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Who's here, and where to find them. Plus, the full map beginning on page 38.



#### **FIVE DAYS ONLY!**

Wednesday, February 26 12:00-8:00 PM Thursday, February 27 12:00-9:00 PM Friday, February 28 10:00-9:00 PM 10:00-9:00 PM Saturday, February 29 Sunday, March 1 10:00-6:00 PM

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**\$12** online (Discount courtesy of HomeServe)

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**\$5** after 5pm everyday

Tickets can be purchased at Menards, Cub Foods, and Bachman's Floral, Home and Garden.

#### **Metro** Transit

Get there by bus or light rail on Saturday and Sunday with a free ride pass. Download your FREE PASS on the show website.

HomeAndGardenShow.com

#### THEME DAYS

FEB. 26 - FEB. 28

Public Servant Days: Free admission for all current government workers with valid ID.

Hero Days: All active and retired military, first responders, and teachers get in free with a valid ID.

#### FEB. 27 - FEB. 28

Hirshfield's Days: Pick up your FREE admission pass at your local Hirshfield's store.

#### **ALL DAYS**

Senior Day: \$4 off 55+

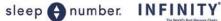
#### FEB. 29

**Trade Day:** Professionals from home building industries receive free admission with valid ID.

#### MARCH 1

**Teacher Day:** Free admission with valid ID.

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#### **PLAYHOUSES**

High schools with hammers just might be the future of the construction industry. The Playhouse Challenge involves the judging and auctioning of tiny-house structures built via tech-ed classes throughout Minnesota. Students from participating schools will represent their playhouse during the show, where the winning design is judged by local industry experts and a popular vote by kids. Each playhouse is auctioned off to the highest bidder at the end of the show, with proceeds benefiting Habitat for Humanity.



#### **DECK WARS**

You've seen deck designers go toe-totoe on HGTV, and now we can claim our very own competition. Duking it out for the title of "Deck Wars Champion 2020" at this year's Home + Garden Show, top decking-focused contractors in the Minneapolis-St. Paul market have some exciting plans in the works: from making the ultimate infinite backyard replete with fire, audio, and water to a "casual modern" three-season porch and deck combo with retractable screens and an outdoor fireplace.



#### **BARKING LOT**

You've heard of a dog house before, but what about a dog chateau? Check out canine-size house replicas that will

get tongues wagging. Past models incorporated reclaimed barn wood, paid homage to architect Frank Loyd Wright, and even featured a dog fountain atop a rooftop pool.



IF YOU ENJOY DIY **PROJECTS IN YOUR** HOME, WHY NOT MAKE IT YOUR **CAREER? ROLL** YOUR SLEEVES UP AND COME "TRY A TRADE" FOR SIZE.



People say Dirty Jobs changed the way cable was programmed, but what it really did was give regular people permission to be themselves."

> -MIKE ROWE, 2020 HOME + GARDEN FEATURED CELEBRITY GUEST

#### **FOOD TRUCKS!**

Stop by Foodie Central in Hall B for a delish line-up featuring some of the city's best eats.







Give your feet a rest while aetting straight to the heart of the action with a stop at the Backyard Lounge where your favorite bevvies meet the latest in outdoor furniture. Sponsored by Plants and Things USA, the space will feature an abundance of deep seating areas and gas fire dining tables as a means of outdoor living inspiration. "We will create a warm environment for people to relax and reflect on the wonders of the show," says Jeff Hickman. "Plants and Things USA is celebrating 40 years in business and making this lounge a comfortable retreat for showgoers is just a small way of saying thanks to our customers for their continued support.





# EXPERIENCE THE ARB

#### **SPRING FLOWER SHOW: BRANCHING OUT** FEB. 1 - MARCH 1

- Stunning woodland, nature-inspired displays featuring trees
- Conservatory Craftsmen glass house with aeroponic edible gardens from Chelsea Flower Show in London
- Fabulous fairy gardens with gigantic selfie throne
- Fragrant hyacinths, daffodils, tulips, primroses and many more spring blooms
- Stunning glass sculptures by featured artist Donna Rice
- Show merchandise available in Gift & Garden Store
- Members free, non-members \$15
- Daily 8-4:30, Sunday 10-4:30



#### **PREVIEW PARTY JAN. 31**

Artist presentations, plus Donna Rice bird sculpture giveaway worth \$350.

