

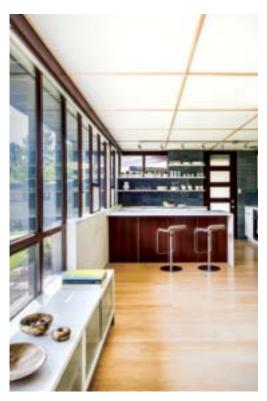


UNICA TABLE WITH AXIS STOOLS



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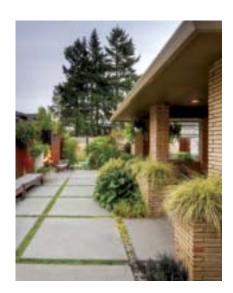
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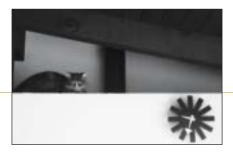
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cover

After a pro's plan came in way over budget and off the mark, the homeowners took landscaping matters into their own hands at their Portland, Ore., ranch. A rusted steel and Plexiglas fence lends privacy to the corner lot, and low-maintenance grasses, groundcovers and shrubs—most on a drip system—soften the hardscape and create a contemporary retreat. Story page 36.



my2cents



crolling through recent postings on our Atomic Ranch Facebook groups, I was struck by the enthusiasm and support readers bring to a wide variety of topics.

- How can I rearrange my living room furnishings, and what size rug would tie it together?
- Does anyone recognize this lamp?
- I'm repainting my house; what color should the trim be? What about the door?
- Here's a great midcentury property for sale near me; please share this with your contacts so we can save it!

While there is a component of pseudo-advertisers using the platform to reach our 10,000-plus online members, plainly some people have the time and appetite for giving advice, most of it positive-ish. It really is a big club, and you're a member even if you never dabble in the social media stew. Just by poring over our pages to see what others have done and chiming in to answer a question, share an architectural detail with your contractor or post a photo of your cat on your midcentury chair, you're participating.

Speaking of cats, in addition to our Fall 2011 pets-on-MC-furniture contest and random posts from readers, there is a FB group devoted to cat-themed vintage collectibles and felines in midcentury settings—brilliantly named 'Mid Century Modern Cats.' Not that I'm a member. While





the popularity of online cat videos has become a punch line for comedians, there *is* something about a pet that warms up a household.

Clayton Acklin's cat, Ella, (above) could not be more at home on the pony wall in his studio apartment in San Rafael, Calif. I can easily picture her reaching down to paw the minute hand on his asterisk clock. Her roommate. Kuku.

favors the view from atop the Lane cedar chest or the mustard-yellow Eames shell chair.

Leslie Evans' cat, Nyx, also loves her an Eames chair or a Bertoia barstool, part of the eclectic mix of MCM and Hollywood Regency in their home in Marietta, Ga. Nyx was the runt of a litter that landed at Evans' parents' house.

"We adopted her because no one else would. It makes me so sad that black cats are less likely to be adopted and more likely to be euthanized. Nyx has been such a loving cat; we can't imagine our home without her," Evans writes.

"I used to be very concerned about the condition of my vintage MCM pieces. But Nyx reminds me to truly enjoy my collection—cat fur, hairballs and all. When I see her sunning herself on my shell chair and curling into its seat, it makes me love and appreciate the design even more. Comfortable for both humans and cats—universal, livable design."

Agree.

Michelle Gringeri-Brown
Founding Editor



Issue #47, Fall 2015

EDITORIAL

Jim Brown Publisher

Michelle Gringeri-Brown Editor

Nancy Anderson Art Director

Marcelle Heath Copy Editor

ADVERTISING

Christina Walker Manager (503) 297-5605 atomicranchadvertising@comcast.net

EDITORIAL, PRODUCTION & SALES OFFICE CUSTOMER SERVICE

Engaged Media, Inc 22840 Savi Ranch Parkway, Suite 200 Yorba Linda, CA 92887 (714) 939-9991 (800) 249-7761

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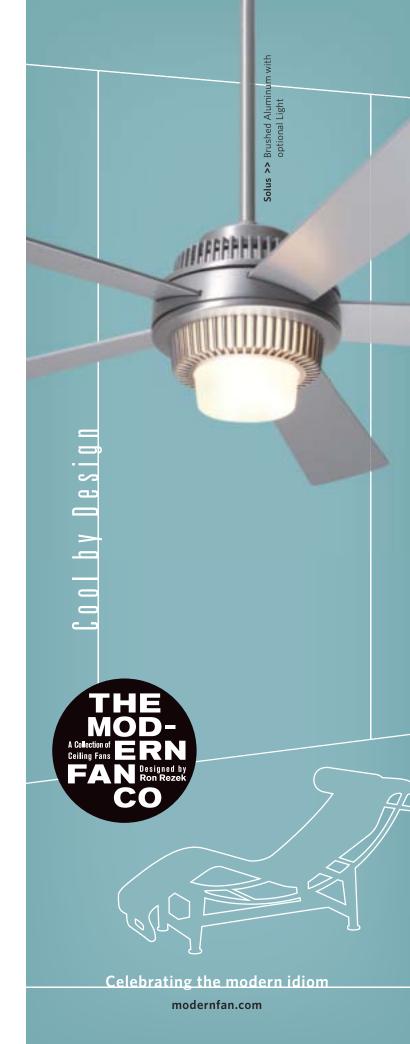
Letters to the Editor, New Products
or to contribute a story or photo
Sarah O'Keefe sokeefe@engagedmediainc.com



Nick Singh President

Vikas Malhotra Vice President

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modernwisdom

aving been an AR magazine subscriber since 2008, your quarterly magazine has inspired us to take our 1951 ranch back in time, with a few modern amenities. We look forward to reading about the latest featured homes, ogling the photos and reviewing the advertisements.





We can't say enough about Practical Props in North Hollywood; it was a must-stop when arriving in LAX on our way to Palm Springs, where we stayed at the Orbit In. Oh my, midcentury heaven!

If you should ever find yourself in Boise, we welcome you to visit us. Thanks for one of the best magazines!

Mark & Sarai Paljetak

Regarding the letter in your Spring 2015 issue concerning the Laurent House in Rockford, Ill., it is, indeed, the only home that Frank Lloyd Wright designed to be [ADA] accessible. (There was no Americans With Disabilities Act when it was designed—that was enacted in 1990). However, it is not the last home designed by Wright, as the letter-writer asserts.

The Laurent home was designed in 1949, while Wright [continued his practice] until his death in 1959. Arguably, the last home was the Aimee and Norman Lykes house in Phoenix in 1959. There are 124 designs between the Laurent and the Lykes homes. The best source for information is *The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright: A Complete Catalog* by William Allin Storrer, with a companion app available for smart phones.

John Clouse

* I enjoy your magazine immensely, especially since we live in a 1950 ranch in State College, Pa. When we purchased it—a relatively plain house but with a great location—it was surrounded with 25 yew bushes. Totally unimaginative!



Over the years we developed the landscape, perhaps in an unconventional way, but in such a manner that it complements the house and grabs the attention of passersby. We must be doing something right!

An article on creating a landscape plan for MCM houses would be of interest to those of us who are lucky enough to own such a property. Unlike interior

and exterior modifications, both hard and soft landscaping takes time to grow to the point that it really works with the house—something to emphasize in an article. Of course, in any discussion of landscape must be an awareness of the climate the property is in: What grows in central Pennsylvania is very different than landscaping in a desert or Mediterranean climate, [so you'd need] lots of photos from across the country. I hope you'll consider my suggestion for this article in a future Atomic Ranch.

Sue Hiester

*Over the years, my wife and I have enjoyed the occasional issue we've picked up at the store. After reading the summer and fall 2014 issues, we decided to get a subscription so not to miss any further MCM articles. Owning a midcentury home of our own in Winnipeg, Canada, we now have the bug!

