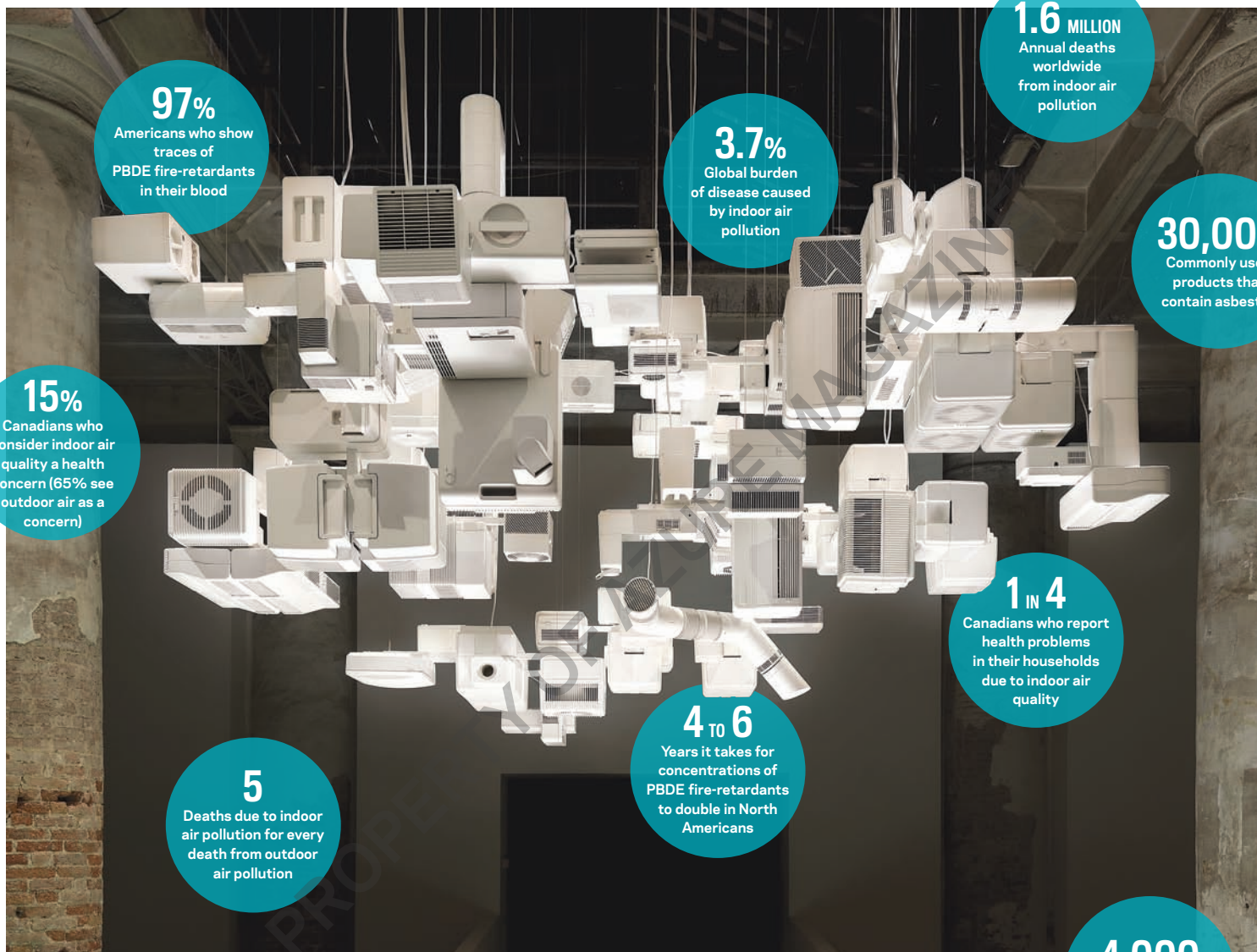


87%
Average amount of
time North Americans
spend indoors

CLEARING THE AIR

Indoor air quality is up to 10 times worse than outdoor air. Here are some stats, and the latest purifiers for helping you breathe easier

BY PAIGE MAGARREY



97%

Americans who show traces of PBDE fire-retardants in their blood

15%

Canadians who consider indoor air quality a health concern (65% see outdoor air as a concern)

3.7%

Global burden of disease caused by indoor air pollution

1.6 MILLION
Annual deaths worldwide from indoor air pollution

30,000
Commonly used products that contain asbestos

5

Deaths due to indoor air pollution for every death from outdoor air pollution

4 TO 6

Years it takes for concentrations of PBDE fire-retardants to double in North Americans

1 IN 4

Canadians who report health problems in their households due to indoor air quality

4,000
Chemicals in secondhand smoke

ARTIST AN TE LIU'S CLOUD INSTALLATION, originally staged at the 2008 Venice Biennale, consists of some 70 air purifiers, washers, ionizers, sterilizers, humidifiers and ozone air cleaners, all running continuously. It recently had its North American debut at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art in Toronto, as part of the exhibit *Empire of Dreams: Phenomenology of the Built Environment*. anteliu.com; mocca.ca



Jean-Marie Massaud's **Airwake for Airliving** looks more like a speaker than an air purifier. But within its steel-framed, soap-polished ash wood body, a photocatalysis system mineralizes gas pollutants. \$2,560 airsurliving.com



Patrick Norguet's **Plain Air for TLV** breaks down pollutants like carbon dioxide and formaldehyde while disinfecting airborne bacteria and neutralizing unpleasant odours, all thanks to Philips' light oxidation technology. \$1,900 tlv-belgium.be



Designed for desktops, Humanscale's **Humanair Personal Zone** creates a "clean air zone" around workers. Its recyclable paper filter removes 99 per cent of airborne toxins. \$420 humanscale.com