

THE STYLE & DESIGN ISSUE

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Stefan Andrén

THE ESSENTIALIST

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN CLARK

WORKS FOR: Nike, Krown Lab. **BASE:** Portland, Oregon. **SIGNATURE PRODUCTS:** Known Lab's sliding-door hardware; Nike Amp+ Bluetooth wristband. **DESIGN INSPIRATION:** In design, less can be more expensive, but the Swedish-born Andrén, 35, objects to costly minimalism, both in the home products he creates for his own Krown Lab label and in the gadgets he helps shape as the design director of Nike's TechLab electronic incubator. "What drives me as a designer is problem-solving," he says. "Part of solving the problem is not to spend too much money." **HIS WORKSPACE:** Exhibit A of his elegant-economy aesthetic is Skybox, the new house and studio he and his wife Nicole built in Portland, where they moved from Milan four years ago. "If you spend \$400 per square foot, of course it's going to look good. If you spend \$150 or \$160, you have to make smarter decisions." A glass-and-cedar box set in the wooded hills above Portland, Skybox is full of details that foster inspiration, such as the kitchen cabinet doors that double as a blackboard (seen here), allowing Andrén to sketch out ideas on the fly — or just doodle for fun. "I spend a lot of time in the kitchen-slash-living room at my house. I like the airiness and light in there." **NEXT:** His own line of furniture, fire pits, and outdoor grills; more sports tech gear produced under Nike+, a new collaboration with Apple. —B.M.