We are now extremely sorry for all the great issues we've missed over the years. We especially enjoy the renovation stories, as we plan to build our next home in the modern style using as much recycled material as possible.

Keep up the great work!

Andy Urbanowicz

Back issues are always available at atomic-ranch.com, and are a great way to explain to contractors what you're looking for in your own home renovations.

—ar editor

My wife and I love midcentury modern houses. Last year we had the opportunity to purchase a really neat home here in Chattanooga. We were told by many professionals to tear it completely down and build brand new. We refused to take their advice and dug right in to bring it back to life. After many months and over \$100,000 in repairs and renovations, we com-

pleted the project and it turned out to be amazing! Within five days I had six offers and it sold for \$21,300 more than asking.

Chattanooga is filled with bungalows, so we were taking a huge risk not tearing that home down and [rebuilding to] appeal to those ordinary buyers. Saving the house was one of the best decisions we made. I am convinced that there are so many buyers hunting for postwar ranchers, and I am on a mission to save every one I can!

We subscribe to Atomic Ranch, and it gives us endless ideas and inspires us to continue with our passion, which we then share with others. I'm sending the before and after photos in hopes that it can encourage others not to tear down these jewels!

Gary Crowe





morewisdom



I'm 15 years old and a big fan of the magazine. I have always been interested in art, and about a year ago I became hooked on midcentury modern design. At first I was obsessed in particular with the works of Charles and Ray Eames. Since then I have been researching and scouting for MCM design and furniture, and I stumbled upon your magazine. I think my personal style is a mix of midcentury modern and 'today' modern; I thought you might like to see some pictures of my space that I designed.

In the corner next to the bed there is a small reading nook that consists of two floating IKEA shelf units, an old trunk that was used by my father, a George Nelson Ball Clock replica and an Eames Aluminum Group Management chair.

Nicolas Glenn

St. Petersburg, Fla.

** Years ago, I sent Atomic Ranch a photo of our then newly restored 1958 tri-level, which you published [Home Page, Fall 2006]. At the time, my wife and I thought, Will our fascination with midcentury fade? Now, years later, the answer is a resounding, Are you kidding? We're just getting started! We still lounge on our 8' Adrian Pearsall couch (and so does our cat, Gizmo), worry less about putting watermarks on the marble coffee table by TH Robsjohn-Gibbings for Widdicomb, and don't worry at all if any of our 12 sets of modernist china (from Eva Zeisel, Raymond Loewy and so many more) gets chipped or broken.

We've run out of room on the mantelpiece for our posse of Danish candlestick holders, and our biggest challenge today is rotating all the vintage furniture (half of which is in the attic), so that each piece can be used and enjoyed. We've given away more vintage goodies than I can remember, and continue to share the love. In



other words, living a midcentury modern life is less about the stuff and more about sharing the stories, the space and the retro vibe with friends and family.

Thank you for your doses of inspiration, and for sharing stories like ours with other regular folks who simply love the '50s.

Mark & Christine Zust

Cleveland

Write us at editor@atomic-ranch.com or send a note to Atomic Ranch, Publishing Office, 3125 SE Rex St., Portland, OR 97202. We'll print the good ones.

SHARPEN YOUR DRILL BITS



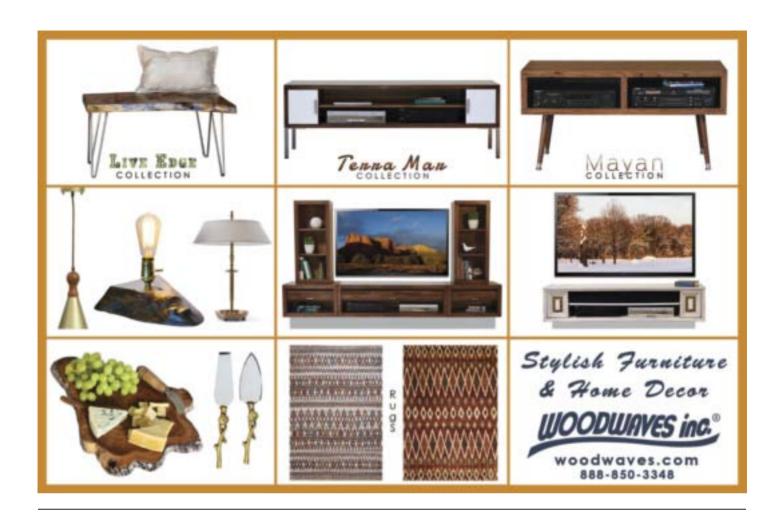
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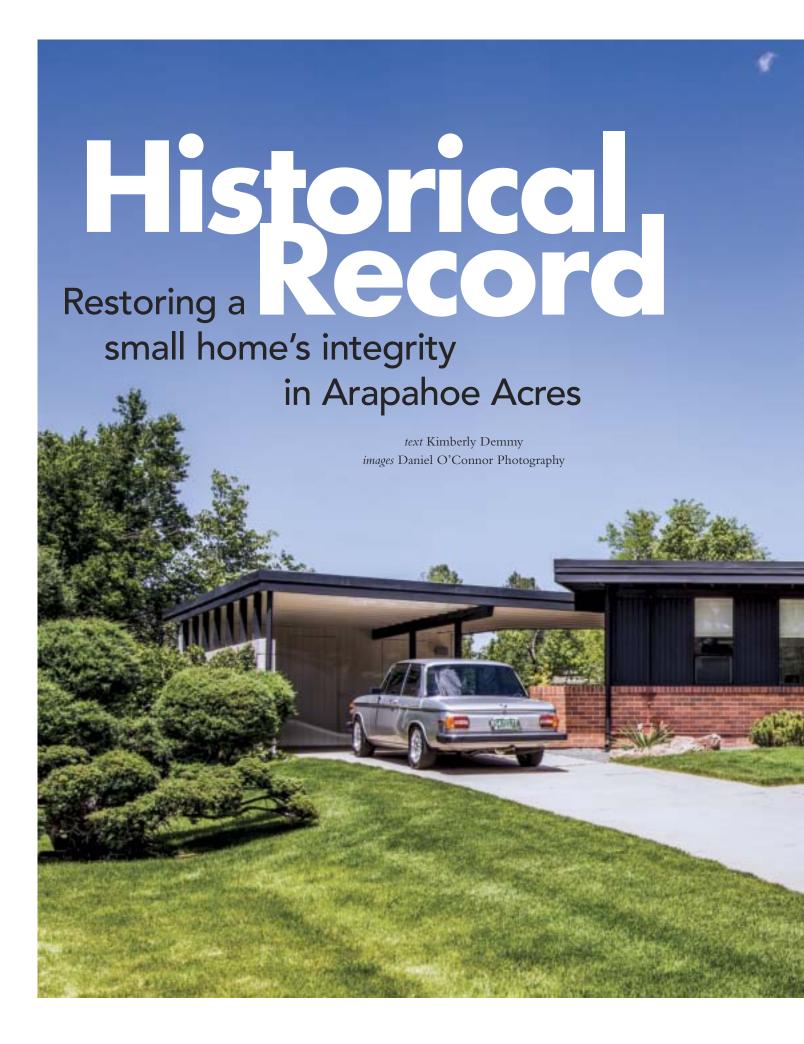




Useful Innovative Sustainable Modern









rapahoe Acres, a 124-home development in Englewood, Colo., was designed and built by Edward Hawkins and Eugene Sternberg between 1949 and 1957. Its

architecture reflects the International and Usonian styles, and in 1998 it became the first postwar subdivision to be listed on the National Register.

The vision of Arapahoe Acres was to attract a diverse community of varying family sizes and economic status. Houses range in size from 800 square feet to 2,300 and, though all share a midcentury modern aesthetic, no home is exactly alike. The streets follow the grade of the land, winding and curving. Much of the landscaping has a strong Japanese influence, and many of the shrubs and trees are carefully sculpted to complement the austere nature of the architecture.

