

dwell

**Special
Issue**

Your Rooms We Love

161

Modern Homes from
Mexico to Turkey

1,000+

Readers Shared
Their Spaces

We Chose The Best!

dwell.com



135



135 Tuovinen Residence
Helsinki, Finland

136 Fitzpatrick-Sill Residence
Mayfield Heights, Ohio

138 Lo-Koo Residence
Toronto, Ontario

140 Stanford Street Townhouse
Houston, Texas

142 Willis Residence
San Francisco, California

146 Lee Residence
Queens, New York

148 Logan Residence
Fayetteville, Arkansas

149 Glencoe House
Venice, California

150 Instagram: Mailboxes We Love

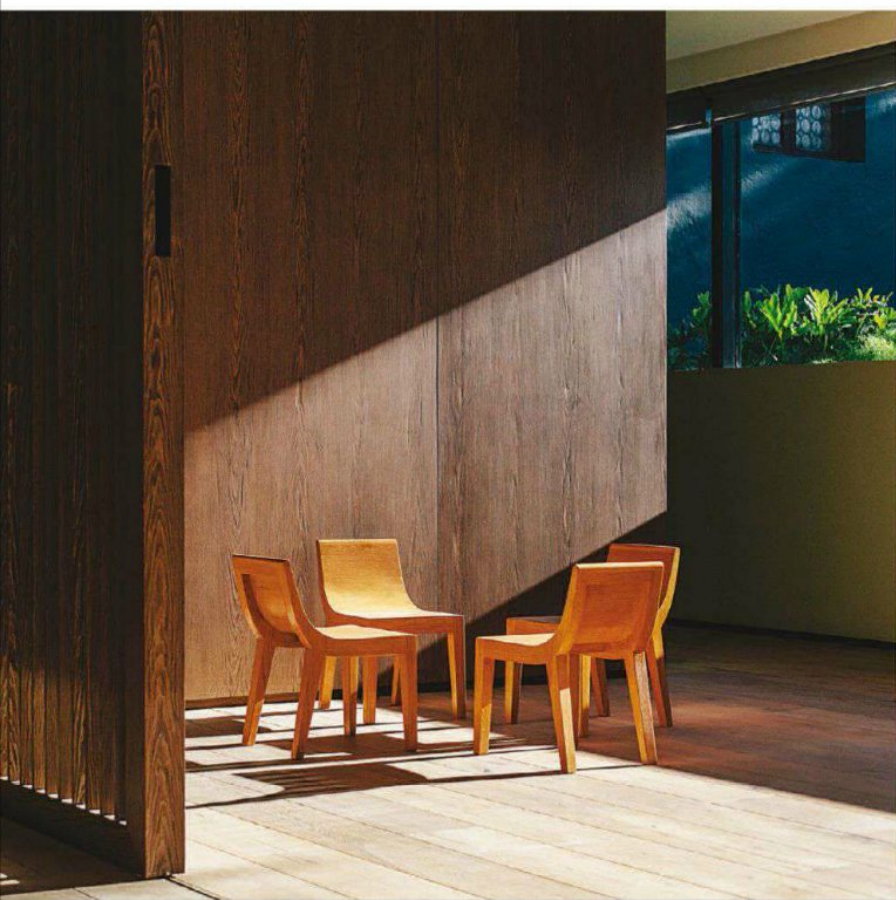
152 Donnelly-Lam Residence
Montreal West, Quebec

153 Ann Street House
Melbourne, Australia

154 Miller Duplex
Los Angeles, California

156 Easton Residence
New York, New York

158 Dwelling: Barrancas House
A designer carves out a domestic oasis in Mexico City.



158

On the cover: In Mexico City, architect Yuri Zagorin Alazraki designed his home to take advantage of the temperate climate. The living room opens on to a leafy patio set up for alfresco dining with a hand-crafted wood table and Bertoia wire chairs. Photo by Rafael Gamo

Your Rooms We Love

One's true self is unveiled at home—the objects and furnishings we pick broadcast our value systems, revealing what we aspire to be and what is most important to us. This special issue, Dwell's first ever devoted to our readers' own homes, taught us more about our audience than we ever imagined. Patterns emerged in photograph after photograph, and we noted how various hallmarks of modern design are translated in 44 different countries. Here are a few illuminating stats:

Of the **752** home submissions we received from our readers...

