

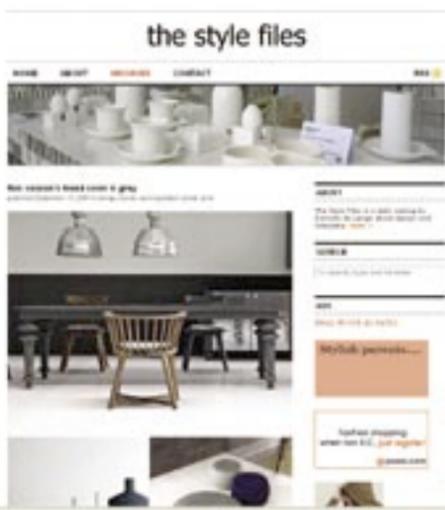
# Virtuosity

Design enthusiasts are finding inspiration online

WORDS: SUSANNE CROSETTO

There is a wealth of information about design floating around the web, mostly thanks to enthusiasts who post intriguing news and ideas to both inspire and amuse kindred spirits. These dedicated hosts, who range from professional designers to amateur decorators and passionate collectors of all things beauti-

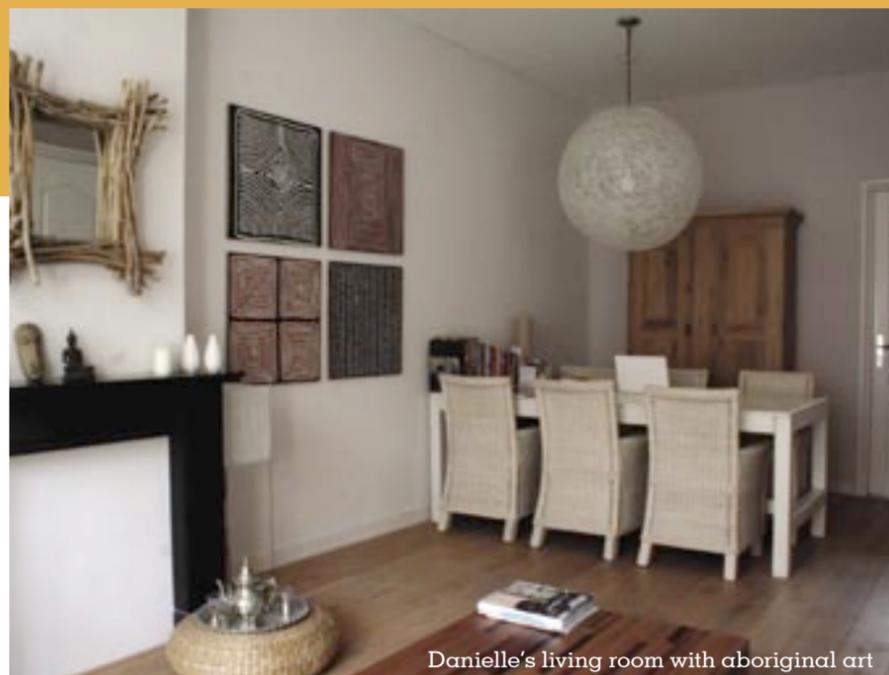
ful, help to support interior designers, artists and store-owners by showcasing their work online. Easily addictive and highly inspirational, these virtual meeting platforms assist creative individuals to collect and spread the spirit of design, feeding a growing appetite for a higher quality of living.



**The Style Files** ([www.style-files.com](http://www.style-files.com)) is written by Danielle de Lange, a freelance stylist based in the Netherlands. She loves white interiors, furniture, accessories and pillows, as well as cushions and photographs. She is especially infatuated with Dutch design, and regularly makes new discoveries through attending design weeks and exhibitions. Danielle's online shop is now open <http://soukshop.com>



Danielle de Lange



Danielle's living room with aboriginal art



White Neptune chair, Anthropologie



Yellow steel Marais AC chair, Design Within Reach

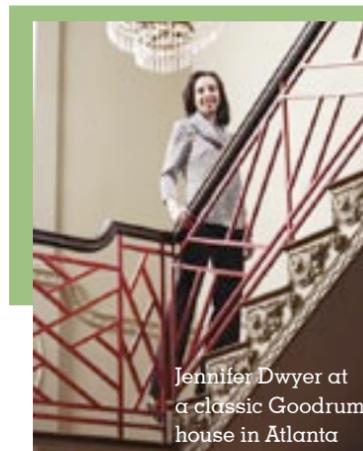


Black carved bamboo chair, Williams Sonoma Home



Grace Bonney

**Design\*Sponge** ([www.designspongeonline.com](http://www.designspongeonline.com)) is one of the web's most successful design blogs. Grace Bonney is a New York-based writer and editor. She features designer profiles, forecasts trends, and reviews stores and products. Her blog gets around 25,000 hits daily, and has a strong influence on the design world, as her site is the focus of many other blogs. Her sneak peeks of private homes and guides to interesting products are just some of the highlights for the curious voyeur.



Jennifer Dwyer at a classic Goodrum house in Atlanta

American Jennifer Dwyer hosts **The Peak of Chic** ([www.thepeakofchic.com](http://www.thepeakofchic.com)), where the Atlanta-based design enthusiast muses on stylish living and regularly reviews the latest design books and magazines. In a recent lively online debate, she launched a discussion about the functional use of sideways beds in small rooms.

Plenty of hints and do-it-yourself advice for renovation and remodeling can be found at **Charles and Hudson** ([www.charlesandhudson.com](http://www.charlesandhudson.com)). The post about the "kitchen work triangle" is a great example of how this site can improve your abode with aesthetic, ergonomic and functional design.

Environmentally-conscious browsers should check out **Inhabitat** ([www.inhabitat.com](http://www.inhabitat.com)), a blog entirely devoted to green design. Founded by New York designer and architect Jill Fehrenbacher, the site introduces sustainable, contemporary ideas.

**Other Noteworthy Blogs:**  
[www.absolutelybeautifulthings.blogspot.com](http://www.absolutelybeautifulthings.blogspot.com) – "a daily inspiration journal"

[www.core77.com](http://www.core77.com) – "industrial design supersite"

[www.decor8.blogspot.com](http://www.decor8.blogspot.com) – "fresh finds for hip spaces"

[www.designersblock.blogspot.com](http://www.designersblock.blogspot.com) – "extracts and ideas from a designer's life"

[www.notcot.com](http://www.notcot.com) – "a visual filtration of ideas, aesthetics + amusement"



Sideways bed in an empire style room at Morris Jumel Mansion, New York