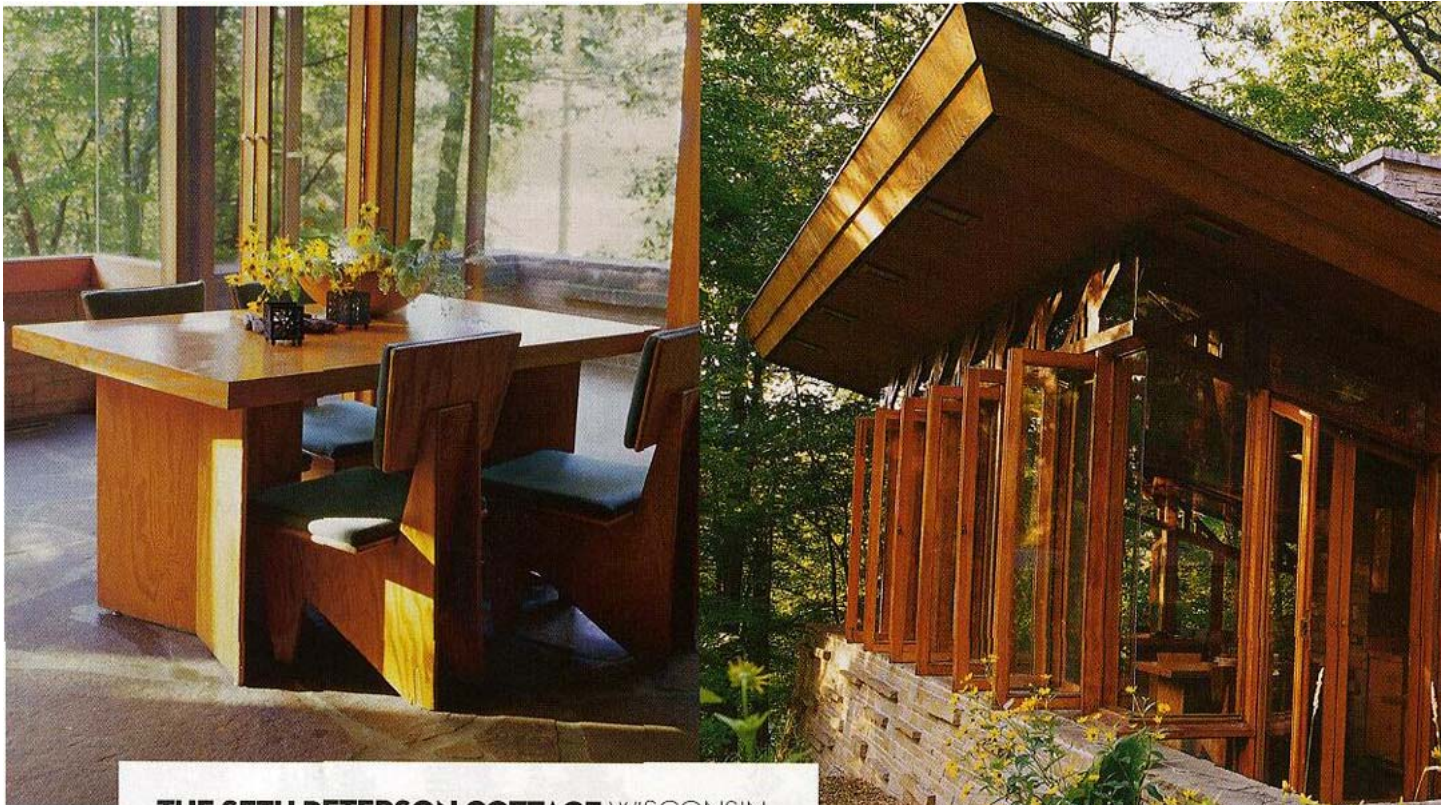


# AMERICAN BEAUTY

FROM A LOG CABIN IN COLORADO TO A QUAIN T COTTAGE IN FLORIDA, A NEW RELEASE CALLED *THE HOTEL BOOK: GREAT ESCAPES NORTH AMERICA* FEATURES SOME OF THAT CONTINENT'S MOST SURPRISING AND SUBLIME PLACES TO STAY

WORDS **DAISANN MCLANE** PHOTOGRAPHS **DON FREEMAN**





**THE SETH PETERSON COTTAGE WISCONSIN**

It's a special thing to be able to spend a vacation inside a work of art. The 1958 Seth Peterson Cottage was one of Frank Lloyd Wright's last commissions as an architect, and today it is the only one of his houses available for rent to the public. Staying here is a total immersion in his revolutionary design principles – the house has been described as “having more architecture per square foot than any other building he ever designed”.