#### **TICKETS AT:**

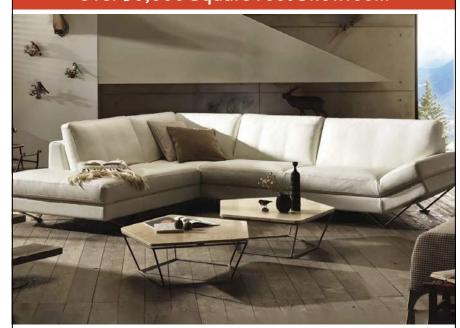
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At American Family Insurance, we believe dreams begin at home, and we're dedicated to helping you protect those dreams that matter most! Planning a remodel? Stop by our booth to get inspired. Take a photo with tools and other construction props to visualize what your in-progress remodel will look like. And talk to our representatives about your plans to improve your space — they'll give you more info about how our home insurance can be built around vou. Be sure to stop by or visit us at www.AmFam.com!

#### **INFINITY**

In today's culture, we place more emphasis on our wellness than ever before. After all, a higher level of overall well-being leads to a higher quality of life, which better equips us to conquer our limitations and enjoy doing the things we love most. At Infinity, we aim to help people of all lifestyles do just that by designing our chairs with the latest technology in the industry, including adjustable 3D massage and modern conveniences like Bluetooth® and mobile app compatibility. Elevate your wellness and live your best life with Infinity Massage Chairs.

#### **MARVIN**

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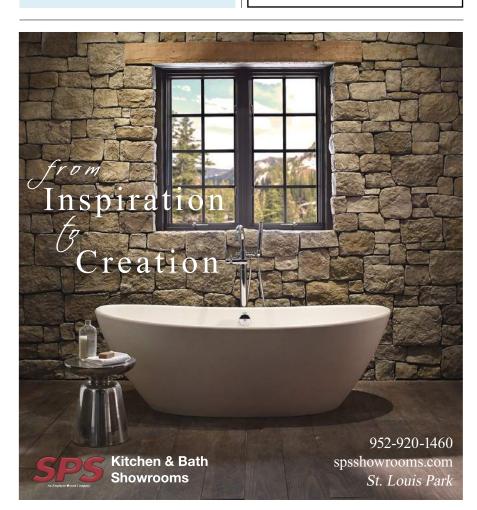


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HOME + GARDEN SHOW PROGRAM GUIDE

## GARDEN + HOME STAGE SCHEDULE

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#### **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

**2:00–3:00** PM | William Dougherty: A Season of Flowering Bulbs, Tubers, and Corms

**3:00–4:00** PM | Joel Karsten presents: The Straw Bale Gardens Method Makes Growing Vegetables Easy and Fun!

**4:00–5:00 PM** | Bob Dahm: DIY Organic Lawn Care

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

**2:00–3:00** PM | Judy Griesedieck presents: Understanding Pollinators through the Lens of Photography

**3:00–4:00** PM | Joel Karsten presents: The Straw Bale Gardens Method Makes Growing Vegetables Easy and Fun!

4:00–5:00 PM | Brooke Sommerfeldt presents: Wasps, Flies, Moths, and More: What Gardeners Should Know about Pollinator Diversity and Bee Look-Alikes

#### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

1:00–2:00 PM | Theresa Rooney presents: Humane Critter Control

**2:00–3:00 PM** | Jenn Hovland: Growing Succulents and Houseplants with Success

3:00–4:00 PM | Josh Kiecker of Sculptured Earth

**4:00–5:00** PM | Bob Dahm: How to Install and Maintain Your Bee Lawn

**5:00–6:00** PM | Nick "The Pond King" Needham presents: Water Features Gaining Popularity

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

11:30 AM-12:30 PM | Michelle Mero Riedel presents: Garden Photography

12:30–1:30 PM | Russ Henry presents: Backyard Heroes: What You Can Do to Be a Hero to Wildlife Including Bees, Butterflies, Birds, and More in Your Own Landscape



**1:30–2:30 PM** | Josh Kiecker of Sculptured Earth

**3:30–5:00** PM | Koehler & Dramm Institute of Floristry – Floral Design Competition **5:00–6:00** PM | Laura Wood and Paul Farrell of By The Woods Custom Landscaping presents: What Goes Where? How to Pick the Right Paver and Retaining

Wall for Your Landscape Project

#### **SUNDAY, MARCH 1**

11:00 AM-12:00 PM | Matt Ratliff of Ready-2-Fruit Mushrooms presents: Mushroom Cultivation for the Home Gardener

**12:00–1:00 PM** | Lee Bergum of Energy Panel Structures presents: SIPlify your Lifestyle

**1:00–2:00 PM |** Josh Kiecker of Sculptured Earth

2:00-3:00 PM | Deck Wars Panel Discussion sponsored by TimberTech. Speakers: Chris Tackaberry of Deck City, Jon Brennhofer of dREamodel, Mark King of Infinite Decks, Tim Brown of PHI Decks, and Jim Shull of TimberTech

