

What's in a Nook?

THE EXPLOSION OF OPEN FLOOR PLANS HAS RESULTED IN HOMES THAT are, well, open—“devoid of any snugly, cozy places,” says architect Jeffrey Dungan. Find yourself craving the intimacy of a cocooned space where you can curl up and escape the vastness of the world? “What a nook person wants is space, however small, to follow whatever image is driving her,” writes Durga Chew-Bose. The design solution is to create a niche, or make an existing dead space more functional. Comfort is key: A nook is the architectural manifestation of a hug. Here’s how designers are carving them out of thin air. —*Hadley Mendelsohn*



▲ DESIGNER EMILY HENDERSON INCLUDED OUTLETS IN THE SHELF OF THIS NOOK SO STOW-AWAYS CAN WATCH TV.

3 Things to Do Before You Nook



1. Consider Its Size

Where we see an awkward stair landing, Erin Fearins sees a hangout. Encased in a walnut frame, this nook by Fearins Welch Design and CWB Architects is spacious enough for two brothers to convene for video games.



2. Give It Lots of Light

Surrounding a window and outfitted with overhead sconces, this lounging zone by Chloe Warner of Redmond Aldrich Design is both cozy and roomy. The wallpaper, *Gondola* by [Cole & Son](#), energizes with color and pattern.



3. Sneak in Storage

Deep enough to moonlight as a guest bunk, this alcove by Rita Koenig and architect Gil Schafer III has drawers under the cushion. “It’s more than a reading nook or another piece of furniture,” says Schafer.



WHY BOTHER BUILDING ONE?

“With social media, we’re more connected than ever—but people feel more alone than ever. **Nooks are places to sit and visit with an actual person** (hopefully, one of your favorites) over a cup of coffee or glass of wine, and compare notes on life.” —*Jeffrey Dungan*