edged, unpredictable digital world? As Paris-based interior designer India Mahdavi told the *Guardian*, “These days, with things being difficult, we need plenty of hugs, warmth and comforting.” (She used a pale candy pink almost exclusively within the Gallery at Sketch gastro-brasserie in London.) Bolder pinks, like this scarlet rocking chair from Eilersen, are favoured for accent pieces in otherwise neutral or pastel-themed rooms.

Rocking chair (\$1,314) by Eilersen, theotherroom.ca

SPLATTER STRIKES

Designers are also responding to our high-tech environments and the tyranny of algorithms with a messy (albeit controlled) approach: the splattered paint look that was huge in the '80s has returned. Ralph Lauren, Salvatore Ferragamo and other major labels have paid homage to artists' untamed nature in pricey paint-splattered jeans and shoes this year, and the rebellious motif has begun marking interiors, too. *Architectural Digest* noted a general “artsy” trend at Maison et Objet in Paris last February, where new collections of wallpaper, ceramics and textiles featured Pollock-esque splashed paint or brushstroke patterns. **WHL**

Rio Cirque rug (\$11,360), burrittfloors.com





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Misty Minimalism

The blown-glass **Caigo lamp** (\$1,124) from Foscarini—aptly named after the Venetian word for fog—proves that simple is beautiful. livingspace.com



Peak Appeal

Bring the majesty of the slopes inside your home with the award-winning **Axo Mountain View pendant lamp** (from \$5,150). lightform.ca



Cherry on Top

The **LZF Domo lamp** (from \$1,370), made from bent poplar wood, looks beautiful alone, but we're dreaming of a trio of these beauties dangling above a kitchen island. symmetrylighting.com

Glow On

The teardrop-shaped **Skye pendant** (\$518) from Nuevo Living looks like it's draped in fabric, but the durable moulded acrylic structure will stand up brilliantly in high-traffic areas. scandesigns.com



Hang Tough

The staggered lengths of red cord on these eco-concrete **Fancy ceiling pendants** (\$450) by Zuo Modern will add a dynamic, industrial feel to any space. fullhousemodern.com



Curiously Bright

Channel Alice in Wonderland with Seed Design's quirky copper **Dodo lamp** (\$339), the perfect addition to any cozy reading nook. omgitssmall.com



SWELL BELLS

These bright lighting designs take the simple bell shape to the next level.

by **SALLY MICHAEL WHITE**



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An ergonomically slanted backrest and offset drain encourage you to lay back and receive your massage. Fitted with BainUltra's Geysair technology, the Charism will soothe and relax your muscles, allowing you to slip deeply into relaxation. And like all BainUltra ThermoMasseur tubs, you can outfit the Charism with chromatherapy and aromatherapy options to complete your spa experience.

CENTRE YOUR STYLE

This sleek freestanding tub features an asymmetrical design intended to make you sink deeply into the tub. Perfectly designed for a single user, and for those that want more organic shapes in their bathroom.

When you want a larger tub, however, or you're looking for a more symmetrical shape, consider the other two Charism variations—one rectangular in shape and the other is also oval. Both of these tubs offer enough space for two users, along with dual backrests and a center drain. Both of these larger tubs are perfect for centering in the middle of a room or against a picture window to allow more interior design freedom.

GO DEEP IN COMFORT

All three tubs feature BainUltra's ThermoMasseur technology and relaxation options, allowing you to customize your experience and achieve the ultimate in heat, massage, and health benefits. Charism tubs feature a narrow deck with sides that measure just one inch thick at the base before gradually widening to two inches at the top for a sleek, seamless look that complements all bathroom décor. Measuring 23 and 24 inches deep, you'll be able to sink into luxury in perfect comfort. Just one look at a Charism tub is enough to create an atmosphere of ease, well-being, and indulgence—the perfect way to accent any bathroom.

Bathrooms today are about more than simple function; they need to be about taking care of yourself, both mind and body as well. With a Charism Freestanding Bathtub from BainUltra, you'll have no trouble doing so while adding beauty and style to your bathroom at the same time.

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Wine Country Style

By adding wooden columns and steel I-beams to the double-storey entranceway, designer Nam Dang-Mitchell created both a warmer, more welcoming space and brought a Napa-style vibe to the Calgary home. The zebra rug, console and ottoman in the same entry (opposite) provide an elegant spot to slip on shoes.

CALIFORNIA DREAMING

Who needs wine country when the best elements of an intimate resort are right down the hall?

by JACQUIE MOORE
photographs by COLIN WAY



N

ot everyone can retire to the Napa Valley. Even those who have the means may have locally rooted kids and grandkids who likely wouldn't appreciate the distance—and then there are the monthly board meetings and book clubs and friends and assorted other commitments that make the thought of leaving one's hometown for wine country start to seem like a pinot-fuelled pipe dream.

As it turned out for recently retired couple Michele and Bob Michaleski, however, some aspects of the California fantasy have been fairly well compensated for in a Calgary home whose aesthetic brings to mind a classic Napa resort.

After a dozen years in a large, traditional house on an acreage on the city's western limits, the Michaleskis—who loved the expansiveness inside and out when they had kids at home—found themselves feeling a little too remote. “We didn’t want to be in Springbank anymore and wanted to downsize,” says Michele. “We were ready for a more urban life, for places to walk to and things to see and do in the city.” Currie Barracks, a former site of CFB family housing and located within walking distance of Marda Loop’s village of amenities, suited them perfectly.



Luxe Living

Dang-Mitchell worked with greys, whites and bronzes for the colour palette, as well as a mix of modern and traditional furniture design (above). In the dining room (above left), a Graham Gillmore piece strikes a vibrant note in a somewhat mid-century influenced design.



"We were ready for a more urban life," says homeowner Michele Michaleski, "for places to walk to and things to see and do in the city."



“My son and his girlfriend are living with us while they look for their own home to purchase,” says Michele, adding with a smile, “I don’t think they’re in a huge hurry to go.”

Quiet Retreat

The master bedroom features hand-painted wallpaper from Gracie Studio (left). The master bath is set for a spa-like experience (right), with travertine lining the wall behind a deep Aquabrax tub.



The Michaleskis’ designer of choice, Nam Dang-Mitchell, got in on the home’s construction in time to tweak the blueprints of the two-storey “Prairie-style” plan by luxury builder Mission Homes. Dang-Mitchell’s dominant focus was to bring in the light, warmth and ambiance of a Northern California winery.

The entrance to the home, whose brick exterior follows the architectural regulations of the New Urbanism-style neighbourhood, was underpinned by a main double-height hallway. Concerned there was risk of “feeling like you were in a two-storey box of drywall,” Dang-Mitchell added wooden columns and steel I-beams to add interest to the hallway—elements that appear structural but whose sole purpose is to introduce a Napa feel. Three riveted-steel hanging candelabras leading to the kitchen likewise set the stage for a combined palette of natural and industrial materials, including white oak cabinetry, grey-and-white marble countertops and an oversized riveted-steel hood fan with bronze strappings; the happy effect of the relaxed culinary-chic aesthetic on visitors is a hunch that a bottle of new-world red and a French Laundry-inspired dinner may not be out of the question. (They’re invariably correct.)

While nods to Northern California’s inns are repeated throughout the house from the grey limestone fireplace, wide-plank wood flooring and bronze fixtures on the free-standing spa tub, Michele’s own sartorial taste gets equal props for inspiring the elegant interior. “Michele is a blonde and wears lots of greys, whites and bronzes,” says Dang-Mitchell. “Her style is tailored, classic, clean and modern—I took cues from her in designing a shell that could accept modern pieces as well as traditional furnishings.”

The master bedroom (which is the only bedroom on the main floor; the others are located in the basement, along with a wine room, weight room and an extensive gallery of the couple’s collection of traditional Canadian landscape paintings) is where Dang-Mitchell’s two major inspirations dovetail into this sanctuary. Hand-painted wallpaper by Gracie Studio, a sleek canopy bed and an elegant, neutral palette ensure the homeowners and their guests want to check in and never check out.

“My son and his girlfriend are living with us while they look for their own home to purchase,” says Michele, adding with a smile, “I don’t think they’re in a huge hurry to go.” To be sure, it’s tough to imagine more welcoming accommodations in any climate. **///**

Great Outdoors

Designer Denise Ashmore and her husband, Paul Rapp, enjoy a little time around the front-yard fire bowl with the kids (opposite). The home offers a new take on the classic front porch design.





by **SUSAN BRYANT**
photographs by **JANIS NICOLAY**



FACING FORWARD

An innovative design in Vancouver takes creative advantage of outdoor spaces on both sides of the property.

W

hen we think about our outdoor spaces, it's the backyard that tends to get most of the love and attention. While any movie set in the American South may feature that requisite sweet-tea-and-romance porch scene, in reality it's been a couple of generations since the front porch was a go-to hangout. As we collectively moved our cars to the front of the house and, frankly, closed off our relationships with the neighbours to the sides, backyards became our preferred place to relax. City planning has also played a role in this shift from front to back, with the fear of creating front-yard "party zones" dissuading designers and builders from taking advantage of that space as a site for social connection.

But designer Denise Ashmore's home in Vancouver's Douglas Park neighbourhood does a rethink on what a front yard can be. Because of the home's bird's-eye view of the park and mountains beyond, Ashmore and her husband, Paul Rapp, had kept their eye on this property for years—despite a terrible past renovation on the 1923 home, and landscaping that seemed to close it off from the open, green outlook in front of it.



Treetop Perch

The main living space (left and above) is positioned on the second floor of the home, which contributes to its "treehouse" feel: outside the window are leafy trees from neighbouring Douglas Park. Details like the white brick and rift-cut walnut on the fireplace, along with the moulded plywood Eames chair, contribute to a mid-century feel in the space.



On warm days, folding glass doors in the living room push aside to transform the indoor space into yet another outdoor one.



Once they finally purchased the home in 2010, the couple brought on board Piers Cunningham and Clinton Cuddington of Measured Architecture to work in partnership with Ashmore for a renovation that tackled indoors and out—capitalizing on the views while maintaining privacy, and creating both public and private spaces within the home.