I purchased my 1951 house as a foreclosure in December of 2012. It had been off the market for about two years and was left vacant during that period. The home was in very bad shape and needed a complete remodel, which ended up taking a year.

Attention to Detail

Unfortunately, many of the original interior features had been replaced by some not-so-MCM details. I redid the floors, walls, kitchen, bath, ceiling, electrical, plumbing and heating. I kept as many details of the original home as possible—the windows, interior trim, exterior and closet doors, and a grid ceiling that needed to be completely redone.

I worked to incorporate new details that had a midcentury feel and would lend themselves to the modern aesthetic of the house. Examples of this are the tile and wood panels in the kitchen, and the bath tile and the vanity—a converted vintage nightstand. From an interior design perspective, I decided to make the shell of the house a warm white with light maple floors. This opened up the space and made its 900 square feet feel much larger.

Fortunately, the integrity of the exterior was intact. I kept the painted portions of the house black (not original, but I liked it), and changed the door from red to blue. I completely redid the landscaping because everything was dead after two years of vacancy.

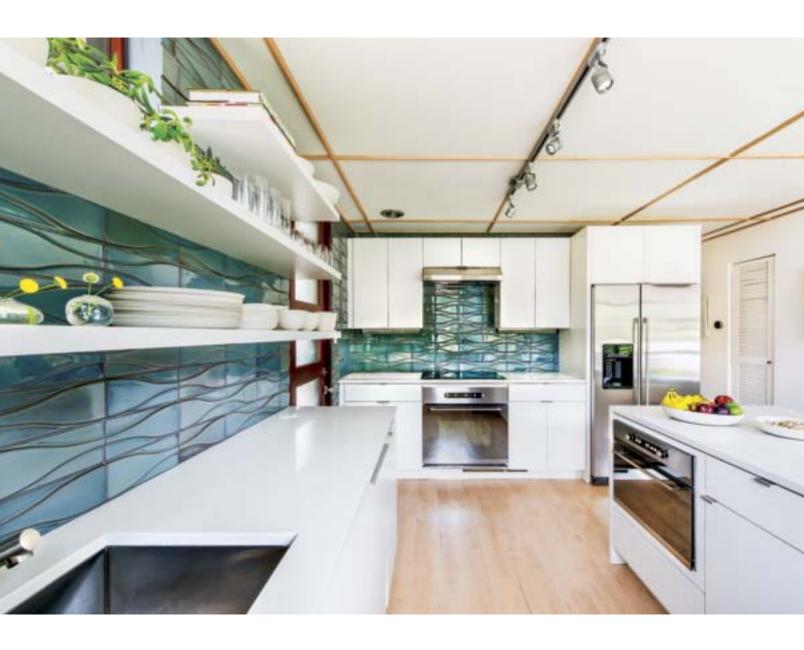
I wanted to preserve and



restore as many original details of the space as possible.



Gallery-white walls display Carol Ann Wachter's *The Mother of All of Us* just inside the front door and a McKinney metal sculpture. The Neo Sectional is by Niels Bendtsen, the coffee table is from West Elm and the floor lamp is a Jonathan Adler Antwerp. Other details include a Plum & Bow Libby side table and a Crate & Barrel area rug.



Caesarstone counters, custom white cabinetry, open shelves and ModCraft Hudson tile are on view in the new kitchen. All of the Whirlpool appliances, including the induction microwave in the peninsula, are from IKEA and part of the NUTID collection; the exhaust fan is a Broan. Behind the louvered door is a Navien tankless water heater and media equipment storage for the living room. Demmy moved a washer and dryer from where the sink is now into a hall closet with a sliding door based on originals in the bedrooms.

Design Choices

No modifications were made to the original footprint of the house, and I kept the beautiful flagstone fireplace. Grade-A, 3"-plank maple flooring was selected because it had the most consistent graining with the least amount of inclusions and the lightest color, allowing things to feel more expansive.

The original interior brick walls were in bad shape and contributed to making the footprint feel very small. Instead of painting the brick, I preserved it behind drywall, which make the rooms feel much larger and allows for art to be hung on the walls. (Art is a very important part of my life, and I needed a space that would accommodate the collection I've accumulated over many years.)

I repainted the ceiling and replaced the wood grid with new maple cut to the exact detail of the original, which complements the floors. All of the mahogany-stained windows were refinished, and a mahogany valance—based on details of the trim—hides the window blinds and looks like an original design detail.

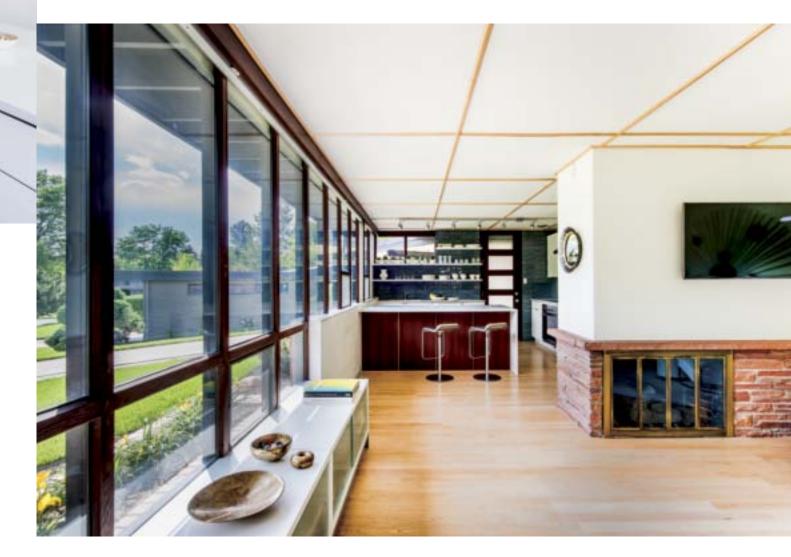
New Solutions

In the kitchen, a set of windows was uncovered that had been hidden behind the previous washer and dryer in an unoriginal closet. Mahogany-stained, vertical-grained walnut panels line the front of the new peninsula cabinet. These panels tie into the original doors and window frames and keep the space from becoming static and sterile. ModCraft tile was selected for its earthy midcentury feel and color, with varying subtle tones of blue, grey and a touch of red. I took the tiles all the way to the ceiling to create a continuous feel.

Unfortunately the bathroom had been remodeled at some point and none of the original elements had been kept. I left the toilet, sink and tub in the same locations, and a mahogany MCM nightstand was converted into a vanity that worked with the feel of the home and suited the very small footprint of the room.

I would have liked to incorporate more midcentury

The camera lens exaggerates the size of the compact interior, where four can dine on LEM Piston barstools at the peninsula counter. The kitchen's five-panel glass door was taken back to its original mahogany stain, and track lighting kept the ceiling grid pristine. In the living room, drywall replaced knotty pine tongue-and-groove paneling above the stone surround, and the brass fire screen was retained. On the window wall, the blinds are hidden behind new mahogany valances.





furniture into the home, but my budget was so maxed from the remodel that I worked with previous pieces I had accumulated and used MCM accessories to harmonize with the style of the home.

Overarching Themes

When thinking about this project as a whole, I wanted to preserve and restore as many original details of the space as possible while considering tasteful changes that would emphasize the interior architecture and align with my overall design aesthetic.

Keeping the midcentury roots of the home in mind, I envisioned a space that would lend itself to nature. I wanted to bring in a subtle feeling of water, since Colorado has no ocean and tends to be arid. Artist Carol Ann Wachter's blue abstract painting in the living room inspired me to introduce blue into the home, and its watery, ocean-like feel works with the tile I chose for the kitchen. After learning of Carol Ann's work, I incorporated many of her pieces into my home.