**3:00–4:00** PM | Marty Bergland presents: Seed Starting 101

Check the website homeandaardenshow.com for the full schedule

#### APPEARING LIVE: MIKE ROWE

Best known as the creator and host of *Dirty Jobs*, Mike Rowe is also the host of Facebook's original series *Returning the Favor* and recently released his first book, *The Way I Heard It*. "There's really not many places left like these local home shows where homeowners can meet with their local experts and decide for themselves, 'Yes, I'm good with letting this company in my home,'" he says. Catch him in Hall B on the Main Stage on Sat., Feb. 29, 2020. *Appearance sponsored* 

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11

10 PROGRAM GUIDE PRODUCED BY MPLS.ST.PAUL MAGAZINE

## **HOW TO GET A BEE'S-KNEES BACKYARD**

LEARN ABOUT CULTIVATING A POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY YARD, ORGANICALLY CARING FOR YOUR LAWN, AND HOW TO CONSCIENTIOUSLY LANDSCAPE AT THE GARDEN + HOME STAGE. BY KAIT ECKER

Sponsored by the Minnesota State
Horticultural Society and Sculptured
Earth, this year's Garden + Home Stage
will feature timely and relevant
home and gardening topics,
with a special focus on
turning your yard into a
pollinator paradise.

"We will feature a
wide variety of industry leaders speaking on
topics varying from soil
health to garden photography and seed starting,"
says Lara Lau-Schommer, the
community outreach manager for the
Minnesota State Horticultural Society.

Notable speakers include photojournalist Judy Griesedieck

from the University of Minnesota
Bee Lab, who will be presenting
"Understanding Pollinators through
the Lens of Photography" on day
two of the show. Brooke

Sommerfeldt, a member of the Bee Squad and the program coordinator for the Bee Squad's Pollinator Ambassadors program, will share her expertise in "Wasps, Flies, Moths, and More: What Gardeners Should Know about Pollinator Diversity and Bee Look-Alikes."

Two local landscapers will fill out the docket, says Lau-Schommer. Russ Henry, president of Minnehaha Falls Landscaping and founder of Giving Tree Gardens, gives special attention to the wildlife found around your home with "Backyard Heroes: What You Can Do to Be a Hero to Wildlife Including Bees, Butterflies, Birds and More in Your Own Landscape."

Bob Dahm, founder of Organic Bob LLC will explain both how to create your own organic lawn and how to install and maintain a bee lawn. His lawn care services are specifically tailored to being bee and environmentally friendly.

Be sure to also catch mushroom expert Matt Ratliff's presentation on mushroom cultivation and learn about the trending straw bale garden method from horticulture expert Joel Karsten.

## SHOPPE LOCAL

FIND ALL YOU'LL NEED TO SPRUCE UP YOUR YARD AND HOME FOR SPRING AT THE GARDEN + HOME SHOPPE. **BY KAIT ECKER** 

With a lineup of over 30 vendors, the Garden + Home Shoppe is your one-stop shop in finding the perfect individualized touch for your garden and home. Think of it as your neighborhood garden store—dropped right in the middle of the show.

This dedicated shopping area at the Home + Garden Show is filled with cash-and-carry items specific to homes and gardens. Think bulbs, succulents, home décor, soaps, garden tools, and yard accessories.

If you're looking to grow some veggies once some warmer weather rolls around, the Shoppe will feature Vegepod and its innovative raised garden beds.

For a bit of whimsy, find garden

décor and fairy gardens by Amy Lea 'n Me. And on the more practical side of things, Hold It Mate will be bringing plant-mounting rails, and EZ Swap Pots will sell its functional fabric pot (perfect for transplanting)

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society's booth will be located near the front, says Lara Lau-Schommer, the MSHS community outreach manager. While there, lean into the experts for gardening advice—from the likes of the Hennepin County Master Gardeners—and bring your pollinator questions to members of the University of Minnesota Bee Squad. Don't forget to pick up your bulbs to support one of the society's biggest fundraisers of the year!







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12 PROGRAM GUIDE PRODUCED BY MPLS.ST.PAUL MAGAZINE



LANDSCAPE **DESIGNERS EMBRACE THE BEST OF OUR PAST WITH** "GARDENS **THROUGH** THE DECADES" **THEMED** DESIGNS.

BY KATIE DOHMAN

#### **Holm & Olson Landscape Design** and Construction

"We're taking on 1960s design flair, says Jack Dorcey. His team took Old Hollywood

homes as inspiration for their design, which will feature garden panels with '60s designs and really clean and simple lines.

To achieve the look. "We'll have fewer plants, but more structure in plant arrangements, and plant in masses," he says.

Expect magnolia and birch trees; tulips, hyacinths, and hydrangeas; and rhododendron and dogwood shrubs oh, and an iconic '60s car.

