

DOLLHOUSE DELUXE

When Caltech alum Bettina Chen (BS '10) met Alice Brooks in graduate school, they quickly bonded over a shared goal of influencing young girls to become interested in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

They realized that an educational toy could be a good introduction to STEM, and [Roominate](#)—a fully modular build-

your-own dollhouse complete with wiring capabilities—was born. (See Alumni Impact, page 32.) Each kit comes with all the walls, furniture-building pieces, circuit components, and decorations needed to construct a room from scratch. There is no set way to assemble a Roominate room; instead, the girls are encouraged to explore and experiment.

“Girls must use creativity and problem-solving skills—essential skills to develop for STEM—in order to build and wire a room with Roominate,” says Chen. “We believe that Roominate is the type of toy that is missing from the market today: a toy that will help girls build up the skills and confidence they need to persevere in more male-dominated fields.” —*KV*