

ELLE[®] CANADA DECORATION

SMALL
SPACES
MINI-
BUDGETS

GROUND RULES FOR GOING GREEN

REDUCE, RETHINK,
RECYCLE



Objects of Desire

We searched, we found, we marvelled.
Gaston Bachelard said, "Man is a creation of desire,
not a creation of need." **WE AGREE.**

By Donia Demers, Karine Monié, Aurélia Morvan and Céline Tremblay –
Adapted by Zarya Rubin



Superior Rooms

Just a little north of Lac Supérieur, surrounded by the vastness of Mont-Tremblant National Park, in the heart of Quebec's Rivière du Diable valley, are seven small, A-frame shelters—agrotourism eco-chalets that the architects at L'Abri in Montreal must have had a blast designing. They may be tiny, but they're also mighty: Each one has its own king-size bed, sofa, gas stove and mini-fridge. The idea is to spend most of your time outdoors, of course. In addition to this string of four-season oases, the Farouche complex features a Nordic bath, a refreshments bar, a market and organic farm-to-table eats. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing enthusiasts: Prepare to be awestruck. — (farouche.ca) CT



Changing Times

Recognizing that, environmentally speaking, overconsumption is public enemy number one, the Quebec firm Un fauteuil pour deux has committed to taking a series of actions to minimize its impact. Think removable furniture covers that last longer; FSC-certified hardwood frames rather than particleboard filled with glue; nylon straps that stretch endlessly, unlike springs; leathers made from leftover materials; collaborations with eco-conscious factories that use renewable energy; reforestation plans via Austrian, Norwegian and Italian companies; and banning VOCs (volatile organic compounds). But the company owned by Nancy Ricard and her daughter Charlie—which just celebrated its 25th anniversary—also offers custom furniture. For instance, three-quarters of its European suppliers can reduce the depth of a seat for a smaller person, lower the armrests, reduce the height of the legs of an armchair for an elderly person, or change the upholstery. Head to Laurier Boulevard in Quebec City to learn more and rummage through their array of lighting, rugs, towels, bedding and vases. — (\$10,940, sofa with removable cover, unfauteuilpourdeux.com) CT



Family Affair

For their fourth (and most recent) collaboration, interior designer Erica Colpitts and her brother, restaurateur Michael Gayman, went all out, transforming a former warehouse on the edge of Vancouver's bustling Mount Pleasant neighbourhood into a stunning space. The Watson draws inspiration for its woodwork from vintage Belgian and Dutch libraries and apothecaries, and from Victorian grandeur for its materials, art and finishing touches. With an impressive seven-metre-high ceiling, the light-filled ground floor features the space's centrepiece: the quartz bar, adorned with a towering backlit mirror, surrounded by shelves on either side and complemented by contemporary pendant lights and dazzling chandeliers, creating a retro feel. Several oversized works and floral arrangements by Bloomiér Studio complete the theatrical atmosphere, while on the mezzanine level, olive-green velvet curtains (echoing the colour of one of the walls on the first level) help create an intimate hideaway with slightly darker tones. No matter what vantage point you choose, the wow factor is guaranteed. — (thewatson.ca) KM



Photo: Ema Peter (The Watson)



Who is Mark Krebs?

Mark Krebs is a gentle giant with a dream who travelled the world looking for factories to bring his ideas to life, until he settled in northern India, blown away at the time—and to this day—by the work of carpet weavers. In his studio on Rue Chabot in Montreal, he now designs collections of carpets that he has manufactured abroad for distribution in Canada, the United States and England. His speech on planned obsolescence—read it on the blog on his site—paints a remarkable and accurate picture of the kind of guy he is. I swear, the man himself is enough to make you want to buy his carpets! His latest collection, inspired by Persian nomads, the Stitch rug, in Indian wool and undyed cotton, is ah-ma-zing. I repeat: ah-ma-zing. — (The Stitch Collection, from \$340, markkrebs.ca) CT



Modular Marvels

When you have 10, 15 or even 30K to invest in a sofa, there's no problem—options abound. When you can't or don't want to go there, *Élément de base*, the company created by Thien and Mai ta Trung in Montreal, is a one-stop shop. Many of their local concepts are modular. Almost all have removable covers, and individual replacement pieces are available if a sectional module happens to get damaged. For a tenth of the price, the choices are endless and the multitude of upholstery fabrics lets your imagination run wild. Their most recent opus, the airy Expo Edge, is a stunner. — (\$3,065, elementdebase.com) CT



Treasure Hunting

The second-hand market is booming, and luxury design objects are no exception. Among the pieces selected and authenticated by Toronto boutique *SecondeVie* is a pair of Italian armchairs from the 1950s. All leather and chrome, these impeccable pre-owned seats are inspired by the Bauhaus movement and recall Marcel Breuer's Wassily, with additional curves. A great deal if you want sumptuousness without spending a fortune. — (\$2,200 for the pair, secondevie.ca) AM



Charcoal Is So Now

Five legs and a whimsical look! Whether you take one home in 36, 42 or 48 inches in diameter, the Fringe coffee table by Toronto firm Ashley Botten Design is eye-catching—even to the untrained eye. In addition to creating elegant interiors, designer Ashley Botten decorates them with her own furniture and *objets*. Tables, of course, but also armchairs, shelves, vases...all locally crafted. A treat for those in the know. —

(From \$7,200, ashleybottendesign.com) AM



Light Your Way

Beloved by Canadian interior designers, Luminaire Authentik is a standout. In their Cowansville workshop, the Quebec company has launched yet another new product: the Onyx Bar. Forget hot cider or chai lattes, this bar will satisfy your thirst for lighting that is perfectly tailored to your nest. Sidle up to the bar to choose a model—wall sconce, pendant, table lamp—and then pair it with stone in the ideal shade—cream, chocolate, caramel. Do you love veining? No problem. Prefer uniformity? That's also an option. Do you get unusually excited about beige? That's okay, too. In other words, you do you. —

(From \$440, luminaireauthentik.com) AM

Top of the Morning

One consequence of the pandemic was a sudden rise in sales of automatic coffee machines. In fact, since the first year of COVID, they're up fivefold. DeLonghi, the global leader in the field, has just unveiled a product whose quality-price ratio is unmatched. It's quite amazing, really. With its high-quality mill and brewing unit—two crucial components, both produced not in China but in the company's factory in Trevi, Italy—the Magnifica Plus is a splendid device that raises the third-wave coffee experience to new heights. Perfect grind, creamy crema—a machine that offers less than this one would have cost twice as much four years ago! —

(\$1,400, delonghi.com) DD