I also found a very large MCM sunburst online by an artist with the last name of McKinney, and knew it would be the



In the mostly white bedroom, four Carol Ann Wachter pieces hang on the far wall, and over the bed is a sculpture from Rustic Modern Designs on Etsy. "I have always wanted one of the Jeré sculptures and snatched it up when I found it at ModLivin," says Demmy about the metal wall art hanging over the Stua Sapporo storage units. West Elm lamps sit on the Drexel nightstands.

The vintage nightstand-turned-vanity floats on the wall of the home's solo bath.

The shelves and mirror are Smedbo, the toilet is by Icera and the fixtures are Graff and Hansgrohe. A Robern light bar looks suitably midcentury, and the counter is the same Caesarstone as in the kitchen. When the toilet leaked and ruined the new maple flooring, Demmy since replaced it with a smaller version of the Ann Sacks'

Savoy tile used in the shower.





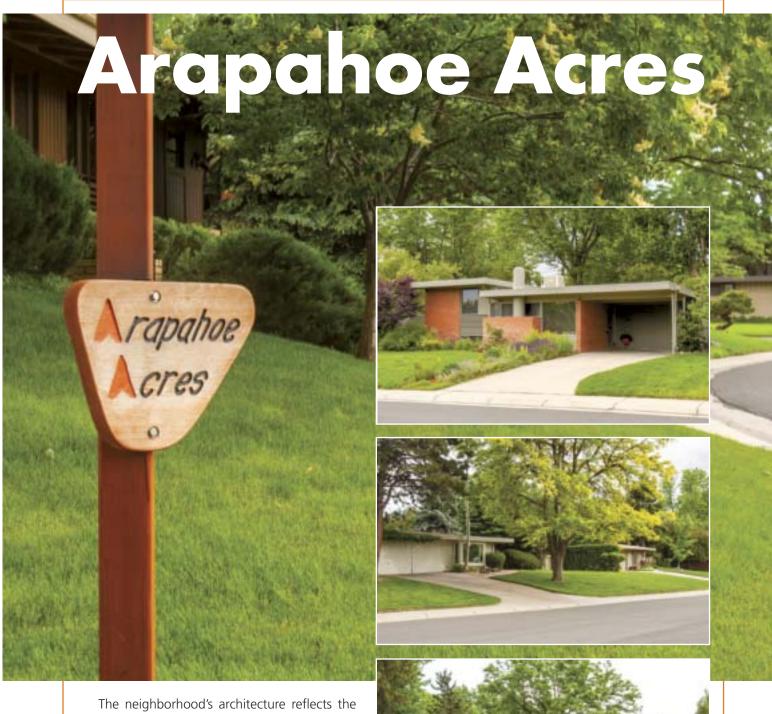
In the bedroom used as an office, a new Swag
Leg Armchair by George Nelson and a vintage
credenza set off the artwork. The three circular
abstracts are by Demmy, while the colorful piece
between the windows is a Carol Ann Wachter ink
on paper. A metal trim piece caps the drywall that
covers the original brick walls, and a sculpture by
Julie Thevenot hangs over the computer.

perfect piece for the largest wall in the living room. Parallel Group nightstands by Barney Flagg for Drexel were used in the bedroom, and my luckiest find was a 'Raindrops' sculpture by the design collaborative Curtis Jeré, which I hung in the bedroom.

I'm not a person who thrives on acquiring things, but when I come across something that sticks with me or knocks me over the head with interest or curiosity, I find that I usually can't resist the desire to incorporate it into my life. This happened most intensely when I came across my Arapahoe Acres home. I felt so strongly that I wanted to purchase it, and I had never felt that about any other house. The home has an authentic charm, and I was attracted to that immediately.

Resources page 78

Kimberly Demmy is an interior designer who resides in Denver and Santa Monica. To learn more about her design services, visit kimberlydemmydesign.com. Boulder-based Daniel O'Connor specializes in residential and commercial photography, and his work has been published in Modern in Denver; visit danieloconnorphoto.com.



The neighborhood's architecture reflects the International Style, which focuses on functionalism and reductionism, and Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian housing, a model of naturalism, energy efficiency and economical construction. The street signs were custom designed by Edward Hawkins and featured A's in the shape of arrowheads, a reference to the Arapahoe tribe that once populated the area. —*K.D.*



Plantation, Fla.





nome page

Plantation, Fla.

H. Miller and Sons built our Asian-inspired 'Contempra' model ranch in 1970. We bought it because of its MCM traits: an open floor plan, sliding walls of glass, sunken living room and a garden courtyard entrance. We replaced the roof and are pleased with the new charcoal mansard shingles. The kitchen still has its white Formica countertops and backsplash, and the cabinets are a matte black laminate, which we think looks very current. The light is amazing and every room is open to the outdoors and/or the screened lanai and pool. A wonderful way to enjoy our south Florida weather and wildlife 365 days a year!

Brooke Anderson & Paul Gierse

Kansas City, Mo.

After years of searching and waiting, we were lucky to find this beautiful 1961 mod ranch in the Northland section. It's a three-bedroom, two-bath ranch with walkout basement, which is a rare feature on a midcentury modern in this region. The previous owners did a fantastic job with updating and keeping the original paneled walls, so we've spent most of our energy on vintage furnishings and decor. Out the windows is a deck that overlooks a large, half-acre yard with lots of trees; the light is incredible in the evening sunsets.

Matt Bramlette & Rick Leavitt

Pittsburgh, Pa.

I purchased this 1961 two-story home in 2010 from the widowed original owner. The home was designed and built to their specifications and included high-end finishes and exacting construction details, but was beginning to need some TLC. The center core home rises to the full height of the roof and is paneled in cherry, with walls of glass that allow you to see through the house from front to back. A bridge connects sleeping areas at each end of the second floor, while the master suite occupies one entire end of the house and includes a bath, sitting area and cantilevered balcony. The exterior features Tennessee marble in nearly pristine condition, and the original owner left the plans for the house as well as a local newspaper article from 1962 highlighting its design.

Jim Rubino & Dwayne Devinney

We're running low on great homes; send in a high-resolution photo or sharp snapshot and a couple of sentences about your cool pad for our next issues. See contacts page 5.

Making the most of a 320-square-foot addition Cabin Fever

text Michelle Gringeri-Brown
photography Greg Page & Susan Gilmore

humble 1970s cabin on the 'Sconsin side of the St. Croix River dividing Minnesota from Wisconsin sits some 30 minutes from the Twin Cities. Owned by a family of four for several decades, the ranch house had two bedrooms and a bath in the daylight basement, another bedroom and bath upstairs, along with a small living room and a claustrophobic kitchen that measured less than six feet wide. Recreation and relaxing happened on the deck and in the gorgeous wooded property, but meals were eaten on the floor by the coffee table or outdoors on the screened porch. Luxe digs these were not.

"The house belongs to former clients and good friends of mine," says designer David Heide. "We lived there ourselves one winter when we were remodeling our own house. Three or four years later, the heat at the cabin went out and the pipes froze when no one was there for months. Water leaked down into the basement; it was an absolute disaster. There was mold that had to be scraped off the ceilings, and pretty much everything had to be removed and replaced. I don't think this [remodel] project would have happened had that not occurred."

Because the owners anticipated spending more time at the cabin as retirement approached, this seemed like the juncture to create more gracious spaces for entertaining and overnight guests, as well as a dedicated dining area. Their own aesthetics and National





Scenic Riverway guidelines ruled out a mega vacation mansion, so the talent at David Heide Design Studio was just the right fit for the makeover.

