

REMIX

Shaggy Chic

Modernism you can snuggle up to.

After years of snickering at them, I'm starting to feel nostalgic for the warmth of wood, shag carpeting and spider plants in macramé holders. It's probably our uncertain, recessionary times, but the hippie-modern aesthetic of the late '60s and early '70s, with its cavelike sheltering vibe and its tendency toward clutter, feels more reassuring than the slick, not-a-hair-out-of-place minimalism that was all the rage until recently.

Not that the counterculture invented shaggy chic: just look at the Pennsylvania house and studio of Wharton Esherick, a work the master designer and sculptor tinkered with from 1926 to 1966, or that holy grail of *gemütlich* modern, Charles and Ray Eames's 1949 house in Pacific Palisades, Calif. Both managed to be cutting edge without the edge. The 1957 house in Big Sur, Calif., that the architect Nathaniel Owings, of Skidmore Owings & Merrill, designed for himself (in collaboration with Mark Mills) was Modernist in form and layout but organic in its use of wood, especially in the kitchen and master bathroom. Even the most elegant of decorators got in on the

cozy-cool act; a New York bedroom decorated by David Hicks features slightly psychedelic, geometric-patterned wallpaper and a plush fur bedspread.

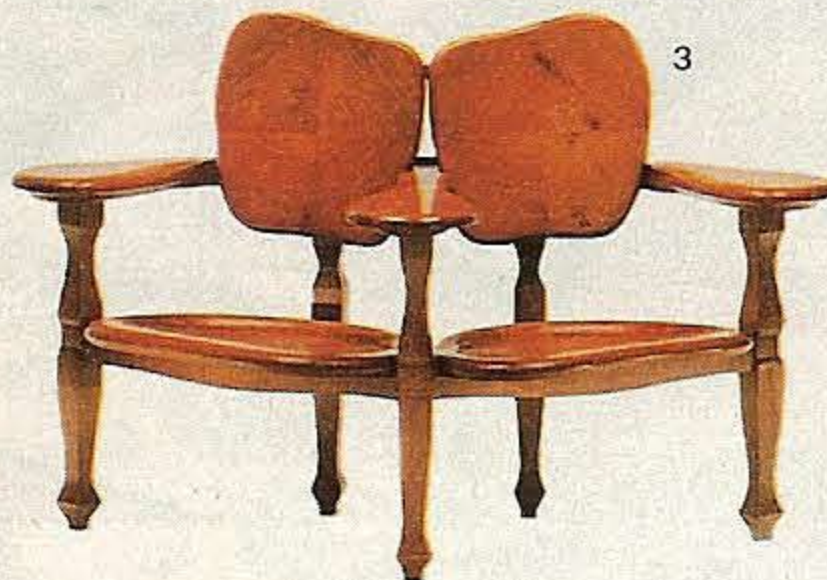
The movies offer vivid evocations of this era — both contemporary and recreated. In "The Sandpiper," Vincente Minnelli's 1965 film, the artist played by Elizabeth Taylor lives in a Modernist wood-and-glass cabin, also in Big Sur, that's crammed with furniture and knickknacks in true boho fashion. The suburban Connecticut house that Kevin Kline's character inhabits in Ang Lee's 1997 film "The Ice Storm," set in the '70s, is a riot of geometric prints, textured wallpaper and potted greenery.

In furniture, the organic-mod movement never really died. Antoni Gaudí's carved-wood Batlló bench still looks timely 103 years after it

was designed. The Swiss company de Sede has been making its serpentine DS-600 modular sofa (by Ueli Berger, Eleonore Peduzzi-Riva, Heinz Ulrich and Klaus Vogt) since 1972. More recently, Antonio Citterio's J.J. rocker for B&B Italia softens a spare chair design with a furry sheepskin cover. And if you really want to catapult yourself back to 1970, Karim Rashid's new bachelor-pad Sphere bed for Hollandia International provides the traditional comforts, like an adjustable massage mattress and a Champagne holder, while offering 21st-century toys like a flat-screen TV, an optional theater system and L.E.D. lighting. All these creature comforts will cost you — the bed is \$50,000 — but if the price is too steep, you can always take a macramé class. And spider plants cost practically nothing. PILAR VILADAS



Go fur broke A mod but cozy bedroom from 1971 by David Hicks.



1. Antonio Citterio's J.J. chair for B&B Italia.
2. The DS-600 sofa from de Sede.
3. Antoni Gaudí's 1906 Batlló bench.
4. Karim Rashid's Sphere bed for Hollandia International.