



A
Manual
for the
Considered
Home

Remodelista

Julie Carlson

With the editors of **REMODELISTA**

Foreword by **JULIANNE MOORE**

Photographs by **MATTHEW WILLIAMS**



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Written and edited by **MARGOT GURALNICK**

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AMAGANSETT, NEW YORK

Fully Finnish

At their Hamptons compound, fashion stylist Tiina Laakkonen and tech entrepreneur Jon Rosen redefine Scandinavian modernism and discover the power of wallpaper.



ABOVE: Tiina, viewed through a glass door in the living room, with her cat, Monkey.

OPPOSITE: Arabia ceramics in deep blues pattern the kitchen, which is divided from the dining area by a bleached oak table with a zinc top and bottom shelf. Made for the space, it doubles as a work surface and a breakfast perch (the stools are vintage, restored with woven Danish paper cord).

See Tiina and Jon's bathroom on pages 234–237.

Like many of us, Tiina Laakkonen and Jon Rosen each came up with a vision of the ideal home sometime close to birth. Jon spent formative summers at his family's place in Amagansett, New York. To him, the former de Menil estate in nearby East Hampton, a collection of restored historic houses and barns, represented the height of living. Meanwhile, Tiina was growing up in Finland's industrial southeast, where she was raised on Finnish folklore and aware of, if not exactly surrounded by, modernist design. (Marimekko's creator, Armi Ratia, hailed from a town nearby.)

A former model, Tiina earned her design creds working as an assistant to Karl Lagerfeld at Chanel and as the fashion editor at British *Vogue*. "And then love brought me to New York," she says, referring to her husband, a photographer turned tech entrepreneur. Eventually, the two bought a 1950s house in Amagansett, on a sloped meadow with mature trees and no visible neighbors. Modeled on a potato barn, the structure was in rough shape and deemed not worth saving. That was fine with Jon and Tiina—they had already fully imagined the compound that would take its place: a group of vernacular structures, more de Menil than potato barn. And it would be furnished with what Tiina calls her own "tightly curated version of all things Finnish."

They signed on two young New York architects, Tim Furzer and Nandini Bagchee, each of whom has their own firm, though they frequently collaborate. "We sat around a kitchen table with them, and the place came together," says Jon, who was on site daily during the two years of construction. As that was happening, Tiina was rediscovering her roots. She soon found herself with such a singular collection of Scandinavian design that she decided to go into business. Tiina the Store, in a bungalow on Amagansett's Main Street, is a mini version of Tiina the House. The latter, though long in the planning and expansive—five bedrooms, three and a half baths, and a total of 5,000 square feet—was fully furnished in three days flat. "When you build your own place," explains Tiina, "you ask, 'How do I want to live?' 'What kind of sink do I like? What kind of rugs?' For people like me and Jon, there aren't a million answers."

The House of Three Barns

Tim Furzer, one of the architects on the project, describes the initial brief: "Create a large, new house without disrupting the scenery and with an appearance that references the local building traditions." The resulting trio of barn-like structures, two with weathered cedar shingles that look original, and one with a standing-seam zinc roof and white cladding that's the industrial interloper—are connected by steel and glass walkways. Each is angled to create different vantages. The connections between the structures are seamless, and the interior feels all of a piece, divided into zones: the guest barn, the living barn, and the master bedroom barn.





Rusticity of the Highest Order

The entire interior is sheathed with 8-inch-wide poplar shiplap, a tour de force of custom cabinetry that's a sophisticated riff on classic barn walls. The living area overlooks the lush surroundings through two 9-foot-by-12-foot glass doors on stainless-steel tracks recessed into the polished concrete floor. And, in keeping with the country theme, Tiina reupholstered her George Sherlock sofas in a patchwork of early Marimekko prints that establish the house's palette of black, white, and indigo.



The New-Scandi Kitchen

Tiina sketched the design for the kitchen herself and had it fabricated by St. Charles, a company famous since the 1930s for its powder-coated steel cabinetry: "I wanted it to be purely industrial and functional." And not too big. Bemoaning the scale of American kitchens, she looked to Ikea as her model for European sizing and opted for one of Viking's more diminutive ranges. The point of the custom hood is to have it "not look like a monster. We said, 'Let's build it short and cantilever it out.'"



Daring to Go Dark

Tina treats wallpaper as art. To maintain mystery and avoid overkill, she typically only covers an interior wall or two, rather than whole rooms. Here, she used Rut Bryk's Apollo design with a black background.



Little House on the Finnish Prairie

A corner of the master bedroom is kitted out with a refined collection of cabin essentials: a cast-iron stove by Danish firm Mørso for cold winter nights, a cast-iron teapot (for humidifying the air when the stove is on), and a woven kindling basket. The inset stove floor is poured concrete. The rug is by Finnish company Tikau.



The Romantic Bath, Frills Allowed

A stylist committed to a Scandinavian aesthetic, Tiina Laakkonen created this dreamy, unabashedly florid master bath for herself and her husband, who was her design collaborator and supervised construction. They envisioned it as a place for the two of them to catch up at the end of the day.

OWNERS/DESIGNERS

Tiina Laakkonen and Jon Rosen

(see their house on pages 30-45)

ARCHITECTS

**Nandini Bagchee of Bagchee Architects and Tim Furzer,
New York City**



Featured Architects, Designers, and Builders

We tip our hats to the following professionals, who contributed ideas, advice, and in many cases designs featured in the book. For our complete listing of recommended architects and designers around the world, see the Remodelista Architect/Designer Directory at Remodelista.com.

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