

Copenhagen CALLING

Danish architect Jesper Pedersen is the visionary behind some of San Diego's most sustainable and sought-after homes.

By Keri Bridgwater // Photography by Becca Teal Batista

"Good design should complement its environment in a timeless, harmonious way," says DNA Design Group founder Jesper Pedersen. "And the Danish philosophies of *friluftsliv* (outdoor living) and *hygge* (the art of coziness)—which balance simplicity, nature, light, beauty and happiness—underline this principle perfectly." Before moving to Southern California in 2001, Pedersen, a native Dane, was managing multimillion-dollar commercial projects across Copenhagen. Today, his Scandinavian aesthetic and eco-build practices are in high demand by homeowners from San Diego to San Francisco. One of his favorite projects is a Point Loma property (featured in last month's OH! San Diego Architectural Foundation program) designed by one of the city's most influential midcentury-modern architects, Lloyd Ruocco. "Getting the commission to work on such a classic property was exciting. And embracing the client's wishes while simultaneously honoring the late architect's original minimalist vision and use of wood and glass was a delicate balance." Pedersen believes it's the Nordic approach to clean design that appeals most to Californians, who share cultural similarities toward a more mindful style of living. As for his thoughts on the future of San Diego's architectural horizon? While it would be fun to see more modern buildings (think Bjarke Ingels' firm BIG in Denmark), it's beautiful just as it is. "The San Diego skyline is still one of the most captivating I have seen, and flying back into the city at sunset never gets old."



MEN ON A MISSION



One of our Men on the Move: chef Angelo Sosa at Petco Park

Can you feel it? There is something very exciting happening in this city. On the surface, San Diego can be construed as a sleepy surf town, but for those of us in the know, it's a city bustling with creativity and commerce—and it's attracting more and more top talent every day. The forward momentum that I have seen in the last two years alone is jaw-dropping. From luxury high-rises seemingly popping up on nearly every corner downtown to Michelin-starred chefs being drawn to the SoCal farm-to-table lifestyle to globally recognized artists who want to hide out and create, San Diego has something for everyone.

This month, we are paying tribute to some of those movers and shakers—the men specifically—who are pushing this city forward. And to celebrate them, as well as the kickoff of the 2019 baseball season, we photographed our Men on the Move—Fernando Aguerre, Matt Faulk, Angelo Sosa and Jason Waters—looking their finest at Petco Park, home of our beloved San Diego Padres. While I have been to a few games in the past, this visit had me seeing the ballpark through new eyes. My favorite spots? The newly opened and extremely luxe Compass Premier Club, which has been completely revamped for the 2019 season with plush seats, cozy lounge areas and a VIP Patio Suite so close to the action you feel like you are on the field. And imagine my delight when I discovered Brigantine Seafood & Oyster Bar, with its views over the field and San Diego Harbor. Champagne and oysters while we watch the game? Yes, please!

And let's not forget that the rest of the issue is also chock-full of men at the top of their game—chef Rob Ruiz,



ceramics artist Joe Skoby, Grammy-winning musician Chris Thile, *New York Times* best-selling author Don Winslow, Danish architect Jesper Pedersen... And of course, Brad Wise. His new Mission Hills eatery, Fort Oak, has gotten top marks from our reviewer. Am I gushing? I can't help myself—San Diego is definitely having a moment. And if I have anything to say about it, this moment is just the beginning.

This issue was such a joy to put together; I truly hope that you enjoy it as much as we have. So until next month, I bid you adieu!

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CONTRIBUTORS

What was your favorite moment with one of the men you interviewed or photographed for the Men on the Move issue?



1] **KERI BRIDGWATER**

contributing writer

"Everyone's heard about hygge, but architect Jesper Pedersen's insights on the Nordic outdoor lifestyle concept, *friluftsliv*—not to mention Danish bakeries, hot dogs and coffee—made me want to jump on the next flight to Copenhagen."



2] **ANN WYCOFF**

contributing writer

"I had dinner at Death by Tequila with chef Angelo Sosa, and he presented us with a small bowl filled with local farm soil and little root veggies, along with a wooden stake in the middle holding a radish encased in black pepper rose meringue, and then poured liquid nitrogen over it. Fog rising from the crops and a welcome to spring. Magic."



3] **JILL DI DONATO**

contributing writer

"Don Winslow reminded me that there's a huge audience for long-form fiction, something that can get lost in our sound-byte-obsessed world. The author, whose latest book is over 700 pages, added that a good writer also makes sure that every word counts. Stellar advice."

4] **ROBERT PURSELL**

contributing writer

"Interviewing the distillers in town and hearing their determination. Starting a small business in the food and beverage sector is no small task—it can seem Sisyphean at times. But the distillers don't talk about if they will succeed, but rather *how* they will succeed."



5] **TIM MELIDEO**

contributing photographer

"I feel like the entire Men on the Move photo shoot was memorable. It was really fun to explore Petco Park while it was closed to the public, and to be able to work with the men on making great images in iconic spots all around the ballpark."