#### Oflora Gardens

Bill Swanson is going all out for his 38th year at the Home + Garden

show. His theme? The Renaissance. There are going to be light posts made out of

arborvitae. A horse jumping a fence. Topiaries. A central patio with an entrance that involves antique church archways. Spiraling walls. Yellow daffodils. Red tulips.

"Typically, I do very naturalistic aardens." Swanson says. "But at the show I like to show the most interesting and best, so attendees can get excited. Some of it might not be an application for your backyard, but it gives you a lot of cool ideas."

#### Stonewall Inc.

Stonewall Inc., known for its boulder retaining walls and

creative stone designs, is taking us back. All the way back to the "stone age," where striking simplicity is



mirrored through natural rock placements.

With limestone quarried out of Wisconsin, "We will be using boulders weighing anywhere between 3,000 to 6,000 pounds," says Justin Ferrin. "They'll be placed in an outcropping setting in hillsides that we form."

That way, showgoers can get a sense of its retaining power. Included in the setup: a paver patio to ponder all that nature's created.

#### Mickman **Brothers Inc.**

Instead of looking back, the Mickman Brothers team is choosing to feature the future

"With the

idea of, as we move forward. there will be an emphasis on sustainability and landscaping responsibly and considering pollinators and the environmental aspect," Paul Mayhew says. "We'll also work with gray water in the landscaping."

But it won't just look like prairie: There will be color woven through the blooms with rudbeckia, liatris, purple coneflower, Siberian iris, and more.

"Mickman has been involved with reforestation for years," Mayhew adds. "We want to educate and be responsible stewards of the environment."

#### **Landstyle Design** & Construction

Plan to be wooed by water at Landstyle's display. Margaret Munson and team decided

to feature waterfalls of the '60s for their design.

"People started using their backyards, started to grill [out]. They wanted more than just gardens—they wanted to sit on patios and wanted privacy. Water features are visual but also create a soothing sound," she says.

They'll feature lighted basalt stones that have a waterfall feature, a dry riverbed stream (which actually features water falling into a pool, despite its name), and a large fieldstone boulder, among a full landscape.

#### **Bachman's Floral** Patrick Warden savs their

design will reflect what has been

happening in the last decade or so that has come to fruition in this current decade:

Market in the Park.

"We're focusing on the urban expansion that we're seeing in so many wellused, well-cared-for that have such great community involvement," he says. They'll be creating a

landscape that allows for lush plant life without overgrowth. Container gardens and terrariums that can look beautiful on a balcony or small patio, and rooftop garden inspiration. The center of it all features a "food truck"—filled with flowers.

#### Design NRD's garden will celebrate

**NRD Landscape** 

midcentury modern architecture What does that mean

to them? Showing some restraint

in an effort to allow the architecture to shine and not be hidden.

"Our garden will showcase elegant natural stone walks and patios with clean lines, along with both elevated and sunken areas to relax and enjoy the surroundings," says Eric Robertson.

The group also plans to blend use of water and fire elements. And an overhead structure will showcase their carpentry and tie the whole garden together.





## **BUILD**



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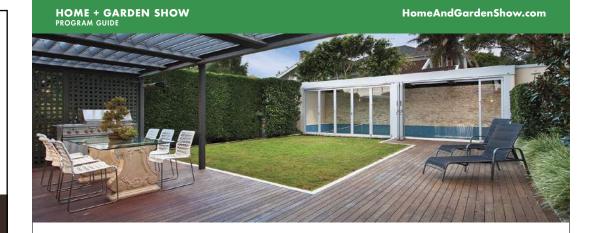
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### **DECK WARS**

DUKING IT OUT FOR BEST DECKS WITH TIMBERTECH AND SOME OF THE METRO'S FINEST DECK DESIGNERS/BUILDERS.

#### BY KATIE DOHMAN

You've seen deck designers go toeto-toe on HGTV-and now we have our very own competition at the Home + Garden Show.

TimberTech, a company that features cutting-edge woodalternative decking material, is sponsoring the event. Jim Shull of TimberTech says, "We are hosting these contractors because they are four of the top decking-focused contractors in the Minneapolis-St. Paul market. These four builders are doing everything from deckand-rail projects to three- and four-season porches to really enable homeowners to enjoy these outdoor living spaces year-round."

To that end, Deck City, dREamodel, Infinite Decks, and PHI Decks will compete for the title of Deck Wars Champion 2020.

"I want to bring the high-end flair," says Mark King of Infinite Decks, whose company specializes in low-maintenance, high-end designs. He plans to show off the curved and bent designs that are Infinite Decks' specialty. "My plan is making the ultimate infinite backyard. Not just a deck: but including outdoor features like fire, water, audio, an outdoor kitchen, and landscaping."

