



Hail a Cabbage
Why this ultra-versatile vegetable is hot again **D3**

OFF DUTY

The Scent Of Serenity
Incense burners to quell your disquietude **D7**



FASHION | FOOD | DESIGN | TRAVEL | GEAR

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Saturday/Sunday, April 11 - 12, 2020 | **D1**

There's No Salon Like Home



PETER OUMANSKI

With beauty studios closed, housebound Americans are picking up scissors, waxing strips and hair-dye brushes to nervously do the job themselves. We asked pros how to avoid grooming gaffes

By KARI MOLVAR

AS WE HUNKER down in isolation, Americans lucky enough to be healthy are making the best of a difficult situation by baking dubious baguettes, Zooming with friends—and adopting a more proactive approach to their beauty routines.

“Face masks, exfoliators and hair treatments have been big on my list,” said the New York City-based makeup artist Gucci Westman, who is admittedly more qualified than most to administer such home ministrations. She’s also giving herself manicures and firming facials with a micro-needle derma-roller, and added, “I haven’t

done a pedicure yet, but that’s going to have to happen.” Fashion designer Marc Jacobs recently took the plunge on that front, posting a photo of his messily polished red toenails to his Instagram feed.

With salons closed around the country and social distancing in effect, many of us are bootstrapping our own and our families’ grooming regimens, making do with what we have at our disposal. “I’m trying to keep things simpler and more natural since I don’t have the skill and steady hand of a professional manicurist and hairstylist,” said fashion and perfume designer Behnaz Sarafpour. Lately, she’s been using an exfoliating mitt and mineralized clay, similar to the types used in Middle Eastern hammams, to

give herself a full-body scrub from the comfort of her bathroom in Pound Ridge, N.Y.

Of course, do-it-yourself home care is not a novel concept, particularly to anyone who was subjected to botched childhood bowl-cuts. Many were hacking the beauty industry long before the Covid-19 days, scouring Reddit for at-home waxing and hair-coloring tips to save time and money.

Fortunately, technology can provide an assist. With more experts launching virtual services and Instagram-TV tutorials, it’s no longer quite so daunting to mix up dye formula, do a razor cut and restore your body so you can at least feel human again. As Ms. Sarafpour puts it, “A big part of wellness is emotional.”

Turn the page for a DIY guide to what you and those in a 6-foot radius around you can tackle with a little dexterity and a good Wi-Fi connection.

Inside



SMOG DAYS ARE OVER

Are temporarily clear skies a glimpse of L.A.’s electric-car future? **D8**



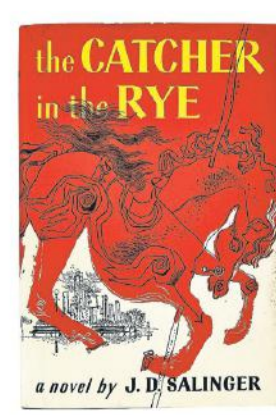
THE PANTRY IS BOUNTIFUL

What cookbook author Robyn Eckhardt is stocking up on these days **D3**



HARD RETURN

The aesthetic frights of sheltering in place back in your childhood bedroom **D7**



CAN I PUT YOU ON HOLDEN?

Time-travel to midcentury Manhattan with this week’s comfort read **D6**

DESIGN & DECORATING

Whose Room Is This?

The aesthetic panic of riding out Covid-19 in your childhood bedroom

By Rachel Wolfe

FOR THE PAST month, I've woken up swaddled in butterfly bedding, feet dangling off the twin-size bed of my childhood. Blinking groggily at the furry furniture in the corner and magazine cutouts plastered on closet doors, I've fought the faint fear that perhaps I'm still in high school, the intervening six years merely an elaborate dream.

Sleeping in the time capsule that is my childhood bedroom was fine for the odd weekend trip from Brooklyn to Westchester County. But now that I've joined the swelling ranks of young adults who are indefinitely riding out the pandemic back in their parents' house, my teen taste is closing in on me.

"In high school, I thought I had the world's coolest room," said New York media professional Margaret Abrams, 30. The childhood room in Boca Raton, Fla., to which she has boomeranged features flower-shaped cushions and a cork wall devoted to old party invites and prom snapshots. On previous trips home, she'd spent so much time out, the room's age-inappropriate décor didn't plague her. "For the first time in 12 years I'm like, OK, maybe it's time to get rid of some stuff."

The style of my temporarily abandoned Brooklyn apartment might be characterized as typical millennial: heavy on midcentury modern furniture (one authentic score from Facebook Marketplace, a few contemporary knockoffs), a hand-me-down



TARA JACOBY

leather sofa in deep blue, lots of plants whose fate I shudder to contemplate. Despite ceiling moldings and parquet floors, a certain minimalism defines the space.

