Comfort and joy
Embrace a vibrant take on dressing cozy

GIFT GUIDE
Collectable presents packed with personality

DESIGN
Rethink your pantry as a dapper space

SPIRITS
Inside a 200-bottle library of gin

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One cocktail fan explains how she assembled a cache of gin hundreds of bottles deep.

ON THE COVER
Photo by Royal Gilbert. Mira Mikati striped fringe turtleneck sweater, £610, poncho, price on request through mirmikati.com. Photographed at Mellah (mellah.ca) in Toronto.
HERMÈS, BEAUTY IS A GESTURE

ROUGE HERMÈS, SHADE 74 - ROSE MAGENTA
Hunt and gather

Last Christmas, I received a Lego set. It was the first time I received a Lego set since I was a teenager — when all I received was Lego sets. Over the holiday break, I spent an entire day putting together the 1,354 pieces of my miniature Volkswagen camper van. Then I spent a few hours on the Lego website plotting what I would build next.

During the holiday rush, it’s easy to worry about tracking down perfect presents. To help, our Omnibus and Essentials spreads, starting on Page 10, include lots of stylish suggestions, including many made-in-Canada and sustainable ideas. But it’s the gift guide (“Amass appeal,” PAGE 36) that focuses on our best tip for giving, one rooted in the bins of plastic bricks that now fill a corner of my parents’ basement: Gift them something you can gift them again. At a time when the things that surround us can be considered disposable, helping someone establish a collection of keepsakes that will be treasured and revisited sets the right tone.

Nathalie Atkinson writes about this sort of collectable consumption in the Personal Style column (“Spirited away,” PAGE 46). For a decade, she’s been assembling a library of unique gins. Now, her friends and family know exactly what to get her when they spot a new distillery on their travels. Alana Paterson and Gayle MacDonald’s feature on Macgee Cloth Co. in British Columbia (“Material culture,” PAGE 40) and our cozy fashion story (“Knit wit,” PAGE 28, and pictured above) provide inspiration for becoming a connoisseur of beautiful blankets or bold sweaters.

The gift guide’s list of finds includes sculptural perfume bottles, quirky bags, handmade ceramics and crafty ornaments, but the options to kickstart a new interest are endless. You just need to consider the passions of the person on your list, or something you appreciate and want to share. Happy collecting, and happy holidays.

Andrew Sardone
Editorial Director
Finders keepers

Almost a decade ago, the first holiday edition of Style Advisor kicked off with founding editor Danny Sinopoli commenting on the changing ways Canadians mark the season. “The templates for celebrating Noel, Hannukah, Diwali and other holidays are enticingly wide-ranging, encompassing the old-school and the modern,” he wrote. This year, if there’s one modernization influencing how we share the holidays, it’s the revival of a somewhat old-fashioned concept: heirloomism. Giving with keeping in mind has often driven this magazine’s gift guides. When you’re recommending making a substantial gift investment – be it a polka-dot bootie, myriad gilded baubles or miniature designer housewares – it better be something that lasts. Here, a few present pros share their tips on gifting (and regifting) with a long-term outlook.

Arren Williams is a designer, interior stylist and co-founder of the home decor brand Casa Cubista.

“If you have to give something that you really think is great – that you would love to receive yourself. With gifts, it’s also about realness. From a design perspective, finding the real, actual object instead of a copy of a copy is always so memorable because it will have a story behind it. To me, that built-in realness is what makes something heirloom quality. I’ve been known to actually give a vintage piece that’s been on my shelf, too – one that I love, and that I would love to see in someone else’s home. To me, that’s not regifting; it’s the idea of heirlooming. Because I love it, that should be enough for someone else to love it as well.”

Marlowe Granados is the author of the book Happy Hour, and co-host of the podcast The Mean Reds.

“With gifts, there’s this idea of being remembered and creating a space in someone’s life. I have a way of gift giving that’s very specific. I will give a few things as a bundle. For one friend, the main gift was a Japanese-crafted lighter. Then, I included tapered candles and a selection of Maison Louis Marie fragrance testers. The best kinds of gifts are the ones that are a mixture, including one thing someone can keep for a long time, one thing they can use immediately and then something that’s a little treat. For my scholarly friends, I often give first editions of books. My grandmother collects handkerchiefs, so I have gifted her those in the past.”

Suzanne Barr is a chef, author and social justice advocate.

“My go-to gift for people is something like baked goods. But in terms of gifts that last, I often think of the kitchen as well. Does this person have a good set of knives? Or a beautiful wooden cutting board? For the most part, folks don’t have these specialty items or might not want to splurge on them because they’re fine with what they have. But when they get that piece of equipment, they think, ‘Gosh, my life is so different now.’ You also can’t go wrong with vintage glassware. Gifts can help people that you care about connect to who they are. They remind them that the things they’re putting into their body are important ways to take care of yourself.”

As told to Odessa Paloma Parker. These interviews have been condensed and edited.
NOURA SAKKIJHA IS A PIONEER in more ways than one. As CEO of Toronto-based Mejuri, she revolutionized the dusty world of fine jewellery by using the brand’s e-commerce platform to sell more affordable pieces to a younger clientele. She emphasized the importance of self-gifting, characterizing purchasing rings and necklaces and earrings for one’s self as a feminist act. Now, she’s turning her attention toward the most pressing issue that the fine jewellery industry has faced: making the baubles we buy as sustainable as possible.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
A sustainable STANDOUT

Eco Drive | Purposeful Power

THE SUSTAINABLE WAY TO POWER YOUR WATCH – WITH LIGHT
NO BATTERIES REQUIRED.

CITIZEN
BETTER STARTS NOW
Jewellery inhabits a rare grey area when it comes to sustainability. While mining precious metals and stones has an unquestionable adverse impact on the environment, the finished product is not disposable in the same way as an impulse buy from Zara. Good jewellery tends to be treasured and passed down from generation to generation. And because the material it is made from has inherent value, it tends to be recycled.

Many jewellery brands have started to make commitments to improve on these green credentials. Danish customizable charm bracelet-maker Pandora has pledged to only use recycled gold and silver in its products by 2025. Luxury brands such as the Swiss house Chopard have not only committed to buying responsibly sourced gold but promised to credit the sources of their materials in exacting detail. Mejuri wants to be at the forefront of these changes. Sakkiija and her team recently announced that by the end of this year, 70 per cent of their 14-carat solid gold products will be made with 70-per-cent certified recycled gold (30 per cent will remain newly mined). All of the gold that Mejuri uses will be traceable, a process that involves suppliers disclosing where they’ve sourced materials and third-party auditing for mines and refineries.

