

# BIG IDEAS for SMALL SPACES



Our 2012 House of the Year—actually three tiny houses—made an outsize impression at New York City's World Financial Center this summer.



Cottage comforts: An office leaves room for lounging (near right), while the guest room promises refreshments at the ready.



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PHOTOGRAPHS BY (THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE) BURCU AVSAR



## Introducing our 2012 House of the Year (A 250-square-foot cottage so nice, we built it thrice)

What would you do if your home magically sprouted an extra room? Better yet, an entirely separate space? Maybe you've dreamed of an office with a 10-second commute. Or guest quarters that let you act the gracious host—without sharing a bathroom. Perhaps your fantasy involves a killer kitchen that takes "cooking out" to exhilarating new heights. To explore the possibilities, we called upon three of our favorite designers, and matched them with "clients": a couple of entrepreneurial artisans, the owner of America's most luxe B&B, and a world-class chef—people with strong opinions about what it takes to make a space really work. Turn the page for an up-close look at these spare rooms, all with style to spare.



# A Gracious Guest Room



**THE DESIGNER** New York City textile whiz Thomas Paul creates pillows and linens that celebrate nature with humor. His witty “Luddite” smart phone and laptop cases poke fun at technology. ([thomaspaul.com](http://thomaspaul.com))

**THE EXPERT** Kreis Beall founded Blackberry Farm, the legendary Walland, Tennessee, inn where visitors get back to the land—in the lap of luxury. ([blackberryfarm.com](http://blackberryfarm.com))

**THE GOAL** Stand-alone guest quarters that mix the laid-back spirit of summer camp with thoughtful amenities



Thayer Green  
Benjamin Moore

**1. Offer folks a drink.** “Guests should be able to enjoy coffee while in their pajamas,” says Kreis Beall. The same goes for water. And a bottle of wine certainly wouldn’t hurt. Thomas Paul grouped these necessities—plus a jar of Blackberry Farm’s granola—atop an antique dresser.

**2. Friends don’t let friends live out of suitcases.** Which is why this cottage provides a wealth of clothing-storage

options, including the dresser, built-in shelves, and a convenient row of hooks.

**3. The key to truly original art?** A pair of scissors! Paul cut these woodland silhouettes from vintage wallpaper, then pasted them on kraft paper.

**4. Bring the tent inside.** “A lot of fabric around a canopy bed can seem old-fashioned,” Paul concedes. To shake off the mothballs, and support the

room’s camp theme, he draped Charles P. Rogers’s iron frame with curtains stitched from perfectly plain Sunbrella canvas. Boosting the outdoorsy appeal: the designer’s own throw pillows, which reference mallards, wood, and bandannas.

**5. Ask more of accessories.** By topping a luggage rack from Ballard Designs with a flea-market tray, Paul devised a nightstand capable of serving breakfast, too.

## bright idea!

When not in play, these board games from L.L. Bean work as wall art.

Ally’s Earring  
Benjamin Moore



“This cottage captures the romance of camping out, though guests aren’t exactly roughing it.”

—Thomas Paul

A Company Store comforter and a wool blanket from Schoolhouse Electric add up to cozy layering.



Plantation  
Benjamin Moore

Thomas Paul left the floors, from Lumber Liquidators, unfinished to underscore the rustic vibe.



Vapor  
Benjamin Moore

**6. Make a blanket statement.** Paul customized this Ballard chair, upholstering its cushions with Pendleton throws.

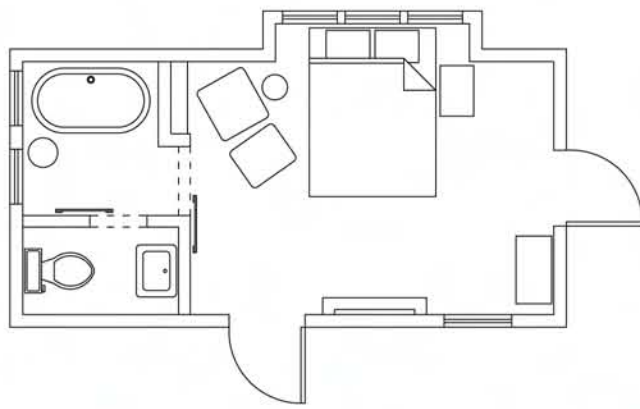
**7. The cure for the common medicine chest:** A no-frills cross, cut from a piece of red magnetic sheeting, brightens Ikea's utilitarian metal cabinet.

