

## WHAT WE LOVE

# The DIY philosophy has infiltrated every corner of our lives

The Arts and Crafts movement has a long and storied history here, stretching back to the early 20th century, when Julia Morgan and her contemporaries made their design mark on the Bay Area. More recently, our democratic roots and our sense that design shouldn't be reserved for the aesthetic elite has given rise to our lively DIY movement. In this increasingly plasticized, premolded, branded world, we're putting our hands in to shape our own environments. "There is a lot of mental foment around here focused on inventing yourself and the world around you," says Shoshana Berger, editor of *ReadyMade* magazine.

Naturally, when Berger and film editor Anthony Saxe decided to tie the knot, it was to be a DIY affair. The wedding took place in a barn circa 1915, at Bar-or Ranch in Point Reyes. Inspired by the cowboy theme, Berger searched toy stores and online antique shops for miniature barn animals. She drilled holes in them and set them in trays of wheatgrass for her centerpieces, with a different animal for each guest table. Chocolate horseshoe favors were packaged in glassine envelopes; several days before the wedding, the couple held a stamping party, where guests stamped each envelope with "We got lucky." The incredibly fragrant Jewish huppah was made of Meyer lemon, kumquat, and eucalyptus branches and leaves. Other highlights included a Ding Dong wedding cake (an idea taken from the pages of *ReadyMade*), and an unused vintage 1950s cowboy-theme guest book.

Granted, a wedding is the acid test for do-it-yourselfers. But, Berger says, "it's gratifying—you get what you put into it. It was a lot of hard work and then I sloshed my way in Dolce & Gabbana pumps through the mud. But in the end, we were over the clouds."

Inspired by Berger's sweet story but not sure where to start in mastering a craft? Classes, workshops, even "gyms"—where you rent storage space for your projects and time to work—abound in our DIY mecca.

★ Are your fingers itching to form and solder a gold wedding band? Whether you're a novice to the jewelry trade or a veteran looking for new skills, check the classes at the **Revere Academy**. German-educated jeweler Alan Revere brought old-world traditions and craftsmanship to San Francisco in 1974, and now students come from all over the world for the academy's intensive classes or to attend the spring Masters Symposium. "We focus on the techniques of **JEWELRY MAKING**," says Assistant Director Christine Dhein. "Students need to learn the alphabet before they can write a poem." 760 MARKET ST., STE. 900, S.F., 415-391-4170, WWW.REVEREACADEMY.COM.