



Down and Sold Out
Why some versions of this iconic puffer elude buyers **D2**

OFF DUTY

Current Wars
Can Volkswagen's new electric car, the ID.4, compete with Tesla? **D6**



The New Vacation? Moving Abroad

Though international leisure trips have all but evaporated, some Americans are opting to wait out the pandemic in desirable destinations overseas—trading confinement for new-found freedom

By SARA CLEMENCE

THE COVID-19 pandemic squashed countless dreams around the world. But it also helped a few come true.

Laurie Beijen's family had long wanted to move from San Francisco to Spain for a year. Her husband had been able to do it twice as a child, thanks to the sabbaticals his professor father took, and he wanted his kids to have a similar formative experience.

"We never figured out how we could make it work," said Ms. Beijen, 46, who manages rental properties. Last fall, with Ms. Beijen and her husband both working remotely and their kids, 11 and 9,

in school two days a week, an ambitious plan emerged. "We were like, we can either sit here and have Groundhog Day every day, like we've been doing for the past several months," Ms. Beijen said, "or we can do something with this time and really kind of make it matter." It took a few months to assemble their visa paperwork ("like the biggest term paper I've ever done," she said). They submitted it the day before Thanksgiving, received approval in January and departed a few days later.

Now they're living in a small town outside of Valencia, in southeastern Spain. The modernized farmhouse the family rented is surrounded by orange and avocado trees; on weekends they visit nearby beaches and castles. The kids attend a private British school nearby—in person, five days a week. "So far so good," Ms. Beijen said.

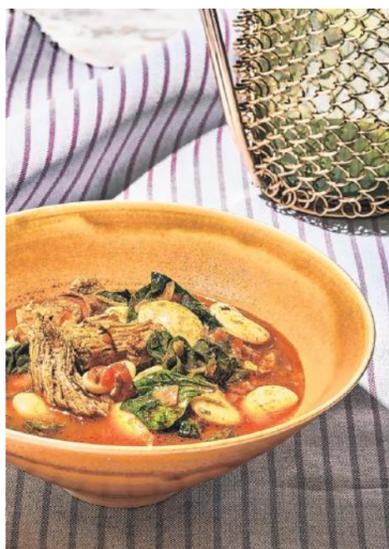
The Department of State estimates that some 9 million U.S. citizens live outside of the country. When Covid-19 closed borders and triggered restrictions around the world, thousands of them returned home—even diplomats, as some 6,000 were evacuated with their families. But other Americans are bucking the trend, leaving the U.S. to live overseas for anywhere from a few months to indefinitely. A number of hotels and resorts have been capitalizing on the appeal of extended stays, offering discounts and upgrades for bookings that are over 14 days or a month. Luxury travel company Embark Beyond launched an Embark Longer program, which offers discounts and amenities such as unlimited laundry service for resort and villa stays upward of a month. "We have clients staying several months in places

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Inside

Bowled Over

Soups can surprise as well as soothe. These recipes battle winter by way of spices that bring heat, nuance, even antioxidants



WARMING TREND Bolstered with butter beans as well as pork ribs and chorizo, this Goan pork soup is the antidote to February.

By ALEKSANDRA CRAPANZANO

IRECENTLY binge-watched a television series produced in France called "A French Village." It centers on the fictional community of Villeneuve, near the French-Swiss border, and how the villagers coped during the German occupation in the early 1940s. Food was scarce, but what the characters were able to produce out of little was inspiring. More often than not, it was soup for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

I started to count how many times a character sat down to a bowl, took a hungry spoonful, looked up and said, "La soupe, elle est bonne." I stopped counting somewhere in the fifth season—around the same time I started cooking more steaming pots of my own. Soup is perhaps the most nourishing, most economical and most satisfying food. Cultures around the world make it. And for good reason. It is as basic as creating a flavor base, adding liquid and vegetables, grains

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MANUAL CONTROL
The 8 best decorating guides for beginners **D4**



LAYER FOR THE DEFENSE
The fashion trick author Mary H.K. Choi uses to guard against the cold **D3**



A NOSE FOR TRAVEL
How new at-home Covid tests can make trip prep less daunting **D7**



QUICK REFRESH
Almonds. Fennel. Mandarins. A sunny winter salad in a mere 15 minutes **D9**

DESIGN & DECORATING



PAGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT Designers refer to tomes like 'The Oriental Carpet' by PRJ Ford again and again.

roundings to create a sanctuary. Among her many, many useful tips: "When you talk, read and write, play music and games, or sew, you leave traces of this in the room...as though the room exists for people, to live in and do things in. Faked signs of life make the room feel desolate. Signs of real life make the room feel comforting and warm."