From the outside, the cottage is a beautifully realised structure made of wood and natural sandstone that harmonises with the terrain of the remote Wisconsin state park where it's located. Light floods through the floor-to-ceiling windows, while Wright's trademark massive stone fireplace is the centre of an open-plan living space furnished with custom-made pieces.

*For information, call +1 608 254 6551 or visit [www.sethpeterson.org](http://www.sethpeterson.org).*





## HOTEL SAN JOSÉ TEXAS

Austin, Texas, is home to a big university and lots of intellectuals, artists, bohemians and hipsters, young and old. Every year the city plays host to a major film festival and an international music-business convention, South by Southwest. But if you stay in this hotel, you may not make it out of the car park.

This place is one of those happy little accidents where a structure with bones and history fell into the hands of an owner with taste and style. Built in the 1930s as a classic American motor hotel, it was owned by a number of people before it was bought by Texan Liz Lambert, who renovated it exactly as she wanted.

Rooms are simply furnished with Eames chairs and platform beds; the floors are cool, polished concrete. By contrast, the grounds and common areas are lush with bamboo, cactus and vine-covered arbors; you gravitate, automatically, to the main courtyard, where metal lawn chairs and a swimming pool tempt you to linger over coffee or a glass of wine. →

For more information, call +1 512 444 7322 or visit [www.sanjosehotel.com](http://www.sanjosehotel.com).

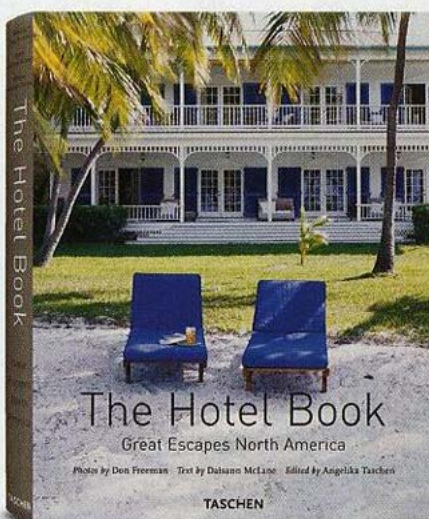


**THE MOORINGS VILLAGE FLORIDA**

This is what Florida used to be like, before the tourists arrived in force and real estate speculators turned vast stretches of beach into concrete walls of condominiums. At The Moorings Village, a seven-hectare compound of cottages and houses small and grand in Islamadora, Florida, things are kept simple. There is no fancy restaurant – each of the homes is self-contained – and there are no “activities” scheduled, but a 330m private beach is at the guests’ disposal for kayaking, windsurfing, swimming or just lazing around.

The Moorings Village has a variety of accommodation. Some are modest bungalows with screened porches; others (like the one pictured) are neat two-storey colonial homes with wide wraparound porches. All are placed away from the beach to ensure peace and tranquility.

For more information, call +1 305 664 4708 or visit [www.themooringsvillage.com](http://www.themooringsvillage.com).



Great Escapes is a unique partnership between the successful *The Hotel Book: Great Escapes* series and Travel Intelligence, an Internet hotel provider. The website ([www.great-escapes-hotels.com](http://www.great-escapes-hotels.com)) provides travel info, online deals and hundreds of hotels in locations around the world, from African rainforests to remote desert islands.

*The Hotel Book: Great Escapes North America* is one of a series released by Taschen, which includes Asia, Europe, Africa and South America (Australia is apparently on the way). It features some of the USA’s and Canada’s most interesting hotels and accommodation, with beautiful glossy pics and full contact information – and the best thing is they’re not all budget-breakers.

The collection of over 40 hotels range from the funky and inexpensive (yes, caravan parks can be cool) to the luxurious and elegant and, not surprisingly, pricey. These hotels, motels, lodges, resorts, and even tepees and trailers, are all unique and spectacular in their own way. ❖

*The hotels in this story are from The Hotel Book: Great Escapes North America (\$120, Taschen), photos by Don Freeman, text by Daisann McLane, edited by Angelika Taschen.*