That dual relationship is most obviously evident in a front deck that behaves as a modern take on the porch—though getting the design approved took some negotiation with the city. “There’s a lot of pressure to prevent projects from utilizing the forecourt as a gathering place,” says Cuddington. “But that front-side environment can really enliven neighbourhoods. The fear is that you’ll get the Budweiser hot tub.”



Much like the rest of the home, there's a space for everything here, right down to a mini-mudroom for tossing off coats and shoes for those arriving through the backyard.



Smart Planning

Because the kitchen island is the first thing you see as you climb the stairs to the second floor, Ashmore had the visible underside of the counter lined with walnut, rather than leaving it raw (right). In the nearby dining space, the walnut dining table was custom-made by Alex Goldie, who also designed all of the millwork in the home.

Private and Peaceful

In the master bedroom (right), Ashmore had slats installed just outside the floor-to-ceiling window to prevent vertigo as you stand close to it. The angular Flos light in the powder room (bottom) mirrors the angles in the “Textile” tile.

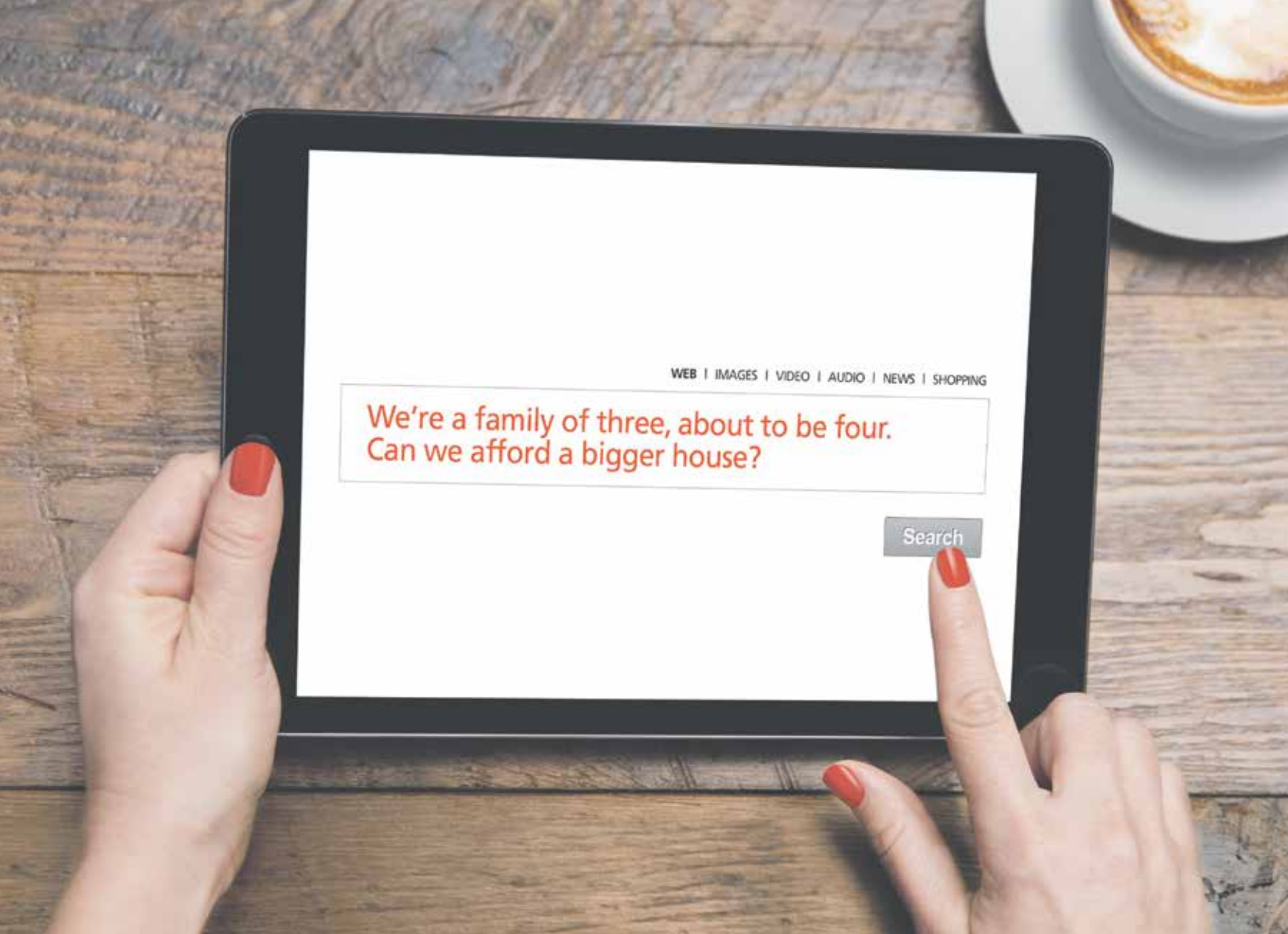


What’s been created here is anything but brews-and-bros. A terraced deck and greenery surround a modern fire pit by Solus Decor, with elegant seating that takes full advantage of the view to Douglas Park and the North Shore mountains—and also creates a place to watch the kids play soccer in the field out front. Behind the home lies a second, more private outdoor space: a relaxed sofa set under a canopy and surrounded by French lavender, perfect for an evening glass of wine with the neighbours.

Inside, Ashmore and Measured designed a home that opens out to those great views while creating personal spaces for each member of the household. The ground floor is designed to become a self-contained suite should an aging parent need it, or once the kids (Aida and Owen, now 11 and 13) start looking for their own places to live. For now, it’s a teen hangout with a comfy sofa to gather in after those soccer matches in the park.

The main living space is one floor up—a position chosen to create what Cunningham calls “a treehouse condition” overlooking the park. The open-concept kitchen anchors one end of the space, and the living room the other. Throughout, a restricted materials palette creates connection and provides details that give the house a mid-century feel: white brick, rift-cut walnut millwork on the fireplace, carbonized wood on the walls and in the metalwork, oiled walnut floors, engineered cedar ceilings. Much like the rest of the home, there’s a space for everything here, right down to a mini mudroom for tossing off coats and shoes for those arriving through the backyard or after parking in the alley. And, on warm days, folding glass doors in the living room push aside to transform the indoor space into yet another outdoor one.

Most importantly, it’s a space that works—a home that’s custom-fit to this family of four for both kids and adults to have both their own places, and room to come together too. “It was exactly how we envisioned it working out,” says Ashmore, who says she felt it all come together on one recent weekend. “The kids were downstairs with all their friends, having come back after the carnival at school, and we were up in the backyard with neighbours. You just couldn’t write the script better.” *HL*



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Crunch Time

Fried chicken is having a major moment. Not the fast food variety popularized by a certain southern colonel, but serious chefs approaching the dish with the finesse and focus heretofore reserved for more elevated dishes. The result is that at places like Calgary's Cluck N Cleaver and Vancouver's Juke, the once-humble dish has seen a major ingredient upgrade and ascended to the heights of chateaubriand. Bring it on, we say—just make sure there are plenty of napkins. Find the full story (and recipes!) on page 67.



RECIPE

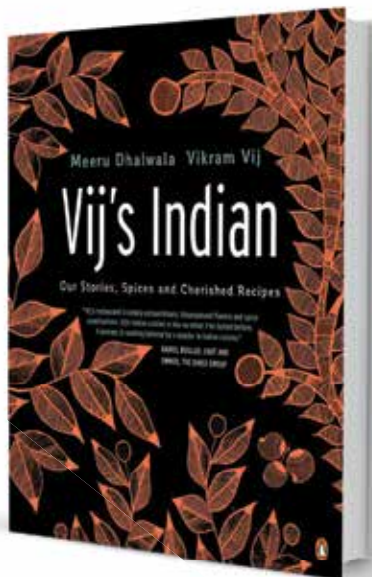
Cardamom and Clove Curry

1/3 cup + 2 tbsp cooking oil
1 large onion, cut in half lengthwise and thinly sliced
10 dried cayenne peppers
4 oz kale (any type), stems discarded, chopped
1 tsp black cardamom seeds (5 to 10 whole pods)
2 tbsp ground cumin
1/2 tsp salt
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp ground cloves
3 tbsp tamarind paste
1 cup dried chickpeas, soaked and cooked, OR 2
14-oz cans cooked chickpeas, drained and rinsed
1 cup liquid from cooked chickpeas (optional)

1. Heat the 1/3 cup of oil in a large pot on high heat. Add onions and sauté for 5 minutes, or until edges have turned brown. Add cayenne peppers, stir well and sauté for 1 minute.
2. Turn off heat and stir in kale. (If the kale is wet, keep your face away from the pot, as the water will splatter.) Continue to stir for 2 minutes. It will completely wilt. Scoop kale mixture into a medium bowl.
3. Return pot to stove, add the 2 tbsp oil and heat on medium-high for 1 minute. Stir in cardamom seeds and allow them to sizzle for 15 seconds.
4. Turn off heat and wait 1 minute. Stir in cumin, salt, cinnamon, cloves and tamarind paste (keeping your face away from the pot, as the tamarind may splatter slightly). Stir well.
5. Turn heat to medium and sauté the tamarind and spices for 1 minute. Stir in chickpeas and continue cooking for 5 minutes. Stir in kale. Add chickpea cooking liquid if you prefer a soupier curry. Cook for another 5 minutes. Serve immediately, or set aside if you are serving with chickpea-kale-onion pickle. Serves 6.

BITES

Vij's is back with a new cookbook!