Jon Brennhofer of dREamodel says that all of his team's designs take into account maximizing all the outdoor living space, not just the decking itself-and bringing the inside out. "What's unique

about Minneapolis is that our outdoor time is so short, so we put a really big emphasis on it. The expense people put into their outdoor space to enjoy it has increased significantly in the last few years."

"Casual modern" is the catchphrase for **PHI Decks**' early designs. Tim Brown says it'll be constructing a three-season porch with a deck to show how to extend the outdoor season. "We'll use real clean lines and make it fairly simple, but warm and inviting. We're planning some retractable screens, vinyl sliding screen windows, an outdoor fireplace, and curved and straight deck boards."

And Chris Tackaberry of **Deck City** says he's ready to bring his team's artisan A-game. "It's more than just putting deck boards down," he explains. "It's an experience and a lifestyle." Driving his design is thinking about a homeowner's full range of experiences and needs, not just adding bells and whistles indiscriminately. "We work ahead of the curve and always put first the things we can do as a business to improve relationships with clients," he says.

As for TimberTech, watch out for new products in 2020: it's working toward offering 99 percent green building products. Shull says, "Instead of working and maintaining your outdoor living space, you can truly live on it and enjoy it."

Deck City, dREamodel, Infinite Decks, and PHI Decks will compete for the title of Deck Wars Champion 2020.

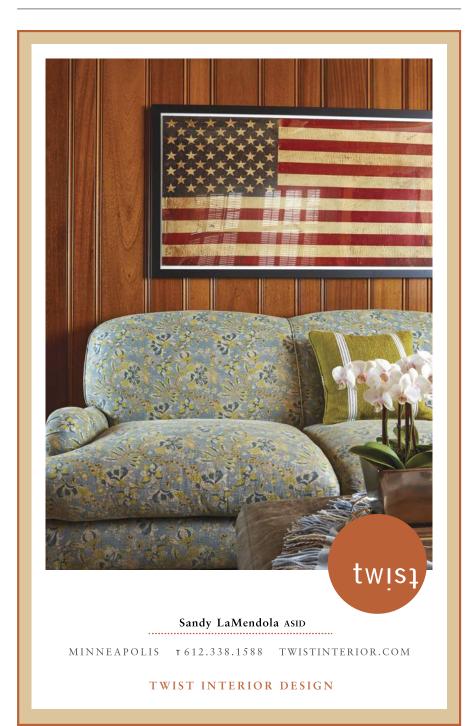
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# THE FOREVER HOME

Shifting the way we think about where—and how—we live. BY KATIE DOHMAN

Taking the keys to your dream home, unlocking the front door, breathing a deep sigh of relief: This is your forever home.

...Right?

But the truth is that many homes are not suited for all lifestyles or abilities. Stairs, narrow hallways and doorways, and other small detailseven a half-inch elevation change in a threshold—might go unnoticed now, but can become major issues due to aging or differing abilities.

#### SIMPLE LINES, **BRIGHT LIGHT**

The structure of the home is the first step. Lee Bergum of EPS Homes has been selling structural insulated panels that make homes quieter, safer (low offgassing, no formaldehyde), and more durable, resilient, and energy efficient.

"We try to start with the core of your home," Bergum says. "With the best core, you just feel good when you're in the home."

Plus, it helps control costs. "It's very airtight," he says. "It's





THE OVERALL LAYOUT IS VERY IMPORTANT... TAKING CARE NOT TO OVERLOAD THE SPACE WITH FURNITURE, AND INTENTIONAL WITH FLEXIBILITY."

-MALLORY HILDEBRAND, HOM FURNITURE

about 25 percent better than conventional framing."

Loon Architects has shifted gears to largely take on the design challenge of creating or renovating homes so that owners can "age in place" rather than moving once residents can no longer navigate their own homes.

Using principles of Universal Design, which accommodate ADA standards, Steve Mooney strives to create usable, useful designs for all bodies.

"This home takes a modern approach, which embraces simple geometry and expansive glass to embrace the landscape and introduce ample daylight into a reasonably small space," he says.

#### **FUNCTION WITH FORM**

Interior design matters, too. Mallory Hildebrand, interior designer from HOM Furniture, says that more than any other IDEA House, this one emphasizes function with the form.

Together with her team—interior designer Corinne Hoeft at Gabberts and design consultant David Gray at HOM Furniture-Hildebrand tackled all the design elements, from color palette (blue) to even, contrasting



#### [THE HOME] IS VERY AIRTIGHT. IT'S ABOUT 25 PERCENT BETTER THAN CONVENTIONAL FRAMING." — IFF BERGUM, EPS HOMES

"The overall layout is very important, with access to the house itself and to each piece, taking care not to overload the space with furniture, and intentional with flexibility," she says.

For example, Hildebrand's team was able to incorporate a lift-chair recliner.

"It's not puffy or old looking; it's streamlined and functional and even great for people who don't need it now, but may need it later," she says.