**8. Soak in the sights.** Paul hung the shower curtain (sewn from his tree fabric) with the pattern facing the tub—and the person in it. The rod's configured so that when the curtain's open, it can be admired by anyone passing by.



The Porcher tub is outfitted with Moen fixtures.

**Best-Laid Plans: The Guest Cottage**



**WATCH THE VIDEO!**  
Tour this dreamy guest room by scanning the QR code below with your phone, or visit [countryliving.com/hoy](http://countryliving.com/hoy).



A small bump-out on one of the cottage's long walls helps the tiny house accommodate the bed. For greater flexibility and privacy, vintage doors slide on tracks to cordon off the bathing area from both the main room and the bathroom.

**9. This hamper boasts hidden potential.** "In a compact space, furniture has to do more," Paul says of the laundry bin he found on Etsy. A cushioned lid (Paul covered it to match the shower curtain) allows the piece to act as extra seating.

**10. Channel practicality.** Not only is this Bose TV positioned at the foot of the bed for lazy screening sessions, as Beall requested, but it's wall-mounted—no cumbersome media center required.



BIG IDEAS FOR SMALL SPACES

# The Ultimate Kitchen for Outdoor Entertaining



**THE DESIGNER** Architect Ruard Veltman, who runs his own firm in Charlotte, North Carolina, is known for working sophisticated wonders with salvage. ([ruardveltmanarchitecture.com](http://ruardveltmanarchitecture.com))

**THE EXPERT** The 2010 winner of *Top Chef Masters*, Marcus Samuelsson is also the author of three cookbooks. His New York City restaurant, Red Rooster, has sparked a latter-day Harlem renaissance. ([redroosterharlem.com](http://redroosterharlem.com))

**THE GOAL** Take backyard cooking to a whole new level with a fully functioning kitchen that's protected from the elements

"The layout of this small kitchen is very spare, but reclaimed barn wood warms things up."

—Ruard Veltman



 Kendall Charcoal  
Benjamin Moore

A vintage sign from Repop contributes an extra dose of folksy charm.

**bright idea!**

A trash chute cut into the island gets rid of food-prep trimmings fast.



**1. Go with the grain.** "I like a kitchen with personality," says Marcus Samuelsson, "rather than some sterile white box." Ruard Veltman introduced character—not clutter—by cladding the walls in reclaimed barn wood from Tall Cotton Supply.

**2. Keep it on the down-low.** Instead of overwhelming the cottage with cabinetry, Veltman limited himself to lower units, and an island, by Cornell Cabinets & Millwork. And though he sited the Whirlpool cooktop and Porcher farmhouse

sink here—both set into Silestone countertops—bulkier appliances find shelter in an alcove (see no. 5, next page). The architect even tucked a dishwasher, also by Whirlpool, into the back side of the island.

**3. Preserve the view.** Since a typical pendant lamp would block the windows, Veltman crafted an almost invisible fixture of cloth-covered electrical cords, ceramic bases, and filament bulbs. "It's intended to look like its parts," he says. "And that's elegant."

**4. Why hide the ingredients you use most?** "My spices don't sit in a cabinet—they hang out on the counter," says Samuelsson. These glass containers satisfy his desire to have essentials at hand, in an aesthetically pleasing way.



**5. Forget the work triangle.**

In a space this tight, it's not like point A is ever that far from point B. So Veltman moved the Whirlpool refrigerator and double ovens off to one side, behind abbreviated walls that lend a sense of separation but refuse to chop up the room.

**6. All hail the pocket pantry!**

Those abbreviated walls possess a secret: Their back sides stockpile dry and canned goods on shelves that are accessible yet out of sight. Attractive white-ware and wineglasses line the shelves that face the island.