This season’s Baguette Bar Necklace set with conflict-free diamonds and a new series of stacker rings all interpret the brand’s sustainable ethos in its classic and minimal style. “In the fine jewellery industry, there are a lot of handoffs from mine to manufacturer and it’s easy to lose track of how things have gone through the supply chain,” Sakkiija says. “Traceability was a way for us to start to ask questions about the journey of the product, so that we were able to understand any unintended impacts our products were having on either people or the environment.”

Mejuri’s commitment represents an important step, says Christina T. Miller, a sustainable jewellery consultant based in Pennsylvania. Developing a deeper understanding of the supply chain is a necessary first step, says Miller, before brands can begin to act meaningfully. “We have the capital right now and the capacity to look into it,” she says. “Our role is to try to pave the way for anyone who enters into the industry to adopt the right frameworks.” — ISABEL SLONE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10
Bubbles and dots
An artist collaboration showcases Veuve Clicquot’s joie de vivre

FOR THE LATEST RELEASE of its flagship La Grande Dame, Veuve Clicquot looked to celebrated Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama to design its eye-catching package. The bottle and box are the second partnership between the two. Kusama painted a portrait of house founder Madame Clicquot, which has been exhibited at the Hôtel du Marc, Veuve Clicquot’s private manor in Reims, France, since 2006.

“Our ambition is always to surprise and bring a smile,” Veuve Clicquot’s president and CEO Jean-Marc Gallot says. “Yayoi Kusama’s artistic expression is both generous and deeply optimistic.” Gallot says Kusama had free reign to create. Veuve Clicquot’s only request was that her work include the signature yellow that has adorned its labels since 1877. Kusama’s distinctive dots feature prominently on the label, playfully echoing the bubbles of the rich and refreshing Champagne. The gift package also incorporates dots as part of a design featuring a colourful flower, another signature of the artist.

“We create unique objects that spark aesthetic, joyful and positive emotions,” says Gallot, who notes that special-edition Champagne releases have become increasingly fashionable. “Each collaboration, each creation, has enriched the house with a new vision or new dimension.” Some of the maison’s special releases have focused on practicality, such as the user-friendly jackets that keep your bottle of Veuve chilled en route to your destination. Others have been more whimsical, including the metal boxes shaped like direction arrows and inscribed with place names.

Overall, Gallot says the idea is to celebrate Veuve Clicquot’s “prevaling love for beautiful objects by marrying beauty, style and utility.” It also helps a centuries-old brand continually reinvent itself. – CHRISTOPHER WATERS

Open houses
Modernism Week in Palm Springs resumes its celebration of midcentury architecture

NESTLED IN THE SONORAN DESERT of southern California, Palm Springs has long been considered a kind of holy land for modern design. Each winter, enthusiasts of the style’s sensitivity to nature and embrace of indoor/outdoor living come by the thousands to bask in the midcentury beauty that envelopes the city for its annual Modernism Week. After a pandemic pause, the 11-day festival returns this February with its schedule of talks, social events and tours of swish structures that are typically open to the public.

For 2022, highlights include a look into Edris House (above left), which was designed in 1954 by E. Stewart Williams and was once home to Magda Gabor (Zsa Zsa’s sister). In the neighbouring community, Indian Wells, the Crank-Garland house, a 1960 stunner by famed architect William Francis Cody is always a crowd favourite. William’s 1948 Twin Palms (above right), which is better known as the Frank Sinatra house in honour of its most notable inhabitant, will also be on the itinerary.

“Modernism Week alone has a tremendous economic impact on the Coachella Valley,” says executive director Lisa Vossler Smith, who estimates that the 2020 event added about US$51-million to local coffers. “That doesn’t include the year-round opportunities of personalized architectural tours and demand from tourists to stay in architecturally significant homes.” The community is excited to see interest in its architecture continue to grow, especially, says Vossler Smith, among a younger audience that is increasingly passionate about modern design. – NOLAN BRYANT

Modernism week takes place from Feb. 17 to 27, 2022. For more information, visit modernismweek.com.
Time just changed. Again.
Knight says, “I was looking at 19th-century paintings that centred the garden, because at that time in England, during tuberculosis, doctors would say, if you’re sick, go to the sea. If you can’t go to the sea, go to your garden.”

The idea of a close-to-home escape led Knight down a rabbit hole researching Victorian black gardens and the black pansy itself. “Black pansies have a double meaning, one being sorrow and the other a yearning for everlasting love,” he says. “I related to this feeling. During the pandemic, you have the grief of a horrible situation, but then you have a yearning for something better – a hope that something better could come out of this.”

This season, Louis Vuitton will showcase the trunks in its store windows through digital projections before the pieces go to auction at Sotheby’s. In true holiday spirit, all proceeds will be donated to charity.

– NADIA PIZZIMENTI

Louis Vuitton is pulling out all the stops to celebrate its founder’s bicentennial including asking 200 creative visionaries to reimagine the brand’s signature luggage. The list for the Louis 200 project includes journalist and activist Gloria Steinem, cellist Yo-Yo Ma and Canadian artist Kris Knight.

Knight, who is known for his oil paintings of thoughtful subjects, had to work fast and furiously on his revamp. The French house gave him one month and free reign to finish a piece that had a similar shape and proportions to LV’s 1850s design, which is not a lot of time when you consider the days it can take for oil paint to dry. The result is a dark pansy motif inspired by the current and past pandemics.

“I love history and looking at social patterns. Lately, I have been paying attention to how people have dealt with pandemics. I’m a nerd that way,” Knight says, “I was looking at 19th-century paintings that centred the garden, because at that time in England, during tuberculosis, doctors would say, if you’re sick, go to the sea. If you can’t go to the sea, go to your garden.”

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– NADIA PIZZIMENTI

For the 200th birthday of Louis Vuitton’s founder, Kris Knight transforms its luggage with a field of moody pansies

PHOTOGRAPHY MAUD CAILLET

Black pansies, which can symbolize both sadness and affection, cover a Louis Vuitton trunk by artist Kris Knight.
This holiday season, designers want you to shine in the most maximal way. Whether it be glitter, crystals or sequins, the sparkly medium doesn’t matter as long as the look is over the top. The Gucci runway kicks off the sartorial festival of lights by pairing a lace and feathered corset with an array of crystals for a disco-meets-boudoir look. The party girl is revived at Ashish with a tiered tulle cocktail dress that would gain extra glimmer worn with celestial earrings à la YSL. There’s no need to choose between cool and warm metallics. Wear both via silver JW Anderson rubber boots adorned with the label’s chunky gold chain, or Paco Rabanne’s mix of shiny paillettes on a mod evening bag. Dries Van Noten dials up the brightness with pink and red sequin separates, which would look even more rainbow bright with Mach Mach’s PVC mules. In this fashion moment, more is never enough. – NADIA PIZZIMENTI

