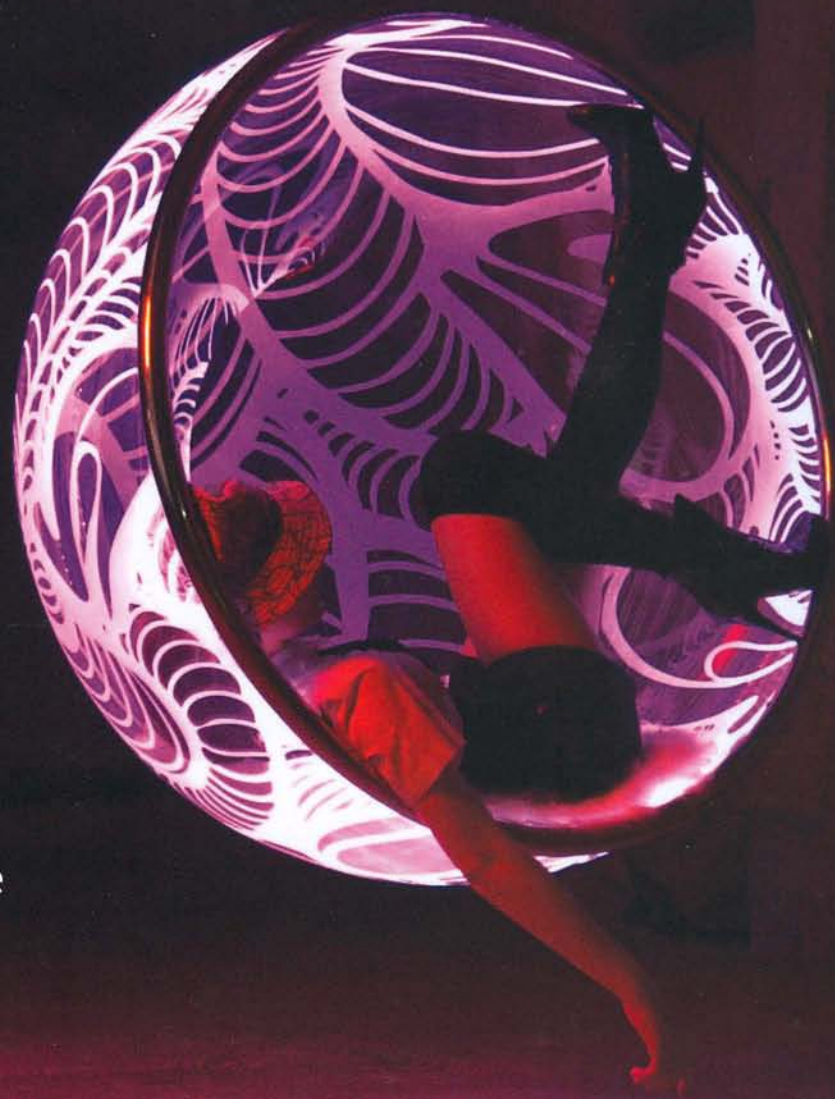


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Everlasting glamour



Letting the inside out

By Lindsay Jackson

Since the dawn of time mankind has, of necessity, sought to build protective walls between people and the elements. Primitive structures shaded from the sun, sheltered from the wind and kept the bitter cold at bay. Local materials were all that was available and creativity was needed to retain heat or cool down as the need arose. A home had a sense of place that encouraged harmony with nature and a sense of safety and security. And

almost everyone coveted hilltops, coastlines and locations that gave unmatched views of the surrounding fields, lakes and forests.

Well, as the saying goes, "There's often not much new under the sun." In truth, the basics really haven't changed much when it comes to where we prefer to live. It's still all about location, location, location as we try to find homes with a view in lovely settings. And even when our surroundings

aren't so spacious and our views not so grand, we're charging our architects, landscape designers and interior specialists with helping us to seamlessly combine the great outdoors and the comfortable indoors.

Despite these similarities with our ancestors, some things—particularly our attitudes and expectations—have changed, especially when it comes to living "inside-out." It's obvious as we take a closer look at the spaces that are

"Nature does not hurry,
yet everything is accomplished."

—Lao Tzu



Photos: Victoria and Albert Bonn

maximize the vistas and minimize the energy waste year-round. Stunning new paint palettes also complement nature's foliage and promise less harm. And four-season lighting features extend the drama beyond stylish interiors. Go au-naturel out onto the patio and into garden, pond and pool areas for 24/7 enjoyment under the open sky.

Patio friendly

For when the sun goes down, be sure to add a sizzling fire pit to heat things up.



many an evening and mood to any landscape, dock or deck. There's no reason why the patio shouldn't be every bit as comfortable and welcoming as the living room.

Bath-time breakaway

Most of us have spent our lives bathing indoors in windowless rooms with the door tightly shut. Perhaps it's time to break down your barriers and welcome the warm sun or cool evening breeze on your skin. If your garden is fenced in or surrounded by tall trees, or your Muskoka cottage is the only one on the island, why not put the bathroom outside? A deep soak at anytime is said to have calming powers—when combined with fresh air and natural sunlight, it will be just what you need for perfect restoration.

Cool down

Outdoor showers are also enjoying a comeback. Originally installed purely for practical purposes—a quick rinse after a dip in the lake or to make sure the kids have washed off their sandy feet—outdoor showers now deliver what's commonly referred to as an "experience." With a deluxe rain showerhead and a bit of extra privacy, why not be romantically al fresco as you cool off on a hot summer's evening. **H**



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