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Bright Ideas

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOUR HOME

WHAT'S NEXT

Ornamental grasses and lavender flank a staircase in a Judy Kameon garden.



GROWTH FUND

Since serendipitously tumbling into landscape design 20 years ago, Los Angeles-based Judy Kameon has worked her magic on spaces ranging from a bare dirt lot to the grounds of the Parker Palm Springs hotel. Her smart, evocative designs, as featured in *Gardens Are for Living* (Rizzoli), celebrate the joy of being outside in a stylish, midcentury vein, and her deft mix of practical details with plantings that express the poetry of color, texture, and scale has earned her a devoted following. But Kameon's gardens aren't just to be looked at, they are to be used—the book is packed with ideas for outdoor entertaining and lolling, plus advice about everything from protecting against pests to what kinds of lights work best where. Above all, the volume is a gleeful injunction to enjoy your own outdoors.

RESOUNDING FINNISH

FROM ALVAR AALTO TO MARI-MEKKO, THE MODESTLY POPULATED COUNTRY OF FINLAND HAS HAD AN OUTSIZE IMPACT ON GLOBAL DESIGN. "FINLAND: DESIGNED ENVIRONMENTS," ON VIEW AT THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS, LOOKS AT HOW FINNS HAVE LED THE WAY IN PRACTICAL, CREATIVE, AND SUSTAINABLE DESIGN OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS, WHILE SLEEK HOME FURNISHINGS ABOUND (MUCH OF IT MADE FROM CARDBOARD OR WOOD), THE SHOW ALSO ENCOMPASSES THE BICYCLE-FRIENDLY LAYOUT OF FINNISH CITIES, PLAYFUL ART JEWELRY, GOVERNMENT-ISSUED MATERNITY KITS, THE NATIONAL VOGUE FOR SUMMER HOUSES AND SAUNAS, AND SUCH GROUNDBREAKING ARCHITECTURE AS A WOMEN'S CENTER IN SENEGAL BUILT BY AN ALL-FEMALE FIRM (MAY 10–AUGUST 17; ARTSMIA.ORG).



Birch lamp by Seppo Kaho, 2005.



A summer villa by Huttunen-Lipasti-Pakkanen Architects, 2008.



The Den at the new WestHouse Hotel in midtown Manhattan.

HARMONIC CONVERGENCE

How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice, practice, as the old quip goes. But what if you also need a place to stay? Located in a 1927 building around the corner from the famed midtown concert hall, the WestHouse New York is a just-opened luxury boutique hotel with an Art Deco feel. Designer Jeffrey Beers says he wanted to create the atmosphere of "the pied-à-terre of an upscale world traveler." The lobby, all dark woods and textured marbles, has a double-height coffered ceiling with crystal and metal chandeliers and a hand-painted map on canvas. Guests can grab a drink in the living-room-like Den, left, with its cast-iron fireplace and backlit shelves filled with books, then head upstairs to their rooms in an elevator cab covered in antiqued woven metal (westhousehotelnewyork.com).

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ERIK OTSEA; © SECTO DESIGN; HUTTUNEN-LIPASTI-PAKKANEN ARCHITECTS; RICK LEW