**7. That open shelving isn't just for show.**

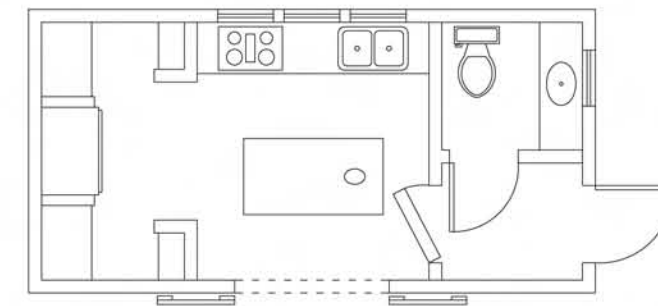
"In such narrow confines," Veltman says, "you want as few swinging cabinet doors as possible."

**8. Expand your horizons.**

Weathered barn doors from Tall Cotton Supply slide wide open and "allow the indoors to merge with the outdoors, so the cook doesn't feel isolated," explains Samuelsson. Veltman further blurred the boundaries with a dining area shaded by an awning of Sunbrella fabric and furnished with a Grandin Road picnic table and benches.



**Best-Laid Plans: The Kitchen**



Ruard Veltman divided the cottage into three areas, with the heart of the kitchen in the middle. On one side, the walls come out only 28 inches, visually setting off the zone that contains shelves, the fridge, and two ovens. On the other side, there's a powder room with its own separate mudroom entrance—all cleverly hidden from the kitchen by a barn-wood door that disappears into the wall.

**WATCH THE VIDEO!**  
Tour this deluxe cookout space by scanning the QR code below with your phone, or visit [countryliving.com/hoy](http://countryliving.com/hoy).



# A Creative Home Office



Dragon's Breath  
Benjamin Moore



**THE DESIGNER** Though Barbara Kurgan (center) is based in New York City, the interior and furniture designer calls a coastal Maine cottage—featured in our March 2012 issue—home. ([barbarakurgan.com](http://barbarakurgan.com))

**THE EXPERTS** Beloved for their Forage line of bow ties, Philadelphians Shauna Alterio and Stephen Loidolt also dream up delightfully oddball objects—handcrafted yo-yos, faux bois chalk—under their Something's Hiding in Here label. ([somethingshidinginhere.com](http://somethingshidinginhere.com))

**THE GOAL** An artfully organized, thought-provoking studio for a husband-and-wife design team who work side by side, all day long

**1. How to store material goods in style:** "Turn your supplies into decoration," urges Barbara Kurgan, who stashed bolts of fabric in an industrial trash can and skewered swatches on giant safety pins from Ballard Designs.

**2. Elevate a standard desk.** Explains Stephen Loidolt: "We prefer counter-height surfaces that encourage us to stand and move around, instead of just sitting and stagnating." Kurgan

fashioned a tall, partners-style setup by pairing two Ballard desks and topping them with a custom box that provides a stealthy spot for stowing files and books.

**3. Now, this is worth noting!** Kurgan attached a roll of kraft paper to the end of the dual workstation, so Loidolt and his wife, Shauna Alterio, can scribble and sketch, then pull a blank sheet over the desktop to start anew.

**4. An enlightening path to a clear desk?** Ground table-hogging task lights and choose floor lamps, like these Ballard models.

**5. Find furniture that plays hide-and-seek.** Intended as dining-room servers, these Ballard buys met Kurgan's aim to provide "display opportunities, along with drawers for tucking things away." Mission accomplished. "The stuff that inspires us is out," says Loidolt, "but the office still looks neat."

"This office-for-two was designed around collections arranged to trigger the imagination." —Barbara Kurgan

These Smith+Noble shades open from the top and bottom to offer greater control over natural light.



Crisp Linen  
Benjamin Moore

□ Raindance  
Benjamin Moore

## bright idea!

For a low-commitment pop of bold yellow, Kurgan lined a high shelf with *National Geographics*.

7

6

7

6

**6. Define a room within a room.** Kurgan subtly delineated a sitting area with Company Store's cowhide rug. The Ballard Designs settee, upholstered in coral velvet from Calico Corners, helps cement the workshop's palette, sparked by a box of Ladurée macaroons.

**7. A little quirk never hurts.** This vintage print of bow-tie connoisseur Abe Lincoln, from Liza Sherman Antiques, references Alterio and Loidolt's neckwear line. Kurgan also embroidered Ballard's skirted burlap stool with the name of the couple's firm.