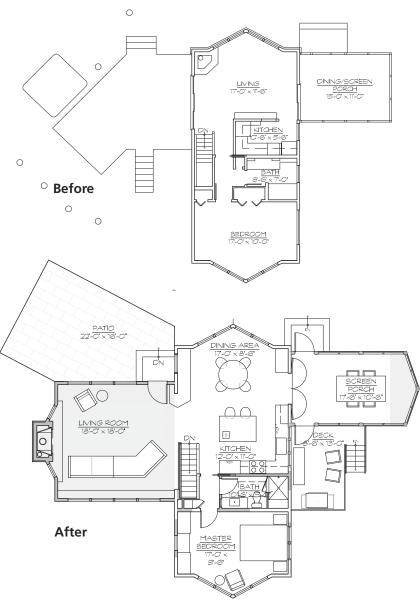
The company does a lot of work in the Arts and Crafts idiom because of the building stock in Minneapolis-St. Paul, but the 12-person firm has no signature look. "Good design transcends style; style is really the language in which design is spoken," Heide says. "Understanding the building, understanding its principles and furthering them as appropriate is really a midcentury thing.

"There was an order to the house: [it was] a basic rectangle with a vaulted roof down the middle and expressed construction in the timberframe structure of the roof. It was kind of trying to reach out and let the outside in, with limited success. But you could see there were elements and thoughts about that. And the views are absolutely magnificent."

The designer typifies the owners as super-hands-on, but very willing to listen. Their mantra was hire the expert, let them do their job, then question everything they do. And at this point in their careers, the homeowners had the time to be involved in most of the details and decisions that cropped up.

The husband was firm that the ceilings had to remain natural wood, and both spouses





The lofted living room sits where there once was a deck, while the porch is much the same, though a more sophisticated design. The same openings were used for the new windows, but muntins and separate clerestories were eliminated so the sight lines are now uninterrupted.

A view of the enlarged patio is seen on page 2.







shared a sentimental connection to the physical place and the original building. "They were interested and open to changes, but in a way that was respectful to family memories and the original house," Heide muses. "We left things that didn't need to be fixed or changed as they were. The views, the location of the master bedroom and bath on the main floor, keeping bedrooms small and retaining the feeling of the old screened porch were all important."

Despite the flood and mold issues, the home was in solid condition. A 320-square-foot addition that created a new living area and expanding the screened porch a touch was the final solution. One special request from the homeowners was to use a known local contractor, Tom Patnode, who impressively



Construction





In the kitchen, selections include honed granite counters, a backsplash of Royal Mosa glass tile and custom cabinetry. The fridge is a Liebherr, the hood a Zephyr, and the sconces over the sink are Eglo Riga, while the Aro stools are from Bernhardt Design. Down a short hall is the master bedroom and bath.

Opposite, top: In this construction view taken from the kitchen, the original peak over the dining space (once the living room) is visible, while the new roof vault line is above and continues off camera left into the living room addition.

Fantastic views of the river and woods are at every turn. Bluestone tile clads the floor, while the Paulownia-veneer wallpaper continues the gray theme of the kitchen.



Before



The 2.0 screened porch is about four feet longer than the original one and has a prow and exposed-wood ceiling that matches design details on the house. took on all the elements of the two-year remodel with only the occasional helper.

The studio was responsible for the interior design as well. "The owners wanted a more contemporary aesthetic and we struggled a little with How do you do something ultra-modern and maintain a woodsy aesthetic? The wife wanted to make a bow to the vintage of the house without being a slave to it and creating false historicism," explains Heide.

"There's this layering of more organic materials with sleeker, modern materials. The floors are natural stone with some warmth to the color, and yet it has a smooth, matte finish—more organic than porcelain tile. The drystacked stone fireplace is another organic material, and the wall covering in the dining room is actually slices of wood," he continues.

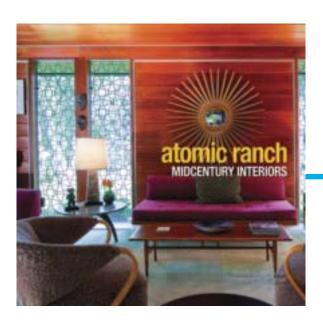
The new kitchen continues that thought with a redwood island base made from the old screened porch flooring but topped with honed granite. "One of the connectors for me is the matte gray backsplash that ties into the stone floors, the countertops, the gray wall covering and the colors in the fireplace wall. Gray is one of the clients' favorite colors—not something we hear often."

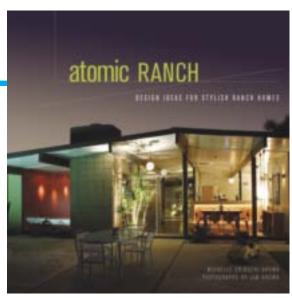
Floor plans and before and construction photos courtesy David Heide Design Studio. Resources page 78.

000KS&Dacks

Atomic Ranch: Design Ideas for Stylish Ranch Homes

Plenty of ranches from our early issues to inspire you: modern kitchens and baths, DIY landscaping and tips on pulling together a retro interior. Resources, history, decorating on a dime—it's got it all. Michelle Gringeri-Brown & Jim Brown, hardcover, color and b&w photos, 192 pp., \$40





Atomic Ranch: Midcentury Interiors

Explore eight ranch interiors in depth—from warm moderns and split-levels to tract homes and retro traditionals—in our 2012 book. The homeowners share their experiences with economical finishes and furnishings to adding on a master suite and reworking a tight floor plan. Michelle Gringeri-Brown & Jim Brown, hardcover, 200 color photos, 192 pp., \$40

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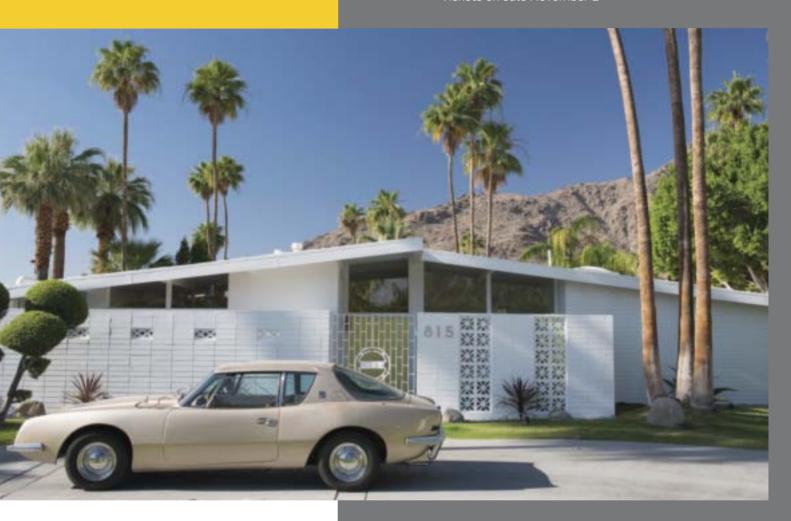




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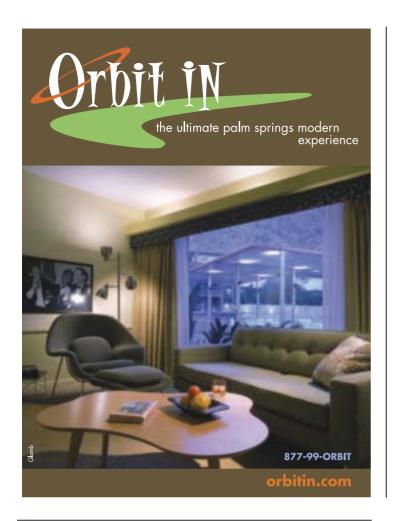
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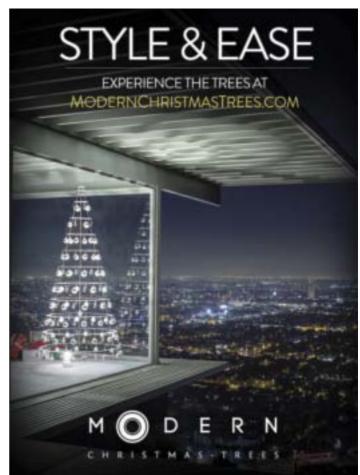
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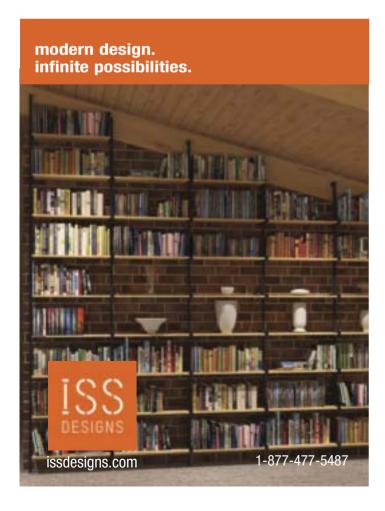
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A Sure Thing modern landscaping: creating privacy on a corner lot





