

Santa Barbara

MAGAZINE

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Home Sweet Airstream

WHEN IT COMES TO LIVING SPACES, Matthew Hofmann focuses his sleek and imaginative architectural style on projects ranging from tiny trailers to sprawling residences. Founder of **Hofmann Architecture**, this 28-year-old has always been passionate about creating and constructing. "When I was 6, my father built a small one-room tree house while I stood gazing on with a curious eye," he says. "By age 12, I had turned the playhouse into a five-story treetop estate." These days, his efforts are focused more on downsizing. After coming across a 1978 Airstream, he began renovating it "on a whim," he says. "I modeled the interior as a mobile, convertible office space. It was a great way to lower my professional overhead and simplify my life as I ventured out on my own." Now settled on a Montecito property, his refurbished, 158-square-foot abode has a lustrous, polished exterior; a recycled-glass tiled bathroom; bamboo countertops, tables, and floors; and more. "Living in a simple space with such a close connection to the outdoors is a dream," he says. "I am passionate about designing spaces that are fit for those who call it home." **-KATRIN WANBERG**

HOFMANN ARCHITECTURE 805-618-2461, hofarc.com.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Architect Matthew Hofmann; his shiny 1978 Airstream; the airy, modern galley kitchen.

MATTHEW'S TOP FIVE REASONS FOR LIVING AND WORKING IN A TINY SPACE (WITH WHEELS)

- 1 MOBILIZATION** Wherever I go, I'm home and also at the office.
- 2 CONCENTRATION** Nothing beats private, quiet, compact space for getting the best work done.
- 3 INSPIRATION** Compared to working in a standard office environment, ideas soar like the boundless view of the Pacific Ocean right outside my windows.
- 4 INDIVIDUALIZATION** My father says, "You'll never beat the herd by following the herd."
- 5 MINIMALISM** Living and working in a tiny space is unabashedly taking the minimalist route. It's respectful of resources.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

With the rugged San Rafael Wilderness right outside our back door, and the coastal expanse of California's scenic northern shores a skip up Highway 1, you have your pick of summer camping spots located in the woods or by the sea. Pack your camper, load up the kids, and hit the road for a good old-fashioned family camp out.

A WALK IN THE WOODS

Located 15 miles out of Ojai at the southern tip of the Los Padres National Forest, **Wheeler Gorge Campground**, 877-444-6777, rockymountainrec.com, is open all year and offers 68 family sites (from \$20 per night) and six double sites (from \$40 per night). After a day of hiking along one of the nearby trails—ranging from simple walks to day-long treks—doze off to the trickle of the Matilija Creek.

HISTORIC HAVEN

A 45-minute drive north from Santa Barbara, **Zaca Lake Retreat**, 805-688-5699, zacalakeretreat.com, offers 19 rustic cabins (from \$162 per night), complete with beds, fireplaces, and mineral water-fed tubs. With storied depths of more than a thousand feet, the lake is the source of legends originating from the Chumash, who once



Zaca Lake

dwelled in the area. Days are easily spent hiking, cruising the water in a rowboat, searching for rumored cave paintings, or watching wildlife on the lakeside deck.

ground (from \$22 per night, pictured below), 805-434-1996, recreation.gov, has 37 sites nestled amid Monterey Pine trees on a bluff 100 feet above the beach. The campground is open year-around, with half of the sites available

COASTAL CAMPING

A three-hour drive north along the picturesque Pacific Coast Highway takes you to Big Sur's dramatic coastline. With ocean views and beach access, **Kirk Creek Camp-**



Kirk Creek Campground

by reservation, and the remainder available on a first-come, first-served basis—perfect for a last-minute summer road trip. **-k.w.**