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Just Out has a long and proud history of informing and entertaining the LGBTQ community in Oregon and SW Washington, our supporters near and far, and working to build bridges that lead to justice, fairness, and equality for all people.

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QPD INDOOR/ OUTDOOR

While on a trip to Denmark as a college student I learned the term "hygge" — an atmosphere of coziness and general conviviality, enjoying time with loved ones. It's an essential part of Danish life and our cozy town seems to embody this same spirit both inside and out.

In this issue we cover home interiors, and at the same time celebrate poolside swimwear. Whether we are at the beach, at an outdoor patio, or inside gaming with players around the world, Portlanders value comfort.

As members of the gay community we are hyper aware of our surroundings. This can be for safety's sake (I am sad to take note of so many hate crimes still taking place around the world and here at home), but it can also open us up as dreamers and designers.

The stereotypes of the gay florist and interior designer have been infinitely expounded upon by a new queer sensibility in fashion, digital design, and the creation of all kinds of indoor and outdoor spaces. Inspired by our lush surroundings, we are an integral part of this city's reputation for being a creative hub and cultural capitol.

So used to our cold wet winters that seem to last forever, we cherish our indoor activities year round and create homes, often with bright colors, that embody our city's floral theme and inspired by the landscape that surrounds us.

During these precious two to three months we get to bring our "hygge" into the sun, where we all burst forth to gather at the river, the bluffs, or any garden that can contain both our literal and figuratively colorful selves. It also brings us together. We have emerged from our houses to come out as an interested and engaged congregation of people dedicated to creating a cultural phenomenon that's the envy of mainstream and Bohemian cultures alike.

Just Out's Editor-In-Chief Alley Hector writes QPD. Reach her at alley@JustOut.com.

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