



white knights

Snowmen and snow angels notwithstanding, I must say that the supersize blanket of snow covering the Northeastern states is definitely past its prime. Here in New York specifically, the white stuff outside is well into those dubious shades of gray we city folks begrudgingly learn to live with. But come in from the cold, and the white found throughout this issue is looking much brighter. KPF has designed a spiraling white concrete atrium for a building at the University of Minnesota. (Talk about coming in from the cold.) Turning a German cottage into hotel rooms, architects Martin and Stefanie Naumann painted the walls almost completely white to compensate for those little 18th-century windows. And the story on our cover is an ode to white ceramic, which these days can look like anything from pale sandstone to painted wooden planks, as Héctor Ruiz-Velázquez proved at Casa Decor in Madrid.

Actually, though, the “white knights” on this page have nothing to do with tile, paint, or concrete. As the design world returns to a steady hum, many of you are taking time out from increasingly busy schedules to perform those countless small deeds that show our better selves, and I want to take this opportunity to be specific. My warmest thank-you goes to Victoria Hagan Interiors; IA Interior Architects; Shelton, Mindel & Associates; Skyline Design; and WinSpin CIC, which joined *Interior Design* in supporting our 2010 Hall of Fame inductee Shigeru Ban. When he asked for help purchasing chairs for his temporary concert hall in L’Aquila, a town in Italy recently ravaged by an earthquake, the five firms I just mentioned stepped forward with contributions that combined with ours for a total of \$19,000. He and they are role models for us all. In addition, I would like to hail the continuing achievements of two nonprofit institutions I have come to love, Alpha Workshops and the Design Trust for Public Space. Through thick and thin, their activity makes our lives better.

—Cindy