6. The Oriental Carpet by PRJ Ford
What's the most important element of décor for a beginner to understand? "We often design an entire room around a rug," says New York designer Xandro Aventajado, "because a rug can speak volumes." To decode what a rug is trying to tell me, I often turn to this encyclopedic, oversize guide to the designs, patterns, materials, colors and symbolism of hand-knotted carpets from Asia. In 350 pages, it packs in a history of rugs; 400 color photos of typical rug patterns; drawings of common design elements including medallions, palmettes and vase motifs; as well as diagrams that illustrate the difference between Turkish and Iranian knotting techniques.

A MATTER OF LIFE AND DÉCOR / MICHELLE SLATALLA



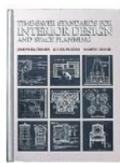
The 8 Crucial Books for Novice Home and Garden Designers

DECORATING THE KITCHEN of the first home we owned was a disaster. In my mind I saw a charming Delft-blue-and-white kitchen with bracketed wall shelves displaying glass jars full of the vegetables I would farm on the arable part of my one-eighth acre lot.

What we ended up with looked more like the interior of a junked subway car. The "white" paint I picked gave the walls an aortic, bluish tinge when paired with the gray linoleum floor. Flimsy plywood shelves bowed. A Smurf-blue window blind above the sink failed to pull the whole look together.

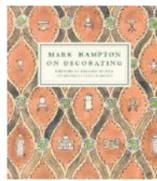
Over the years, I have come to understand that one of the biggest problems amateur home designers face is not imagination but vocabulary. If you don't have the words to adequately describe what you want, you won't get the help you need to create it.

For decades, I've been learning the right words, and trying to remember them, by collecting a library of design books. My 8 favorites—all of which can be purchased new or used online—cover what I consider the four topics you need to tackle when creating a home: landscaping, architecture, interior design and decoration.



1. Time-Saver Standards for Interior Design and Space Planning by Joseph De Chiara, Julius Panero and Martin Zelnik

"Every beginner needs an absolute bible that defines all the elements of interior design," said Toronto interior designer David Thomas. Mine is this 1,160-page tome, which describes interior elements and gives rules for designing them. Thousands of illustrations help the reader identify architectural features such as molding (crown, deep-script, chair rail, picture rail) and windows (hopper, awning, vertical pivot, eyebrow with Gothic divided lites). It's filled with great tips such as leaving 36 inches of clearance around a dining table to comfortably push out a chair.



2. On Decorating by Mark Hampton
Mr. Hampton, a celebrity decorator who died more than two decades ago at the height of his career, championed an opulent, tassels-forward style that these days would be considered

dated even if you live in Palm Beach. But while I may never own curtains with fringed valences, I will always appreciate his advice on how to use color and texture "to transform the bleak and the barren into welcoming spaces where we can live." Illustrated by Mr. Hampton's watercolor sketches, this friendly collection of essays offers practical advice on timeless topics, from "the uses of wallpaper" to "furniture placement that makes a living room work."



3. Garden Design by Sylvia Crowe
You might not think a book written over 60 years ago by a genteel Englishwoman named Dame Sylvia Crowe would be relevant for today's first-time gardener. But while garden fashions change, basic design principles do not. The author, an influential 20th-century landscape architect, believed a garden should be a "world to live in," and offers comforting advice on such topics as composition and proportion, scale, color, pattern and texture. I also love the brief (and compulsively readable) historical overviews and comparisons of garden styles, from

ancient Egypt to Asia to Europe.



4. The Anatomy of Colour by Patrick Baty
All but the luckiest tetrachromats among us have made at least one bad paint choice or struggled with picking a complementary color for trim. If only we knew for sure which hues—and types—of paint work best together. Enter Mr. Baty, a British paint historian who knows his lime wash from his milk paint. His fascinating investigations into how and why individual paint colors have changed over the past three centuries can make it much easier to pick the right shade for a living room circa 2021.



5. Home Comforts by Cheryl Mendelson
Although the stated mission of this book is to teach readers "how a home works, not how it looks," do not be fooled by this disclaimer. In addition to housekeeping tips, Ms. Mendelson has strong opinions on how to arrange domestic sur-



7. A Field Guide to American Houses by Virginia and Lee McAlester
I like to wander around town looking at the different styles of houses. When I carry this book along, I know exactly whether I'm seeing a Dutch Colonial or a Spanish Colonial. The comprehensive field guide identifies every major architectural style—and every exterior feature of every style, from Italianate bracketed cornices to Victorian gable-roof elaborations. It is also a valuable resource for anyone who wants to build an addition; it will enable you to choose the right architectural elements to complement your Gothic Revival or Georgian facade.



8. The Furniture Bible by Christophe Pourny
The subtitle of this book is "Everything You Need to Know to Identify, Restore and Care for Furniture," and that pretty much says it all. In addition to illustrating the differences between such furniture styles as Louis XV (voluptuously curved legs) and Louis XVI (fluted, straight legs), the book describes the characteristics of 30 kinds of wood and dozens of types of hardware, from escutcheons to casters. There are step-by-step instructions for restoring furniture, useful whether you do it yourself...or simply want to know how it's done.

