

Zona Home

ESSENTIAL DESIGNS FOR LIVING

Louis Sagar



Homesteading

"HOMESTEADING, AS I ENVISION IT, IS OUR PROCESS OF REDEFINING THE PURPOSE OF THE HOME TO FIT A NEW SET OF LIFESTYLE VALUES. I THINK OF HOMESTEADING TODAY AS AN ATTITUDE OF MIND THAT RECOGNIZES THAT THERE ARE FEW NATURAL PLACES REMAINING IN THE WORLD FOR PIONEERS TO SETTLE."

—LOUIS SARAB

Making a "homestead," for most of the nineteenth and early twentieth century, was a consequence of pioneering the land. Government offers prompted enterprising citizens to move West and forced settlement of the new frontier. Pioneers dedicated themselves to the taming of a vast wilderness and the expansion of their country, and were rewarded with owner-

ship of the land they cultivated. These homesteaders saw the opportunity to work hard, earn property, and establish a life based on a spirit of community. I am reclaiming the term "homesteading" and updating its meaning for now, because I believe it symbolizes the spirit of settlement needed to carry the idea of home into the next century.

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THE ORIGINAL HOMESTEADERS MOVED WEST, PIONEERING THE LAND WITH FAITH FOR A BETTER LIFE.



redefining the purpose of the home to fit a new set of lifestyle values. I think of homesteading today as an attitude of mind that recognizes that there are few natural places remaining in the world for pioneers to settle. The pioneering to be done now is in how to add meaning to the pursuit of livelihood, how to bring family and work back into balance, and how to embrace technology so that it soothes and aids, and does not alienate, us. The frontier is right here, within our homes, still defining our sense of place.

For example, in recent years many people have protracted the need to "get away" to someplace else in order to feel a connection to the land. A cabin in the mountains, a cottage on a lake, or a country home out of town—all have

become important places of refuge. The traditional summer home is now a weekend getaway, to be used whenever the kids are out of school and on all the holidays. The family gathers here, and the time spent together is of a much higher quality than what is experienced back "at home." We are using the second home to pioneer better relationships to both nature and family. We have come to realize that these connections are an essential part of living, in the greatest sense, and we have rediscovered that old spirit of community. I like to think we are all becoming pioneers again, in that we are asking questions about the way of the future and doing what we can to bring our lives into balance and our homes into harmony with the environments we do live in.

OPPOSITE: "A RUSTIC ONE-ROOM CABIN, DESIGNED BY ARNAL DRACHAT, STAKES A CLAIM FOR URBAN TRANSFORMATION, AN IDYLIC RETREAT FOR DREAMING UP NEW IDEAS."