

our personal space

In this issue, we explore homes—both past and present. From the home of Charles and Ray Eames and the remarkable home of British architect, Sir John Soane, to the unique renovations featured on our pages, including a warehouse, a New York City loft, and a sawmill, we present various definitions of what a home is. These definitions are as different as the homes themselves. They can vary from generation to generation, culture to culture, and person to person. However, these variations are usually dictated by sociological, psychological, political and economic factors.

Sir John Soane regarded his house as a place for stimulation and reflection for himself and his architecture students. Thus, he created exhibits with his many artifacts and art collections. Decades ago, there was an exodus to the suburbs by homeowners. Now, the traditional perception of a home being a house in the suburbs with a white picket fence has all but disappeared. As more local governments and businesses saw the potential in urban renewal so did homeowners. They saw an attractive alternative to long commutes and returned to the “forgotten city.” The converted warehouse in Columbus, Ohio, and the Tribeca loft we feature

are a result of this renewal.

In the new millennium, definitions of home will expand even further. The latest technology, an increased life-expectancy age, and an increased awareness of father's rights are just some of the factors that will dictate these definitions. Through all the chaos of new family structures and wiring our homes with the latest high-tech gadgets, the one constant seems to be that homes, regardless of the complications they imply, are taking on greater meaning. Homeowners are realizing that not only do homes provide a shelter for our families but a shelter for our souls as well. They offer us a place to retreat and re-energize in an age where we feel overextended. The quality of our homes does affect our emotional well-being. As a result, we are spending more money than ever on decorating and renovating our personal spaces. And if the jam-packed parking lots of Home Depots are any indication, this trend shows no signs of letting up.

So as you convert your house to the personal space of your dreams, think of *Inland Architect*. We are right there with you!

Steven N. Polydoris, Editor