

ELLE DECOR

FABULOUS
FIREPLACES!

*high-style
holidays*

**ROOMS THAT
SPARKLE**
40 FANCIFUL GIFTS
**HILARY SWANK'S
MANHATTAN
HIDEAWAY**



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TOP DESIGN

When Tulsa, Oklahoma-based architect Jack Arnold couldn't find chimney pots to blend aesthetically with the houses he designs, he decided to create his own line of copper caps. His hurricane-proof chimney pots keep out pests and water while improving the draft of a fireplace. His latest collection, Freedom Gray, left, works with both traditional and contemporary designs and sells for \$1,464 to \$1,870. European Copper chimney pots; jackarnold.com.

the heat is on: what the pros know

Touches of warmth—from radiant floors to fireplaces—banish winter's chill



CONCRETE MANTEL

Jayne Michaels, designer: "Nothing compares with the intimacy and smell of a real wood fire. When I renovated my New York City apartment, I had a mantel custom-made by Trueform Concrete. It's got the look of stone but is less expensive and takes a fraction of the time to install." Concrete fire surround, left; trueformconcrete.com.



CLASSIC RADIATOR

Elizabeth Roberts, designer: "I prefer the radiant heat of radiators to forced air. The temperature is more consistent, and it feels more pleasant. My favorite radiator is this slender one from Brooklyn's Governale Co., which has been around since 1917. It can be modified to fit any space." Gov-Free radiator, left; www.governaleindustries.com.



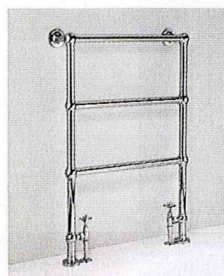
RADIANT FLOORS

Peter Guthrie, architect: "Radiant heat can be used with wood floors. Choose an engineered wood; it won't expand or contract as much. For a project in New York, we selected Uponor's radiant-heat tubing under Arrigoni Woods Oak Rustic flooring." Uponor radiant floor heating; uponor-usa.com. Oak Rustic wide-plank flooring, left; arrigoniwood.com.



ISOKERN FIREPLACE

Mell Lawrence, architect: "I've used Earthcore's Isokern, a prefabricated fireplace made of volcanic stone, for both interior and exterior applications. Its natural insulating qualities make it more efficient than concrete, and the firebox exterior can be customized with local materials or masonry." Isokern Vent Free firebox, left; earthcore.co.

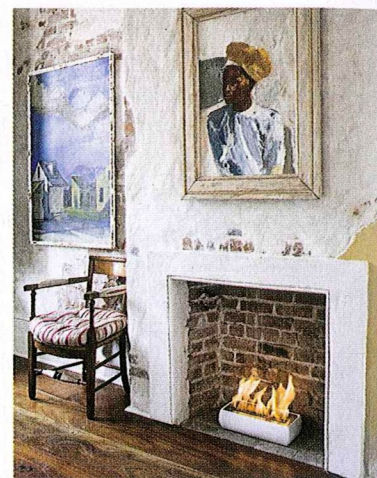


TOWEL WARMER

Oscar Shamamian, architect: "A heated towel bar warms up a bathroom finished with cool, hard surfaces. Michael Smith chose this one, which we installed in an ocean-view bath in Malibu. It provides ambient heat while keeping towels warm." Baccus 4 floor-mounted towel warmer, left; devon-devon.com.

BURNING UP

Most fireplaces (whether wood-, pellet-, or gas-burning) require some kind of ventilation to the outdoors. But a variety of smoke-free fuels—derived from eco-friendly, plant-based bioethanol—allows for ventless fires that work in any setting. Planika's remote-controlled Fire Line Automatic (planikausa.com) is a stainless steel linear insert that can be incorporated into a shelf or recessed into a wall. Its 31"-long, low-profile flame gives off a toasty 14,000 BTUs. BrasaFire (brasafire.com) manufactures the portable Avani, right. Made of stainless steel and ceramic, it can be used as a stand-alone fire or placed in an existing hearth instead of a traditional log flame.



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climate change

The home thermostat gets a reboot from former Apple senior VP Tony Fadell

Q: You spent nine years at Apple and helped to invent the iPod. Why take on the household thermostat?

A: I was building a green home for my family when I realized that 46 percent of the energy in our houses is controlled by this ugly thing on the wall. There are more than 100 million homes in the U.S., most with brain-dead thermostats. I saw that we could design an easy-to-use thermostat for the iPhone generation.



Q: How does your Nest Learning Thermostat differ from the competition?

A: Most people have programmable thermostats that they don't know how to program. That wastes energy. The Nest has a built-in sensor that knows when you are home. It senses patterns in your schedule and adapts to your routine. A leaf shows up when you are conserving energy; turning the heat down one degree can save up to 5 percent of your energy costs. And you can control it from anywhere in the world with your phone or tablet.

Q: What inspired the striking design?

A: Most thermostats still look like the beige-box computers of the 1990s. We wanted the Nest to be beautiful and engaging. The metallic ring has a new design that we're patenting; its mirrorlike surface blends into any decor, reflecting colors, wood grains, or whatever surrounds it. The display is red when it warms up, blue when it cools, and black when not in use, and it dims when you step away. We're trying to make saving energy sexy. What's wrong with that?

Nest Learning Thermostat, \$250; nest.com and bestbuy.com.

BY INGRID ABRAMOVITCH