EXTRA EXTRA

Growing up in the Philippines, Mc Joyin Rey Pagalan used raw materials such as leaves, twigs and pebbles to bring his early fashion dreams to life. “I can remember walking around our farm covered with corn husks thinking it was a dress, and pebbles wrapped with soft twigs [worn] as a bracelet and necklace,” he says. “It was so liberating and I felt like I was in a state of something magical.” Since then, the designer has earned a degree from Ryerson University’s School of Fashion in Toronto, represented Canada at London’s annual graduate fashion week and set up his namesake label. Joyin Rey combines the designer’s past and present to make a personal statement. The Fall 2021 collection is inspired by his birthmarks and features wool fabric and yarn that have been manipulated into unique patterns. The silhouettes are oversized with a focus on tailored suits and shirts. It’s this combination of generous proportions and interesting materials that have caught the attention of the fashion set, including Vogue Italia and Bulky Magazine. Until this season, collections have only been available for use in photo shoots, but now he’s ready for retail. “I am nervous as the commerce part of fashion is something I never felt comfortable with,” he says. “But I am definitely up for the challenge.” – N.P.

For more information, visit joyinrey.com.
WILD AT HEART

Beauty entrepreneur Laura Whitaker’s gift sets capture her brand’s ever-greener ethos

When Laura Whitaker decided to make the switch to natural skincare products 10 years ago, she found her options were limited. “At that time, there were the standard health food store brands and then some really expensive, boutique brands,” she says. Recognizing the need for something in between, she began tinkering with concoctions in her downtown Toronto kitchen and, in 2014, Wildcraft was born. With her collection of more affordable, natural products, Whitaker was part of a new wave of skincare: formulas made with quality natural ingredients that offer the allure of their luxury counterparts.

A Haudenosaunee woman and member of the Mohawk nation, Whitaker grew up east of Algonquin Park in Ontario, an area known for its picturesque landscapes. “I spent a lot of time camping and canoeing when I was younger;” she says. Her love for the planet is the reason why Whitaker has opted to use glass packaging and responsibly sourced ingredients from day one. It’s an approach that’s resonating with customers across the country. Today, Wildcraft is available in approximately 150 stores including Hudson’s Bay, Indigo, the Detox Market and Well.ca. “I’ve always thought that the Canadian consumer is pretty hip to the natural wellness movement,” she says. For the holiday season, Whitaker has put together three gift sets that highlight Wildcraft’s most popular products, including face masks, body care and a complete regimen for the face. She’s also debuting a low-waste collection that allows returning customers to purchase products without plastic droppers or atomizers and plastic-free packaging for all online orders. Her partnership with 1% for the Planet directs one per cent of Wildcraft’s gross sales to environmental causes. “We’re going to keep pushing ourselves to be more environmentally friendly,” she says. “This is just the beginning for us.”

CAITLIN AGNEW

Wildcraft Get the Glow Gift Box, $125 through wildcraftcare.ca.

SMALL WONDER

Dior’s minaudière packs an array of festive hues

As the craze for tiny purses continues, Dior is reintroducing a sophisticated vintage take: the minaudière. Dating back to the 1930s, these jewel-like boxes traditionally carried a woman’s evening essentials. Dior’s design is tailored to tote its Rouge Dior lipstick collection. Crafting this opulent objet involves the careful assembly of 23 different pieces to form a case that can be held like a clutch or worn over the shoulder. Engraved with an illustration of Dior’s 3 Avenue Montaigne boutique in Paris, it has space for three lipstick refills. The bullets include shades of Pink Rose, a satiny pink, matte Red Pansy, Winter Poppy, a fiery red with a velvet finish, and Sparkling Peony, a blue-based red with a metallic glint. A built-in mirror helps with any touch-ups before a rendezvous under the mistletoe. – C.A.

Dior Rouge Dior Minaudière, $240 at Holt Renfrew (holtrenewf.w.com).

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Warm up a space with a candle that captures your favourite scent

INTO THE WOODS

Featuring festive illustrations by Julia Mercanti on its packaging, Toronto-based Lohn’s trio of holiday candles includes this homage to a wintry woodland, a medley of Siberian and balsam fir, cedar wood and thyme.

Lohn Evergreen candle, $44 through shoplohn.com.

FEEL THE BURN

Channel the warmth of an open fire with Hearth, Nest’s combination of oud wood, frankincense and smoky embers.

Nest New York Hearth Classic candle, $59 at Sephora, Nordstrom and Saks Fifth Avenue (nestnewyork.com).

ROSE ACCORD

For a floral take on the season, Gucci’s Murano glass bougie blends notes of violet leaf and resinous galbanum.

Gucci Frenesia medium Murano candle, $410 at Gucci (gucci.com).

ROYAL TREATMENT

Part of Ginori’s collection dedicated to Catherine de’ Medici, the notes in Black Stone – nutmeg, cloves, cinnamon and amber – were inspired by a talisman given to the noblewoman by an astrologer. – C.A.

NET GAIN

A rising tide of watch brands are turning reclaimed ocean plastic into a luxury material.

After more than a century in business, Oris has made its share of unique timepieces, from cutting-edge dive watches for ocean exploration to sleek, gala-ready designs. Its newest creation, however, is quite unlike anything it’s ever made before. Instead of metal or enamel, the new Aquis Date Upcycle features a dial made from multicoloured plastic recovered from the world’s oceans.

Thanks to Oris’s unique upcycling process, no two dials contain the same combination of colours and shapes. While they incorporate a relatively small amount of plastic, Oris’s initiative is part of a growing movement to draw attention to ocean pollution. According to the United Nations, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and the World Economic Forum, a dump truck’s worth of plastic trash finds its way into the ocean every minute of every day – some 13-million tonnes each year. If current trends continue, this will mean that plastic will outweigh living creatures in the ocean by as early as 2050.

Oris is the first watchmaker to use recaptured plastic in this way, but it isn’t the only brand turning ocean trash into treasure. As part of its continuing collaboration with Outerknown, the sustainable fashion brand helmed by pro surfer Kelley Slater, Swiss watchmaker Breitling now offers its SuperOcean dive watch on a selection of straps made from Econyl, a nylon crafted from retired fishing nets. Tom Ford offers his classic Ocean Plastic watch with a woven strap made from reclaimed ocean plastic.

Any of these would make a stylish wardrobe addition, but more importantly, they serve as a timely reminder that when it comes to the planet, even small acts make a difference.

– JEREMY FREED

Parchie watches, US$50 each through parchiepal.com.

SMALL WRISTS, BIG STYLE

A colourful collection teaches children about timekeeping.

