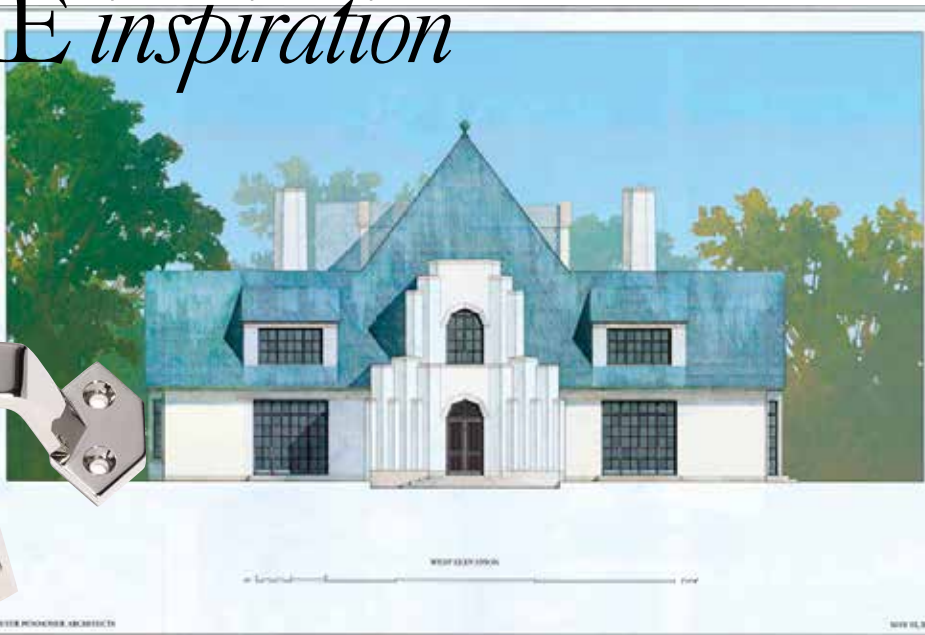


CULTURE *inspiration*

3

1. A PULL (\$236) AND
2. THUMBTURN (\$155) FROM
PETER PENNOYER'S LINE
FOR LOWE HARDWARE
(LOWE-HARDWARE.COM).
3. AN ELEVATION OF THE OHIO
HOUSE HE DESIGNED IN THE
SPIRIT OF CZECH CUBISM.



Czech Mate

Architect *Peter Pennoyer* finds creative fuel in Prague's Cubist past



Architect Peter Pennoyer is famously fluent in all things historical. But when he began designing a house in Hunting Valley, Ohio, he encountered an obscure source of inspiration. The client, an art collector,

asked Pennoyer to delve into Czech Cubism, a scarcely known movement that ran a short course in the 1910s and spanned multiple media, from decorative arts to architecture. "It's a fascinating style but one I knew nothing about," reflects Pennoyer, who pored over Art Deco catalogs, eventually traveling to Prague to visit surviving examples like the 1912 House of the Black Madonna and a 1913 lamppost. The style was

popularized in the city's Artěl workshops, where radical talents like Josef Gočár, Pavel Janák, and Vlastislav Hofman broke from neoclassical conventions, studying crystalline structures, orthogonal prisms, and the paintings of Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque.

"I see the movement as a celebration of geometry beyond any rational limit," says Pennoyer, who, with a 3-D printer handy, modeled new hardware for the Ohio house after vintage Czech Cubist designs. A collaboration with Maine-based Lowe Hardware, the collection makes its public retail debut in November. (It comprises faceted handles, pulls, hinges, doorstops, levers, and window stays in a variety of metal finishes.) "Angular forms express more force and energy," says Pennoyer, reflecting on the need to balance striking silhouettes and everyday functionality. "That's a tall order for any designer." —ELIZABETH FAZZARE

4. EMIL KRÁLÍČEK'S 1913 LAMPOST IN JUNGSMANN SQUARE. 5. INSIDE PRAGUE'S ICONIC HOUSE OF THE BLACK MADONNA. 6. A PRAGUE HOUSING BLOCK BY JOSEF CHOCHOL.

1. AND 2. STUART TYSON; 3. COURTESY OF PETER PENNOYER ARCHITECTS; 4. IVOHA/LAMY; 5. YADID LEVY/ANZENBERGER/REDUX; 6. PETR BONEK/LAMY