Chickpea-Kale-Onion Pickle

1/3 cup + 3 tbsp cooking oil
1 large onion, cut in half lengthwise and thinly sliced
5 dried cayenne peppers, broken in half
4 oz kale (any type), stems discarded, chopped
1 tsp kalonji seeds
1 tbsp ground fennel seeds
1 tbsp ground black mustard seeds
1 tbsp ground cumin
1/2 tsp salt
1 cup dried chickpeas, soaked and cooked, or 2
14-oz cans cooked chickpeas, drained and rinsed
3 firmly packed tbsp dark brown sugar
1 tbsp white vinegar

1. Heat the 1/3 cup of oil in a large pot on high heat. Add onions and sauté for 5 minutes, or until edges have turned dark brown. Add cayenne peppers, stir well and sauté for 1 minute.
2. Turn off heat and stir in kale. (If the kale is wet, keep your face away from the pot, as the water will splatter.) Continue to stir kale for 2 minutes. It will completely wilt. Set aside.
3. In a small pot, heat the 3 tbsp of oil on medium-high heat for 1 minute. Add kalonji seeds and allow them to sizzle for 30 seconds.
4. Turn off heat and stir in fennel, mustard seeds, cumin and salt. Stir well for 1 minute. You will see a bit of foaming from the fennel and mustard, which means they have cooked. If there is no foaming and you don't think the spices are cooking, turn heat to medium and cook, stirring, for 1 minute.
5. To the pot with the kale, add chickpeas, brown sugar, vinegar and the kalonji spice masala. Mix well. With tongs, transfer kale and chickpeas to an airtight container. Discard the extra oil and any spices remaining in the pot.
6. Refrigerate until cold and serve as a topping. Alternatively, heat on medium until just warmed through before serving.
7. Using a ratio of two parts curry to one part pickle, spoon the warm curry into individual bowls. Top each serving with a dollop of cold or warm pickle.

RECIPES EXCERPTED FROM *VIJ'S INDIAN: OUR STORIES, SPICES AND CHERISHED RECIPES* BY MEERU DHALWALA AND VIKRAM VIJ. PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN SHERLOCK. COPYRIGHT 2016 BY PENGUIN CANADA.



For more chef's tips, visit
[youtube.com/westernlivingCA](https://www.youtube.com/westernlivingCA)

OPENINGS

Mak N Ming

1629 YEW ST., VANCOUVER

When he was working at Gluttons in Winnipeg, chef Makoto Ono was one of our very first Foodies of the Year, and since then he's won the inaugural Gold Medal Plates competition, helmed restaurants in Beijing and Hong Kong and returned to Vancouver to open Pidgin. Now he and Pidgin alum Amanda Cheng have set their sights on this small spot on Vancouver's Yew Street, where they're combining Japanese and French influences with a menu that skirts the line between casual drop-by and destination seriousness.



CHEF'S TIP

The Key to Perfect Vinaigrette

HARRY LALOUSIS,
mustard sommelier

It's all about following a simple ratio of 3-2-1 (three parts oil, two vinegar and one Dijon mustard—I use Maille) to create a multitude of vinaigrettes. By changing one ingredient in the ratio you can make it more Asian-inspired, or add an Indian flavour by adding curry powder, et cetera. The key is to experiment!



GADGET



One Perfect Roaster

All-Clad Stainless Roaster \$199

"Why spend money on a great roaster," I asked. Three times in the last four years, actually. And for the price of those shoddy non-stick numbers I bought, I could have one beautiful heirloom piece that roasts perfectly and can handle the gravy whisking without flaking. Really, don't cheap out on the two most important meals of the year. cookculture.com

Neal's Wine Pick

Deciphering a California Wine Label

Back in the day, French wine was complicated and California was easy. But with Napa cab firmly entrenched as one of the world's benchmark wines, our friends down south now have their own, less-known classification of wine: here's how it works.



ROBERT MONDAVI
PRIVATE SELECTION \$16

This is a cabernet, but it's not from Napa. It's from a huge swath of land—the "Central Coast" on the label—that stretches from Santa Barbara to south of San Francisco. That's why it's so affordable.



ROBERT MONDAVI
NAPA \$36

There's a big jump in price, but now that we see the magic words "Napa Valley" on the label, we know that the grapes are coming from anywhere in 43,000 acres planted in the famed valley.



ROBERT MONDAVI
NAPA OAKVILLE \$56

Now we know the grapes are coming from the legendary Oakville district (5,000 acres that are ground zero for cabernet) within the Napa Valley, with a relatively modest price increase, considering.



ROBERT MONDAVI
TO KALON RESERVE \$155

Really big price jump, but now we're dealing with the grapes coming from an actual vineyard—called To Kalon—that just happens to be the most legendary patch of grape-growing earth in America. **///**



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BIRD *Is the* WORD

We're calling 2016 the year of fried chicken, as one of the most traditional forms of crispy-salty-crunchy-spicy comfort foods (that very few of us attempt to make at home) has ventured beyond the bucket.

recipes by JULIE VAN ROSENDAAL // photographs & styling by GABRIEL CABRERA



FRIED CHICKEN PRIMER

There are as many ways to make fried chicken as there are cooks making it; chicken maven and *Top Chef* alum Nicole Gomes offers some tips for frying it up yourself at home. It's not as scary as it sounds.

Dust Up When coating your chicken, get creative with your flour mixture: add any dry spices your heart desires.

Splatter Guard Peanut oil is best for frying, and canola works well too. Use a deep pot—you'll need a depth of only four inches at the most, but you don't want to fry in a pot with the oil coming higher than a third up the side. A cooking temperature of 325°F is ideal.

Easy Does It When it comes time to fry, don't overcrowd your pot—cooking too many pieces at once will cause the temperature of the oil to drop, making your chicken greasy. Lower it in gently to prevent splashing and burning yourself. You'll know it's fully cooked when the temperature on a meat thermometer inserted in the thickest part of the meat, closest to the bone, reads 160°F.

Thrifty Foods Reuse the leftover oil; once it has cooled completely, strain it through a fine sieve and store in a jar.



FRIED CHICKEN FITS NICELY into the fine-fast-casual eating-out trend; affordable and indulgent, it's home cooking that's tricky enough to give even fine dining chefs a bit of a challenge, and it's another culinary case of what's old is new again. Although many of us didn't have grandmas who fried their own chicken in lard in cast iron pans, it's an easy notion to adopt. At Calgary's Cluck 'n' Cleaver, Nicole Gomes ventured beyond her catering gig, Nicole Gourmet, to join forces with her sister Francine, a former chicken farmer in the Kootenays, to bring their favourite protein to the masses. They turn out perfect fried and rotisserie chicken with hand-cut fries, potato salads, chipotle lime, black bean and corn salad, and buttermilk biscuits in a tiny stand-alone building that allows for just a few stools at a counter in the front window. They do mostly takeout, with vintage sodas, thick malts and homemade cookies to wash it all down.

At Juke on Keefer Street in Vancouver, owners Justin Tisdall, former GM of Chambar, former Hawksworth sous-chef Bryan Satterford and Meat and Bread co-owner Cord Jarvie have focused on fried chicken (in pieces as well as in sandwich form) as their mainstay alongside slow-cooked beef ribs, and they've added their own style to traditional sides like biscuits and slaw with charred corn on the cob and radishes with bacon vinaigrette. Their chicken just happens to be gluten-free, coated in a blend of potato starch and cornstarch for added crunch. The takeout window opens at 11 a.m., but the 38-seat dining room comes to life at 5, with a more extensive menu plus an array of interesting cocktails that add to the experience a platter of freshly fried chicken always brings—it's made for sharing.

Your Own Fried Chicken

Fried chicken involves three basic steps to build flavour and crunch: marinating, breading and frying. If the thought of breaking down a chicken yourself makes you nervous, ask your butcher to do it for you.

1 whole 3- to 4-lb chicken, cut into 10 pieces (remove backbone and wing tips—save those for stock)
1 tbsp coarse flaky or kosher salt
2 tsp freshly ground black pepper
1 tsp paprika
1 tsp garlic powder
½ tsp thyme

COATING

1½ cups buttermilk, well shaken
⅓ cup water
1 large egg
1 cup all-purpose flour
¼ cup cornstarch
1 tsp coarse flaky or kosher salt
½ tsp freshly ground black pepper

4 cups peanut or canola oil, for frying

In a small dish, combine salt, pepper, paprika, garlic powder and thyme. Season chicken with it and refrigerate for an hour or so, or overnight. When you're ready to fry, take chicken out of the fridge and leave on the countertop for about half an hour to take the chill off.

In a medium-deep bowl (a soup or cereal bowl works best), whisk together buttermilk, water and egg. In a shallow dish (pie plates work well), stir together flour, cornstarch, salt and pepper.

Working with one piece of chicken at a time, dip in the buttermilk mixture,

letting the excess drip off. Dredge in the flour, pressing any bits of coating that have absorbed some buttermilk onto the chicken pieces. (This is what will add ridges and crunchy nuggets to the coating.) Set aside on a wire rack set over a baking sheet.

In a wide pot, heat a couple of inches of oil to 325°F. (It should be hot, but not smoking; a scrap of bread should sizzle when dipped in.) Cook a few pieces at a time, without crowding the pot, for 10 to 12 minutes (the larger pieces will take a few minutes longer), turning with a fork or tongs as they turn golden. Set aside on another rack, or in a shallow ovenproof dish or pan lined with paper towel. If you like, place in a 200°F oven to keep the cooked pieces warm while you finish the rest. The cooked pieces should register 160°F on a meat thermometer—insert it into the thickest part, avoiding touching the bone.

Let cool slightly before serving. Makes 10 pieces of fried chicken.

Cream Biscuits

Since fried chicken from scratch is a bit more involved, here's the simplest (yet among the best) biscuit recipe. Feel free to add a handful of grated aged cheddar to the dry ingredients to turn them into cheese biscuits.

3 cups all-purpose flour
2 tbsp sugar
1 tbsp baking powder
¼ tsp salt
2 cups whipping cream
Extra cream or milk, for brushing (optional)

Preheat oven to 425°F. In a medium bowl, stir together flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. (If you like, add a handful of grated sharp cheese, like aged cheddar) Add the cream and stir just until dough comes together. On a lightly floured surface, knead dough a few times, then pat into a circle about an inch thick.

Cut into 8 wedges or use a biscuit cutter and transfer onto a parchment-lined baking sheet; if you like, brush the tops with milk or cream. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until golden. Serve warm. Makes 8 biscuits.



Mustardy Radish Slaw

A side of slaw is essential with fried chicken; in this version, radishes add colour and a peppery crunch, and the creamy dressing is heavily spiked with mustard and vinegar. (It's perfect piled onto a fried-chicken sandwich, too.)

½ small head green cabbage, finely shredded
8 large radishes, julienned or finely shredded
1 green onion, finely chopped
⅓ cup mayonnaise
¼ cup yellow mustard
¼ cup rice or apple cider vinegar
1 tbsp sugar
½ tsp celery seed
Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste

Combine cabbage, radishes and green onion in a large bowl. In a small bowl or measuring cup, whisk together mayonnaise, mustard, vinegar, sugar, celery seed, salt and pepper; use it to dress the cabbage mixture to your liking, tossing with tongs to coat. Serves 6.