My younger self, in contrast, liked her collections: tiny crystal animals, porcelain dolls, lots of white wicker and antique pillboxes for stashing pennies. I appreciate that my mom had kept my room intact as a reminder of my childhood, but I had to banish some of these treasures to the closet. I cloaked my hirsute chair in a white herringbone-weave coverlet and plopped a white pillow on it. It's my room, after all.

Dak Kopec, interior architect and author of "Environmental Psychology for Design" (*Fairchild Books*), said our old possessions have their purpose: "That furry chair might anchor you to a place and time in your life that hopefully evokes security

and self awareness." But that shouldn't bar us from updating these spaces to better reflect our adult lives. "Imagine a brick foundation and all you're doing is laying down new bricks," Mr. Kopec said.

I've fought the fear that perhaps I'm still in high school, the intervening six years merely an elaborate dream.

Not everyone's families have preserved the rooms where the children studied indifferently for SATs. While some parents see their role as providing a place the child can always come home to, Mr. Kopec noted, oth-

ers feel their job is done once they've raised a responsible, productive citizen—who can occasionally bed down in a sleeping bag in the parents' new home office. "Neither approach is wrong," he said.

New York communications professional Sarah Murray, 26, arrived home to find her Omaha, Neb., bedroom had become a guest room that was a catchall for random art: a painting of the Kansas City skyline, a birch-tree landscape and a floor-to-ceiling giraffe portrait from Hobby Lobby that reflects her mother's appreciation of the animal's gentleness. "You know when there's too much art and nobody knows what's going on?" Ms. Murray said. Colleagues with whom she videoconferences teased her that the hodgepodge room "looks like a timeshare condo for a lake home."

"I wasn't attached to my room,

that's no problem," said Ms. Murray. "I'm proud of how I've evolved and changed and it's kind of fun, but the walls..."

Asked why they hadn't turned their children's bedrooms into craft rooms or gyms in the intervening years, some parents insisted the rooms still belonged to their original occupants. "I didn't give it a lot of thought, because I was always hoping she would come home," said Ms. Abrams's mom, Debbie.

I wondered if changing my room's décor would rob my mother of the connection it held to my younger, pillbox-hoarding self. No, she said. She understood that my panicked impulse to shroud that furry chair just made the space more suitable for me at 23. "I'm fine with it," she said. "It's just an updated version of my daughter. It's a treat having you home, even if it's for bad reasons."

FAST FIVE

Things Go Better With Smoke

Soothing incense duos to help shut-ins burn off stress



For the Tapped-Out Humorist

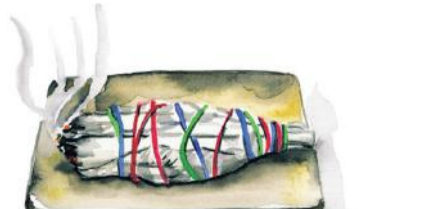
1. We suggest this Haas Monster burner and a woody incense to wisp amusingly from its horns. (Shopping details below.)

For the Frazzled Fashionista

2. From Gucci's ceramic bee wafts the brand's stylish blend of leather, orange, salt and jasmine.

For the Rattled Rationalist

3. Simple forms in brass suspend a decidedly unfrivolous stick of briny olive, fig, cedar and eucalyptus.



For the Antsy Bohemian

5. A handcrafted wood burner, and cones emitting black currant, tuberose and sea moss, evoke a seaside head shop.

For the Tense Spiritualist

4. In a nod to cleansing rituals, a sage smudge-stick rests in a bronze dish as its "purifying" fumes disperse.

JESSIE KANELLOS WIENER (5)
 1. Haas Monster Incense Burner, \$1,100 and Haas Mojave Palm Incense, \$55, *l-objet.com*;
 2. Herbarium Bee Incense Burner, \$195, and Esotericum Bamboo Incense Sticks, \$70, *gucci.com*; 3. Circa Brass Incense Burner, \$150, *cinnamonprojects.com*; Wood Wrapped Incense Sticks, \$26, *anthropologie.com*; 4. DBO Home Bronze Trinket Dish, \$22, *Sagewinds Farm Medium Sage Smudge Stick*, \$8, *bloomist.com*; 5. Wooden Pyramid Shape Burner, \$14, *amazon.com*; Swell Sunset Incense, \$16, *pfcandleco.com*

#AloneTogether

Staying home saves lives.



For more information, visit [coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)