

Special Section: Furniture for Every (Little) Room

# Metropolitan Home

Smart  
Small  
Spaces

How to  
Make Them  
Work!

*The glamorous  
open living room  
of a rammed-  
earth house in  
Aspen, p. 66*

MARCH 2009  
USA \$4.99  
UK £3.25  
DISPLAY UNTIL  
MARCH 10, 2009  
WWW.METHOME.COM

02757



# Personal Style



# Word. ■

In European capitals, nearly *seven square miles* of office space is now vacant.

## Owners' Manual

### ■ [ENERGY MONITORS]

Who said it's not easy being green? At home, simple tools can shave hundreds off your electricity bill. Here's what you need to know.

■ Energy monitors help you, well, monitor your energy usage. The *Watson* (\$150; DIYKyoto.com) is the most stylish of the bunch. Its sensor hooks up to your home's fuse box, then wirelessly relays readings to a portable display that glows red or blue, depending on your energy use. You, in turn, switch off appliances accordingly.



■ Black and Decker's *Power Monitor* (\$100; BlackandDecker.com) and the *Energy Detective* (below; from \$140; TheEnergyDetective.com) are two devices that will tell you exactly how much it costs per month and per year to run an appliance. In each, a sensor on your fuse box wirelessly transmits to a monitor with a LED readout that you can tote around the house; switch appliances off and on, and you can easily spot the cost.

■ After you invest, remember that massive waste comes from plugged-in appliances—from toaster ovens to computers—that draw current even when turned off. Test the effect of unplugging them and fix problems with an adapter such as Smart Home's *Smart Strip Power Strip* (\$42; SmartHomeUSA.com) that cuts current to appliances that have already been turned off—you'll never have to worry about unplugging again.—Cliff Kuang

## Indulgence

### ■ [ARMANI/DOLCI]

Armani's confections are now available in the States, at Armani/Fifth Avenue, the new 40,000-square-foot Manhattan flagship that showcases the Italian designer's clothing and home collections (717 Fifth Ave.; Armani5th Avenue.com). The luscious Italian pralines come in 16 flavors, made with ingredients like hazelnuts from the Piedmont region (\$36; Armani-Viamanzoni31.it).—KL



## Tongue in Chic

### ■ [THE DEXTER CHAIR]

Perhaps the most-talked-about room at the recent Metropolitan Home Showhouse was the one designer Amy Lau created for Dexter, Showtime's serial killer. Now the macabre-minded can order Dexter's white lacquer dining chairs with white ultra-leather upholstery splashed with hand-embroidered blood designs on front and back (\$5,000 for an armchair signed by Dexter portrayed Michael C. Hall; Spring3d.net).—Arlene Hirst



\$82 BILLION (ABOUT 3.6 PERCENT OF ITS ANNUAL GDP) EACH YEAR