3.9% of homeowners included their cats
whereas **10.4%** showed us their dogs.

76% of our readers sent in photos of their kitchens
but only **35.4%** shared with us their bedrooms,
while **34.6%** were most proud of their bathrooms.

15.3% styled their kitchens with wine glasses,
although **15.6%** threw in the entire wine bottle.

27% of dwellings featured classic Eames chairs,
and **4.5%** of houses displayed their guitars.

40.2% of the residences had houseplants,
while **20.2%** decorated with fruit bowls.

And finally: The same percentage of people shared
their Airstreams and bocce ball courts: **0.1%**.

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Recinto lava stone lines a patio adjacent to the living room in designer Ezequiel Farca's house in Mexico City. He designed the teak outdoor furniture, including two armchairs. In the sitting area (opposite), two leather Paulistano chairs by Paulo Mendes da Rocha top a rug by Yerra; the wall paint is Comex.

TEXT BY
Robert Landon
PHOTOS BY
Grant Harder

PROJECT
Barrancas House
ARCHITECT
Ezequiel Farca
LOCATION
Mexico City, Mexico

Concrete Jungle

A designer carves
out a domestic oasis
in Mexico City.





Farca furnished the living room with a Serge Mouille three-arm floor lamp, custom sofas from EF Collection, and Surface tables by Vincent Van Duysen for B&B Italia. Oak veneer lines the stairwell in between the master bedroom and the children's wing (below). Chairs in the second-floor playroom are by Lievore Altherr Molina for Andreu World (right). Oak sliding doors can close off the playroom to minimize din.



To most eyes, Ezequiel Farca's 1970s-style concrete home in Mexico City looked like a tear-down. Even the lot itself—shallow and crammed against a steep hillside—wasn't particularly alluring. But Farca saw through all the restraints to create a spa-like refuge in one of the world's most energetic cities. "It's is such a hectic place. You're bombarded by so much information the moment you step into the streets," says Farca, who first gained prominence as a furniture and interior designer. "So we envisioned this house as a retreat, a kind of a temple."

In many ways, his redesign of the massive structure, which sits in the city's hilly Lomas de Chapultepec neighborhood, is an elaborate disappearing act. The white exterior is painted a neutral gray-green, helping it recede into its setting. Attention-grabbing balustrades were stripped away, and strategic plantings were allowed to creep over the façade, softening boundaries between house, garden, and street. Finally, Farca and team stripped the interior back to the posts.

Then Farca set about transforming an inelegant warren of rooms into a series of bright, interconnected spaces. The first floor became a single room encompassing the kitchen, dining area, and living room. To merge the plant-filled terrace with the living room, an awkward series of windows gave way to a single wall of glass. >



The rooftop courtyard is lined with a verdant mix of indigenous plants, including banana trees, palm trees, lion's claw, Mexican breadfruit, and native vines. The chaise longues were designed for Farca's EF Collection.



The striking master bath is lined from floor to walls in silvery gray marble. An Almond bathtub by Porcelanosa is accented by a tub filler from Hansgrohe (opposite).

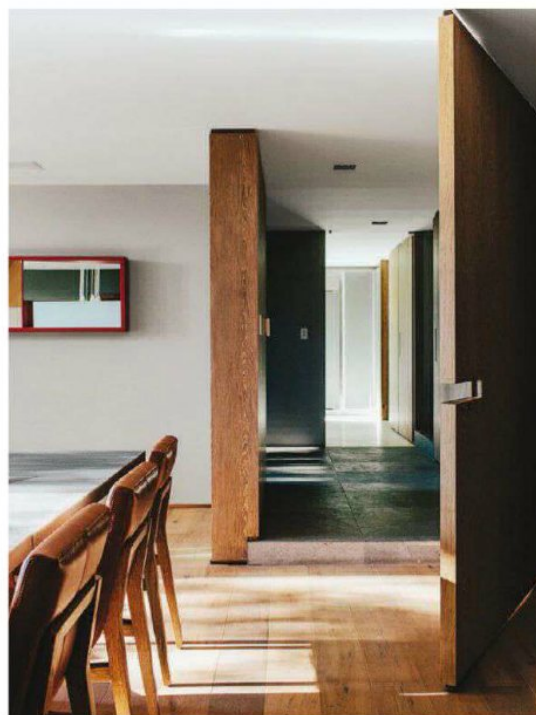






“The minute you leave your home in Mexico City, you’re in the middle of the rush.” —Ezequiel Farca, designer and resident