For generations, a first watch has been a milestone on the road to grown-upness. While many kids in 2021 may gravitate toward the screen of a smartwatch, Parchie is a new brand dedicated to teaching them on the joys of analog timekeeping. Founded by Cara Barrett, a former Sotheby’s watch expert, each Parchie features a colourful 32-millimetre case, an adjustable Velcro strap and a high-quality quartz movement. “I wanted to make something that would appeal to both kids and adults alike, so I kept the watch simple and classic in fun and bright colours,” Barrett says. Parchie isn’t just a stylish piece of schoolyard wristwear. “Learning to tell time on an analog watch is crucial to help kids not only read a clock, but to understand addition and multiplication as well,” Barrett says. “Plus, aren’t we on our screens enough as it is?”

Parchie watches, US$50 each through parchiepal.com.

AMERICAN TIME

Just like the classic Runwell watch it’s based on, this 12-inch clock is proudly made in the USA.

Shinola Runwell clock, US$495 through shinola.com.

SECOND NATURE

Lend your living space a touch of Swiss precision with this jumbo version of Mondaine’s popular Swiss Railways model.


MIDCENTURY MOMENT

Part of a collection designed for Junghans by Swiss architect Max Bill, this face looks as good in 2021 as it did in 1961.

Junghans Max Bill wall clock, US$350 through junghanswatchesusa.net.

 TICK TALK

These clocks translate the look of your favourite watch to your wall.

(Top) Oris Aquis Date Upcycle, $3,000 through oris.ch.
Breitling SuperOcean Heritage Chronograph 44 Outerknown, $1,050 through breitling.com.
Tom Ford 002 Ocean Plastic Watch, $1,180 at Holt Renfrew.

(Left) Shinola Runwell clock, US$495 through shinola.com.
Junghans Max Bill wall clock, US$350 through junghanswatchesusa.net.

(From top) Oris Aquis Date Upcycle, $3,000 through oris.ch.
Breitling SuperOcean Heritage Chronograph 44 Outerknown, $1,050 through breitling.com.
Tom Ford 002 Ocean Plastic Watch, $1,180 at Holt Renfrew.
BULOVA
BOLD AT HEART
The old adage to never judge a book by its cover doesn’t really apply to the volumes designers and decorators choose to accent a living space. If a publisher gets the dust jacket just right, that title is destined to appear over and over again topping the chicest of coffee tables (see Rizzoli’s 2004 monograph on fashion phenomenon Tom Ford). What makes the covers of this holiday season’s new releases stand out are unexpected combinations of bold type, abstract imagery and inspiring colour. And if you happen to crack their spines, what you’ll find inside is equally stylish.

**BOOKS WITH GOOD LOOKS**

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**SET SAIL**

According to Assouline’s blockbuster Yachts, cruising the world’s waterways today are 3,000 vessels of a certain stature and glamour worthy of its pages. The standouts are showcased here through photography that emphasizes the long lines and louche lifestyles of boating with the best. Yachts: The Impossible Collection by Minnam Can, US$895 through assouline.com.

**PHOTO ALBUM**

It’s not surprising that it wasn’t possible to choose a single image for the cover of Wonderland, a celebration of photographer Annie Leibovitz’s half-century-long career. Inside, 340 shots capture the fantasy and character that fill every frame she snaps. Wonderland by Annie Leibovitz, $100 at bookstores and online (phaidon.com).

**CONTINENTAL SHIFT**

Gabrielle Guy, the Cape Town-based designer who created the cover for African Artists, looked to the palette of textiles in Mozambique and the paintings of Esther Mahlangu to inform its look. Its A-to-Z listing of 300-plus talents covers over 100 years of work. African Artists: From 1882 to Now, $95 at bookstores and online (phaidon.com).

**STEPPING OUT**

Our idea of men’s fashion has evolved beyond the butted-up suit. Artist Christoph Niemann’s dapper front and back illustrations for The Men’s Fashion Book distill this growth, while its pages document the diverse view points of designers, media and style icons. The Men’s Fashion Book, $100 at bookstores and online (phaidon.com).

**THINK BIG**

The land art projects that Gianfranco Gorgoni photographs often have a monumental quality, so it’s appropriate that the design of this career-spanning review channels awesome scale through its outsized type treatment. Gianfranco Gorgoni: Land Art Photographs by Ann Wolfe, $190 at bookstores and online (monacellipress.com).

**CONSTRUCTING IDENTITY**

Canadian Architecture posits that our built landscape is more regional than national. The common thread, from its cover through a coast-to-coast survey of spaces big and small, is an appreciation for natural materials and what they can do to define a sense of place. – ANDREW SARZONE

**AFRICAN ARTISTS**

“Evolving a Cultural Identity” by Monica Nelson, looks at bookstores and online (phaidon.com).

**FLORAL NOTES**

While classic cookbooks such as Joy of Cooking or Mastering the Art of French Cooking tend to have a homespun look, Edible Flowers embraces the high-contrast aesthetic of the Instagram foodie. It includes a lexicon of tasty blooms and what to cook with them. Edible Flowers: How, Why, and When We Eat Flowers by Monica Nelson, $45 at bookstores and online (monacellipress.com).

**CONSTRUCTING IDENTITY**

Canadian Architecture posits that our built landscape is more regional than national. The common thread, from its cover through a coast-to-coast survey of spaces big and small, is an appreciation for natural materials and what they can do to define a sense of place. – ANDREW SARZONE

**THAT SPECIAL GLOW**

Gabriel Scott’s latest lighting collection prioritizes craft and customization. The Luna Kaleido light is available in pendant and chandelier configurations. Gabriel Scott Luna Kaleido chandelier, from $4,000, pendant, from $2,800 through gabriel-scott.com.
FITNESS’S NEW REALITY

Taking your workout indoors for winter doesn’t have to be monotonous thanks growth in “exergaming”

We often think of gaming and exercise as opposites. One involves real physical exertion, the other may only strengthen your thumbs. Now, thanks to high-quality and more accessible immersive technology, that’s changing.

Between virtual reality empowering developer creativity and the pandemic bump of homebound workout regimes, fitness games are trending up. And it’s not just young gamers breaking a sweat. “One very cool thing about virtual reality is that it’s attracting a lot of middle-aged people who maybe stopped gaming for a long time or perhaps never in their lives gamed,” says Sonya Haskins, the e-sports editor for the website VR Fitness Insider.

VR games make daunting physical activities more accessible. The Climb simulates vertiginous rock climbing while The Thrill of the Fight has you shuffling around a virtual boxing ring. There are rhythm games such as FitXR, PowerBeats VR and Beat Saber, where players punch, squat and swing through obstacles to the beat of energizing music (burning approximately the same number of calories as a game of tennis). One of Haskins’s favourites, Supernatural, pictured above, situates you in environments so stunning you almost forget you’re working out.

