

# ReadyMade

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

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## SMALL SPACE LIVING

# 47

WAYS TO TRANSFORM YOUR CRAMPED CORNER INTO A ROOMY RETREAT

RECYCLE EVERYTHING!  
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HOME-BREWED HARD CIDER

THE NEXT HOTBED OF CULTURE AND CREATIVITY

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AUG/SEPT 2007  
\$4.99 US \$7.25 CAN  
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\$2 MILLION

TOTAL AMOUNT AMERICANS SPEND  
EACH YEAR ON CLOSET RENOVATIONS  
—CLOSETS MAGAZINEAVERAGE SQUARE FOOTAGE  
OF NEW SINGLE-FAMILY  
HOMES IN 2006  
—U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

2,248

SEVEN

PERCENTAGE OF U.S. RESIDENTS  
WHO LIVE IN MOBILE HOMES  
—THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

## OPENING CEREMONY

For years, in-the-know tourists have trekked abroad for their fix of Muji, a Japanese chain store hawking no-brand household goods and clothing.

Time to ditch that extra suitcase: In September

Muji opens its first stateside store in New York's Soho. The 3,200-square-foot space will carry such signature items as wall-mounted CD players (shown), collapsible cardboard speakers, recycled-yarn T-shirts, and multifunctional audiovisual equipment. Launched in 1983 as a stand-alone line for Japan's Seiyu department store, the minimalist label with maximalist style maintains a do-gooder

philosophy of waste reduction and understated branding, all wrapped in plain, modest packaging. If you can't make it to the Big Apple, snap up some feel-good wares at [www.muji.com](http://www.muji.com) —Kelley Lugea

LITTLE  
HOUSES,  
PRAIRIE  
OPTIONAL

Gregory Paul

Johnson cofounded the Small House Society in 2002 and moved into his own 140-square-foot home a year later. "There's a false belief that bigger is better," he says. "We're empowering people to live more efficiently."

The group's ever-expanding website ([www.smallhouse.society.org](http://www.smallhouse.society.org)) offers up space-saving suggestions and resources for living little, from floor plans and builder directories to discussion forums, workshops, and books advocating a sustainable lifestyle. A complete list of neighborhoods suited to scaled-down digs is in development.

Not ready to downsize? You can still support the Small House Society—annual membership is just \$5, a small price to pay.

—Renee Brincks



COURTESY MUJI; ILLUSTRATION RANNE BALIAS