

# The Home Issue

Spectacular architectural redesigns, über-hip downtown pads, living green in WNY

**FOOD:** Kuni's to go, Somali Star, Tonawanda pubcrawl, and more.

**ARTS:** Sandpaper art, Adams on the Albright-Knox, and more.



# BUFFALO SPREE

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*This award-winning extension designed by local architect Mehrdad Hadighi is a black concrete and glass rectangle added to the back of a traditional suburban home. See page 70.*



# BUFFALO SPREE

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M A G A Z I N E

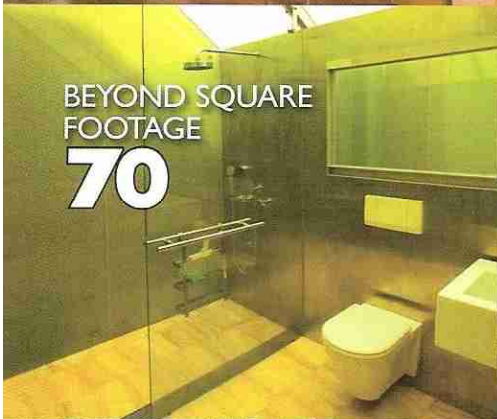
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AN ARCHITECT'S LOFT

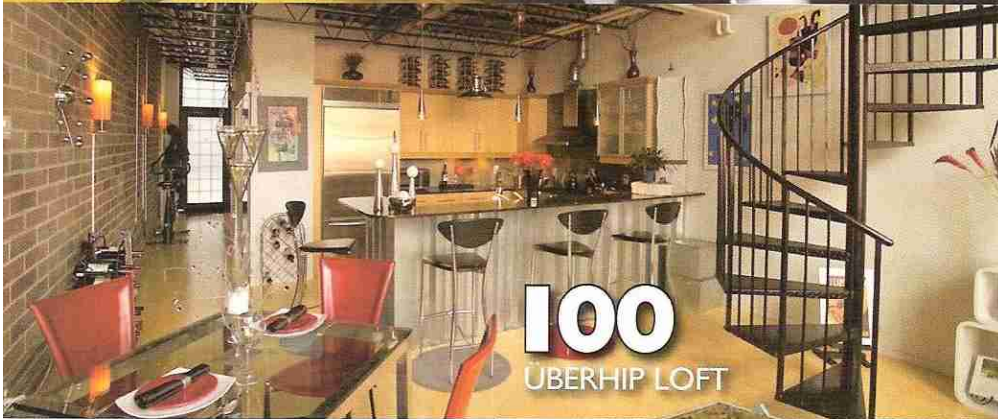


BEYOND SQUARE FOOTAGE

70



JUNKMARKET GIRLS 96



100

UBERHIP LOFT

## 55 HOME DESIGN

*Spree's* annual home design issue is enough to make you want to trash your abode, and start from scratch. That's what this issue is all about: inspiration. Maybe you'll be inspired to turn your home into a mecca for green living. Maybe eleven-foot loft ceilings will enlarge your horizons. Or perhaps you'll realize that your once-fabulous kitchen just doesn't excite you like it used to. Even if full-scale living changes are not on the horizon, there is still plenty here for the armchair contractor to enjoy, from in-depth looks at architectural renovation to a tantalizing glimpse of downtown lofts—plus, a preview of this year's Show House. There's even an interview with the JunkMarket Girls. It's a home design feast, so dig right in.

*By Catherine Berlin, Anthony Chase, Jana Eisenberg, Donna Evans-Deyermond, Reine Hauser, Elizabeth Licata, Barry A. Muskat, Philip Nyhuis, Terri Parsell Hilmey, Lou Petrucci, Sarah Quintal, Lauren Rozanski, Maria Scrivani, and Joe Sweeney*

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GREEN ROOFS



# baby steps to green living

BY TERRI PARSELL HILMEY

**No house should ever be on a hill or on anything.** It should be *of* the hill. Belonging to it. Hill and house should live together, each the happier for the other.”

—Frank Lloyd Wright

*You can choose to spend an extra three-to-four cents per kilowatt hour, and purchase “green” energy from your power carrier, and you can be slightly more conscious about your recycling, making sure to maximize the amount you’re putting in the blue bins.*

Dire forecasts of global warming, rising energy costs, and reliance on energy supplies in unstable corners of the world can make our environmental problems seem too huge for individuals to make a difference. It’s not true, though. We can all make small changes to make our houses kinder to our larger home (the Earth), most of which also have a payoff in lower monthly energy bills.

If you’re thinking about building a new home, it’s easy to incorporate “green” ideas into your plans, and there are ways to improve your effi-

ciency in the home you’ve already got, too. To do your part with respect to power, you can put on a sweater and lower your home’s temperature by one degree in the wintertime; this small change has the potential to lower your energy costs by up to ten percent, and if you make sure you turn off unneeded appliances and lighting, it can have a real impact. You can choose to spend an extra three to four cents per kilowatt hour, and purchase “green” energy from your power carrier, and you can be slightly more conscious about your recycling, making sure to



maximize the amount you're putting in the blue bins. When it comes time to replace an appliance, you can do some research and purchase an Energy-Star compliant product (such as a front-loading washing machine). Low-flow plumbing fixtures are easy to install, and don't require any change in the family's daily habits. Make sure your water heater is set at the right temperature (some are set too high, which is a waste of both power and heat).

To increase your comfort, you can install adjustable awnings over your windows, so that they can take in the maximum solar power during the winter, but be shaded to keep the house cool in the summertime. You can easily increase the number of houseplants you have. They serve to clean the air we breathe. To aid in your free breathing, choose non-VOC (volatile organic compound) paint when it's time to put a fresh coat on the walls.

Go around the house to each window and door and make them as airtight as possible, repairing and caulking as needed, and placing sheets of see-through plastic over the windows in the wintertime. When it comes time to replace a window, take the extra time and expense to purchase a high-quality window which will add value to your home, and increase energy efficiency. Use heavy drapes to reduce heating bills in winter, and cooling costs in summer.

A way to dip your toe into the alternative power movement is to get yourself some solar lights for the outdoors. Solar garden products, such as path lights, floating pool lights, solar-powered fountains and birdbaths, solar vibrating mole repellers, solar-powered pool purifiers, solar "sunchimes" which ring merrily in the garden, all add natural beauty to your property. Gradually replace your lightbulbs as they burn out with energy-efficient ones. Install electric timers and movement sensors for when you forget to switch things off.

All of these things are easily doable, will lower your energy bills, and will make you feel like a bit more like the tree-hugger world citizen we all have hidden inside. *April*

*Terri Parsell Hilmey is a freelance writer and mother of two living in Williamsville.*

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