Creamed Corn with Bacon and Kale

Homemade creamed corn is fast, easy and infinitely tastier than the canned kind, especially when it's made with real cream, caramelized onions and bacon.

6 slices bacon, chopped
1 small onion, chopped
2 to 3 ears corn on the cob
1 to 2 kale leaves or mustard greens
½ cup heavy whipping cream
(or to taste)
Salt and pepper, to taste

In a large, heavy skillet set over medium-high heat, cook bacon until crisp. Remove from pan with a slotted spoon and set aside. Add onion to the drippings and cook until soft and starting to turn golden.

Meanwhile, cut kernels off the cobs of corn (hold each cob upright in the middle of a tube pan; slice downward so the kernels fall into the pan). Add kernels to the skillet along with the onions and cook for a few minutes while you chop the kale leaves, discarding the stems. Add kale and cook for a minute or two, until it wilts. Add the cream and cook for another few minutes, until cream bubbles and thickens slightly. Season with salt and pepper and stir the bacon back into the pan, leaving some to sprinkle on top. Serves 6. *III*.

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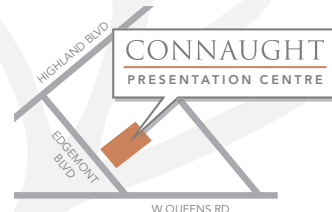


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WULTRAVEL

THE WEST // WORLDWIDE // WEEKEND GETAWAYS // NEIGHBOURHOODS // ROAD TRIPS

Hola, Amigo!

Mexico has more beach resorts than you can shake a piñata stick at, but in the last decade, the area around Punta Mita in the Riviera Nayarit has separated itself from the crowd with both its selection of ultra-high-end resorts (Four Seasons, Ritz-Carlton) and its laid-back beach towns (Sayulita, seen here). Editorial Director Anicka Quin zipped down to the buzzy area just north of Puerto Vallarta to report back on what all the hype is about. Her story begins on page 78.



Sand Trap
The very addictive beaches of Sayulita.



“The homes eschew the usual Scottsdale bungalow design for a sleek and modernist bent.”

DESERT DESIGN

Palm Springs has done a grand job of marketing their mid-century architectural chops, but if you're design-inclined you can point the ol' Studebaker east four hours and hit the Valley of the Sun, where Scottsdale has its own cache of unheralded mid-century masterpieces.

FRIDAY

The first step in any architectural tour is the easiest—you're staying there. The **Hotel Valley Ho** opened its doors in December 1956 and was the stylish set's de facto clubhouse (Robert Wagner and Natalie Wood had their honeymoon here) before its star faded when the '70s arrived and its architectural shine was reno'ed away. But a decade ago, a new owner spruced up the old gal, and its restored greatness helped kick-start downtown Scottsdale's renaissance. Today, it's the hotel Palm Springs wished it had: a less crazy version of Palm Springs' beloved Ace, with a true period architectural pedigree. It's also walking distance to **FnB**, and while we know walking wasn't big in the '50s, it's the best way to approach the restaurant's tucked-away courtyard. The duo in charge—Arizona wine expert (yes, they have quite a wine scene there) Pavle Milic in front, chef Charleen Badman

in back—have made this spot the continuing go-to for the modern version of Wagner and Wood: hip couples and families who love its relaxed approach to farm-to-table dining. Order another AZ wine by the glass and linger and linger.

SATURDAY

It's a big day, so fortify yourself with breakfast at **Elements at Sanctuary**, where Beau MacMillan, famous for his *Iron Chef* win over Bobby Flay, serves standard-bearing fresh Southwest cuisine—think blistered shishito peppers with soy caramel and sea salt—in another architectural treasure. The restaurant is located in the sprawling **Sanctuary on Camelback** resort, originally opened in 1957 as the Paradise Valley Racquet Club, and while the vibe is now more modern than mid-century (thanks to a serious overhaul by Allen and Philp Architects—who also did the Valley

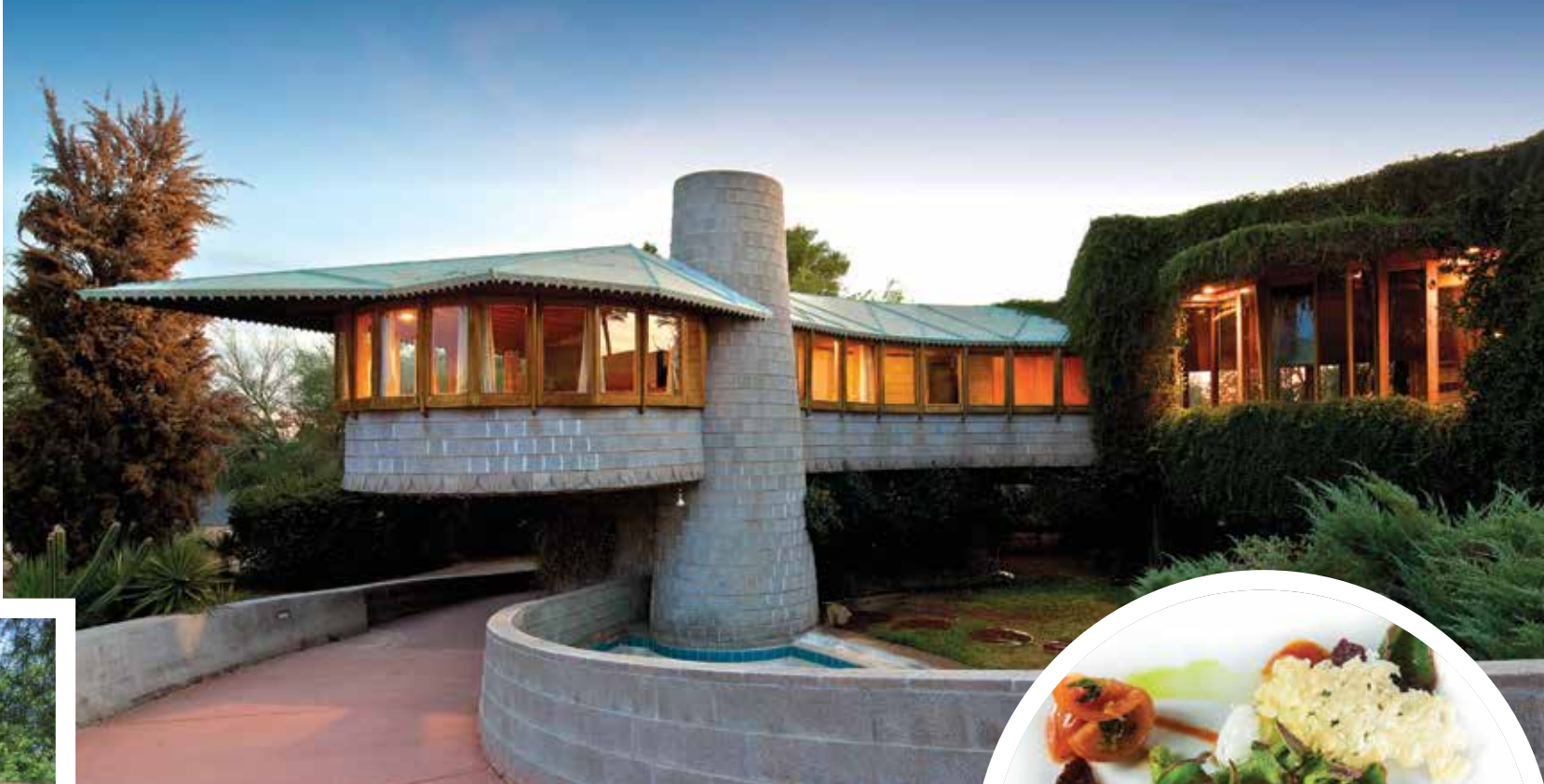
Ho restoration), the views still channel the golden age of design.

If you were so inclined, you could conceivably hike over Camelback Mountain to your next destination, but a short bike ride seems a more civilized way to approach one of the most astounding design finds in the U.S. The **David and Gladys Wright House** was one of the last homes America's greatest architect ever designed, in this case for his son. The house was literally hours away from destruction—it was actually the demolition contractor who contacted city hall to see if his permit was valid—and sat in serious limbo for

Old School

The Hotel Valley Ho (top left and inset) channels the mid-century vibe better than any other lodging in town. Just south of there is the Town and Country neighbourhood (above right), where a great stash of '50s-era housing remains largely intact.





Preservation Reservation

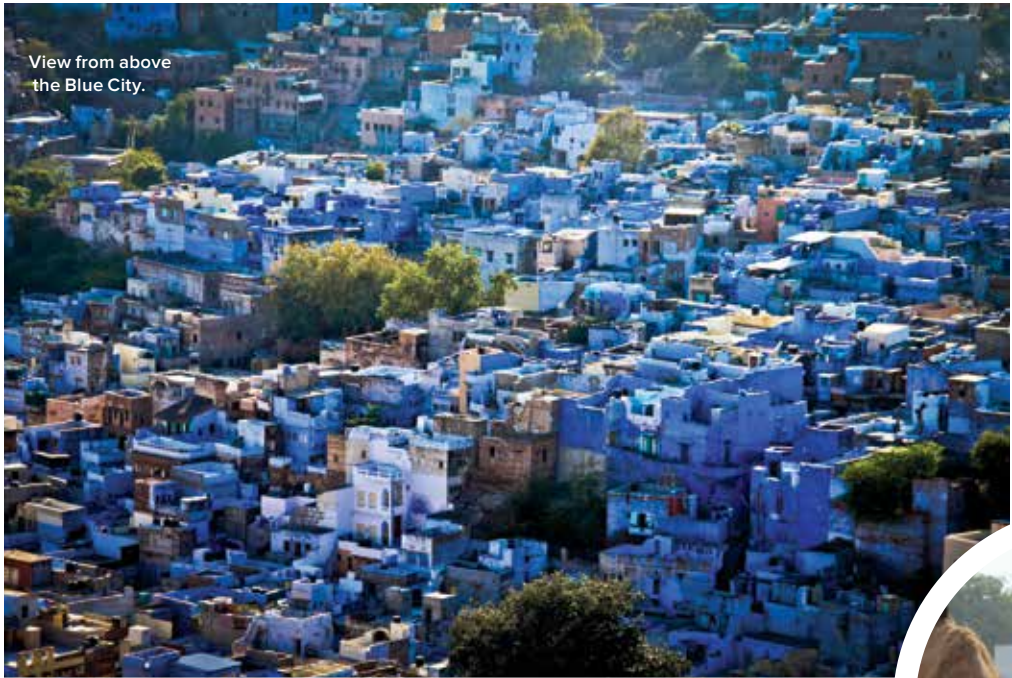
In between visits to landmarks like the David and Gladys Wright House (top), you can dine in style at Elements at Sanctuary (above left), Virtu Honest Craft (above centre) and Posh (above right), three spots that combine high design with haute cuisine.

a period before local boy Zach Rawling and his family stepped in and bought the property. Since that time, they have battled neighbours who—inexplicably—would rather see the home replaced with condos than turned into a museum, but while their fight for historical protection continues, you can set up a visit to this amazing structure—a Guggenheim precursor set on 5.6 acres with breathtaking vistas of Camelback Mountain.

