

all over IKEA

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There once was a time when Oregonians drove three hours north to Seattle to shop at IKEA. There might have been stores in Abu Dhabi and Adelaide, but not in PDX. "When IKEA was opening in Portland, we were all excited," says Eric Besore, a network administrator. "We even drove past the plot of land when we found out where they were going to build."

Portland's excitement was so great that the local news covered eager patrons camping out in anticipation of the doors opening, and traffic helicopters gave commuters workarounds to avoid the congestion. You'd have thought it was the release of a new Apple product or something.

"Coming back from our honeymoon in 2006, we went through Seattle and stopped by IKEA to ask about hiring for the Portland store," adds his wife, Noelle Gallant. With two decades of retail management experience, she really, really wanted to join the furniture company's crew. So much so, she stalked their website daily waiting for hiring to go live. It worked, and today she's an IKEA team leader.



The parquet-patterned living room wall was one of the initial mid-century details that captured the homeowners' interest. There are three corner fireplaces in all; here, an Admiral portable television sits near the raised Roman-brick hearth with its plug-in faux log. The orange couch is a discontinued IKEA model, as is the coffee table, while the Poäng lounge chair and footstool are still available. Kvartal panel window coverings, IKEA floor lamps and decorative vases and robots are among the edited accessories. The tray ceiling color is Atrium White, which they used throughout.