

# A matter of taste

**T**he first car I remember was a red Volkswagen bug. I recall traveling to my grandparents' house, falling asleep in the back seat and waking up with imprints from the plastic seat on my face.

After that it was a "woodie" station wagon where my sister and I rode freely in the back cargo area. Then came a cream-colored Volkswagen bus with a smiley face painted on the front wheel cover (very "in" during the '70s), then a pea-green Volkswagen camper with red, orange and yellow stripes on the outside and green plaid bench seats.

By the time I could drive, my family had another cream-colored Volkswagen camper that my high school friends nicknamed the "Jam Van." I was the only kid in school who carried a full set of silverware, cups, a sink, a fridge and four beds wherever I went.

Now I'm the one choosing the cars for my family, and I know that I have been influenced by my parents' unique choices in automobiles as I was growing up. I convinced myself

that the first car I bought would be practical and normal, so I had a white four-door gas saver.

Another plain white four-door car followed, then I had had enough. One day I arrived home in a tiny purple convertible instead of the second plain white car. Since then we've owned a red car, a bright green car and a red minivan (as bold a color as minivans have). Now we have an old sky blue Geo Tracker convertible that I hope to paint UT orange soon, and a shiny royal blue PT Cruiser for my real estate business with magnetic signs attached on all available flat surfaces.

I feel like what I drive is a reflection of my personality. I'm not nuts, . . . I just prefer to be a little bit different and to have a little fun with my mode of transportation. The same can be said for choices of homes. Right now, we're in a very practical, neutral colored basement ranch that suits us just fine. Truth be told, we can't wait to move into the log home



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Homework

with a loft, a tower and an octagonal room for my office that we are planning to build in the future.

Building or buying a home that is different than most homes can be a cool thing, until it is time to sell again. Then, you have to wait around for a buyer who has the same distinctive tastes as yourself, and that can take some

time. Most sellers are told to paint their homes neutral colors, to remove their family photos and collections, and to "de-personalize" the house to make it appeal to more buyers. Most buyers want a house that is like a blank canvas, where they don't have too much of the previous owners' personal design choices to remove before they can put their own decorating ideas into the house.

We know that when we build our wacky log home, it will make us very happy but probably will be too odd to appeal to many other people. We are OK with that, since we don't plan on selling it anytime

soon. At the same time, we're glad the house we'll sell before we get into our new home is neutral, easy-to-live-in and universally appealing to a variety of family sizes and tastes. It shouldn't be too hard to sell when the time comes.

If your taste leans toward the unique, the eclectic, the artistic or just plain weird, then that's OK, as long as you know going into a home decorating project that what you create may be too much for some buyers to take. It's also fine if you prefer your surroundings to be more traditional, mainstream and standard. These types of homes hold lots of appeal for lots of people. In either case, it's just a matter of taste.

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