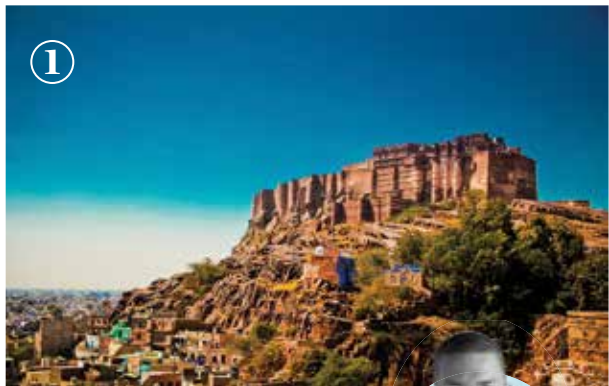
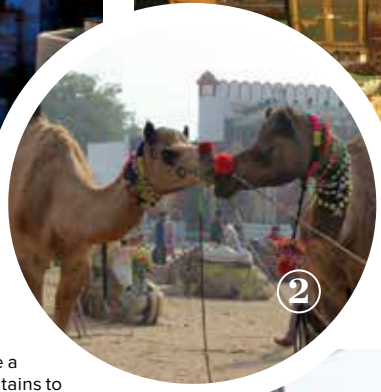
Your mind will be too full of design inspiration to make any other decisions, so **Posh** is the perfect place to dine. Start the meal by filling out a form with your likes and dislikes, and chef/savant Joshua Hebert will craft a bespoke menu that you would have made yourself if only you had chef training. It's as if MacGyver went to Le Cordon Bleu—you check pheasant, foie gras and uni and, voilà, he'll create a series of dishes that will truly be your fault if you don't like it.

SUNDAY

Drive the 10 or so blocks to the mid-century oasis that is the **Town and Country neighbourhood**. The 62 homes eschew the usual Scottsdale bungalow design for a sleek and modernist bent that's a hallmark of the mid-century era. The neighbourhood has recently been listed on the National Register, and many homes have retained their original features—but, unlike Palm Springs, the prices are still affordable for those looking for a dreamy second home. While mulling over that purchase, stop on your way back to the hotel at **Virtu Honest Craft**, one of *Esquire's* Best New Restaurants in America and one of the toughest reservations to come by—even at brunch. Sitting in the open-air courtyard that it shares with the **Bespoke Inn**, digging into a cast iron pan filled with peperonata and potato hash, it's easy to see why: it feels more like Umbria than a city of six million. *ILL*



View from above the Blue City.



FEELING BLUE

Designer Ben Leavitt seeks out design inspiration in vibrant Jodhpur, India.



» After studying at the Interior Design School of London and an eight-year stint travelling back and forth to Asia designing products for big-name retailers, designer Ben Leavitt is back home in Vancouver at the helm of Fox Design Studio. But his wanderlust still takes him out into the world, hunting for inspiration—and Jodhpur, India, always proves to be a rich source. The Blue City, as it's called (a reference to the many buildings painted an enticing shade of indigo), is "a hidden gem," Leavitt says. "I try to visit at least once a year. It's an incredible explosion of design, craft and history."

① Wake up early and take a rickshaw up into the mountains to visit the **Mehrangarh Fort** for sunrise. The fort, which began construction in 1459, is 120 metres above the city and features some of the most amazingly intricate stone architecture.

② Not for the faint of heart: a ride on one of **Rajasthan's camels** is as fun as it is scary! Ask any rickshaw driver or hotel concierge and they can arrange it. If you're going during the annual camel festival, be prepared to be amazed as thousands of camels are sold and traded to farmers.

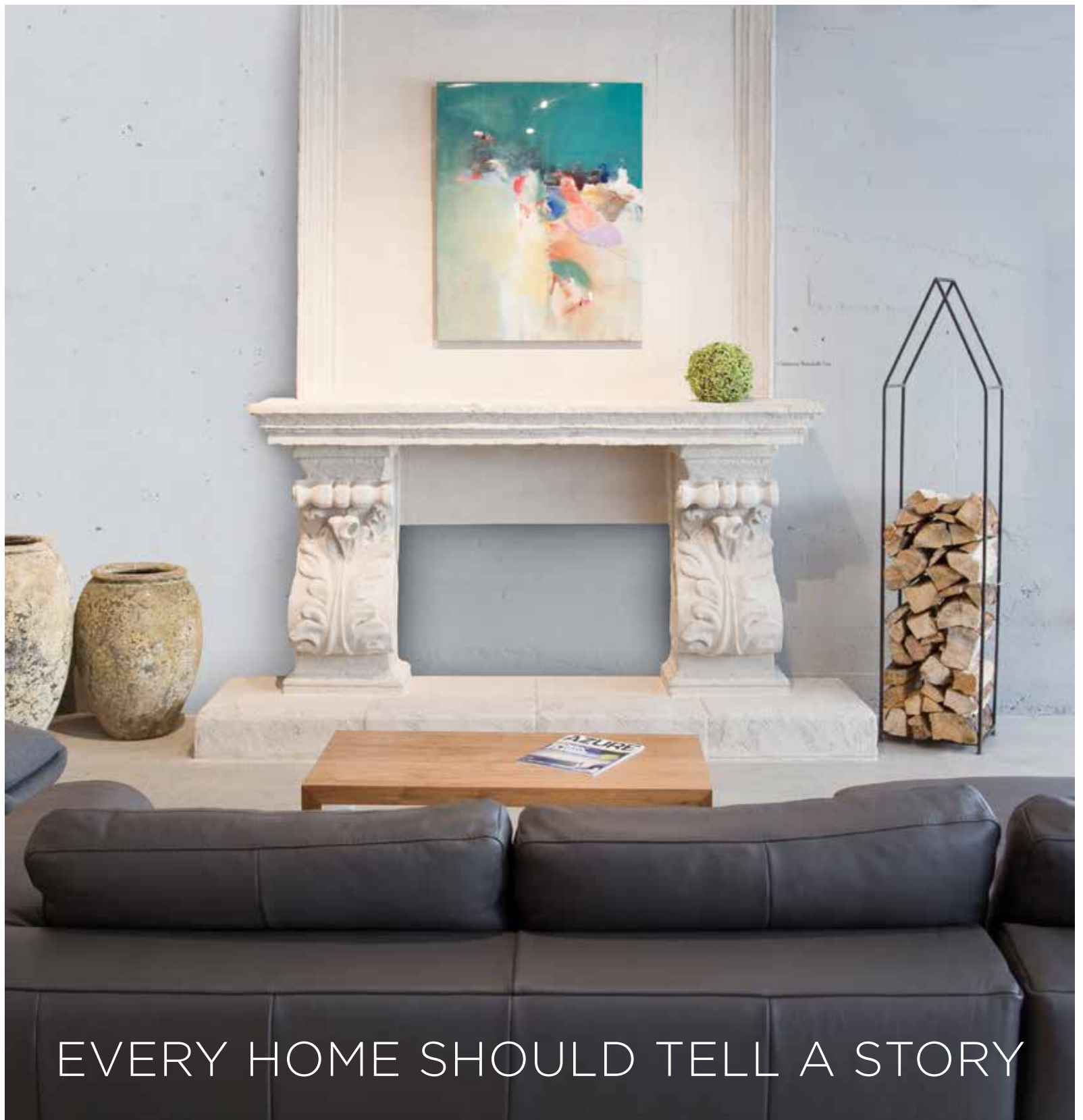
③ Visit **Suncity Art Export** or **Bhandari Exports** for some of the best flea-market-style shopping in Jodhpur. With new pieces and one-of-a-kind vintage finds (think dowry trunks, salvaged doors, windows, religious statues and used rugs), it's a unique and memorable experience.

④ Venture through the vibrant streets around the **Ghanta Ghar market** and you'll find amazing embroidered fabrics and local hand-made crafts and food, as well as plenty of friendly cows. (Yes, cows.)

⑤ For afternoon tea or a history on Jodhpur's royals, the **Umaid Bhawan Palace Museum** is a great stop. The European-inspired 347-room palace took over 15 years to construct. The car collection is breathtaking.



For more getaway ideas, visit westernliving.ca



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NORTH

Just north of the tourist behemoth of Puerto Vallarta, there's an entire coast that's just waiting to be discovered. From Mexico's most exclusive resorts to low-key colonial beach towns, the Riviera Nayarit has the holiday you're looking for.

by ANICKA QUIN



Numero Uno

There's a special peninsula that's fast becoming the epicentre of the good life on the Pacific Coast. It's called Punta Mita and it's the biggest thing to hit Mexico in years.