Fitness gaming, or exergaming, first emerged in the 1980s, but aside from a few notable exceptions such as Dance Dance Revolution and the Wii Fit console, the genre was relatively niche. In the future, Haskin believes growth will come from an increased emphasis on haptic hardware, games with compatible wearables that give you a little bump when you’re punched or hit by an obstacle. Breaking out of your fitness rut by going virtual is only going to get more real.

– ADRIENNE MATEI

THE JOY OF SMART COOKING

Monogram’s latest range is like having a virtual sous chef in the kitchen.

Powerful industrial ranges fit for bona fide chefs are the biggest kitchen trend of the year and Monogram is elevating the category by combining smart technology with handsome design in its new Professional range. Available in dual-fuel and all-gas configurations, the range features an oven you can control through a sleek LCD touchscreen, or remotely with the SmartHQ app. That means you can start preheating while driving home or check to ensure you turned everything off on your way to the airport. The app also allows you to customize the accent lighting colour and brightness of the range’s LED-lit knobs to compliment your kitchen decor. If you appreciate a little guidance in the kitchen, Precision Oven Mode automatically tracks the progress of your roast or cake, making time and temperature adjustments to ensure everything turns out perfectly. The stovetop also is compatible with Hestan Cue. The product line pairs heat-sensing cookware with a recipe-filled video app that tells you exactly when to flip your steak for the perfect medium-rare.

Monogram Professional range, starting at $8,099 through monogram.ca.

CHECK MATES

No matter how long your list, these apps help keep your holiday haul organized

GIFT LIST
Make your own wish lists from items across the web and view your friends’ and family’s must-haves on this app. A chat function makes it easy to plot present game plans or split the cost with others in your circle. mygiftlistapp.com

GIFTAGRAM
This app curates options from small, local businesses and makes it easy to send them straight from your smartphone. If you need help selecting the perfect present, an in-the-know concierge is a click away. giftagram.com

GIFTED
Stay organized by tracking the status of your holiday buys through “idea,” “Need it,” “Ordered,” “Have it” and, finally, “Gifted.” This app keeps track of what you bought last year, too, so you don’t end up giving your uncle whisky rocks, yet again. – A.M. gifted-app.com.

Monogram Professional range, starting at $8,099 through monogram.ca.
This fall, Rivian officially entered the electric vehicle marketplace with two rough-and-tumble trucks: the R/one.pnumT pickup and the R/one.pnumS SUV. The brand’s concept is unique: a seven.pnum,/zero.pnum/zero.pnum-lb truck that can both climb mountains and sprint from zero to one.pnum/zero.pnum/zero.pnum kilometres/hour in three seconds, all in an upscale, family-friendly package.

The man tasked with creating the look for these vehicles and setting the tone for models to come is Jeff Hammoud, who grew up in Guelph, Ont., before moving to Detroit. “Not being bound by an existing brand history and design language is a unique opportunity that you don’t often get, especially in the automotive space,” says Hammoud, who is Rivian’s head of design. “All of the things that can inhibit the ability to create something new, they don’t exist for Rivian.”

That clean slate resulted in some dramatic styling details. Toothlike front headlights take inspiration from carabiner clips for their oval shape. The interior features a sophisticated ash wood dash. And hidden storage is everywhere, from under the front hood to a clever pass-through between the bed and rear doors in the pickup. There’s an integrated torch flashlight in the driver-side door, a portable Bluetooth speaker that docks in the centre console and floor mats designed by the homeware brand Chilewich.

“At Rivian, design and engineering are housed in the same area, which is not typical,” Hammoud says. “We really wanted to make sure the collaboration between design and engineering was happening from the very early stages.” Despite their weight and boxy aesthetic, the R/one.pnumT and R/one.pnumS are both surprisingly aerodynamic, with an electric range of about five.pnum/zero.pnum/zero.pnum km.

Alongside a who’s-who of Silicon Valley venture capitalists, Rivian is backed in large part by Amazon, and is currently developing a fleet of electric delivery trucks for the company. It’s also building a massive quick-charge network across North America.

“Snowmobiles were designed to bring you closer to nature, through the deepest powder and over the slickest ice. But traditional snowmobiles have one glaring flaw, which is especially evident in the serenity of the backcountry. With loud gas engines, they don’t exactly tread lightly through the wilderness. Taiga, an upstart brand based in Montreal, is aiming to change that. Its all-electric models are whisper quiet and sustainably minded without sacrificing any of the power or utility of traditional snowmobiles. The electric powertrain is impressive, with a range of up to 140 kilometres, instant torque for supercar-level acceleration and significantly less maintenance. Taiga’s digital-first approach allows your snowmobile to be updated constantly. An integrated smartphone app lets you plan and track routes, run diagnostics and adjust the controls as you discreetly cruise through the landscape.” – P.S.

Taiga snowmobiles, starting at US$/one.pnum/five.pnum./zero.pnum/zero.pnum/zero.pnum through taigamotors.ca.

These ideas for presents are guaranteed to give auto enthusiasts a bit of a rush

ON A ROLL
Through stunning original photography, The Motorcycle: Design, Art, Desire chronicles the history of bikes as objects of social change and innovation.

The Motorcycle: Design, Art, Desire, $79.95 at bookstores and online (phaidon.com).

NEW BUILD
A highlight of the long-awaited No Time to Die was Bond’s return to his classic Aston Martin DB5. In lieu of the real thing, this 1,295-piece Lego kit will keep auto-loving Bond fans sated.

Lego James Bond Aston Martin DB5, $179.99 through lego.com.

SPORT SPECS
Designed in collaboration between German eyewear brand ic! berlin and luxury auto maker Mercedes-Benz, these stainless steel-frame sunglasses are the perfect accessory for any serious driver. – P.S.

ic! berlin AMG GT Sunglasses, $683 through coolframes.ca.
THE PLACES WE WILL GO

Travel remains a topsy-turvy proposition for many luxury globetrotters. On one hand, this fall’s volume of flight bookings and hotel reservations suggest many are still cautious about resuming their usual getaway rhythm. On the other, there’s a worldwide shortage of private aircraft as vacationers with the deepest pockets seek privacy and discretion. MARYAM SIDDIQI looks ahead to 2022 and the travel trends driving where we’ll go and how we’ll get there.

ROAD TRIP ON TWO WHEELS

Interest in electric bicycles surged during the pandemic and enthusiasm is only growing with new trails – complete with charging stations – being added across the country. Hotels, such as Fairmont’s Le Château Montebello in Quebec and the Tweedsmuir Lodge in B.C., offer guests e-bike rentals to explore local attractions. The new Canadian brand Beachman adds design cred to e-bikes with its motorcycle-inspired models. The Beachman 64, debuting next year, can tour you around for 90 kilometres on a single charge. Beachman 64 E-bike, $4,200 through beachman.ca.