The master bedroom, painted in Whisper by Comex, sports a bed that Farca custom-designed as part of his EF Collection (above left). Farca also designed the custom millwork throughout the house, such as the swinging door leading into the dining room (above right). The leather Siren dining chairs are by Holly Hunt.



Farca, who is the father of four children, including 11-year-old triplets, devoted much of the square footage to the youngsters. Relatively small bedrooms are pushed to the edge, and the middle floor includes a large, flexible space that Farca calls the “playground,” though it can easily be converted to other uses as the triplets hit adolescence.

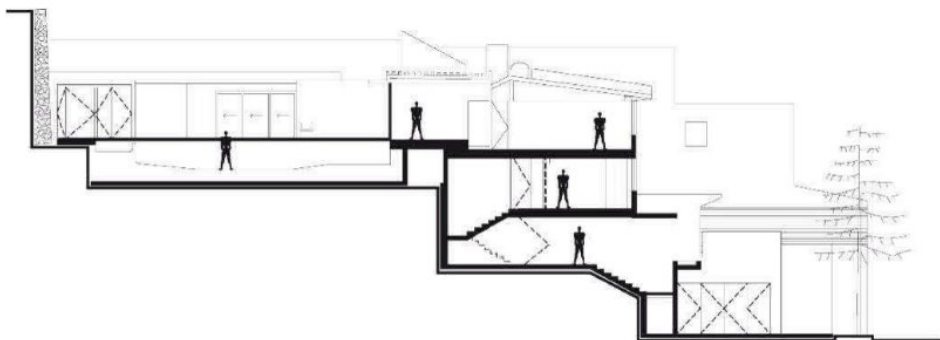
While the structural interventions were very modest, Farca completely re-skinned the interior in a rich variety of natural materials. Marble lines the kitchens and bathrooms. Interior floors are planked in European oak with a natural finish, while a smokier veneer covers select walls. And the terraces are tiled with recinto, a locally sourced volcanic stone. The variety breaks up the building’s mass, says Farca. Natural textures and a warm, neutral palette help turn the bunker-like structure into a series of welcoming spaces.

However, Farca’s most transformative work was reserved for the top floor, which includes a pool, an indoor-outdoor dining space, and a master suite. When the enormous glass doors disappear into pocket walls, the whole floor becomes what he calls “our idea of the perfect hotel suite.”

“The minute you leave your home in Mexico City, you’re in the middle of the rush,” says Farca. “Now we cross the threshold and feel we’ve left the city far behind.” >

**Barrancas House
Floor Plan**

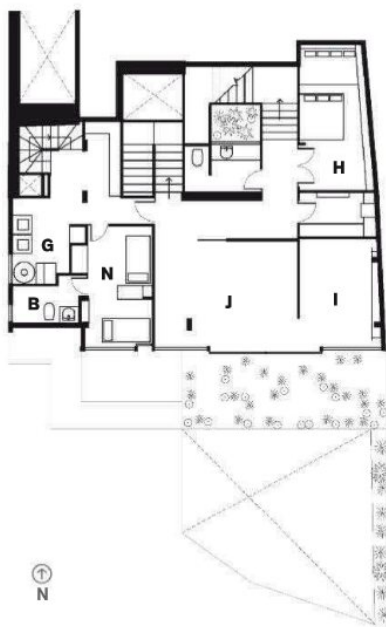
- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| A Kitchen | I Gym |
| B Bathroom | J Playroom |
| C Bar | K Lap Pool |
| D Dining Area | L Garden |
| E Living Area | M Family Room |
| F Patio | N Bedroom |
| G Laundry Room | O Master Bathroom |
| H Screening Room | P Master Bedroom |