GRAB AN EXCLUSIVE SLICE OF PARADISE

THOSE OF YOU WHO FOLLOW LADY GAGA, Mindy Kaling or the Kardashians on Instagram (be cool, be cool) will have likely seen a few shout-outs to the stars' favourite Mexican getaway. It's not Cabo; it's the ultra-luxe gated community of Punta Mita, which sits on its own peninsula between the Pacific and Banderas Bay. It's anchored by the Four Seasons and the St. Regis for seasonal visitors (the latter a favourite of Mexico's president, Peña Nieto), but diehard Punta Mita fans set down roots in the unreal real estate. The master-planned community has two Jack Nicklaus-designed golf courses (including the infamous "Tail of the Whale" hole, which requires an amphibious golf cart to access), 15 kilometres of coastline, beach clubs and fitness centres, restaurants and, most importantly, privacy—it's residents-only, puttering around on their golf carts. Properties start at \$700,000 and head *norte* from there. puntamita.com



FLOAT ON A BED BY THE BEACH

I didn't think it was possible to up the ante for a beach read—ocean, beach, book: you're pretty much set for a perfect day—until I spent a few hours on one of **Punta Mita Four Seasons' hanging daybeds**. Surrounded by pillows and swinging gently in the breeze, you'll be interrupted only to be given an Evian mist to cool down the day, or to get a visit from the sunglasses doctor to make sure your specs are polished up for some page-turning. If you manage to will yourself up around 11 a.m., you can select your lunch straight off a fishing boat—with a chef on hand to point out which fish makes the best ceviche (the blue-beaked parrotfish) or sashimi (amberjack). fourseasons.com/puntamita



SAVE A SEA TURTLE

Nearly all sea turtle species in Mexico are endangered—poached for their eggs, meat and shells—so conservation groups along the coast partner with hotels to allow for safe release of incubated turtle eggs. (Raising them inland prevents natural predators from digging them up before they've had a fighting chance.) The Four Seasons' cultural concierge, Enrique Alejos, a conservationist/painter who also trained with Canadian artist Robert Bateman, teaches guests about the importance of the turtles to the local ecosystems before a sunset beach release. Fair warning: watching dozens of turtle babies waddle their way toward their first dip in the ocean is heart-swellingly beautiful. You're going to get misty.



WL 2016 FOODIES of the YEAR

On June 21st, 2016 *Western Living* celebrated their 9th Foodies of the Year at Trail Appliances. The top ten brightest food minds in the West were announced live for the first time. The winners were chefs, restaurateurs, farmers, producers, sommeliers, winemakers and brewmasters shaping the way we eat in Western Canada today.

1. Neal McLennan, *Western Living's* Food and Travel Editor, reveals the top ten Foodies.
2. Ryan Spong, CEO of Food.ee, holding his Kasumi Uchi Santoky engraved knife from Knifewear with Editor-in-Chief Anicka Quin.
3. Sara Triggs of Culmina Family Estate Winery kept guests' glasses full with Culmina's Dilemma, Hypothesis and Saignée.
4. Chef David Robertson of Dirty Apron takes out hot hors d'oeuvres from the latest Jenn-Air Wall Oven.
5. Steamworks serves up ice cold Pilsner and YVR ISA.
6. Guests test Knifewear's esteemed Japanese blades.
7. Dirty Apron's delicious Miso Sake Sablefish with king crab and pork cheek broth.
8. Chefs and owners of Torafuku Steve Kuan & Clement Chan accept their Foodies of the Year award.
9. Jason Krell & Foodies of the Year winner Chef Neil McCue of Whitehall Restaurant in Calgary.
10. Breakfast Television's Dawn Chubai welcomes guests to the first live Foodies of the Year awards.
11. Deano Pellegrino and Sukhy Dhillon from Caesarstone.
12. Foodies of the Year nominees chef Mike Robbins of AnnaLena and chef/stylist Juno Kim celebrate with Camila Avila.



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Surf's Up

Sayulita's surf culture makes for a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere that's as much about its vibrant late-night scene as it is about the beach.

GRAB A TABLE STREETSIDE

SAYULITA IS A HIPPIE-CHIC SURF TOWN BY DAY, where juice bars (**Orangy**) and breakfast joints (**Chocobanana**) fuel dreadlocked travellers. At night, tiny taquerias increase their square footage with tables that spill out onto the cobblestone streets, dishing out tacos stuffed with *pollo* or *camarón*, paired with carved wooden bowls of guac, salsas and chimichurri as musicians court diners with Edith Piaf covers on classic Spanish guitar. It's not Puerto Vallarta's thumping clubs, but it's lively in a more low-key way—even at 10 p.m., you'll spot kids chasing a soccer ball around the town square under twinkle lights and multicoloured paper flags. Or wander down to the beach for a starry dinner at **Don Pedro's**: under citronella candles, feast on dishes like salmon topped with warm poblano chili sauce over creamy polenta and fresh corn relish, or a chipotle-glazed pork chop paired with just-caramelized apples, bitter greens and mushrooms.





STAY

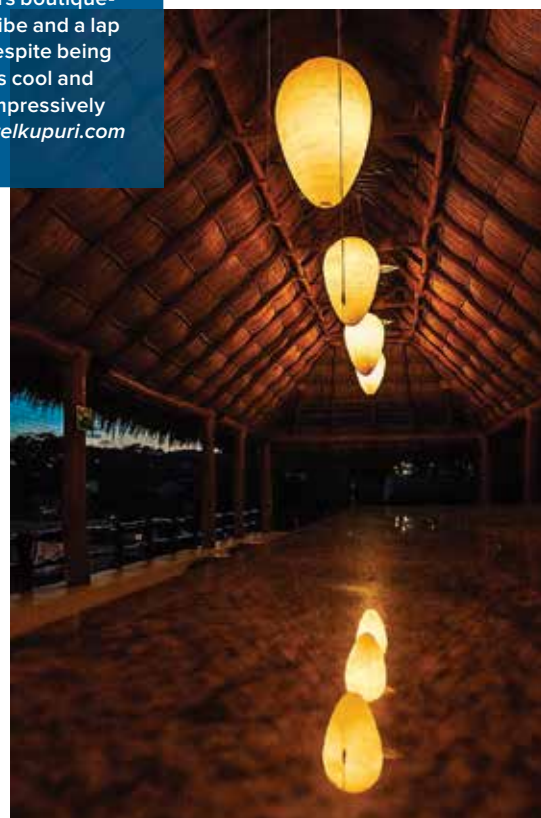
The area is rich with short-stay vacation rentals just a few minutes' walk outside the main town, or, if right-in-the-heart is more your speed, **Hotel Kupuri** offers boutique-style rooms with a laid-back vibe and a lap pool in the courtyard—and, despite being steps from the main action, it's cool and quiet once you're inside the impressively oversized entrance doors. hotelkupuri.com

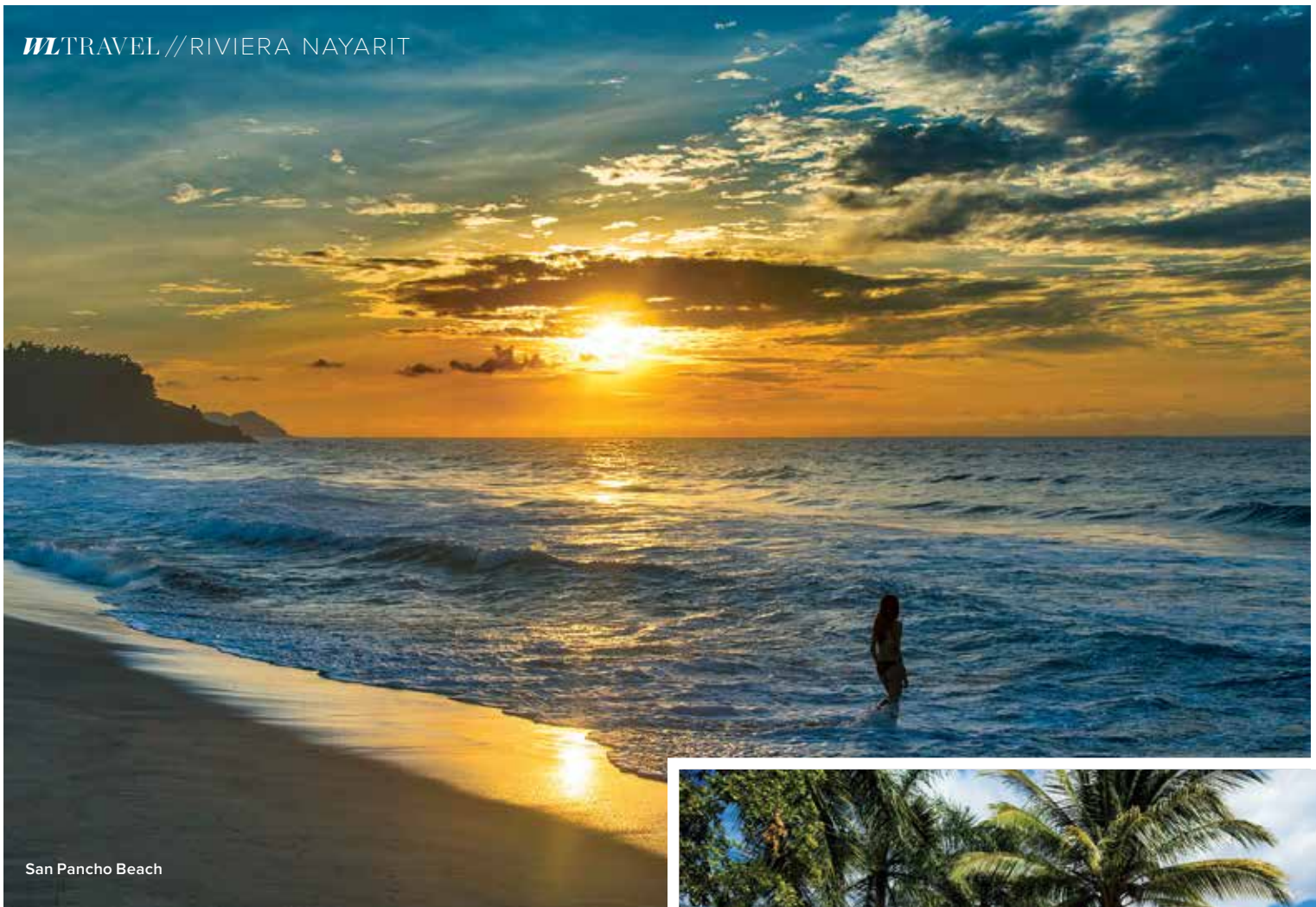
THE REVOLUCIÓN IS HERE



Souvenirs can have a way of feeling magic in the moment and completely out of place once you get them home.

