

food & home

DINE • DESIGN • COOK • BUILD • CREATE

Spring Magic

Skewered
foods that
rock!

Skewered Shrimp
and Vegetables
from Fishouse.

Photo by
Michael Brown

UPGRADES

AirDream

The iconic Airstream gets grins from Golden Era old-timers who recall crisscrossing the country from Mt. Rushmore to Plymouth Rock in their Bonneville station wagons and “drag-a-longs.”

Today, a remodeled 1978 Airstream is the home, office and “front-door-to-the-great-outdoors” for this nostalgic 27-year old Santa Barbara-based architect.

So, why did he remodel a 150-square-foot trailer in his spare time while designing million dollar villas by day?

“It challenged me,” says Matthew Hofmann, sitting on the stoop of his silvery mobile abode. “I’m at this point in my career when I need to be stretched—it’s how I do my best work.”

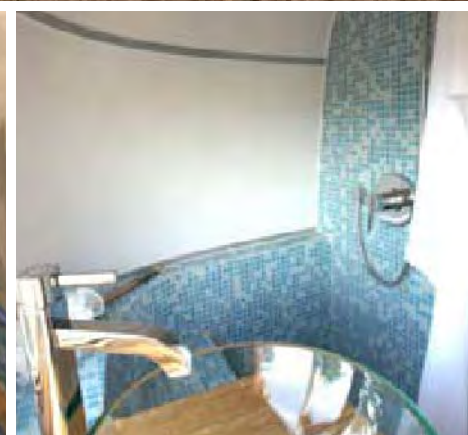
Hofmann is clearly onto something big with his small and efficient high-tech dwelling.

Odds are your grandfather owned one of these ubiquitous travel trailers—and except for the iMac mounted on the wall and the hi-definition printer in the drawer, Hofmann’s updated creation hasn’t wandered far from its 75-year roots. Airstream’s been around since 1936 when these smooth-skinned aluminum bodies rolled aerodynamically off the Chicago production line. They temporarily stopped production in 1938 when the new lightweight material was needed for World War II. Many are still on the road today.

“Ever since I was nine years old building a five-story tree house I’ve been reclaiming old stuff and making it usable.” Hofmann spent the past eight months “...more hours than I care to admit,” single handedly restoring the 25-footer. The finished product is not only beautiful, but it’s efficient. “It’s got everything I need, and nothing I don’t,” he says.

“This is labor-intensive work,” says Hofmann, who says saving money was his primary motivation. “I left a 9 to 5 job to start my own firm and, naturally, I wanted to reduce my overhead. This was a good way to do it.”—RB

Hofmann Architecture is a local firm (805) 618-2461 or check out www.HofArc.com



Paradise in a pot

The sound of trickling water slowly starts the process of melting the stress of the day away. The harsh sounds of traffic fade. Your mood is elevated and mind renewed. Fountains are indeed a pleasant sight to behold, transforming any garden into a functional and spiritual sanctuary. And there are no limits to the designs and themes offered on the market today. From stunning colored glazed finishes to rock waterfalls to pebbled springs. Just choose the one that speaks for you and your style, add water and relax.—RB

For a wide selection of ceramic pottery fountains, check out Terra Sol Garden Center 5320 Overpass Rd. 805-964-7811. Most fountains require a small amount of setup and assembly and Garden Center staff are happy to assist you. Prices range \$50 to \$500 depending on features.

Photo by Shelly Vinson