**8. Climb the walls.** Hooks and baskets from Ballard designate a home for jackets, bags, and files, without encroaching upon a bit of floor space.

**9. Don't overlook the loo.** Chalkboard paint yields a changeable canvas in the powder room. "Shauna loves wallpaper," Kurgan says, "but rather than settle on a permanent pattern, we had artist Chiara Alberetti Milott draw one."

**10. The bulletin board goes big.** Kurgan upholstered an entire wall of the side entry's hallway in Sunbrella fabric, giving Alterio and Loidolt ample space to pin photos, notes, and paint chips.

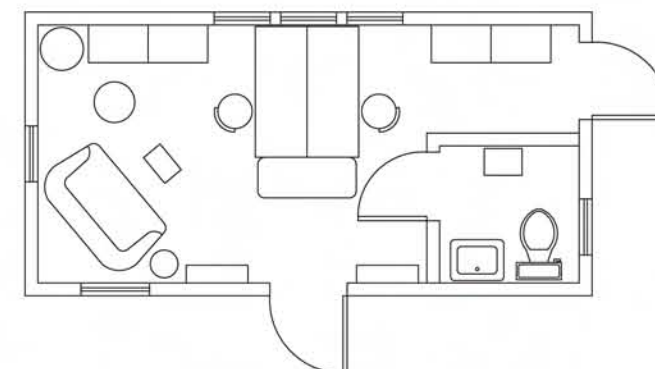


□ Chalkboard  
Benjamin Moore

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The Kwikset knob on this bathroom door is real; the wainscoting is merely drawn with chalk.

## Best-Laid Plans: The Home Office



**WATCH THE VIDEO!** Tour this ingenious entrepreneur's workshop by scanning the QR code below with your phone, or visit [countryliving.com/hoy](http://countryliving.com/hoy).



The need for a powder room threw the rectangular cottage's symmetry off balance. Barbara Kurgan restored order by establishing a sitting area that mirrors the WC's footprint—a move that let her situate the partners' desk in the true center of the room, beneath the triple windows, where it's flanked by his-and-hers bookcases.

LIKE WHAT YOU SEE? Turn to page 124 for how to buy these furnishings, accessories, and more.

# The Buying Guide

## Major Furnishings, Fixtures, and More

### FURNISHINGS

**Charles P. Rogers** supplied the guest room's canopy bed ([charlesprogers.com](http://charlesprogers.com)). All other new interior furniture—plus most lighting and accessories—came from **Ballard Designs** ([ballarddesigns.com](http://ballarddesigns.com)). The new outdoor pieces are by **Grandin Road** ([grandinroad.com](http://grandinroad.com)).

### PAINT AND FABRIC

**Benjamin Moore** provided interior and exterior paint ([benjaminmoore.com](http://benjaminmoore.com)). **Sunbrella and Alaxi Fabrics** served as our sources for weather-resistant fabrics ([sunbrella.com](http://sunbrella.com); [alaxifabrics.com](http://alaxifabrics.com)).

### LINENS AND RUGS

The bedding, bath towels, and rugs are from **The Company Store** ([thecompanystore.com](http://thecompanystore.com)).

### WINDOW TREATMENTS

**Smith+Noble** shades and curtains dress the windows throughout ([smithandnoble.com](http://smithandnoble.com)).

### APPLIANCES AND ELECTRONICS

The major kitchen appliances are by **Whirlpool** ([whirlpool.com](http://whirlpool.com)). **Bose** makes the flat-screen television in the guest room ([bose.com](http://bose.com)).

### WOOD AND STONE FINISHES

The hardwood flooring in all three cottages is from **Lumber Liquidators** ([lumberliquidators.com](http://lumberliquidators.com)). **Connell Cabinets & Millworks** crafted the kitchen's cabinetry, and **Tall Cotton Supply** provided the room's reclaimed wood and barn doors ([connellicabinets.com](http://connellicabinets.com); [tallcottonsupply.com](http://tallcottonsupply.com)). **Silestone** fabricated the countertops ([silestoneusa.com](http://silestoneusa.com)).

### FIXTURES AND HARDWARE

All bathroom and kitchen fixtures are **American Standard** and sport **Moen** hardware ([moen.com](http://moen.com); [americanstandard-us.com](http://americanstandard-us.com)). **Kwikset** outfitted each cottage with the interior and exterior doorknobs and locks ([kwikset.com](http://kwikset.com)).