Ten years ago, Tony and Josette Schuur

weren't even looking for a house when they stumbled across a 1954 brick ranch in Portland, Ore. They were already collecting midcentury furniture and art in their '20s bungalow, so it fit their underlying aesthetics and they jumped on it. The house had been flipped by a local tile manufacturer, so while some of the choices weren't really in synch with the age of the home, it was a turnkey purchase.

After moving in, the couple added some personal touches and upgrades—ebonizing the hardwood floors, painting, upgrading the electrical, adding central air and replacing leaky single-pane windows in the daylight basement.

"We were so caught up with all the inside stuff we neglected to think about the yard, especially the lack of privacy a corner city lot provides," says Tony. "If I had a dollar for all the times I heard, 'What's for dinner?' as I barbequed on the side lawn next to the busy sidewalk, I'd be a wealthy man."

The lot had a dogwood and four Japanese maples in front, a tall hedge and miles of grass—more than 1,700 square feet to mow and edge, just counting the parking strips. The Schuurs instead wanted a flexible plan with room to relax, entertain, cook and grow vegetables—and to do so without always being on display to passing walkers and bikers.

So began a multiyear design process that ultimately ended up with an epiphany after building some rusted steel planters for a small vegetable garden. "The rust really picks up on the color of the house mortar and has an earthy yet modern sensibility," Tony says. "You just can't slap a wood fence up on this architecture and call it good."

"For us, that isn't being a good steward of this house," Josette, a 41-year-old art director, adds.

"I had studied the Case Study Houses, and a few by Craig Ellwood always stood out for me. I loved his use of steel and translucent glass to add privacy from the street and I felt it would complement our architecture as well," the 45-year-old advertising executive producer explains.

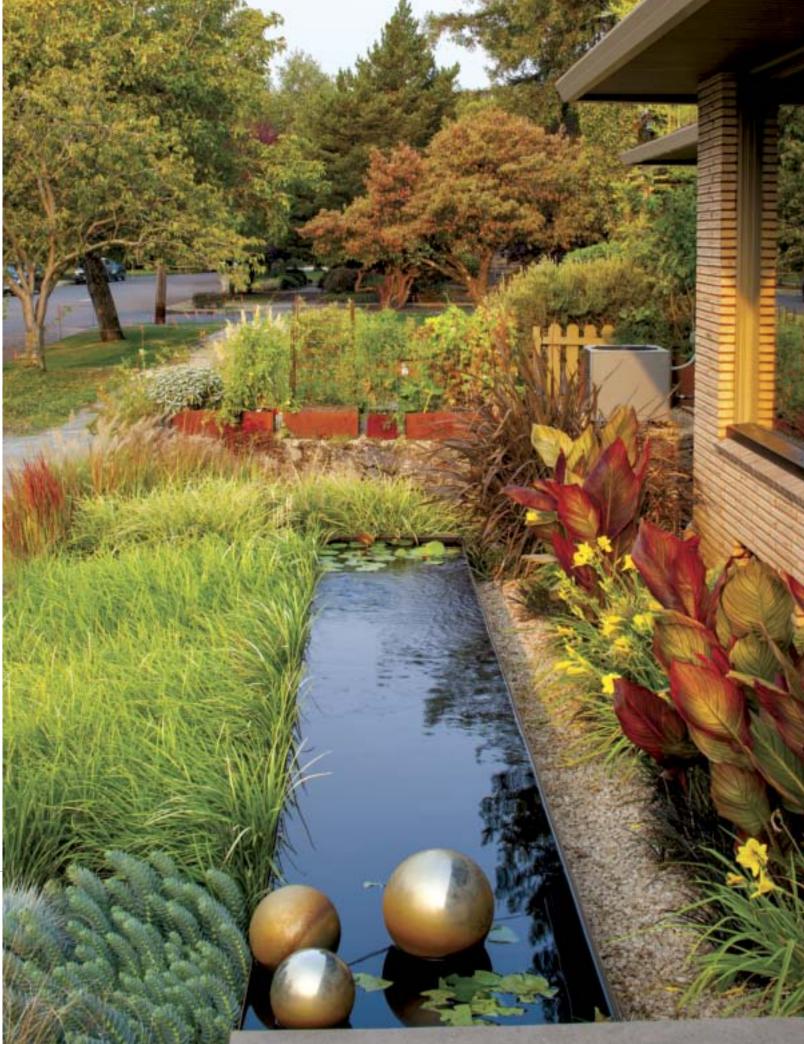
Although the couple knew what materials they wanted to use, they still needed help in drafting the plans, so they hired an architect. "At the end of the day, we didn't care for all his recommendations; we felt they weren't modern enough for this

Previous spread: The streetscape is planted with a variety of grasses, euphorbia, sedges, succulents, daylilies, cannas, New Zealand flax and a specimen manzanita. The tallest grasses are Karl Foerster in fall color.

Looking west we see the openbottom planters of the vegetable garden that spurred the use of rusted steel in other areas of the yard, and an original rock retaining wall that leads to the below-grade garage. The water feature has decorative metal globes and water lilies, while the colorful cannas and daylilies stand out from the tan brick front facade.

the 20' steel reflecting pool

bounces rippling light onto the ceiling



Opposite, top: Brass buttons ground cover watered by a drip system and decorative pebbles fill the voids between the custom concrete pads. Seasonal plantings in monumental pots soften the hardscape.

Below: Clematis armandii covers the tall steel fence, while the softening planter holds euphorbia, sedges, grasses and heuchera; Sasaella ramosa, a ground cover bamboo, edges the sidewalk.

Opposite, bottom: A Japanese maple shadows the fence and gate leading to the sidewalk planting seen below. Vintage Homecrest furniture sits behind an original brick planter that wraps the covered east patio off the dining room.

house, so we redid the plans ourselves," Josette says. "But we have to give him credit for pushing the boundaries and suggesting wrapping the fence around the front corner of the house. Although we knew we were breaking city code, he said to build first and ask for forgiveness later, so we did."

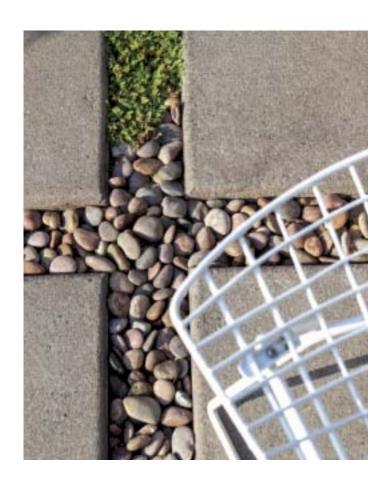
The Schuurs became the general contractors, hiring Daniel Baca of Baca Metal Works for the extensive metal fabrication, sourcing all of the materials and diving in full bore with the build. "Along with Daniel's friend Dirk Wallace, we were known as the four crazy kids on the corner, building what to some at the time probably looked like a cross between the Berlin Wall and Thunderdome," Tony jokes. "An elderly gentleman shuffling by one afternoon, looked up and muttered, 'You just ruined a perfectly good house,' and kept walking. Ugh; talk about a buzzkill!"

