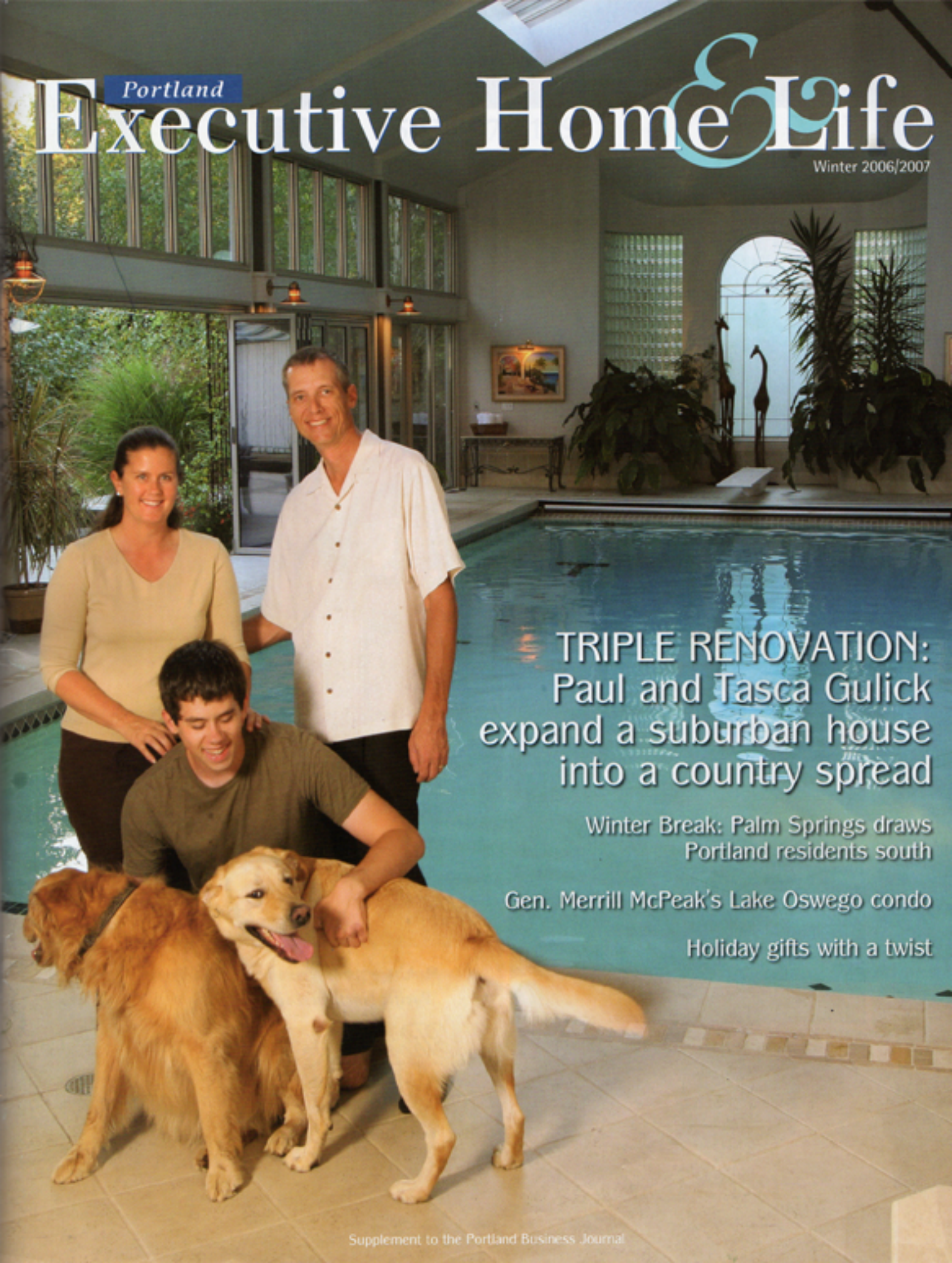


A photograph of a family of three—a man, a woman, and a young man—standing in a large, modern indoor pool area. Two golden retrievers are in the foreground. The background features large windows, potted plants, and a giraffe sculpture.