TRUST THE EXPERTS

Maybe it’s because our holiday planning muscles have atrophied after an almost two-year pause on getting out of town, or perhaps navigating ever-changing restrictions and requirements is too daunting, but there’s no question that travel agents and advisors are essential again. From COVID-testing requirements to catching a connecting flight, travellers, especially those embarking on family holidays, are handing over logistics to the professionals, according to industry publication Skift.

SPOIL YOUR BUBBLE

While the days of strict bubble travel may be over, the inclination to travel with a group and just that group prevails, so the opening of Revelstoke, B.C.’s Flying Moose Chalet is well timed. Booking a stay at the full-service private chalet includes the assistance of its team: an on-call butler, driver and housekeeping and culinary staff. The eight-suite property, a short drive from the base of Revelstoke Mountain Resort and downtown Revelstoke, comes with an outdoor pool, hot tub, climbing wall, steam room and games room. Flying Moose Chalet stays from $6,500/night through flyingmoosebc.com.

STAY LOCAL

The luxury travel advisor network Virtuoso has been tracking the hotel booking habits of Canadian travellers and, while we are looking abroad, particularly to sunny destinations for winter, domestic travel is still very much top of mind. The three most popular spots: Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. Visiting family and friends is a leading reason for taking a trip, and domestic hotels continue to offer enticing deals, whether its dining or spa credits, which means you don’t have to go very far to get pampered.

SMART TRAVEL

Both Destination Canada and luxury tour operator Abercrombie & Kent are seeing a rise in “edventure” or trips that combine educational opportunities with adventure travel. That may mean further exploring a birding hobby picked up during the pandemic with a trip to Belize, where 618 feathered species can be found. Or it could be using a vacation to learn about this country’s Indigenous peoples at popular destinations such as Vancouver’s Stanley Park, where Talaysay Tours offers nature and Indigenous art tours. For more information on Talaysay Tours, visit talaysaytours.wpengine.com.

GO GREEN

Sustainability is increasingly a deciding factor for travel plans. Expedia Group reports almost 60 per cent of travellers are happy to up their getaway budget if it allows them to be more environmentally sensitive. Searching for hotel options on Google now reveals a property’s sustainability efforts, while Skyscanner allows users to limit flight searches to options that have lower CO2 emissions. Tour operators, such as B Corp-certified Intrepid, measure and offset emissions that result from things like transportation and waste. For more information, visit intrepidtravel.com.
Van Cleef & Arpels
Haute Joaillerie, place Vendôme since 1906

Flora Collection
Freesia, Lotus, Cosmos, and Rose de Noël creations.
BUBBLING UP

In the Niagara region, one winery aims to create a bottle of sparkling to rival Champagne.

Inspired by the ambitious widows who founded French Champagne houses such as Bollinger, Laurent-Perrier and Pommery, St. Catharines, Ont., winery Henry of Pelham named its brand of sparkling wines after family matriarch, Catharine Smith. From its debut in 2002, the Cuvée Catharine portfolio has evolved from a Brut and Brut rosé to the premium vintage Carte Blanche Blanc de Blanc. This season’s flagship release is a bottle of bubbly made to rival Champagne’s best.

Centenary was aged so long that the winery lost track of it. “To be honest, we forgot that we did it,” says Daniel Speck, Henry of Pelham’s vice-president of sales and marketing. “This was a project, veteran winemaker Ron Giesbrecht, left the winery in 2013 to take on a teaching role at Niagara College. His successor, Sandrine Bourcier, took a job in California in 2018. It was the next winemaker, Laurence Buhler, who discovered the cache of a few hundred bottles of sparkling wine resting in a corner of the cellar while taking inventory of what he inherited.

After opening one of the mystery bottles to assess its condition, everyone was excited by its potential. The yeast cells that created the secondary fermentation to produce the bubbles in each bottle imparted toasty and bready flavours and added richness to the wine’s texture. “The climate here is perfect for making sparkling wine,” Speck says. “This is a great demonstration of how good it can be.”

Henry of Pelham Centenary, $125 at select LCBO Vintages stores and through henryofpelham.com.

MADE IN JAPAN

An upcoming book captures a Canadian sake pro’s love for the Japanese drink.

When Michael Tremblay was hired by Ki Modern Japanese in Toronto’s financial district 15 years ago, the certified sommelier didn’t know much about Japanese cuisine and knew even less about sake. But it didn’t take long for him to be inspired by the rich history and culture of Japan’s national beverage.

“I got lost in the stories,” says Tremblay, who oversees the largest sake program in Canada at Ki and judges at international sake competitions. In 2018, having become one of the foremost enthusiasts in the country, he was named a Sake Samurai, a title bestowed by the Japan Sake Brewers Association to promoters of sake and Japanese culture.

During the pandemic, Tremblay worked with co-author Nancy Matsumoto to complete the upcoming book Rice, Water, Earth: Travels Through Japan’s Artisan Sake Culture will be released in March 2022. For more information, visit tuttlepublishing.com.

NEW BREW

Partake produces a range of zero-alcohol craft beer, including the refreshing Pale, which offers a mix of fruity and floral flavours with a crisp finish.


ALT VINO

The makers of Proxies blend juices, bitters and other ingredients to mimic the complex character of different styles of wine, such as the prune and cedar aromas you’ll find in Sauvage.

Proxes Sauvage, $105/four bottles through acidleague.com.

GO DRY

Sobrii 0-Gin features heady notes of floral and juniper as part of its faithful approximation of a dry gin. It’s best enjoyed with tonic water or sparkling lime water.

Sobrii 0-Gin, $35 through sobri.ca.

FAUX-MARO

A secret blend of 89 botanicals is used to produce this alcohol-free amaro that’s enjoyable served over ice or as part of a mixed drink.

KickAca89, $40 through kidsaas89.com.
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Terms and Conditions Apply
Novelty is the name of the game when it comes to sweaters this season. Whether layering on textures or saturated colour, get clever with how you dress cozy.
pattern play
tone on tone

Even in a range of neutral shades, knit textures take on a cozy richness.
Maiami cardigan, $1875, sweater, $1865, Missoni hat, $390, scarf, $330 at Holt Renfrew (holtrenfrew.com).
Vintage skirt, price on request at Nouveau Riche Vintage (nouveaurichevintage.ca). Chloé shoes, $1,070 through chloé.com.
craft works

Patchwork crochet makes this vintage cardigan on-trend for today.

Vintage sweater, price on request at Nouveau Riche Vintage (nouveaurichevintage.ca).