#### **EXERCISE AMONG** THE GREEN

And it's not just inside that needs to be rethought—so do yards and landscaping.

Laura Wood of By The Woods tackled the challenges that may face families aging in their yards, too.

She took into account three facets: using your yard to embrace hobbies, to care for your health, and for forest bathing.

Natural, more wildflower- or perennial-based gardens that can transition from something more cultivated to something wilder take precedent. Raised garden beds allow for some gardening even when mobility presents a challenge.

Sloping walks with pavers replace steps, and a small outdoor gym provides an easy, accessible place to exercise among the gardens.

"Instead of working or reading indoors, we want to draw residents outdoors and have them embrace their outdoor spaces for better mental health," she says. Mooney and Wood skipped gutters and designed a pitched roof that will direct rainwater into a garden.

"We're thinking about what the changes are that we can plan for everyone's future to make it less difficult to maintain," she says.

"I approached the landscape with the Forever Home in mind by having a peaceful space—the home—looking out at peaceful space," she says.

"You'll know your home and garden will be evolving, but we can take the anxiety out of how that will happen."

floors and walls, tables and chairs.

HOME + GARDEN SHOW
PROGRAM GUIDE
HomeAndGardenShow.com

## THE BARKING LOT

A BROOKLYN CENTER-BASED CONSTRUCTION COMPANY WILL FEATURE LUXE DOG HOUSES FOR A GOOD CAUSE. **BY NATALIE HALL** 

You've heard of a dog house, but what about a dog *chateau*?

As part of this year's new Barking Lot exhibit, Hoffman Weber Construction will be showcasing its elaborate designs fit for the royal furry friend in your life.

Past chateau models incorporated trendy reclaimed barn wood, paid homage to architect Frank Lloyd Wright, and even featured a peeing dog fountain atop a rooftop pool.

Mike Sample, the general manager of Hoffman Weber, says that engineering typical exterior house materials into a dog house has a novel appeal. "Nobody wants to look at a wall with siding on it, but a really cool dog house with siding on it? *That* they want to look at."

Among its eye-candy offerings, the exhibit will feature a canine-size replica of a man's upscale Forest

Lake home. Although you can't take

Hoffman Weber will be raffling off a few decked-out dog houses.

After you ooh and ahh, stick around for some more pooch-centered partying: dog treats and human treats will be available, and you may even run into some furry friends along the way.









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# FROM THE SEWER CHRONICLES TO A CELEBRATED STORYTELLER

He may be a household name, but don't call him an expert. Serial "apprentice" (his word!) Mike Rowe reflects on his immersive career, how getting dirty helped to reinvigorate the skilled labor market, and why appreciation for the trades can help attract a future workforce. **BY JAMIE KORF** 

on paper, storytelling is the common thread that connects them all. Can you share a career moment in which you felt like you were exactly where you were supposed to be? The exact moment it was made crystal clear to me was in 2002 when I was in a sewer shooting a segment for a magazine called Evening Magazine—it turned out to be a precursor for Dirty Jobs. During that shoot, every time I opened my mouth to talk to the camera, I'd get sprayed and spackled or covered in cockroaches. and I ended up getting baptized in a way that made me realize once and for all that I wasn't going to try to be a host. I was going to let the sewer inspector be the expert. In that moment, Dirty Jobs was born, and after that, I've tried to do everything through the lens of an apprentice or guest. I started to defer to the actual experts. People

While your roles look diverse

In Dirty Jobs, you crossed paths with scores of passionate people and observed that very few of them actually "followed their passion" into their current vocation—they found meaning and purpose through that vocation.

always say *Dirty Jobs* changed the way

cable was programmed, but what it re-

ally did was give regular people permis-

sion to be themselves.

Right, you get to assign the level of meaning to the days you spend behind your laptop, on a bridge, or in a sewer. I think there's this idea right now that there's a path to happiness and job satisfaction and it goes like this: look around, identify the thing that makes you happy, go to school, start interview-



IF YOU FUNDAMENTALLY
APPRECIATE THE MIRACLES
OF MODERN PLUMBING,
SMOOTH ROADS, OR
ELECTRICITY, YOU'RE
PROBABLY NOT GOING
TO BE THE PERSON WHO
BLOWS YOUR HORN
AT A CONSTRUCTION

WORKER."

"

ing, and then work your way up to that magical place where you're going to get what you want. Dirty Jobbers followed a different path: they looked around to see where everybody was going and went in the opposite direction. I met people who prospered and were happy and successful, despite all of the optics.

