

## FEATURES

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#### LITTLE BOXES

For our annual Small Spaces Issue, we searched for elegant density in 1,000 square feet or less, and turned up three abodes where living small doesn't mean living without.

BY JULIA COSGROVE,  
ANH-MINH LE, AND  
CHRISTOPHER MUTHER

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#### TABLE FOR ONE

A designer and an eco-minded decorator offer 20 tips on how to create the illusion of grandeur in what may not be so grand a space. Plus: how drink trolleys, theme parties, and shoestring fries can turn any studio into party central.

BY AMI KEALOHA

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#### DESIGN FOR DUMMIES

Attention, kitchen-table designers: Ponoko, a new make-it-yourself manufacturing company, will produce and market your bright idea in an Internet moment. The world of stuff could be radically altered.

BY ALLISON ARIEFF



Fog Cabin:  
Creativity blooms  
big in Mike Shine's  
remodeled seaside  
cottage (page 63).

ON THE COVER:  
Downsizers: Jayce (Ford) and  
Lindsay (City).  
Photo: Jason Madara  
Styling: Ameliana Kamstra (Ford)  
Hair and makeup: Nancy Cialdella (Ford)  
Props: Melissa Guerrero.  
(Want it? Turn to page 82 to find out  
what they're wearing)



# Throwback Shack

How an artist turned a beach bungalow into his canvas  
>By Julia Cosgrove >Photographs by Erin Kunkel

**Nice Pad:** Mike Shine scoured eBay using the Danish designer Verner Panton as a key phrase for most of the furnishings, including the colorful '60s-era pendant lights by Colani. The eight-track player is by the British company Weltron, and the orb to the right of the record player—that looks like an astronaut's helmet—is actually a 1970s television by JVC. The fireplace dates from the '50s, and was designed by the Preway company.

**WHO:** Mike and Marianne Shine, both 45  
**WHAT:** 825-square-foot cabin  
**WHERE:** West Marin, California  
**THE LOOK:** Norse mythology meets 1970s pop culture





## >> For most people,

a vacation home offers an escape from the hubbub of work and busy social lives. Not for Mike Shine, an ad man, painter, and surfer who gutted an 825-square-foot cabin in northern California and transformed it into a hangout that also serves as his art studio and revolving gallery. The compact two-bedroom house—which Shine shares with his wife, Marianne, an actor, and the couple's three sons—operates under an open-door policy; at maximum capacity, 22 people have crashed at the “shack” at one time.

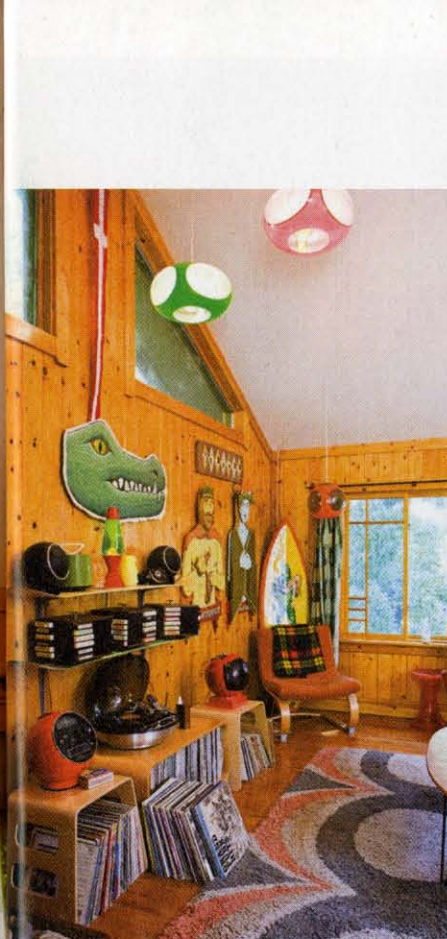
Despite the house's dimensions, space is rarely a concern, even when the family entertains large groups each Saturday night. Friends congregate in the kitchen and living room, where impromptu music sessions routinely take place. A sleeping loft above the kitchen comfortably fits 10 adults (or 15 younger, more nimble souls), and clutter is contained in a built-in floor-to-ceiling shelving system that came with the house. In the nook kitchen, there are just a few choice appliances—no dishwasher on site. As Mike says, “We figure it's the weekend—it's time to do things by hand.”

The same could be said for the whole renovation, which Mike and a buddy completed over the course of many weekends in 2005, all without a contractor. The duo stripped down most of the kitchen to the plaster, built custom cabinetry out of salvaged materials, tore out old flooring, and installed new windows and wiring. In the backyard, they added an outdoor shower and hot tub.

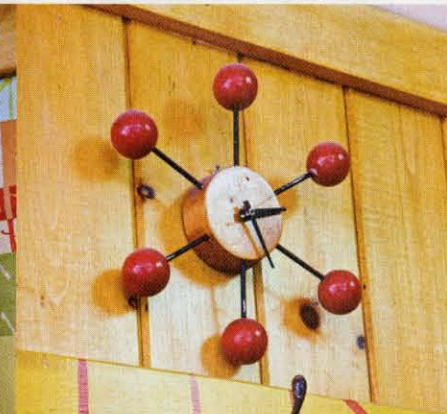
Once the heavy lifting was finished, Mike could focus on what he likes best: painting. Using a bright palette of orange, red, light blue, and green from the kitchen, he slapped a fresh coat on the house's exterior and started adding murals on every available surface. Inside, his driftwood paintings dot the walls.

Decor matches the color scheme and takes a decidedly '70s tack, with most furniture and accessories acquired from eBay. “We thought it would be fun to create a place that was anti-tech,” Mike says. He found a fully functional eight-track player, a vintage JVC television, and space-age lighting from Belgium and Holland. “The beauty of all this '70s stuff is that it's cheap,” he adds.

Sitting in the house, it's easy to think you've walked into a time machine. And without distractions like Wi-Fi or cable, the shack really lives up to its promise—a throwback retreat dedicated to creative pursuits and, perhaps most importantly, good times.



**Color Wheel:** (Opposite, clockwise from top) Shine's beachcomber art ([shinelounge.com](http://shinelounge.com)) covers every available space, including the back door; his handpainted Adirondack chairs offer views of the Pacific Ocean; the renovated kitchen includes custom cabinetry, a German-made refrigerator, and a faux-vintage stove by Northstar. (This page, clockwise from top) Both bedrooms feature headboards made from old skate decks; Shine and one of his murals; the hot tub and outdoor shower; a DIY clock; a view into the kitchen and the ladder leading to the sleeping loft.



**^Half-Nelson Clock**  
Using a jigsaw, cut the circular clock base out of a two-by-four, then sand the edges smooth. For the dots, drive dowels into the centers of six 2" wooden beads. Sand and finish the beads with several coats of spray paint for a glossy-smooth finish. Using a hacksaw, cut six metal rods (available at hardware stores). Drill six holes (corresponding to clock numbers) in the clock's base and one hole in each bead. Use the drill to carve out enough space in the back of the base to fit the clock mechanism. Finally, drill a hole in the center of the clock's base for the axis to poke through, and attach the hands.

