

GrayTM

MAGAZINE: PACIFIC NORTHWEST DESIGN

Our one-of-a-kind
gift guide
FLOWCHART
makes shopping
EASY!

Plate it like a pro:

Dazzle dinner guests with
expert entertaining tips

*And this is why
we live here.*

A minimally modern
Bowen Island retreat
with unparalleled views

**Serious girl power: Local female
architects flex their design muscles**

One Container at a Time

Design is always evolving, and new technologies are constantly emerging. **Matthew Coates** of **Coates Design** and **James Green** of **Building Container** are local designers that are changing the future of home design with Eco Pak—a shipping container house that’s not just another container house. The genius of Eco Pak is that the container is both the means of shipping the materials and a part of the building’s structure. The company offers three sizes: a 400-square-foot one-story home; an 850-square-foot two-story home; and a 1,300-square-foot three-story home.

Each can be equipped with varying levels of exterior and interior finishes, and each structure is designed to be built by two regular people in just two days. A finished home typically can be completed in one to two months. “The single-story home would be most appropriate for low-income and emergency housing, and the fact that it is pre-packaged and can be dropped anywhere means that the structure could be erected and covered in a makeshift cover, providing emergency housing within two days,” Coates says.

For more information about Eco Pak, visit ecopakhouse.com.



BUILDING THE FUTURE OF DESIGN

Written by HILLARY RIELLY



One Store at a Time

Buying sunglasses at N3L Optics doesn’t just involve a mirror; those days are long gone. The company’s stores and kiosks, designed by **Suyama Peterson Deguchi**, feature technology that simulates various weather conditions that you (and your sunglasses) may be caught in, including different wind and light. A “smart mirror” senses the model of sunnies you’re wearing and displays its features. If you still aren’t quite sure which shades to buy, you can also upload a picture of yourself wearing them to your phone to send it off to your friends. The architecture firm’s goal was to create a friendlier, more approachable experience to buying sunglasses. “With all of the advancement of technology in the lenses and frames, we wanted to embrace the store technology side,” architect **Jay Deguchi** says. Soon, it’ll be the only way to shop.