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The New York Times

CURRENTS

BOOKS
Design With a Practical Bent

▼ The daily readership of Grace Bonney's blog Design Sponge "could fill Madison Square Garden," she writes in the introduction to her new book, "Design Sponge at Home" (Artisan; \$35). It's a claim that might sound boastful were it not an understatement (actually, it could fill the arena several times over) and immediately followed by "How cool would it be if we could all meet up every day like that?"

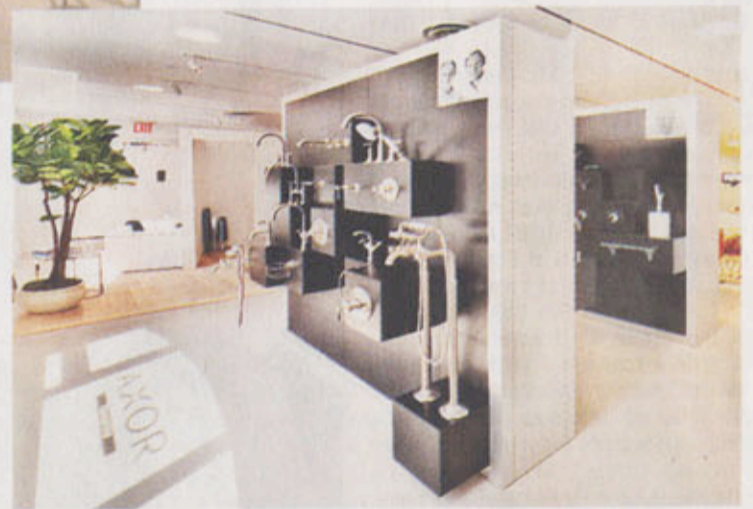
That enthusiasm is one of the hallmarks of Ms. Bonney's Web site, where her posts are infused with the excitement of sharing her discoveries with the community of fellow design enthusiasts. Like her, many of them are young women (Ms. Bonney is 30) who take a nontraditional approach to home design and are willing, even eager, to reuphol-

ster the armchair themselves.

The book, Ms. Bonney's first, has a smart-looking coral cover that promises to pop on the shelf. Its 400 pages are filled with photos, including nearly 200 pages of Sneak Peeks, in which homes — a number belonging to designers — are annotated with tips on how to replicate the look.

There are also D.I.Y. projects and a collection of "before and after" photos that seek to supply what Ms. Bonney thought was missing from previous design books aimed at her peers. "They think you just want inspiration — that it's enough to show you a pretty home," she said. "But you really have to show people how to translate that to their budget, their style and their particular house."

EMILY WEINSTEIN

OPEN
From Germany, the Sleek and the Useful

▼ Axor, a division of the German kitchen and bath company Hansgrohe, has made a name for itself by commissioning high-profile designers like Philippe Starck and Patricia Urquiola to design fixtures. But while its products have been available in this country for some time, the retailers that carried them often sold only part of the collection.

Next week, Axor will open a 3,000-square-foot studio on the top floor of the Vitra store in the meatpacking district that will showcase the company's full line,

with several working bathrooms on display. "Vitra uses a lot of the same designers we use," said Russ Wheeler, president of Hansgrohe North America. "We thought it was a perfect fit."

Customers will not be able to buy products there (the studio will direct them to retailers in the area), but an interior designer will be on site to recommend products for specific spaces. Axor NYC, 29 Ninth Avenue (13th Street), (212) 463-5790, hansgrohe-usa.com/axor.

RIMA SUQI

GOODS
Tableware With Something on Its Mind

▲ "I keep a kind of mental notebook of phrases that resonate in my mind," said Rob Wynne, an artist who lives in Manhattan. "Some are made up, some come from reading or from being overheard."

Although most of Mr. Wynne's work — drawings and sculptures made with materials like poured glass and thread — is shown in galleries, he recently produced a line of 19 dishwasher-safe plates.

"I started making them as long as eight or nine years ago," he said, "because I thought it would be nice to

eat off them."

Each plate features one of those phrases, like "As I have already said, I had no real childhood," above, "a snowstorm of flowers," "the sound of butterflies" and "open your mouth and shut your eyes."

The 10½-inch-diameter plates are \$125 each; there is also a 12-by-16-inch platter for \$225. Available in a limited edition at Artware Editions, 270 Bowery (Houston Street), (212) 463-7490 or artwareeditions.com.

ELAINE LOUIE

DEALS
Beds, Chairs and Green Goods, for Less

▲ All items in the Westin Hotels and Resorts Retail Collection are 20 percent off, through Sept. 15 (the Westin Heavenly bed, originally \$2,670 to \$3,420, is \$2,136 to \$2,736); (877) 777-5418 or westin.com/store.

Some Apartment 48 pieces are marked down 30 percent, through Sept. 18 (colored Hobnail pitchers, regularly \$125, are about \$88); apartment48.com.

Design Within Reach is discounting a selection of items 15 percent, through Sept. 27 (the Moller Model 77 side chair, above, regularly \$730, is about \$620);

(800) 944-2233 or dwr.com.

Amaridian is taking up to 60 percent off some items, through Sept. 28 (a Swing by Egg Designs, regularly \$4,560, is \$3,250); 31 Howard Street (Crosby Street), (917) 463-3719, amaridianusa.com.

Many eco-friendly and green building items are on sale at Green Depot, while supplies last (the Scaffold floor lamp by Rodger Stevens, originally about \$1,100, is about \$500); 222 Bowery (Prince Street), (212) 226-0444, greendepot.com.

Good deals may be reported to deals@nytimes.com.

WALLS
A Textured Covering, Lace Inspired

▲ Lace, Beaded Black, a new wallpaper from Jocelyn Warner, a British textile and wallpaper designer, is the highly tactile result of Ms. Warner's longstanding interest in lace.

"I've always been fascinated by lace, and the cutout effect, especially of broderie anglaise, a lace that's normally done in cotton and is less fussy," she said. "I wanted to do an interpretation of lace that would look graphic and

have a handcrafted look."

To accomplish that, Ms. Warner used surface printing, a technique that "produces the same effect as the traditional wood block: it leaves raised, textural features," she said.

A roll measuring 20½ inches wide and 11 yards long is \$215 at Stark Wallcovering, 979 Third Avenue (58th Street), (212) 752-9000. Information: jocelynwarner.com.

ELAINE LOUIE