Hotpot Variety hat, $240 at Holt Renfrew (holtrenfrew.com).
neutral territory
This look’s finishing touch is a pair of lace-up oxfords in a fleecy hide.
Chloé dress, $1,395, shoes, $1,000 through chloé.com. Vintage hat, 
price on request at Nouveau Riche Vintage (nouveaurichevintage.ca).
in the mix
Mismatch points go to the Prada and Loewe collections, which each shuffle incongruous patterns together. Top, $1,190, cardigan, $1,600, skirt, $2,190, purse, $3,000, boots, price on request at Prada (prada.com). Loewe sweater (worn over shoulders), $1,150 at Holt Renfrew (holrenfrew.com).
under the hood
A Louis Vuitton jumper takes on a futuristic spirit with cinched details on its snood and pockets. Vest, skirt, boots, all price on request at Louis Vuitton (louisvuitton.com).
vested interest
Danish designer Cecilie Bahnsen’s layers of ivory combine formal and casual elements.


Amass appeal

Kick-start a new collection with fashion, beauty and design gifts that will deliver joy for years to come

BY ODESSA PALOMA PARKER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOSEPH SARACENO
PROP STYLING BY JAMES REIGER

HANG IT ALL
A sense of craft and cultural curiosity is what sets apart this assembly of happy-making ornaments. Be they beautiful glass objects made in Egypt, Palestine or Winnipeg, or baubles woven in the Andes and Toronto, these treasures are the perfect jumping-off point for a more diverse take on holiday decor. For the most artistic among us, Diana Watters Handmade’s cross-stitch kits let you add your own creative savvy to the tree.

ALL FIRED UP
A cache of handmade ceramics, from shapely pitchers and quirky pipes to cheerful vases and tumblers capture the maker’s spirit. Whether glazed in a coating reminiscent of gingerbread icing, like Julie Moon’s geometric vase, or finished with the more organic splatters of Obakki’s handmade-in-Mexico pitcher, these future heirlooms add idiosyncrasy to any space.


UNUSUAL SUSPECTS

Swiss cheese and the moon, scrunchies, graffiti and postmodern art are all inspiration for winter's head-turning handbags. Some have retro appeal (i.e. Loewe’s shag carpet texture) and others, including Edte’s foam purse, feel decidedly futuristic. There are unexpected prints, such as Fendi’s marbleized motif, or maximalist embellishment (see the array of charms on a Dior piece created in collaboration with artist Lina Iris Viktor). The one unifying factor: They’re all unabashedly quirky.
MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE
These sculptural flacons embody the character of something we ultimately cannot see in its most pleasurable state: perfume. There’s a multitude of options for those who make a ritual out of applying scent. The most notable new releases, including Louis Vuitton’s collaboration with architect Frank Gehry, embrace bold bottle design. Or elevate the look of any fragrance with a vivacious, refillable vessel in an artful form.

Material culture

The revival of Canadian textiles starts with small producers sharing their passion for their craft. In B.C., Macgee Cloth Company creates blankets that embody the maker’s spirit.

BY GAYLE MACDONALD
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALANA PATERSON
In the small Sunshine Coast community of Roberts Creek, B.C., sits a shed, hidden among majestic firs, where the rhythmic thump and clank of an antique shuttle loom can be heard at all hours of the day and night. Inside, the woman oiling the gears, changing the bobbins and pulling the levers is Pam Magee, a part-time pharmacist-turned-heirloom weaver. Six years ago, she found a 1936 English Dobcross shuttle loom in a sheep pasture in Wales and had it shipped in hundreds of pieces to her home. In 2019, she created the first custom blanket under her label, the Macgee Cloth Company. Since then, her blankets, made from the finest ethically sourced cotton and wool, have become cherished keepsakes by those who appreciate their provenance – as well as the pluck of a woman determined to breathe new life into a venerable craft.
A Macgee Cloth Company blanket (below) takes days to make when you account for setting up the equipment (including the loom shuttle, right), weaving and finishing the piece. Yarn is sourced from sustainable suppliers in the U.S. and U.K.

“I was lucky enough to see one of these beauties in full flight while on vacation in Spain many years ago and I became somewhat obsessed,” Magee says. When her loom arrived, she built a workshop next to her house to store it and then started the complicated reassembly.

“There is no handbook to look up on the internet to tell you how to fix it and run it,” she says. “I had a couple old manuals and help from a friend named Howard, who had operated the looms as a boy in Yorkshire.”

The two of them spent hours meeting on Zoom and Skype to put the pieces back together and work out the many kinks. Soon after, she purchased another hulking piece of equipment, a 1899 Charlesworth warper (believed to be the only one still in existence) that takes the threads off the rack of spools, in even lengths and tension, to form the vertical part of the weave, known as the warp.

“My passion for woven textiles grew out of a fascination for turn-of-the-century loom technology that once revolutionized textile production. To see and hear these machines in action, to smell 100-year-old grease, is an experience akin to time travel,” Magee says. “This allure, paired with an increasing frustration over the lack of transparency in textile manufacturing and the absence of a textile industry in Canada, is what compelled me to set up this little company.”

To understand the impact of these looms on the world’s textile industry, one has to look back roughly 100 years. The industrial shuttle loom sped up textile production and made quality cloth accessible to the average person rather than just society’s well-to-do.

The shuttle loom is special for another reason. Unlike the next phase of loom innovation (such as the rapier loom used in textile mills in Europe, Asia and the U.S. today), the shuttle loom creates a continuous weft thread as it circles the edge of the bobbin, creating a true selvedge – or “self-finished” edge – which prevents fraying or ravelling. “The selvedge edge was lost by gaining speed,” Magee says.

When it comes to the fibres she chooses for her blankets and throws, Magee focuses on full transparency and traceability. Her cotton comes from Hill Spinners in North Carolina, which buys its cotton from the Texas Organic Cotton Marketing Cooperative. Its members primarily practice dryland farming, which means they don’t irrigate but rely on rain cycles and reservoirs. The 100-per-cent lambswool is produced and spun at Gledhill Spinners, which has been in operation in Yorkshire since 1777.

Each blanket takes about 40 minutes to weave. The washing, finishing and pressing – all
done by Magee – can add two to three additional days to her production timeline. The blankets, which range from $400 to $700, are sold online and at Inform Interiors in Vancouver.

