

CURRENTS



MPI MEDIA GROUP

# RECYCLING

## Honey, Where Are the Old National Geographics?

▲ Freudians would call it massive displacement: a procrastinating novelist with a book due exiles himself to a writing jail in a seaside cabin. While there, he takes a violent dislike to the sofa in the room he's chosen to write in.

"Paper Man," opening April 23 and written and directed by Michele and Kieran Mulrone, stars Jeff Daniels as Richard Dunn, a literary novelist of no particular distinction whose first book has been a colossal failure and who owes a new book to his publisher. His wife, an exacting vascular surgeon played by Lisa Kudrow, prescribes a Montauk cabin. In the dead of winter.

Needless to say, Mr. Dunn is blocked beyond belief and enacts all sorts of rituals, one of which is to surround himself with boxes and boxes of his first book, "a dark existential novel called 'The Rendering,'" Ms. Mulrone said, reached by phone this week. She and her husband designed a book jacket, complete with blurs, for cinematic verisimilitude.

Mr. Dunn unravels pretty quickly, cutting the pages of his unsold book into paper dolls and making origami animals. He also rails against the sofa in his writing room, a revolting green-and-yellow floral number that taunts him as he writes. Or doesn't write.

Meanwhile, the boxes of books taunt him, too. Eventually, he hauls the offending floral into the backyard and builds a couch out of his old books, securing them with clear packing tape. (Mr. Daniels is shown on the couch with Emma Stone, a co-star.) It's a moment of small redemption, Mr. Mulrone said, turning garbage — the book — into something useful.

Did the Mulroneys wrap their faux book jacket around a block of wood, or what? Ms. Mulrone answered first: "We chose the book we did because of its size. We needed something thick enough so it looked serious and also so that our production designer could build with it."

Volume, not content, in other words, dictated the purchase of the "The Race," a 2007 novel by Richard North Patterson, a prolific writer of political and legal thrillers, from a remainder house. And so the book couch should perhaps not be seen as a commentary on the state of publishing, but simply a novel take on adaptive reuse.

PENELOPE GREEN



MARIKO REED

# OPEN

## Heath Ceramics Sells Close to Home

◀ Heath Ceramics finally has a store in the Bay Area. Last week, the 62-year-old company based in Sausalito, Calif., opened a 500-square-foot shop in the Ferry Building Marketplace in San Francisco. The company tapped Commune Design, the same firm it used for its Los Angeles shop, to design this space. "The design is highly functional and has a great balance of color and materials, but still lets the product take center stage," said Catherine Bailey, Heath Ceramics' co-owner and creative director.

"The wood mixed with ceramic speaks to the straightforward nature of our message, and the orange steel speaks to our love of contrast and color." The shop will sell a mix of new and vintage Heath pieces, along with factory seconds (delivered weekly). It will also have a live-feed video of the factory floor in Sausalito, so visitors can see how the products are made. Heath Ceramics, 1 Ferry Building, Suite 12, San Francisco, (415) 399-9284 or heathceramics.com.

RIMA SUQI

# DÉCOR

## Faster Than Plaster, and Prettier



◀ Instead of seeing a crack in your wall as a problem that needs to be repaired, consider it an opportunity for decoration. That's the idea behind TakeBreak, a set of wall decals created by the Taiwanese design firm AHead Creative that can transform a crack into a flowering plant inhabited by birds, snails and butterflies. "It turns an imperfection into a piece of art," said Fumi Suzuki, a manager at MollaSpace, a California distributor of quirky Asian accessories that brought the product to the United States. "It encourages people to use their imagination — a crack in the wall can be seen as a tree." Each \$6 set contains 15 decals. Information: (888) 665-5277, mollaspaces.com. TIM McKEOUGH



# KITCHENS

## Cocktail Hour on the Island

▲ "Some people have cooking islands; some people have bars," said Scott Hudson, the chief executive of the Henrybuilt Corporation, a manufacturer of spare, minimal custom kitchen systems of wood, steel and Corian, in Seattle. But what if people want a cooking island that doubles as a bar? Henrybuilt's Bar Block (\$5,000) cantilevers almost eight inches be-

yond the edge of an island to become a bar. The other side faces the kitchen and has storage units that can function as drawers or as bays holding wood cutting boards.

The six-foot-plus Bar Block is made of solid quarter-sawn oak and can be retrofitted to some existing countertops. Information: (212) 966-5797 or henrybuilt.com.

ELAINE LOUIE

# DEALS

## A Mixed Bag of Lucite and Lenti



◀ At Cec LePage's first sale, through April 25, samples and artist's proofs of Ms. LePage's hand-carved Lucite furniture, vases, candleholders and bowls are marked down 30 to 70 percent (the Pucci vase, regularly \$558, is \$334; the Taka table, left, originally \$1,250, is \$750; and assorted candleholders, regularly \$198 to \$300, are \$60 to \$180); LePage New York, 72 Thompson Street (Broome Street), (212) 966-2646 or lepage.com.

Karkula's annual sale of Paola Lenti floor samples runs through April 26, with 20 to 50 percent off the Italian designer's sofas, outdoor furniture and rugs (the Cove outdoor sun bed, originally \$7,140, is now \$4,998; the So three-piece sectional sofa, regularly \$10,910, is \$9,274; and the Yard 79-inch-square felt rug, originally \$4,455, is \$2,673); Karkula, 48 Walker Street (Broadway), (212) 645-2216 or karkula.com.

RIMA SUQI