Revolución del Sueño in Sayulita manages to make modern updates on classic Mexican designs feel authentic, yet at home in your contemporary living room—owners Nico and Lea create entirely new collections each November, working with local artisans. Think hot-pink Day of the Dead skulls and throw pillows, orange-and-fuchsia-striped handwoven “Las Bayadas” beach blankets (10 percent of the proceeds from said blankets fund local schools) and even quirky Munny toys covered in classic Huichol designs. revoluciondelsueno.com





San Pancho Beach

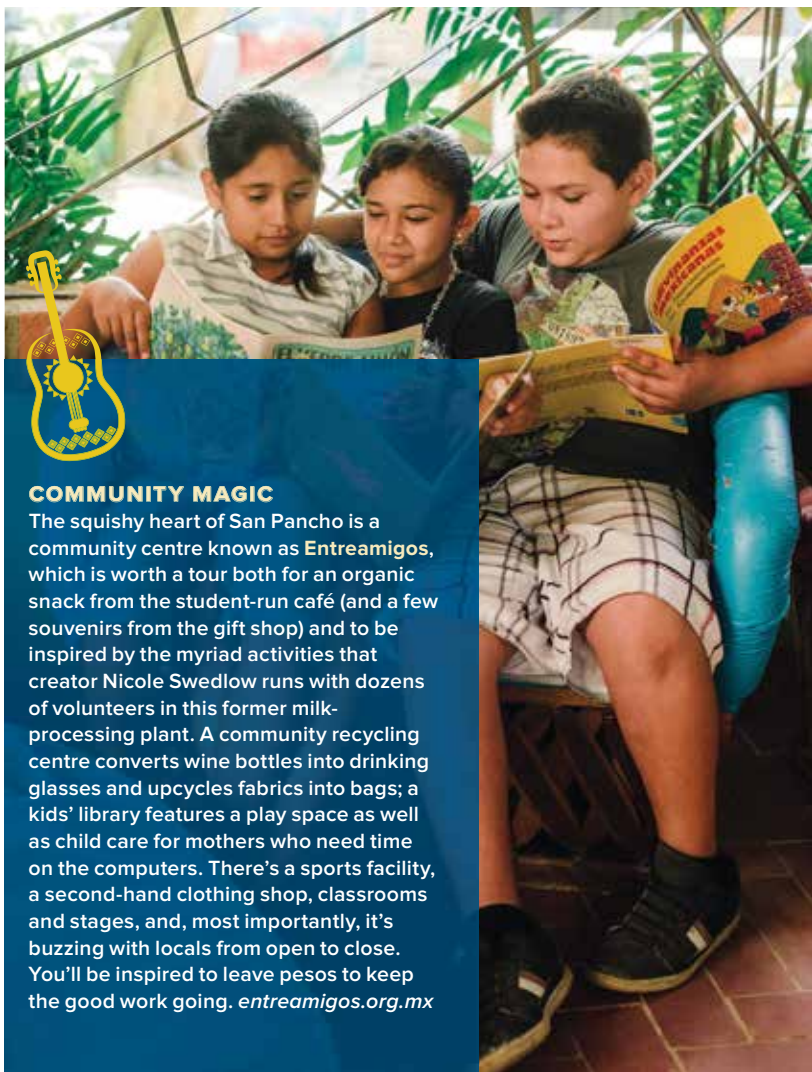
Sunset Strip

Affectionately known by the Mexican nickname for Francisco—Pancho—this more-southern San Francisco finds the middle ground between posh (polo! ponies!) and natural, with the best sunsets on the strip.

CATCH A SUNSET

EVERYONE HAS THEIR FAVOURITE TOWN along the Riviera Nayarit, and serene San Pancho often tops the list. Its cobblestone streets and colourful buildings make it Sayulita's quieter sister. Pop into **Bistro Organico at the Hotel Cielo Rojo** for an organic breakfast of grilled nopal (cactus) in homemade corn tortillas, and be sure to head to the beach before sunset: it's a community affair, often ending in applause. The town has its posh side, too—it hosts the only polo club in the area, which regular readers might recall: the club owner's Whistler retreat was featured in WL's December 2015 issue. hotelcielorojo.com





COMMUNITY MAGIC

The squishy heart of San Pancho is a community centre known as **Entreamigos**, which is worth a tour both for an organic snack from the student-run café (and a few souvenirs from the gift shop) and to be inspired by the myriad activities that creator Nicole Swedlow runs with dozens of volunteers in this former milk-processing plant. A community recycling centre converts wine bottles into drinking glasses and upcycles fabrics into bags; a kids' library features a play space as well as child care for mothers who need time on the computers. There's a sports facility, a second-hand clothing shop, classrooms and stages, and, most importantly, it's buzzing with locals from open to close. You'll be inspired to leave pesos to keep the good work going. entreamigos.org.mx



TAKE A SHOWER OUTSIDE

There are getaways that feel like you're the only person around—and then there's **Mar al Cielo**, 11 acres of paradise that's truly yours for the night (or for three). Perched on top of a beachfront cliff just north of San Pancho, near the town of Lo de Marcos, the two-person resort is situated in an eco-reserve of groomed jungle trails with over 300 bird species (and a few portly armadillos), a private beach and a hilltop residence with hammocks, sofas, an open-air kitchen and, yes, a private outdoor shower. Grab a few groceries on the way in—hammocks are made for many, many hours without disturbance. vrbo.com/215299



Vancouver South

Nicknamed “B.C.-rias” in the winter for its popularity among West Coasters, Bucerías is decidedly relaxed, warm and breezy.

CATCH UP WITH A LOCAL

YES, YOU’LL FIND PLENTY OF NEIGHBOURS DOWN HERE (at least one restaurant boasts that it proudly serves Tim Hortons coffee), but you’ll also find locals, too. Its breezes make it a magnet for kitesurfers—you’ll spot many of them on the bay, and the Festival del Viento sees them in droves in May—and its winding streets are perfect for a midday stroll. (An artisan market lines many of the central streets, Monday to Saturday.) Take a break from the heat with a cool *cerveza* on **El Brujo’s** palapa-style roof deck overlooking the Bahía de Banderas—paired with a shrimp taco, topped with cheese grilled crispy on top and gooey inside, you’ve found a little slice of heaven. For dinner, head over to **Mark’s**—the long-time local favourite is known for its daily take on gazpacho (if they’ve got the watermelon and tomato on, you won’t regret it) and Mediterranean fare—think ginger-and-leek lobster ravioli tossed in mascarpone and lobster butter. elbrujorestaurant.com; marksbucerias.com



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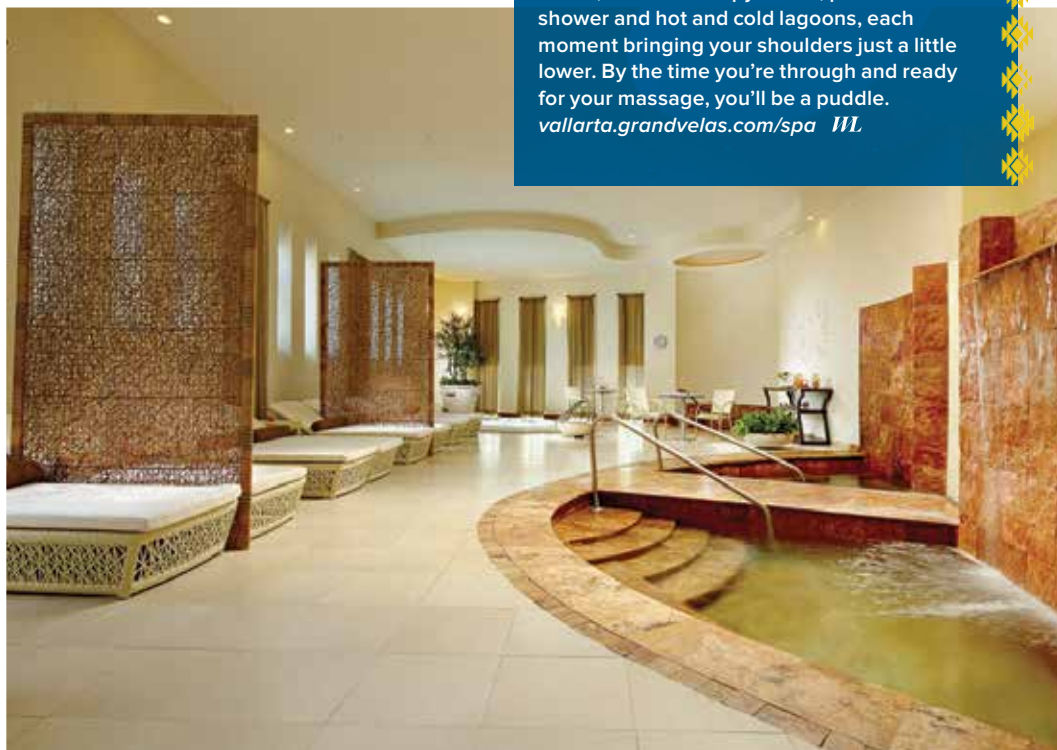
MARKETING 101



Just up the road from Bucerías, the **Sunday market in La Cruz** isn't the oldest market in the region (it launched only in 2010), but in that short period it's grown to 170 vendors. Rent from the market stalls helps fund local education, as well as the orphanage in Valle de Banderas. Vendors are curated, so you're less likely to find Day of the Dead paraphernalia emblazoned with NHL logos and more likely to spot handwoven textiles, bags and baskets, and traditional Huichol designs. Wander the seaside stalls with a big *agua fresca* (try spinach, lime and spearmint, or pineapple and beet) and wrestle with the big questions of the day: fish taco, quesadilla or "Big Italian Sandwich" for lunch? alllacruz.com/la-cruz-sunday-market

TAKE IN THE WATERS

Yeah, you're technically surrounded by water, and there's the siren call of the swim-up pool bar—but some time spent in the **Grand Velas spa**, just down the road in Nuevo Vallarta, to take in the water ritual offers the kind of reset button we all want from a vacation. A guide will lead you through a circuit of eucalyptus inhalation, sauna, chromotherapy steam, pressure shower and hot and cold lagoons, each moment bringing your shoulders just a little lower. By the time you're through and ready for your massage, you'll be a puddle. vallarta.grandvelas.com/spa **///**



Grand Velas: Victor Elias

For complete retailer listings,
please visit the manufacturer's website.