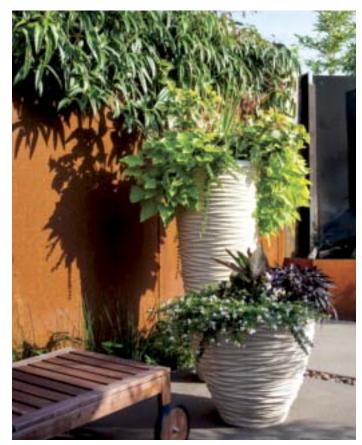
Fortunately not everyone felt that way. A neighbor they'd never met dropped off a midcentury vase and a nice note about how much she loved their design. "It was hard hiding some of the home's architecture, especially the beautiful built-in planters, behind a wall," Josette admits.

The plan included a 35' exterior planter, steel and Plex fencing, a corner fireplace, a dedicated dining area and DIY outdoor kitchen, as well as the home's original covered flagstone side porch. Bret Penselin of Oregon Outdoor Landscaping helped with the fireplace plumbing, landscape lighting, drip irrigation and a reflecting pool.

Tony learned to weld during the massive project. "We chose mild steel instead of COR-TEN, since getting that much material on the West Coast would have been cost prohibitive," Josette recalls. The couple rusted the steel once it was in place by











the couple have a beautiful, year-round, drought-tolerant landscape

sanding off any remaining oils, then spraying a warm saltwater solution using a wall-paper mister. It turned the surface orange overnight and quickly achieved an even, dark-rust patina after only a couple weeks.

"It took a lot of effort, but it got us the look we were after quickly. It normally would have taken years and never would have rusted as evenly," Tony adds.

Mike Brown from MikeCo Concrete was also instrumental in the process. What was first spec'd as 2' x 2' stone pavers became 5'-square, poured-in-place, tinted concrete, etched to look and feel like pool coping. "In the end, it was cheaper, longer lasting and way more modern looking," says Josette.

Out front, the landing was enlarged and cantilevered front steps poured. Under the front windows, the couple designed a 20' steel reflecting pool that bounces rippling light up onto the eaves and living room ceiling—a nice bonus in Portland's notorious gray weather.

The week after the Schuurs had completed most of the initial landscape plantings, they got served with code violations from the city. "They put a lien on our house and we spent countless hours downtown, being shuffled from one department to the next," Josette recounts. "Let's just say that, after many hours of dealing with the city, inspectors, permits, right of way and height issues, notifications to surrounding





Vintage Bertoia chairs and a Kagan ottoman sit near the outdoor fireplace and a sizable Fatsia japonica grows next to the Plexiglas and rusted-steel fence.

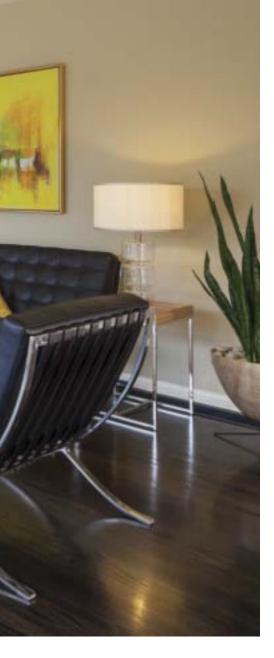


"We like to garden and keep things tidy, but we also didn't want to be slaves to the yard," says Tony Schuur. "Occasional weeding, deadheading, cutting back the grasses in spring, and a yearly pruning are all it takes. Since most things are on a drip system, during the summer it's about an hour or two a week."



An American of Martinsville dining set and a bar cart designed by Niels Erik Glasdam Jensen are lit by a Rejuvenation Galaxy pendant.





Barcelona chairs, a Bertoia Diamond chair with a Knoll bouclé cover and a vintage Eames Zenith shell rocker offer seating in the living room. Horizontal surfaces include a Platner side table, and coffee and end tables built of Striata from TorZo, a new wood product the couple and Dirk Wallace are collaborating on. Blenko glass, a Nelson spindle clock, Jonathan Adler pottery, an Esque Studio glass orb by the fireplace and bullet planters from Hip Haven are other details.



A Look Inside

During a flip by Pratt & Larson Ceramics, the Schuurs' home was given an attractive interior color palette and, unsurprisingly, a fair bit of new tile surfacing in various rooms. Fortunately the exterior Roman brick, original room sizes, flooring and windows were retained in the 2,860-square-foot, three-bedroom, three-bath ranch. Some of the material choices weren't what the couple would have made, but ripping out the 'improvements' seemed imprudent.

The living room fireplace wall now has a modern-bungalow tile cladding, perhaps designed to appeal to the Arts and Crafts fan base of the neighborhood. A Roman brick fireplace surround in the basement, likely similar to what was upstairs, was left as-is. "Originally we had Danish modern furniture upstairs but the fireplace treatment was too modern for heavy wood furniture," Tony Schuur says. "We instead went to vintage chrome and leather, which was a better fit."

Schoolhouse-style fixtures throughout were resold and replaced with vintage and reproduction midcentury lighting. The master bath's original salmon and cocoa field tile had been retained and combined with new polka dot tile on the floor and a coordinating trim in the shower, a melding that seems to work.

The kitchen offered the most aesthetic challenges. While the original cabinetry—painted an appealing two-tone green—was still in place, the counters were green slate tile, the backsplash a busy tumbled marble, with travertine on the floors. Tony and Josette ultimately couldn't abide the mix and decided to change the counters.

"We considered stainless steel or concrete counters, but they seemed too industrial for the house. It needed to be something that would go with the existing backsplash because we thought it was wasteful to rip that out," Tony comments. They settled on HI-MACS solid surface in a neutral color, and changed the floor to a grime-hiding, plainer travertine tile.

"This house needed a lot of attention," he says. "It's gotten it."

-Michelle Gringeri-Brown

neighbors, a structural engineer and a \$3,500 fine, we were able to keep all that we had painstakingly built."

The duo also installed all of the plant material and shoveled yard after yard of mulch and crushed rock. After some trial and error with individual plants, they have a beautiful, year-round, drought-tolerant landscape that they're justifiably proud of.

"We're constantly getting compliments from people walking by, some even pull their cars over and yell out, 'I love what you've done to this house!' It makes all the hard work worthwhile," says Tonv.

By doing tons of research, finding the right people for the job and spending time with the house and landscape before starting the project, the couple was able to bring a job that was originally bid at \$90,000 down to \$45,000 and change. "We're proud of what we have accomplished. It's been a very inspiring experience on many levels," Tony muses. "Now the house and yard are one, like I hope the original architect would have intended."

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The bed and nightstands are family hand-me-downs, while the headboard was a panel from a store window display. An Eames shell chair, Bubble saucer lamp and reissued Nelson bench team up with Italian Raymor lamps with retrofitted Jonathan Adler shades. The Schuurs added the lighted valance over the window and painted one wall a deep chocolate color. Opposite, a custom patio table is teamed with white plastic Eames dining chairs.