What's a message that you'd like to reach young people or their folks with when it comes to the stigma of skilled la-

**bor?** The big push for higher ed happened in the '70s, and back then, we *did* need more people getting four-year degrees. Society stayed focused on that message and through time, unfortunately, this sort of PR campaign for higher ed came at the expense of all other schools—what we heard was that a four-year degree is critical and if you don't get

one, you're going to end up turning a wrench. Shop classes started to vanish from high schools, the trades became a cautionary tale, and stereotypes began to pop up all over the place. Blue collar and white collar are two sides of the same coin, but we separated them. I started the mikeroweWORKS Foundation to make a more persuasive case for good jobs that don't require a four-year degree. We've been around for 11 years and have awarded \$5.5M in work ethic scholarships for people who need a skill, who want a skill, and for whom college just wasn't an option.

The Home + Garden Show serves as a source of inspiration for homeowners, but it's also comprised of a coalition of people whose careers are largely

CATCH MIKE ROWE SAT., FEB. 29 AT 11:30AM ON THE MAIN STAGE IN HALL B!

rooted in—or adjacent
to—skilled labor. What
are some ways that
people can actively support
the trades? It all comes down

to appreciation. If you fundamentally appreciate the miracles of modern plumbing, smooth roads, or electricity, then you're probably not going to be the person who blows your horn at a construction worker. There are 330 million people who rely on a skilled workforce. What percentage of people truly understand that? My guess is, until the power goes out, very few do. So you can help the general perceptions by being aware of just how much you rely. Check yourself and be realistic about your expectations. If you want the power back on, you can either become an electrician or you're going to have to wait for somebody to fix it for you—a person who's waiting for civilization to happen around you.

When it comes to the dirty jobs within the home, when do you know to call for help

versus tackling a project on your own? It was Clint Eastwood in one of the *Dirty Harry* movies who said that "a man has got to know his limitations." I know mine, and frankly, it comes down to cost-benefit for me. Could I figure out how to replace these two rotten pieces of mahogany on my deck? Sure, I could go to the lumber store, get two pieces cut, stain them, and spend a day or two taking out the old stuff and putting in the new. But an expert can come out and get the job done in two to three hours. At this point in my life, I'm basically staying in my own lane.

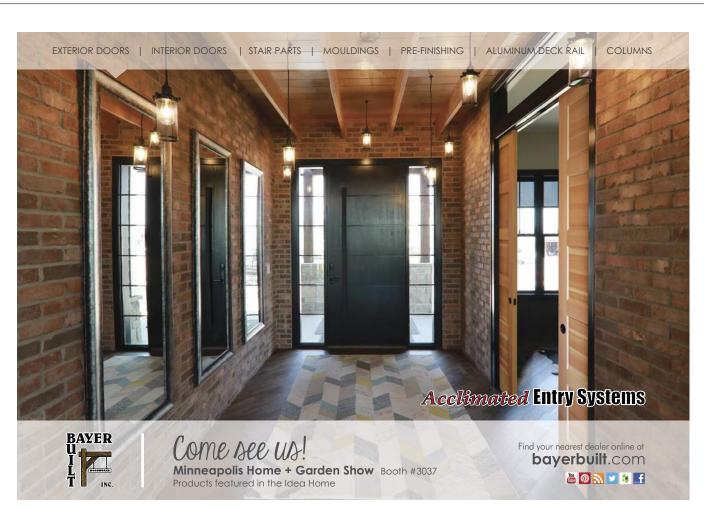
You're 60-plus episodes deep with Returning the Favor, your Facebook Watch series; recently released your first book, The Way I Heard It; and have recorded over 140 episodes [at press time] of your The Way I Heard It podcast. What's next for Mike Rowe?

There's always more to be done. I end where we began though—relationships and TV shows and books come and go, but fundamentally, I'm just a curious guy with access and a small camera crew and permission to satisfy those curiosities. By and large, whatever's next is another version of everything I've done in the last 20 years. Dirty Jobs was kind of a miscalculation, and the foundation that came out of that turned out to be something that became more and more important. If you showed me a snapshot of "future me" 20 years ago, I probably would've fainted. I'm still the same guy, and I'm having a ball.

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# PLAYHOUSES FOR KIDS, BY (BIG) KIDS

HIGH SCHOOLERS WITH HAMMERS MIGHT BE THE FUTURE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. BY NATALIE HALL

As a way to address the dwindling construction workforce, a carpentry teacher at Anoka's STEP high school decided to go back to the drawing board.

Tim Nestrud dreamed up the Playhouse Challenge, a contest that culminates in the judging and auctioning of tiny structures built via tech-ed classes throughout Minnesota.

Students design and build a children's playhouse in their woodshop class, with the aid and oversight of a teacher. "I'd like them to get that experience of drawing up a plan, building according to plan, and finishing it," says Nestrud, who coordinated this year's first-ever Home + Garden Playhouse Challenge competition. "The floorplan cannot be bigger than four by eight. I figured that way more schools could

enter because we're not talking about big buildings—we're talking small, but the concepts are the same."

