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Photo: IdeaboxA Small Space can in-house some very large design ideas-witness a new line of aktiv houses designed by ideabox, a six-year-old architecture and design firm based in Salem, North Yer, and filled with furniture, appliances and accessories by global retail giant IKEA. The design collaboration happened through social media when ideabox and IKEA Portland connected via Twitter, according to ideabox chief Jim Russell. Ideabox focuses on modern, energy and resource-intensive prefab design solutions, he says. With a focus on lifestyle and goal to remain cost effective, we are always looking for ways to offer our clients fun, personality-driven options. Like countless thousands of people, we have always been intrigued by IKEA's smart solutions for small spaces, often visiting their stores for inspiration. We thought it would be interesting if we put together a house with IKEA Portland involving IKEA systems as a component of the design inherent in the home. Photo: ideaboxThe aktiv model home measures 745 square feet with one bedroom and one bathroom. The current model is usually priced at \$86,500, having debuted at the Portland Home y Garden Show in early 2012.Efficiency and eco-friendly considerations are the dominant design principles in the ideabox home, aktiv included. Its exterior features fiber cement siding with corrugated metal and a standing seam roof, all made from recycled contents. The interior also boasts green building staples like bamboo flooring and VOC-free paint. Photo: ideaboxAppliances, windows and lighting have an Energy Star rating; Heating and cooling systems use headless heat pumps; And double flush toilets, faucet aerators, and low-flow shower heads are standard. A smart floor plan ensures that there is no wasted space. Each room has sliding glass doors and window openings with clerestory enclosures and awnings to let in fresh air and natural light. According to Russell, the consumer reaction to the aktiv house has been extremely positive, and the company incorporates many of the successful elements of this design in other model homes. Our tag line, the right amount of everything, is stated in our operating philosophy, he notes. ideabox was formed in 2006 with the premise of offering a residential solution that embraces design, energy efficiency and responsible construction at an affordable price. For more information on prefabricated housing, consider: Downsizing with mobile home style: Then and now house arcs: stylish and flat-packed for shipping Mats Nilsson spent his career designing Pinterest-perfect numbers you'd like to call home. The former dresser worked his way through the ranks at IKEA stores and offices in Sweden, Saudi Arabia, Italy and States is currently working as a leading interior designer, deciding in which direction the furniture brand will take Season. Nilsson, who now lives in Sweden, recently spoke to ELLEDecor.com about his famous career and how to break into an industry where your job is to design beautiful things. When I was growing up in Sweden... All students were offered the opportunity to complete a two-week internship of our choice when we were 12 years old. It's up to each and every one to find an internship - people go through connections and sometimes school helps you and so on, but in this case, I started to actually call who I thought at the time was the best stylist in the country because I wanted to work with her. Looking back, I understand why she said she didn't accept interns, but she suggested I call a now defunct furniture store in southern Sweden. I called them and they said, Yes, why not? I was lucky because one day when I was there, one of the photographers who filmed the interior spreads in the magazines of those days was there shooting for the catalog store. And so I had to choose vases and style coffee table for these shoots, and I felt like I was really working, even though I was maybe not at all helping. They let me set the table in the American wing - at that time in Sweden it was quite unique to have a whole floor with the old queen Anna and other American furniture. My two weeks has been a great experience and I think the equivalent will be for those who were really interested in design to be working in bloomingdale's furniture department. After high school, I went to business school for two years, which kind of went to college in the US. I took additional art classes like ceramics and sculpture, in addition to coursework in economics and business. I went to visit a friend of mine who worked as a window dresser in Oslo in a chain of shops similar to the NSM, but the way is smaller. They let me style the kids' windows and I asked them if I could get a job there after school. They hired me as a window dresser apprentice. We traveled between 10 chain stores and fixed all the windows in two or three days. We were working on a constant schedule - so every month or so, we had to plan what we would do next for next season's window and overthep them. Thanks to IKEA, I've been doing this for about a year and a half. They paid me a very low salary, and I had a very cheap apartment, but I just remember thinking: I can't go on like this. I need a real job. I went back to Sweden with the intention of going to university to become an architect, but it was mid-semester, so I started looking for a job as well. IKEA in Stockholm was looking for what they called decorators, but the position was more in line with what the visual merchandiser would do. In my interview, they asked me to show them some pictures of my apartment at the time, create some kind of offer for the restaurant. I remember that I had a very good feeling about working there. They ended up interviewing 200 people for the job - but they offered it to me. I started laying catwalks, and arranging pillows and curtains and textiles together in a good way. And then over time, I have to do more and more important work like designing the entrance to the store. After a few years, I have to do my first room setting, which was the hallway. You start very small and I went from visual merchandising to also doing interior design. About four years in my time there ... IKEA was opening a store in Saudi Arabia, and they were looking for people available who could move there for a couple of weeks just to finish the store. My colleague and I thought it was an exotic part of the world, and it would be interesting to work there for a while, so we went. While we were there we applied to stay at IKEA in Saudi Arabia and we stayed there for two years. Passion is the most important part of the job - not just in the industry, but in everything you do. It was interesting to see the concept of IKEA in a completely different world, with different needs. All their references are different from ours because the culture is so different. For example, they don't actually use sofas as much - they actually sit on the floor. It is interesting to work with people from this country and neighboring countries with different links. I had to teach people how to do things, or how not to do things. It was a good experience because when you're going to teach something, you have to understand it better than just doing it yourself. But at the end of my two years there, I was ready to go back to Sweden. I went to the IKEA studio, in Alkhult, to plan and style catalogs. It was a really nice change of pace from working in the store because people come and wear it. But when you work behind the camera, you shoot it at the perfect moment, and it's there forever, in a way. It's very Hollywood-y - you can decide exactly how much tea you want in a glass, decide exactly how you want the flowers to be. Stacking for magazines or for directories is a lot of fun. Two years later... IKEA has decided to expand its operations in Italy. They had a small shop in Milan and a small shop in Turin, so they asked me to teach Italian interior designers - IKEA hired how we do things in the company as we think and what we think is good Scandinavian furniture for a house in Milan. Being able to do it in the design capital of the world was pretty nice. Italians have quite a high knowledge of design because it's just a culture out there. The most popular designer brands are simply more present in society - the client is a little above average when it comes to complexity and knowledge and interest. Granted I returned to Swedish IKEA for a while and then, a few years later, IKEA reorganized the company in North America, so I moved to Philadelphia, where IKEA is headquartered. I started driving back and forth from Philadelphia to IKEA in Sweden to work on a range strategy - figuring out what colors and materials and features we need to focus on, and what limited edition collection we need to work on. We have a lot of those recently called Viability Collections, and I wanted to travel with a team of designers and product leaders at various factories and come up with cool products and make prototypes. And then we go back to Sweden, look at these prototypes and say, OK, it's going to be a collection and then produce these works. It's an amazing job. It's so much fun to do it. Passion is the most important part of the job - not just in the industry, but in everything you do. You have to get up every morning and do whatever you do and there is not a single job you will love every day. But you have to love it most of the time. So follow your instinct, guts and passion, because if you do that, you can't fail along the way. You will always be better than other people who have no passion. I didn't see my career ahead of me when I was 12 - I was just looking for opportunities and took them when they came. This content is created and supported by a third party and is imported to this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content on piano.io piano.io

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