“My biggest challenge at the moment is getting to the next level,” says Magee, who is the sole owner and operator of her little back-in-the-woods operation. “And I’m no spring chicken.” Her hope is that the beauty of her blankets will inspire younger artisans to pick up the craft and carry the storied tradition of heirloom weaving forward. “I’m hoping to grow it into something that will benefit my community, young people and Canada. To help us create a textile world, which we once had, but we let disappear.”
FOR THE LOVE OF LARDERS

Whether it’s an entire room or a standalone cabinet, a handsome pantry finds beauty in a kitchen’s function

BY BETH HITCHCOCK
ot so long ago, even the most design savvy among us thought of the pantry as a dysfunctional corner closet or unreachable shelf above the refrigerator. The semi-shameful repository was where you stashed about-to-expire canned goods and overzealous Costco purchases. Now, fueled by more time spent at home and a new fascination in North America for bespoke British cabinet companies such as Plain English and deVOL, the pantry has become the kitchen’s most fashionable space.

“All of my clients want a pantry,” says Toronto- and Chester, N.S.-based designer Philip Mitchell. “People are more focused on how their homes function these days. I can’t remember a recent project where we didn’t include one.”

The pantry renaissance can be linked to a newfound zeal for stockpiling and organizing in a chaotic and unpredictable world. “COVID changed everything,” says Imogen Pritchard, the U.S. design director for Plain English Kitchens. “We’ve gone beyond opening a cupboard and rummaging around to find you’ve already got 10 tins of the same thing. People are using their kitchens more and getting creative about customization.”

It’s not enough to put everything in its place. The latest trend for today’s pantries is to incorporate next-level details and splash out on statement colours. “The pantry gets more attention nowadays than it did even five years ago,” says Jack Creasy, principal at Jack Creasy Design in Toronto. “It used to be just a tall cabinet with shelves or pullouts. Now, we’re using our pantries almost every day and we want them to be beautiful and unique.”

Once the sole domain of maids and butlers, pantries, larders and servers were far from showpieces. Instead, each served a very practical and distinct role in food preparation and service. The Victorians used pantries for dry goods, while the larder was a cool area for meat or dairy. After dinner, staff whisked the dirty dishes off to the scullery or servery for washing up. By 1913, when the electric refrigerator was introduced and food preservation techniques improved, the pantry and larder—the terms are now used interchangeably—seemed unnecessary and fell out of favour in kitchen design.

Funny that with all our new technology, we should long for these quaint, hardworking spaces of yesteryear. Plain English has perfected the art of modern nostalgia. The company, which turns 30 in 2022, is considered cutting edge in spite of taking inspiration from places such as the circa-1829 kitchen at Petworth House, a country manor that is now part of Britain’s National Trust. Eva Chen, Instagram’s head of fashion, recently made these quaint, hardworking spaces of yesteryear. Plain English has become the kitchen’s most fashionable space.

Pantries aren’t just for sprawling English country homes or Connecticut farmhouses, of course. When square footage doesn’t allow for a walk-in pantry, a freestanding cabinet or armoire is the natural solution. “Unfitted pantry cabinets are great for when you don’t have a huge amount of space or a huge budget,” Mitchell says. “They can house everything from dog food to a microwave, but on the outside it’s an attractive focal piece that looks like furniture and doesn’t make an entire loft or apartment feel like it’s taken up by the kitchen.”

Plain English is known for its Larder Cupboard, which can be fully customized to suit a homeowner’s needs. Lined with mirrors, the cupboard becomes a bar; wired with electrical outlets, it serves as a breakfast or coffee cupboard. “Lately, we have a lot of people calling us and saying, ‘Can I just buy a Larder Cupboard?’ And of course they can,” Pritchard says. “It’s a piece that travels with you because it’s not fixed. You’ll have it forever.”

Just because a walk-in or pantry cupboard is multipurpose and hardworking, it doesn’t mean it has to be sedate in its look. “I find this is a space, much like a powder room, where clients are more open to being a little more daring with their design choices,” Creasy says. There’s a movement toward surprise and delight, including the addition of purely decorative historic elements that wink to the past. “Hit and miss” cutouts adorn the backs of some Plain English cabinets, a nod to the time when a larder would have vented to the outside.

Mitchell, who has just released his book, Collected Interiors: Rooms That Tell a Story, agrees the pantry has become a place to take design risks and move beyond the ubiquitous white kitchen. “Clients want stains or colour on their cabinetry and it’s refreshing,” he says. “It’s a desire to do something different than what everybody else has.”

Pritchard describes a New York client who chose a white larder cupboard with a bright pink interior. “It doesn’t have to be a big, daunting decision,” she says. “Imagine if you came downstairs in the morning, opened your coffee cupboard and the interior was bright yellow. It would have a great effect on your mood!” The company’s most recent collection of paint, a collaboration with the London interior designer Rita Konig, includes the colours “Burnt Toast,” “Tea Caddy” and the surprisingly delicate “Mouldy Plum.”

Admirers of contemporary design needn’t feel left out of larder love. Creasy goes so far as to say that a pantry is a must for minimalists who wish to keep kitchen counters spotless and uncluttered. “In contemporary spaces, I love the concept of a hidden pantry that’s disguised by a pair of tall cabinet doors that open to reveal a walk-in room,” he says.

German kitchen manufacturer Bulthaup, which has showrooms in Vancouver and Toronto, offers a more contemporary alternative to the traditional English silhouette. Its streamlined b2 system, inspired by a carpenter’s workshop, features two standalone cabinets clad in oak or walnut. One houses dishes, pots and food, the other is configured to keep appliances neatly tucked away.

Other elements rounding the pantry from past to present include stainless-steel drawer inserts for everything from bread to flour and sugar, dimmable LED lighting and customized hardware that identifies what’s inside every cupboard and drawer. All the better for houseguests to help themselves as the holidays approach.
The Atlas Bar in Singapore claims to have the world’s largest collection of gin. More than a thousand options are on the drink menu. By that measure, my collection is modest. But with just over 200 bottles and counting, I might just catch up.

Collecting and drinking gin combines my love of fragrance and flavours with my hunter-gatherer tendencies. Like any good hobby, it’s also a way to forge connections. There’s storytelling in these bottles. Especially during a time of circumscribed travel, gin’s gateway to escapism, by way of a cocktail glass, is more than welcome.

“(Gin) is a spyglass through which one traces social, political and even agricultural developments,” is how drinks writer Lesley Jacobs Solmonson puts it in Gin: A Global History, her book about the spirit. My shift from merely stocking a bar to compiling a library happened about a decade ago when I bought a sampler pack from St. George Spirits in Alameda, Calif. It included a bottle called Terroir, a mossy gin that counts George Spirits in Alameda, Calif. It included a bottle called Terroir, a mossy gin that counts George Spirits in Alameda, Calif. It included a bottle called Terroir, a mossy gin that counts George Spirits in Alameda, Calif. It included a bottle called Terroir, a mossy gin that counts George Spirits in Alameda, Calif. It included a bottle called Terroir, a mossy gin that counts George Spirits in Alameda, Calif. It included a bottle called Terroir, a mossy gin that counts George Spirits in Alameda, Calif. 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