

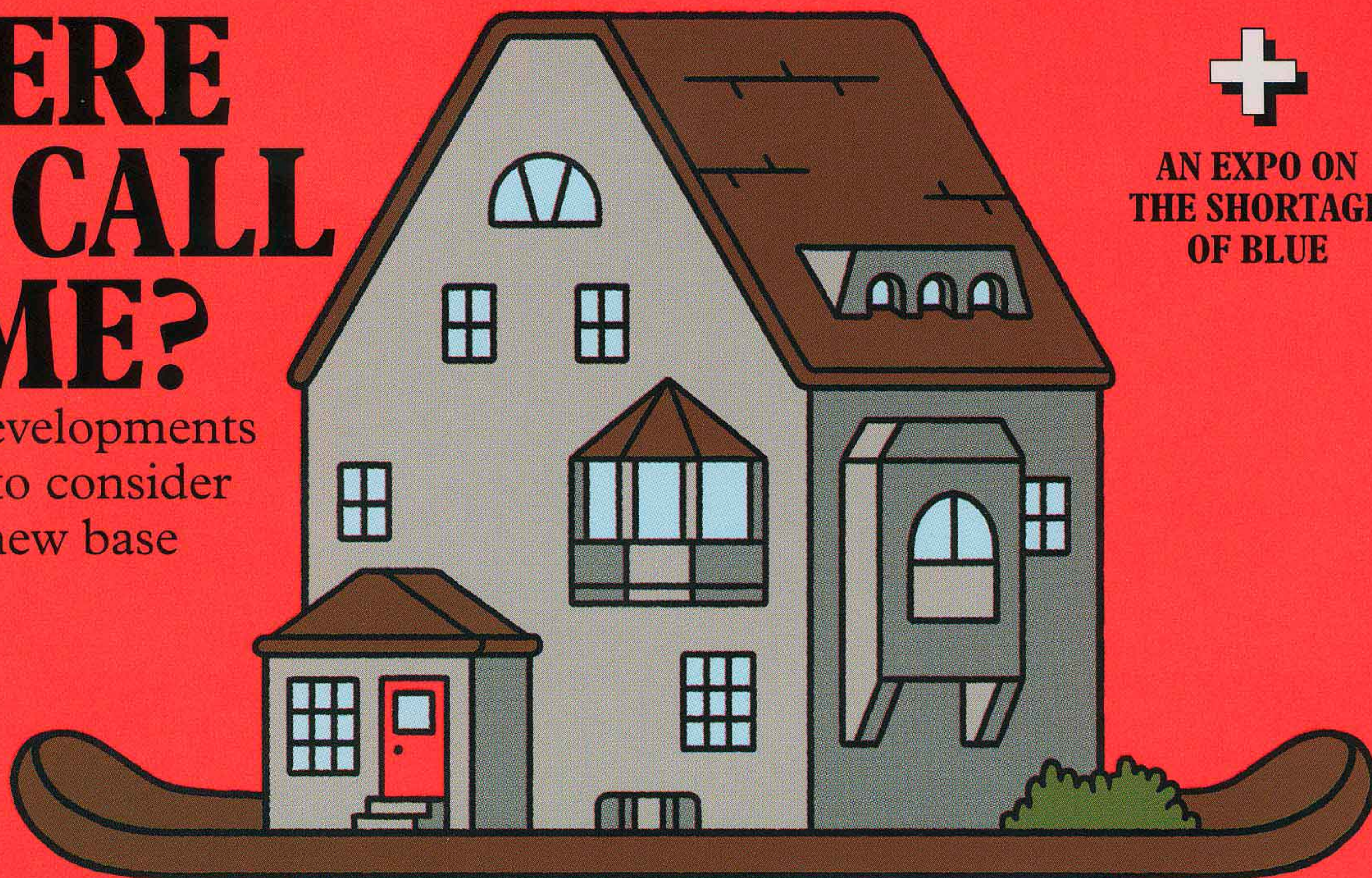
MONOCLE

INSIDE: BRIGHT IDEAS FROM BARCELONA, A BEIRUT CHANTEUSE AND AMERICA'S NEW LIBERAL CAPITAL

M **A** to **F** **AFFAIRS:** Mongolia's superpower sandwich **BUSINESS:** HQ audit: Uniqlo **CULTURE:** Bangkok gets bookish
DESIGN: Australia's best-designed hotel? **ENTERTAINING:** Let's have a date **FASHION:** Why Seoul's back in the groove

WHERE CAN I CALL HOME?

The cities, developments
and streets to consider
for your new base



AN EXPO ON
THE SHORTAGE
OF BLUE

Designs on better building

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pieces to invest in
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three design fairs
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of selling small



SEK 95
JPY ¥2,200 (tax)
AUD \$13.00
SGD \$19.90 (w/gst)
CDN \$12.00 (est)
ESP €11

UK £6
USD \$12
GER €12
ITA €10
DKK 122
BEL €11





5.

BEST FOR INDEPENDENT STYLE

Pacific Furniture Service, Japan

Yohei Ishikawa is fine with swimming against the tide of fashion. As a design student in the 1980s, while his contemporaries were in thrall to the high design of postmodernism, Ishikawa was drawn to the warmth and wood of Japanese *mingei* folk art and craft. "I've always loved that combination of beauty and function," he says. He set up Pacific Furniture Service in 1988 and started designing his own pieces in 1992. Today he has a workshop in Yokohama (his fourth and largest), a shop and showroom in a 1970s residential block in Ebisu, Tokyo, and a collection of more than 30 pieces for the home: squashy textile sofas, sturdy oak tables and sideboards made from birch.

Ishikawa has also been selling Lyon steel lockers – the type usually seen in schools – from the US for years, believing that they work well in a domestic setting. "People don't give enough recognition to that kind of anonymous design," he says. Inevitably fashion has caught up with him and his emphasis on natural materials and quiet, longlasting design that ages well is now very much in vogue. — FW
pfservice.co.jp



6.

BEST REISSUE

Hans J Wegner CH23 dining chair, Denmark

The reissue of an iconic piece of furniture needs to be true to the original designer's intent. Danish furniture producer Carl Hansen has mastered this process and brought back the Hans J Wegner CH23 dining chair from 1950. Available in oak and walnut finishes with the meticulous detailing of the double-woven seat true to the original, the CH23 is light but sturdy, dashing and timeless. We want it under our table. — NSG
carlhansen.com



7.

BEST FOR INVENTION

Theia lamp by Marset, Spain

This steel aluminium lamp has a streamlined design of two opaque, intersecting half-spheres, one placed horizontally and the other vertically. Swivel the fixture around its central axis and point it towards you to use as a reading lamp, or at an object or wall to create subtle, indirect light.

"My intention was to merge both light and shadow in a single piece, achieving a sense of natural light. For me light is only interesting if you see the shadow at the same time," says Mathias Hahn, the London-based German behind the design. — DK
marset.com