

Currents

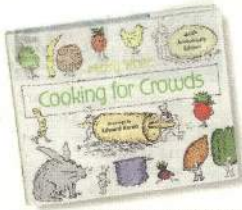
NEWS, PRODUCTS AND PERSONALITIES

Books

Catering to the Masses

▶ In Merry White's Boston high school, lunch was a class called Gracious Living, where all the food was beige and served by maids, and pepper was considered "too heating for young ladies." "From then on," she writes in the foreword to the new 40th-anniversary edition of her 1974 classic, "Cooking

for Crowds" (Princeton University Press, \$29.95), "my life has been a search for the heat and pleasure of food." Her book, made up of recipes she collected as the caterer for the Harvard Center for European Studies, suggested a new way of entertaining, with self-serve spanakopita, petite shrimp quiche and that savior of the anxious cook, the casserole that can be made a day ahead. Edward Koren's woolly illustrations set the tone: vegetables are our friends, and food tastes best in groups. Even though pesto and vindaloo are no longer exotic, during the holidays her attitude (and her meatballs) may be what every stressed-out host needs.



PATRICA WALL/THE NEW YORK TIMES

ALEXANDRA LANGE

Shows

Belated, Yes. Forgotten, No.

▶ "Imagine not celebrating the 100th anniversary of the architect Mies van der Rohe's birth," said Charles Birnbaum, the founder of the Cultural Landscape Foundation. But in September 2012, that's precisely the fate that befell Dan Kiley, the seminal postwar landscape architect behind the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, featuring Eero Saarinen's Gateway Arch, and Patterns, the garden of the du Pont home in Wilmington, Del., below.

So Mr. Birnbaum remedied the oversight. "The Landscape Architecture Legacy of Dan Kiley," on

view through December at the Boston Architectural College, highlights 27 of Mr. Kiley's 1,000 projects in new photographs and reminiscences.

One colleague, Harry Wolf, recalls the day a cow wandered into Mr. Kiley's home office in Charlotte, Vt. "Unperturbed, Dan said, 'Oh, that's Jenny, would someone take her back out?'" he writes. "They did and the meeting continued almost as though nothing untoward had happened. For Dan, man and nature were integral, were one, were life." Information: tclf.org.

KATHRYN SHATTUCK



ROGER FOLY

Tiles

Soaking Up The Local Color

▶ Deborah Osburn began making colorful tiles to brighten up a mostly beige-dominated industry nearly 30 years ago. And though in recent years she has been selling other artists' designs, she has returned to her creative roots with the Watermark Collection for Tilevera, her artisan tile company. Inspired by Japanese techniques, she produced the ombre-stained tiles by placing unglazed porcelain into a cup of indigo and waiting for the dye to be absorbed.

"I watched every day to see what it would do," she said of the initial experiment. "At first it was dark and intense, then it began to fade. I remember pulling it out and thinking it was the most beautiful, natural, crazy tile we'd ever created." The tiles come in indigo or gold verdigris in three sizes and four styles: dip, wash, stroke and stain. They range from \$59 to \$68 a square foot. Information: cletile.com.

LORI HOLCOMB-HOLLAND



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT WRIGHT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Open A Loft That's a Real Showplace

▶ When Diego Paccagnella, the president of Design-Apart, a company that sells custom Italian furnishings, wanted to display samples in New York, he found someone in Manhattan with a 2,600-square-foot loft who was willing to move out for a year and give it to him rent-free. Mr. Paccagnella; his wife, Livia; and their 16-month-old son,

Giulio (all above right), moved in and redecorated the apartment as a live-in showroom. In a year, the Paccagnellas will move out, leaving about a half-million dollars in furnishings for the owners to keep, while they find and redo another New York home.

The showroom, at 110 West 25th Street on the second floor, displays goods from 20 Italian

manufacturers, including the Berto sofa called Time Break, on which the family is seated (\$10,050), and the TM Italia concrete kitchen island, whose top slides to reveal a sink and stove-top (from \$46,000). The orange Renata Bonfanti rug is \$1,500. Information: 646-202-0116 or design-apart.com.

ELAINE LOUIE

Deals

Furniture, Accessories And Rugs

▶ DDC has opened a temporary outlet shop, with furniture and decorative accessories discounted up to 70 percent (the Andersen sofa by Rodolfo Dordoni for Minotti, originally \$11,935, is \$8,354); 33 East 33rd Street, 212-685-0800, ddcnyc.com.

The Park Avenue Garage holiday sale runs through Saturday, with up to 75 percent off furniture and accessories from various



brands (the Clark square pillow by Morris Etc., regularly \$300, is \$250); 10 West 56th Street, parkavenuegarage.com.

Desiron is taking 25 percent off all furniture orders through Nov. 30 (the Bleecker cocktail table, originally \$5,320, is \$3,990); 200 Lexington Avenue (East 32nd Street), 212-353-2600, desiron.com. Nanimarquina rugs are 20 percent off at Design Within Reach, through Dec. 7 (the large Manuscript Rug by Joaquim Ruiz Millet, left, usually \$7,400, is \$5,920); 800-944-2233, dwr.com.

RIMA SUQI

Good deals may be reported to deals@nytimes.com.