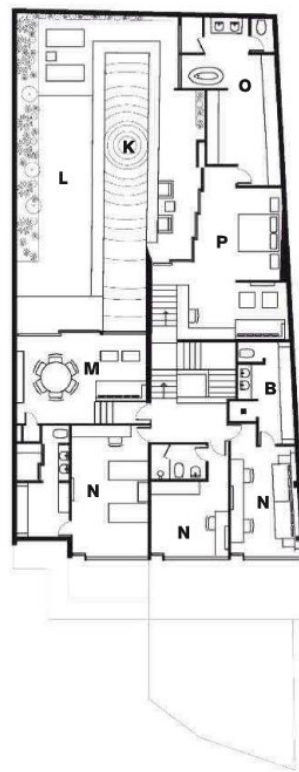
First Floor



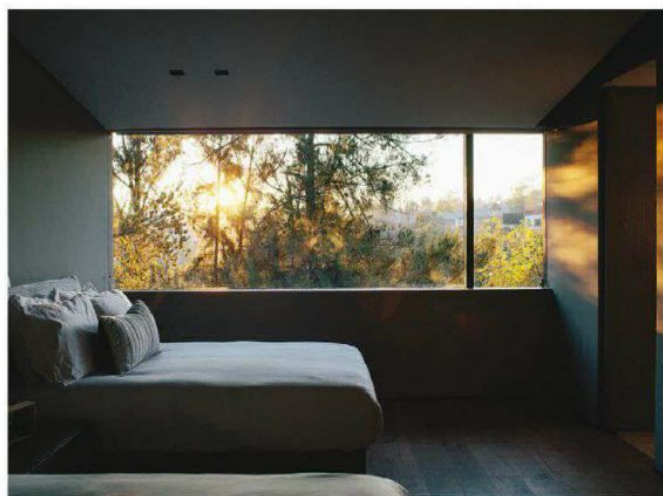
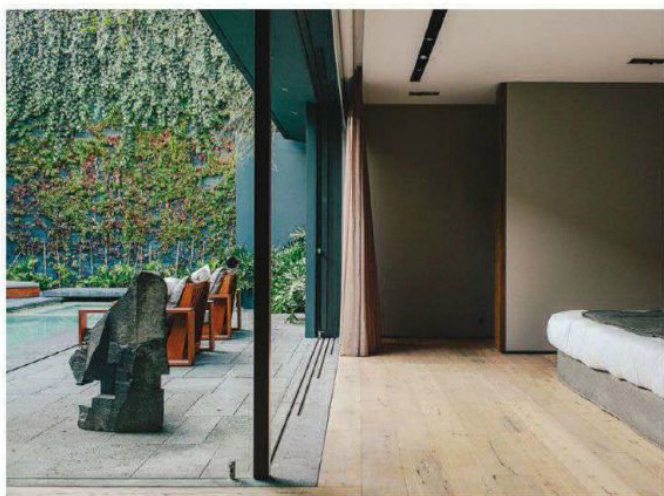
Second Floor



Third Floor



Solid European oak flooring by DuChateau runs throughout the home (below left). The sculpture is by Jorge Yázpik. A window in another bedroom overlooks protected woodland (below right).



In the dining room, antique wooden busts and a machiche cross designed by Farca are arranged on a resin counter-top by Monica Calderon. The bar conceals a service area with an espresso machine.



Sourcing

The products, furniture, and materials featured in this story.

Ezequiel Farca ezequiefarca.com, Paulistano chairs by Paulo Mendes da Rocha dwr.com, Surface tables by Vincent Van Duysen for B&B Italia bebitalia.com, Three-arm floor lamp by Serge Mouille dwr.com, Rug by Yerra yerrarugs.com, Paint by Comex comex.com.mx, Rdl chairs by Lievore Altherr Molina for Andreu World andreuworldamerica.com, Natural European oak flooring from DuChateau Floors duchateaufloors.com, Tub filler by Hansgrohe hansgrohe-usa.com, Almond bathtub by Porcelanosa porcelanosa-usa.com, Siren dining chairs by Holly Hunt hollyhunt.com, Jorge Yázpik yakpik.org □