THE OPEN HOUSE
RESOURCE GUIDE
An overview of the innovative and one-of-a-kind home presented in

Making Room
Housing for a Changing America

An exhibition on view November 18, 2017 through September 16, 2018
Making Room explores new design solutions for the nation’s evolving, 21st-century households. From tiny houses to accessory apartments, cohousing, and beyond, all of the featured projects—including The Open House—push past standard choices and layouts.

Organization

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To serve a two-in-one household, The Open House seamlessly becomes two independent homes. Here, an older couple who want to stay in their existing home can nevertheless downsize by converting the largest bedroom into a self-contained studio apartment. They can rent out the apartment for additional income, provide the space to a live-in caregiver, or welcome home any of their adult children. Each unit has its own entrance, full bath, and kitchen area. The couple's no-step walk-in shower has retractable walls which can free up floor space should either of them need a walker or wheelchair. Likewise, the kitchen's fixtures, cabinetry, and appliances have been optimized for a limited range of motion.

The footprint and key features of The Open House will remain constant throughout the exhibition's run, and include:

- an eat-in kitchen designed for varying ages and abilities, with countertops and sinks at two heights, and plenty of accessible storage
- 2 full baths with fixtures and fittings chosen for flexibility and ease of use
- 3 living areas outfitted with transformative furniture allowing each space to double as a private bedroom
- a walk-in closet with a pocket-door that incorporates storage
- a walk-in laundry room
- movable walls
- an integrated smart home network

The Open House has been designed to meet the District of Columbia's residential building code, as well as follow the general guidelines set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

All renderings courtesy Resource Furniture and Clei.
The Open House is the centerpiece of the exhibition and demonstrates how thoughtful and flexible design solutions can transform how we live.

Designed by architect Pierluigi Colombo, The Open House expertly addresses the needs of three prototypical—and increasingly common—households: roommates, a multi generational family, and empty nesters. The 1,000-square-foot home features a hyper-efficient layout, smart technologies, moveable walls, and multifunctional furniture.

The Roommates

On view November 18, 2017 to late February, 2018

To accommodate a roommate household—in this case, a couple and two single adults—the layout of The Open House maximizes private space. When the moveable walls are fully closed, each roommate has complete privacy; when fully retracted, with the touch of a button, bedrooms can be combined to create a larger room for socializing. The couple shares one bathroom while the roommates share the other, and they all use the communal kitchen. Each bedroom, including the larger one shared by the couple, is outfitted with a space-saving wall bed and built-in storage.

The Extended Family

On view March to late May, 2018

To meet the needs of a multi generational household, The Open House accommodates living communally, but with flexibility. In this scenario, a grandmother lives with her adult daughter and grandson. During the day, the moveable walls can be open to share living spaces—although the grandmother’s space is tucked away if she wants to retreat. In the evening, the moveable walls allow them to carve out a dedicated bedroom for the grandson. This allows the adults to move freely throughout the rest of the space when the child is asleep, and even entertain.
The Open House is presented in partnership with Resource Furniture, Clei, and architect Pier Luigi Colombo.

Clei
Pier Luigi Colombo and Roberta Colombo

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Precision Door and Hardware | precisiondoor.com
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Resource Furniture | resourcefurniture.com
Importers, distributors, and retailers of modern space-saving furniture from European designers

Vaghi | vaghi.com
Specialists in office and contract seating designed and made in Italy since 1954
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THE ROOMMATES

To meet the needs of a multi-generational household, The Open House accommodates living communally, but with flexibility.

On view March to late May, 2018

THE EXTENDED FAMILY

To serve a two-in-one household, The Open House seamlessly becomes two independent homes.

On view June to September 16, 2018

THE EMPTY NESTERS
The Joyce Agency; and Vaghi
Closet Design; Casaplex; Ceramics of Italy, Caesar Ceramiche, Ceramica Vogue, Ergon, Gruppo Romani, MAPEI, and Tagina; Cerno;
Resource Furniture and Clei; AJ Madison, Electrolux, Elica, and Miele; Andersen Corporation; Benjamin Moore & Co.; Capitol
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ASID Consulting Design Committee
Chrysanthe Broikos, Sarah Watson, Caitlin Bristol, Zachary Paul Levine, Vlad Zabavskiy, Leslie Chung,
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and Pieter Depreeuw
and architect Pierluigi Colombo.
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