Portland Executive Home & Life

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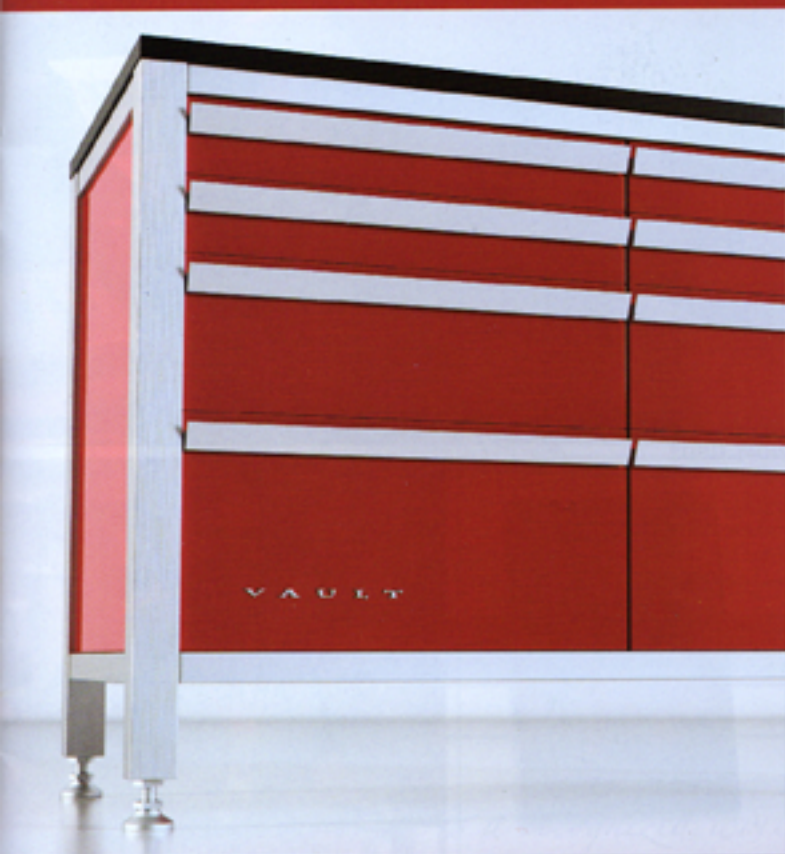
TRIPLE RENOVATION: Paul and Tasca Gulick expand a suburban house into a country spread

Winter Break: Palm Springs draws
Portland residents south

Gen. Merrill McPeak's Lake Oswego condo

Holiday gifts with a twist





In the consumer arms race that is Christmas, there's always the need to up the ante, to let rip with a present that will hit the recipient with all the force of Santa's workshop falling from high above.

You could visit the usual suspects, the Rodeo Drive merchants or the Manhattan shops. Or, you could stick closer to home and still make a statement. So, it's time to say, "Damn the credit limits, full speed ahead."



Benchmade Knives Leave the MacGyver knives for the junior partners. The men and women in the corner office need a blade with a little more distinction.

That's where Oregon City-based Benchmade Knives comes in. The company manufactures an elite gold class of knives that cost thousands of dollars each.

Most recently, the company made a \$2,000 butterfly dagger that had mother-of-pearl inlays, a 14-carat white gold bezel and a Devon Thomas rain drop pattern on the blade. That makes it not only more timeless and durable than diamond earrings, but the knife equivalent of a 1947 Bordeaux.

Best of all for the frugal executive, the gold class knives are favored by collectors, meaning they appreciate in value.

The next CEO-level blade should be introduced before Santa comes calling.

Proxy battles await. Order soon.

www.benchmade.com



Vault Brands Inc. What would Santa say if he saw your messy garage?

So you think you've done every room in the house. Well, think again. We'll bet you've never touched that garage of yours except to stash stuff on the shelves. Admit it, the garage is a mess. It deserves better. The neighbors who drive by when the door is open deserve better.

Heck, your car deserves better.

Enter Vault Brands Inc., a Portland startup that sees a business opportunity in America's twin love affairs with home remodeling and cars. Simply put, the garage is the new kitchen, according to Chad Haas, a former Weyerhaeuser executive who dreams of transforming the garage into the show space on par with the kitchen and bathroom.

From high-end furnishings—think stainless steel countertops and high-design cabinetry—to floors finished with a sealant exclusive to Vault, the company will transform your garage into something you'll be proud to show off to your friends and neighbors.

Haas takes his inspiration from Viking Range Corp., which helped bring commercial design into the residential kitchen.

"I'm inspired by what they did. Is there anything less sexy than an appliance?" he said.

Haas said Vault goes beyond organizing messy spaces. He hopes to launch a garage remodeling revolution.

"We want to transform a marketplace," he said.

www.showroomgarage.com