So far, nine schools have committed to participating in this year's competition. "Creativity is part of the contest," says Nestrud. The guidelines are loose: anything flies, from fairy-tale castles to traditional cottages—one school's art department is even getting involved by adding color to its structure.

Students from each school will represent their playhouse during the Home + Garden Show, where the winning design is judged by local industry experts and a popular vote by kids. Each playhouse is auctioned off to the highest bidder at the end of the show, with proceeds benefiting Habitat for Humanity.

"The big draw of this is that it's high school students designing and building; it's their project," says Nestrud.





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As you navigate the decorated paths at the show, gleefully taking notes and snapping pix of all the latest in home and garden inspo, riddle yourself this: If you enjoy Do-It-Yourself projects in your home, why not make it your career? Hennepin Technical College (HTC), alongside industry building partner EPS Homes, wants showgoers to consider what happens between its walls on an everyday basis at this year's Try a Trade exhibit.

HTC will be providing hands-on demonstrations of the critical role that the trades play in the homebuilding sectors. More specifically, "We will have cutaway examples showing how plumbing and HVAC systems work, as well as what goes into the framing of your home,"

says Lisa Kiava of HTC. In addition to plumbing and HVAC, featured trades on display will include carpentry and landscape design, she says.

EPS Homes will be providing the booth structure with design and construction influenced by HTC students in an effort to showcase their learnings and collective talents. Students will be taking questions from the public as well as discussing career opportunities within the trades.

"We believe greatly in the trades and work with institutions [like HTC] to help increase our own workforce," says Lee Bergum of EPS Homes. "[It's important to support trade schools as well as local trades in an effort to understand the true shortage of tradespeople."



HTC sees a lot of students looking into a career change or a new skill set, enrolling part-time as they continue to work. "Regionally, employers are requiring their workforce to have some type of formal training, whether a certificate, diploma, or two-year degree," says Kiava. Some programs can be completed in as little as six months.



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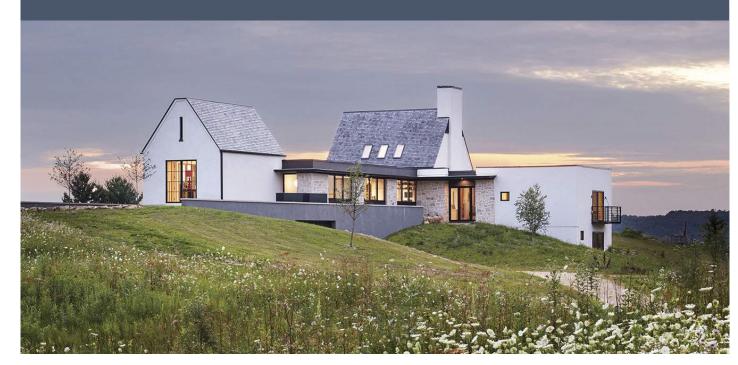
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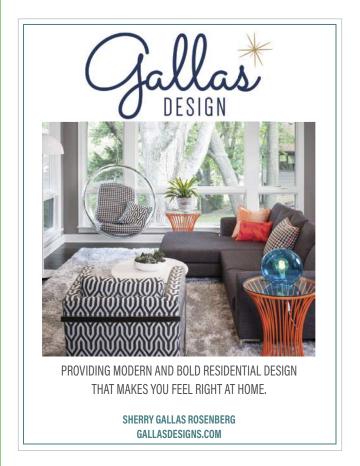
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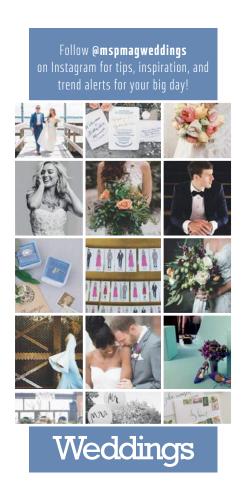
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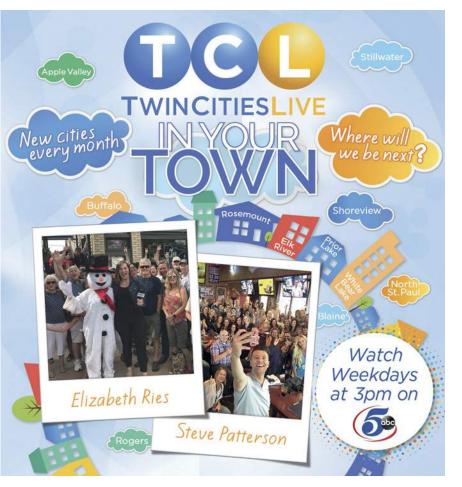
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