

High style *low stress*

HEALTHY home

WHEN I NEED A DOSE OF ...

HIGH STYLE



EVAN ORENSTEN, co-founder and executive director of Cool Hunting, admires the "re-lighting" of Italian lamp design great Gino Sarfatti. "Flos' re-edition of Gino Sarfatti's Model 607 table lamp looks identical to the 1971 original but gets a complete technical modernization. Its future modern design still resonates."

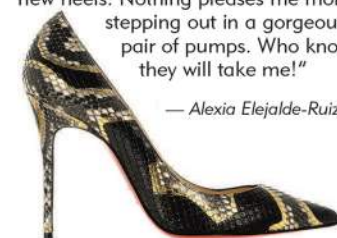


LOW STRESS



Designer **JESSICA LAGRANGE** finds peace in shoe shopping. "When I need to decompress, I head to Oak Street and peruse Manolo Blahnik at Barneys as well as Jimmy Choo and Christian Louboutin for some sexy new heels. Nothing pleases me more than stepping out in a gorgeous new pair of pumps. Who knows where they will take me!"

— Alexia Elejalde-Ruiz



A little peace: Northworks' sized-down retreats focus on views (lots of glass), open space (for communal living), and natural materials.

How does smaller equal healthier living?
W. B.: It can free a homeowner from heavy maintenance chores, allowing for more time to enjoy the building. We make an effort to position a home and its architectural features, so it reduces demand for heating and cooling and relies on natural ventilation, paring utility costs and bringing in the outdoors.

Q: Is there a size limit?
A. D.: You can get a lot of living space from a small building. Most of our small houses are 800 square feet or less. We like to include outdoor space, which is less expensive to build and important when people are on vacation.

Does a micro works best for one — or two people?
W.B.: Small houses don't have to limit the number of people. Open, shared living can promote a healthy social environment to be together.

How much does it cost to build a nice micro?
W.B.: Costs typically run \$200 a square foot.

Is it better to build in furnishings?
W.B.: We've done Murphy beds that fold up; tables that fold down; banquettes for seating with storage underneath. It's similar to designing a small boat or camper.

— Barbara Ballinger

MIGHTY MICROS

Home sizes have begun to inch up again, but the thinking person's trend is small. Contrarian? Try stress-proof. William T. Bickford, and E. Austin DePree of Chicago-based architecture firm Northworks have started building weekend retreats from simply smaller to teeny tiny, for clients who realize that small = simple = real relaxation.

BY THE NUMBERS

4

Times per year you should be changing that filter on your A/C unit.

20

Minimum number of minutes you should run your bathroom vent fan each day to reduce humidity and mold.

99

Percentage of UV light you can filter out using window film.