RIGHT Outside the kitchen, this Grandin Road sectional, covered in Sunbrella and Alaxi fabrics, acts as an open-air cocktail lounge.

BELOW RIGHT A Weber grill keeps things cooking on the deck. ([weber.com](http://weber.com))



## Other Accessories and Vintage Finds

### A Gracious Guest Room

**ACCESSORIES** Page 113 **Board games**; lbean.com. **Lanterns**; etsy.com/shop/mrbeasleys. **Sleeping roll**; amityimports.com. **Throw pillows**; thomaspaul.com. **Wool blanket**; schoolhouseelectric.com. **Glass carafe**; canvashomestore.com. **Page 114 Wood sconce**; etsy.com/shop/worleyslighting. **Wool blanket (used to upholster chair)**; pendleton-usa.com. **Stump side table**; mgbwhome.com. **Sage candle**; izola.com. **Page 115 Medicine cabinet**; ikea.com. **Sconce**; schoolhouseelectric.com. **Hamper**; adaptationshop.etsy.com. **Thomas Paul fabric (used for shower curtain and hamper lid)**; duralee.com. **Shower rod and rings**; signaturehardware.com. **Lake sign**; etsy.com/shop/gojumpintheLake.

**VINTAGE FINDS** Page 112 **Dresser**; brooklynreclamation.com. **Page 114 Mirror**; brooklynreclamation.com.

### The Ultimate Kitchen for Outdoor Entertaining

**ACCESSORIES** Page 117 **Ceramic pots**; brookfarmgeneralstore.com. **Cutting boards**; lostine.com. **Blue-striped porcelain canisters**; canvashomestore.com. **Page 118 Espresso machine**; surlatable.com. **VINTAGE FINDS** Page 117 **Cookbooks**; joannehendrickscookbooks.com. **Sign**; repopny.com. **Kitchen scale**; lovintagefinds.etsy.com.

### A Creative Home Office

**ACCESSORIES** Page 121 **Pendant lamp**; blacktugboat.com. **Page 122 Settee upholstery fabric**; calico corners.com.

**VINTAGE FINDS** Page 120 **Trash bin**; lizashermanantiques.com. **Page 121 Stools**; vandm.com/found\_objects\_of\_industry. **Books**; booksbythefoot.com. **Page 122 Floor lamp and Lincoln portrait**; lizashermanantiques.com.

## Want a Cottage of Your Own?

**Ideabox** offers a variety of pre-fab modular structures. The starting price for a cottage similar to the ones featured here is \$42,000 and includes a kitchen and a bath. The Salem, Oregon, company ships nationwide, though you'll need to hire a pro to pour a foundation and handle plumbing and wiring. ([ideabox.us](http://ideabox.us))

Grandin Road seating and vintage tables from Brooklyn Reclamation furnish the guest cottage's outdoor living area.



## Plus, Thanks to Everyone Who Pitched In!

**Petretti & Associates** General contracting and construction; [petretti.net](http://petretti.net). **NEW (Nontraditional Employment for Women)** Carpentry and construction; [new-nyc.org](http://new-nyc.org). **Brookfield Office Properties** Property management for New York's World Financial Center; [brookfieldofficeproperties.com](http://brookfieldofficeproperties.com). **Flat Price Relocation** Moving and storage; [flatpricemovers.com](http://flatpricemovers.com). **Affinity Building Systems** Modular-cottage builder; [affinitybuilding.com](http://affinitybuilding.com). **Jon Carloftis** Landscape design; [joncarloftis.com](http://joncarloftis.com). **Great Buffalo Upholstery** Outdoor-cushion upholstery; [greatbuffaloupholstery.com](http://greatbuffaloupholstery.com). **Capitol Awning** Awning fabrication; [capitolawning.com](http://capitolawning.com). **Curains for You** Shower curtain and bed-drapery fabrication; [juliesews.com](http://juliesews.com). **Chiara Alberetti Milott** Chalk art; [chiarabelle.com](http://chiarabelle.com).

SEE SHOP GUIDE, page 143, for new products that look like the cottages' vintage finds.