

BLACK + BLUM DISCUSS HUMOR IN DESIGN, P. 47

# DESIGN BUREAU

*2013 Design*

## GIFT GUIDE

*With awesome picks from graphic designer Chip Kidd,  
interior designer David Bromstad, & more! p. 35*

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## Modern Edge Design

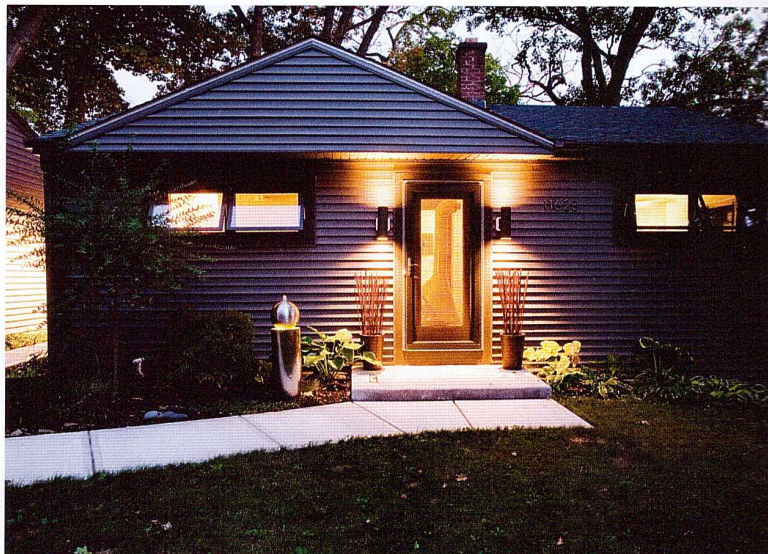
### SECOND NATURE

***A run-down Milwaukee home gets a second chance from a daring interior designer***

For interior designer Stephanie Quinn of Modern Edge Design, the renovation of this exposed ranch-style Milwaukee home was one project that almost wasn't. "When I first pulled up and saw the home, I pulled back out of the driveway and said, 'No way,'" Quinn says. "The house was literally caving in and cracking in half." After another look, she had a change of heart. "The whole place felt enchanted," she recalls.

But the gut renovation that followed was hardly a fairy tale. The home's basement foundation and roof were irreparable and had to be replaced. And inside, Quinn found that structure was made from non-standard-sized lumber and had to be taken down to the studs. Despite all of this, Quinn still kept her vision intact. "I could see the end result before we started," she says.

Quinn got her happily-ever-after home by implementing some impressive changes. She installed eco-friendly cork and bamboo flooring, West African Zebra wood cabinetry, and a second-floor kitchen overlooking the backyard. She says her passion for renovation helped her carry out the transformation: "I love a challenge, and this house certainly was one." — Sara Driscoll



## Yangki Wallcoverings and Fabrics

### TRANSCENDING WALLPAPER

***From its Bay Area design studio, Yangki hand-paints one-of-a-kind wall coverings with a little wabi-sabi on the side***

Yoshika Alexander puts all her energy into Yangki's handmade wall coverings—literally. "When I paint, that is my Zen moment," she says. "I can put my mind into the stage of emptiness that leads me into some type of unexplainable blissful joy."

Since 1989, Yangki has been producing hand-painted wall coverings that combine natural materials. Alexander infuses an influence of Japanese minimalist aesthetic *wabi-sabi*. The papers are crafted by hand from beginning to end using no machinery, and aside from three patterns that use a template for layout, all of the designs are drawn freehand. "This work is labor intensive, but we are extremely grateful to have clients who understand it's one-of-a-kind beauty." ❖