Home HQ

PAGE 32 Designer, Sophie Burke, Vancouver, sophieburkedesign.com. **Cabinetry**, Sofo Kitchens, Vancouver, sofokitchens.com.

California Dreaming

PAGES 48-53 Designer, Nam Dang-Mitchell, Nam Dang-Mitchell Design, Calgary, namdangmitchell.com. **Architecture**, Darcy Lundgren, Dade Art and Design Lab, Calgary, dadeartanddesignlab.com. **Builder**, Mission Homes, Calgary, missionhomes.ca.

PAGES 48 & 49 HALLWAY Camino Vintage Candelabra chandelier, Antiquated riveted mirror round, Restoration Hardware, across the West, restorationhardware.com. **Wall sconce lamp**, Carrington Lighting, Calgary, carringtonlighting.com. **Burchell's zebra rug**, Evolution Nature Corp, theevolutionstore.com. **Jean de Merry console**, Primavera, Vancouver, primavera.ca. **Custom ottoman**, Calgary Interiors, Calgary, calgaryinteriors.com.

PAGE 50 DINING ROOM Monarch natural solid walnut dining table, Crate and Barrel, Vancouver, crateandbarrel.com. **Custom fireplace**, Atelier Jouvence, online, ajstoneworks.com. **BB.07.59 chandelier**, Lindsey Adelman, online, lindseyadelman.com.

PAGE 51 LIVING ROOM Hickory Chair Alexander chair, Bespoke Design, Victoria, bespokedesign.ca; McKellars Interiors, Vancouver, mckellarsinteriors.com. **Milo Baughman Bronze Drum tables**, Domaine Fine Furnishings, Calgary, domainefurnishings.com. **Custom sofa**, Calgary Interiors, Calgary, calgaryinteriors.com. **Custom fireplace** designed by Nam Dang-Mitchell Design, Mission Homes, Calgary, missionhomes.ca.

PAGE 52 BEDROOM Hickory Chair Regan Klismos chair, Bespoke Design, Victoria, bespokedesign.ca; McKellars Interiors, Vancouver, mckellarsinteriors.com. **Custom bed**, Calgary Interiors, Calgary, calgaryinteriors.com. **Bedside nightstand**, Restoration Hardware, across the West, restorationhardware.com.

PAGE 53 BATHROOM Aquabrax Calcos tub, Robinson Lighting and Bath Centre, across the West, robinsonlightingandbath.com. **Ocean Blue Tragertine tile**, Icon Stone, Calgary, iconstonetile.ca.

Facing Forward

PAGES 54-60 Designer, Denise Ashmore, Project 22 Design, Vancouver, project22design.com. **Architect**, Piers Cunnington and Clinton Cuddington, Measured Architecture, Vancouver, measured.ca.

PAGE 55 Front Patio Ikea Roxo lounge chair, Ikea, across the west, ikea.ca. **Solus Décor Hemi firepit**, Solus Décor, Vancouver, solusdecor.com.

PAGES 56 & 57 LIVING ROOM Custom rift cut walnut cabinetry by Alex Goldie Custom Furniture, Vancouver, cargocollective.com. **Herman Miller Eames molded plywood lounge chair**, LivingSpace, Vancouver, livingspace.com. **Bensen Around side table**, Inform Interiors, Vancouver, informinteriors.com.

PAGES 58 & 59 KITCHEN Polished concrete floor, Concrete Melody, New Westminster, B.C., concretemelody.com. **Screen wall, walnut wall paneling and shelves, walnut cabinets and island, dining table**, custom by Alex Goldie Custom Furniture, Vancouver, alexgoldiecustom.com. **Walnut bar stools**, Fullhouse Modern, Vancouver, fullhousemodern.com. **David Weeks Cross Cable Chandelier**, Spencer Interiors, Vancouver, spencerinteriors.ca.

PAGE 60 BEDROOM Custom bed, BariDesign, Richmond, baridesign.com. **Teak Bench**, vintage find. **Ferm Living remix cushion and teepee quilted cushion**, Blake and Riley, Vancouver, blakeandriley.com. **BATHROOM Dal Tile 1x1 glass mosaic**, Dal Tile, Level Tile and Flooring, Vancouver. **Cabinetry** custom by Alex Goldie Custom Furniture, Vancouver, cargocollective.com.

Trade Secrets

PAGE 90 Designers, Rene Sotropa and Alanna Dunn, Corea Sotropa Interior Design, Calgary, coreasotropa.ca. **HL**



Distinctly West Coast inspired chicken and waffle burger, house made pretzels, crispy tentacles, paired with a Molson Canadian on tap.

DIARY *The coolest events*



VICTORIA
Ballet Victoria: Ballet Rocks
October 21 to 23, 2016
With new choreography set to classic rock plus a First Nations-influenced routine set to Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, Ballet Rocks is primed to thrill both purists and fusionists alike. balletvictoria.ca



VANCOUVER
Vancouver Home and Design Show
October 27 to 30, 2016
The annual home and design expo returns to the Vancouver Convention Centre with home design exhibits and panels with high-profile figures like Janette Ewen, Jamie Banfield and *Cabin Pressure*'s Colin and Justin. vancouverhomeanddesignshow.com



CALGARY
Look2016
October 22, 2016
An evening of artistically inspired festivities featuring a live art auction and special conversations with headlining guests Adam Gopnik of the *New Yorker* and the legendary Steve Martin. contemporarycalgary.com



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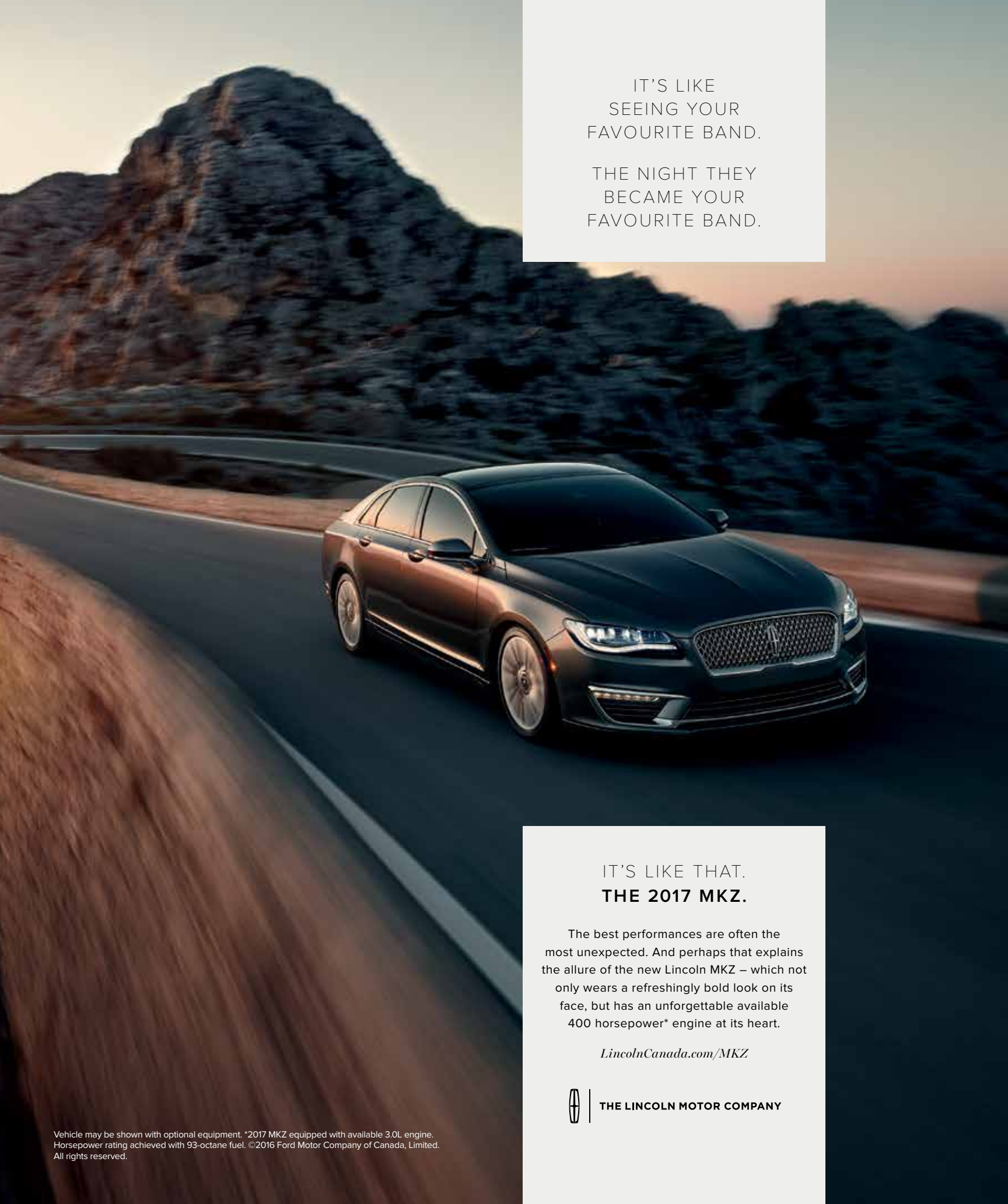
The Look

FABULOUS FUNCTIONALITY

A cleverly hidden Murphy bed helps this pretty guest room do double duty as a yoga studio.

» How do you transform a barely used guest room into a space with everyday function? If you're Calgary designers Reena Sotropa and Alanna Dunn, you hide a Murphy bed behind a glitzy mirror (with the help of a custom millworker and framer) and turn the space into a bright and beautiful at-home yoga studio. "When the bed's folded up, it can leave a big blank swath of wall, but this mirror adds interest and function," says Sotropa. And up on the ceiling, a dreamy Trove wallpaper with a feminine print offers a soothing focal point, whether you're lying in bed or practising *savasana*.





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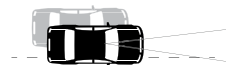
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