

SHOPPING GUIDE FIREPLACES AND WOOD STOVES

Cozying Up To a Toasty Fire

Fireplaces and wood stoves do more than provide heat on a cold day — they anchor a gathering place at the heart of a home.

“They’re a great focal point for any family hangout spot,” said Colin Brice, who founded the New York architecture firm Mapos with Caleb Mulvena. “What brings people together? Either a really beautiful meal or a really warm fire.”

Fireplaces take center stage in many of Mapos’s projects, including the Lake House hotel in Lake Placid, N.Y.

Options for adding fire features to existing homes, Mr. Brice and Mr. Mulvena said, include wood stoves, gas fireplaces and models that burn ethanol. Some, like wood stoves, can function as the main heat source for a room; others, like ethanol fireplaces, are more about ambience.

“The big question is, What do you want your fireplace or stove to do?” Mr. Brice said.

TIM McKEOUGH



Ergofocus Fireplace

Suspended rotating steel fireplace | From \$11,500 at European Home: 781-324-8383 or europeanhome.com



Jotul F 118 CB Black Bear

Cast-iron wood stove based on 1930s design by the Norwegian artist Ornulf Bast | \$2,100 at Jotul: jotul.com/us



Malm Fireplace

Free-standing steel fireplace with porcelain enamel finish | \$2,800 at Design Within Reach: 800-944-2233 or dwr.com



Flex Fireplace

Ventless steel-and-glass bioethanol firebox | From \$4,976 at Ecosmart Fire: 888-744-1921 or ecosmartfire.com



Shaker Wood Stove

Steel wood stove by Antonio Citterio and Toan Nguyen | From \$5,350 at Wittus: 914-764-5679 or wittus.com

- Where will it be installed? “We try to think about how a fireplace can be more than a thing in the wall,” Mr. Mulvena said. Positioned in the center of a room, “it can be an element that divides space.”
- Is there a way to vent it? “A lot of gas fireplaces are what is called ‘direct vent,’ where you don’t need the traditional vertical flue — you can vent out a wall,” Mr. Mulvena said, whereas fireplaces “that use ethanol can be ventless, because they don’t have toxic byproducts.”
- If the fireplace is the focus of a room, where should the TV go? “If a television must be in the same space, we always try to hide it,” Mr. Mulvena said. “Let the fireplace be the true center of the living space.”