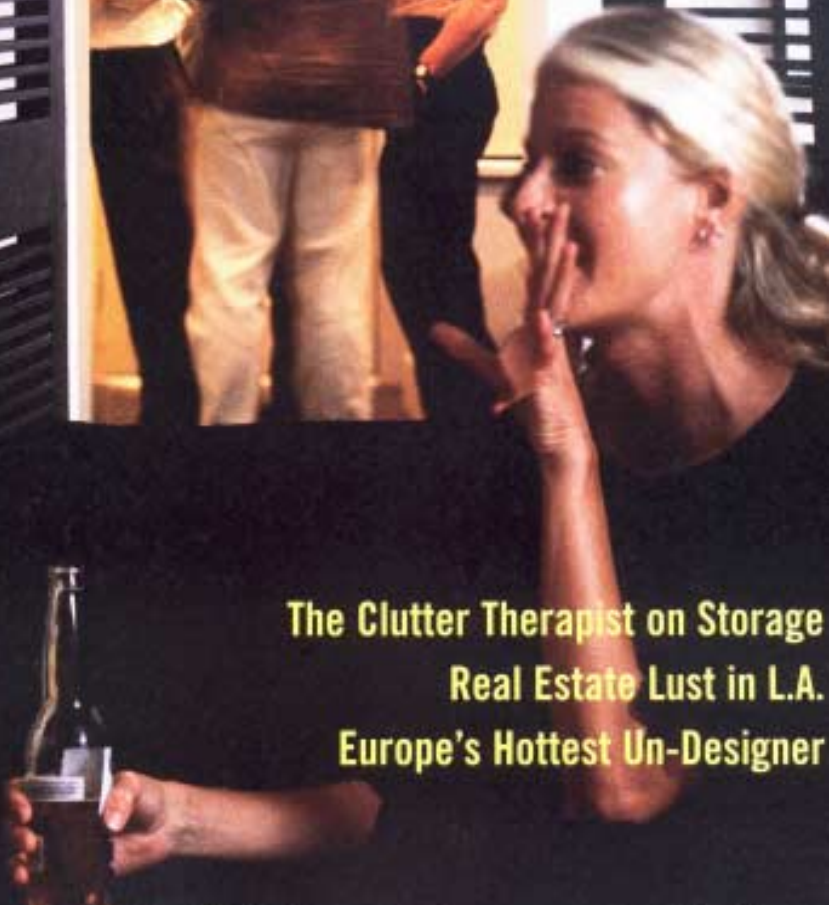


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AT HOME IN THE MODERN WORLD

DECEMBER 2000

10 Bold New Homes in Unexpected Cities (There is Too a There There!)



The Clutter Therapist on Storage
Real Estate Lust in L.A.
Europe's Hottest Un-Designer

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Is there a there there? Can you stop the river of time? Editor Karrie Jacobs visits Oakland mayor Jerry Brown in search of answers.

"Whether in the short term or the long term, cranking out three-garage homes on quarter-acre lots in subdivisions that are five miles from the nearest mall cluster of Home Depots and Burger Kings is simply wrong . . ." —ANDREW ROSS, PAGE 91

COVER

Architect Ursula Emery McClure enjoys a cold one at a housewarming party for the Baton Rouge, Louisiana, shotgun house that she recently remodeled with her husband and colleague, Michael McClure. Photo by Rick Olivieri.

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In a scrappy oil refinery town, architects Michael McClure and Ursula Emery McClure transplant their modernist ideals to a traditional shotgun shack. BY STEPHANIE RAY

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Seven more cities demonstrating that the coolest places to live aren't necessarily where you think they are:

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EL PASO, TEXAS

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

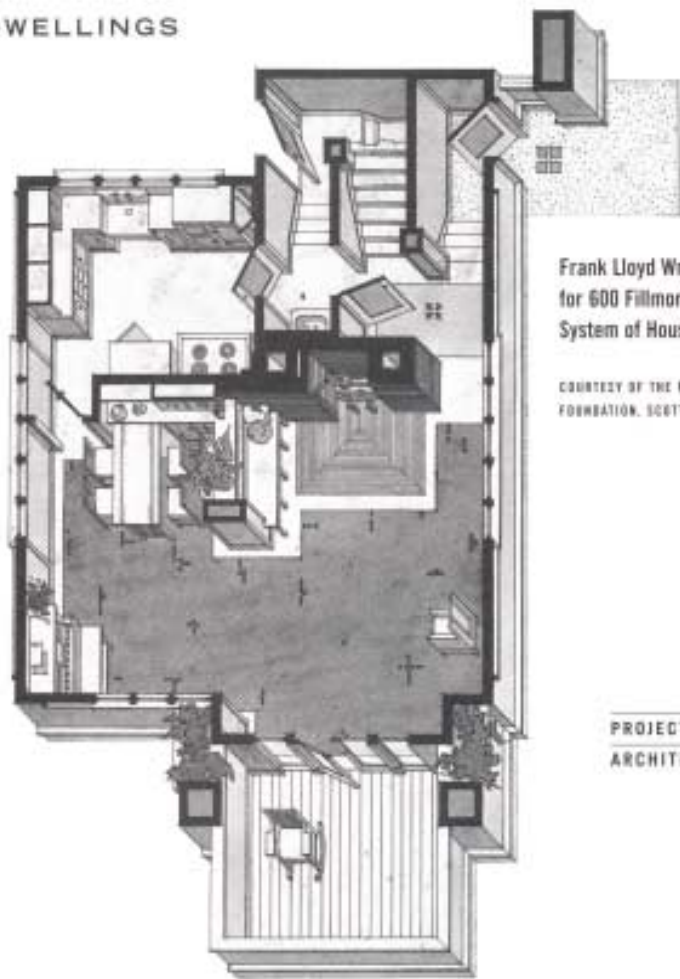
GARY, INDIANA

COLUMBUS, OHIO

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

78 / The Rethinker

What happens when Tom Dixon, the man who wrote the book on "anti-design," becomes one of Europe's most important design impresarios? BY LIE FARRELLY



Frank Lloyd Wright's original plan for 600 Fillmore, part of his American System of Housing.

COURTESY OF THE FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT FOUNDATION, SCOTTSDALE, AZ

PROJECT: 600 FILLMORE STREET
ARCHITECT: FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

GARY, INDIANA

The first thing that strikes you about Gary, Indiana, is its glut of vacant, burned-out buildings. In many parts, Gary more closely resembles a war-torn village in the Balkans than a midsize city in the middle of the wealthiest country in the world. However, there are a number of architecturally significant structures here, including a now decrepit white stucco house at 600 Fillmore Street, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1916.

The house, which has stood abandoned for the past 25 years, was built for the American System of Housing, a short-lived venture based on prefabricated designs and materials. It was purchased recently by the American Heritage Home Trust, an historic-preservation group that repairs, cleans, and furnishes architecturally significant buildings throughout the United States with the hope of tempting tourists to spend their vacation in an "American Heritage Home." Though 600 Fillmore is a Frank Lloyd Wright

house, the idea of tourists bedding down in Gary seems like a stretch, but not to the project manager, Christopher Meyers. Wright fanatics will go anywhere, he believes. "These homes built for the American System of Housing were not designed with a particular client in mind," says Meyers, explaining 600 Fillmore's special appeal. "Wright literally designed these homes for himself—they are an almost pure realization of his aesthetic."

Currently, the house is a tragic sight. The second floor has collapsed into the first floor, which in turn has collapsed into the basement, leaving a remarkable gaping hole in the living room. Dripping water continuously trickles down from the all-but-nonexistent roof. But even in its eerie state, it is a beautiful structure. Looking at the classic Wright details, you become convinced that Meyers' dream to resurrect this lost Wright relic might not be so far-fetched after all.

—ANDREW WAGNER





Though hard to believe, 600 Fillmore will soon be an American Heritage Home bed-and-breakfast.



Christopher Meyers on Gary

Favorite Architectural Landmark

"I have no one favorite building. I greatly enjoy my discoveries of numerous undocumented Prairie School buildings by Wright, Maher and Son, and George and Arthur Dean."

Favorite Thing

"Gary's people and their desire to see the city come around."

Least Favorite Thing

"The stereotypes attached to the city about crime, violence, and drugs. Yes, the city has its share of these problems, but what city doesn't?"

Favorite Place to Go

The eateries and stores on Lake Street, in the Miller neighborhood, and West Beach.