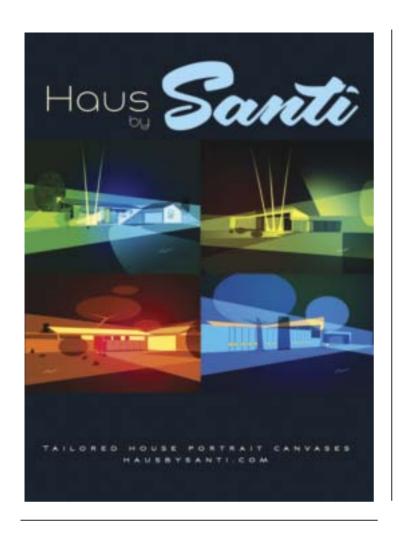






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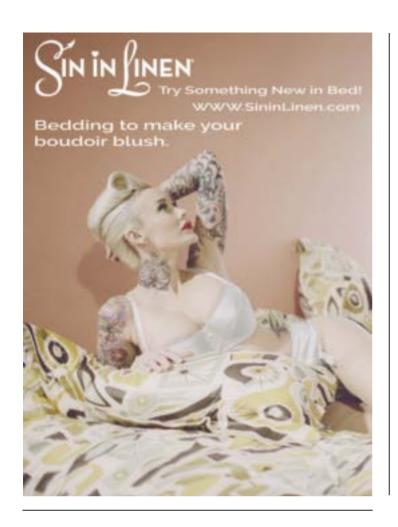






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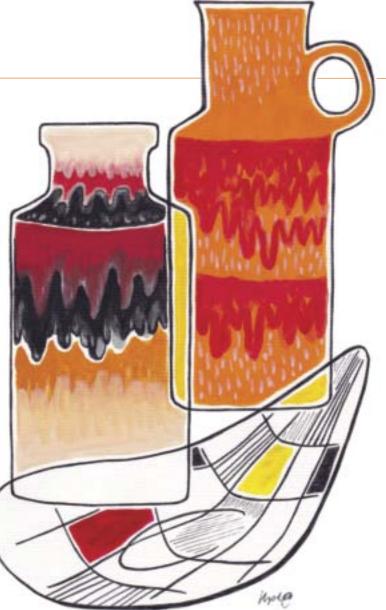












text Craig Campbell

photography Jacqueline Campbell

illustrations Hayley Weston

y parents were high school teachers on American military bases in Germany most of their adult lives. In the late 1960s through the '70s, my father collected antique clocks, while my more modern-leaning mother shopped for contemporary German pottery. Along with the ticking and tocking of grandfather clocks in every room, I took my mom's pottery for granted as a child. The ceramics may have been in stylistic opposition to the old-fashioned antiques my dad collected, but the strong designs and heavy browns and reds of Fat Lava pieces fit in nicely with the dark, ornate woodwork of the clocks.

Newfound appreciation

Years later I rediscovered my mom's cache of dozens of pieces. Digging through a box of dusty planters, I realized the pots were perfect for the decor in my '50s ranch. I wanted to know more about them. They seemed to fit into the modern aesthetic and, after some research, I discovered they were part of a European midcentury ceramic revolution when West Germans were looking to the future.

Soon I realized others were also seeing these objects with fresh eyes. In the short documen-







Above: A vase in Scheurich's dramatic brown and red motif.

Right: A Jopeko vase with the characteristic dripping lava glaze and a typical paper label.

Opposite: Fat Lava pieces by Bay Keramik and Scheurich.

tary Fat Lava, Dr. Graham Cody talks about a new generation rediscovering the value of midcentury West German art pottery. To many, these ubiquitous ceramics have taken on a new life. My mom's collecting was mostly pragmatic—she needed pots for her plants. Today I continue to add to the collection, focusing on vases and jugs and more experimental, bolder designs. (It is a good thing I am buying pieces, because after reading my article, my mom wants her pottery back.)

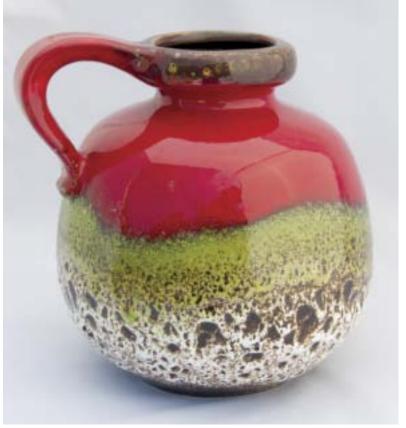
The name 'Fat Lava' was coined by Cody, an avid pottery collector who held the first exhibition of Fat Lava works at the U.K.'s King's Lynn Art Festival in 2006. In coordination with the exhibition, a book was produced by celebrity antique authority Mark Hill. As an expert on the BBC Antiques Roadshow and on his own program, Cracking Antiques, Hill, a former Sotheby's specialist, is the face of antiques in England. When he turned his atten-

tion to modern West German ceramics, the volcano erupted in this area of collecting. His book, *Fat Lava*, and the documentary he produced, which includes views of the exhibition and interviews with champions of the pottery, are both highly recommended.

Like no other

What makes this pottery exciting to own and display are the bold forms, vivid colors and unbounded designs. The West German works from this period have heavy glazes that often resemble lava rock—hence the name—but there is great variance in texture and color. The designers were pushing the limits of shape, texture and hue, and some of the glazes are otherworldly. According to Cody, this pottery cannot be replicated, as the chemicals used in the glazing process were toxic and would not be allowed in production today.





Above: This is among my favorite pieces, with stunning contrasts in color and texture that epitomize Fat Lava.

An exceptional vase in Scheurich's Lora series; the otherworldly flame design pops off this piece.

From Hill and Cody I learned some basic background about the molded ceramics I had grown up with. The first thing to know: Not much is known. One reason Fat Lava was largely ignored by collectors was the lack of information about the designers. Hill's and Cody's research has unearthed original catalogs from the 14 West German companies producing pottery, but very little information about East German and Italian makers.

The Italian designs are softer and more characteristic of abstract expressionism. West Germany's Scheurich was the most prolific producer during this time. Their work tends toward the pedestrian, but I enjoy the earthy glazes. The brown and red combination pictured below brings me back to my childhood. Scheurich stamped model numbers on the base of their pieces, so they are easy to identify.

Lately I have become more interested in Jopeko vases,

which resemble modern abstract art in form and often have a lava rock-like glaze. Jopeko can be identified by a gold foil label that marks their wares. Output was smaller and their pieces more experimental, so you can expect to pay much more for a Jopeko piece. Other makers to look for are Bay, Roth and Ruscha. Ruscha's designer, Otto Gerharz, is given credit for firing up the Fat Lava movement in 1959 with his innovative lava-red 'Vulkano' glaze.

Getting into it

By now, if you are still reading this, you want in. And your timing is good. Fat Lava is gaining in popularity, but pieces are abundant and relatively affordable. Most of this vintage pottery is found overseas, usually in Germany and the United Kingdom. Modern, odd, space-age designs and wild glazes demand more than a plainer pot or vase. For an average piece, shipping will



Above: I grew up with this red-banded Scheurich planter and am still drawn to this warm design every time I see it.

An elegant Scheurich vase in a vibrant mustard with white glaze rings.



Below, clockwise from left: An East German Strehla planter; the base of a Scheurich pot shows the three digit form number markings, followed by the height to the nearest centimeter; a Heywood-Wakefield sideboard holds a Philco Predicta television and a ponytail palm in one of the author's midcentury pots.







cost you about as much as the actual pottery. A pot can be as little as \$20, whereas an atomic-mushroom-cloud-shaped bowl in red lava glaze can cost hundreds. Now that there is a name for this category of ceramics, it is easy to find. An Internet search for Fat Lava will deliver hundreds of offerings. There were many different objects—plant pots and vases being the most common—but I have also seen jugs, lamps, bowls and candleholders.

Fat Lava ceramics were (and I imagine still are) considered rather ugly by many. In Europe, everybody's parents had some old pieces, and they were usually in the garage or attic, castoff as old-fashioned and tacky. As I researched the history and saw the wealth of designs produced, my eyes opened to the beauty of my mom's collection. I began by borrowing the tamer pieces that fit into my concept of modern. Like many arts—jazz music for instance—as I learned more about Fat Lava I gained new appreciation for the initially repellant outlandish designs and grotesque glazes. Wild colors that used to repulse me have become the most interesting. Believe me: It could happen to you!

With minimum research you will find a Fat Lava piece that suits your current aesthetic. Far superior to ubiquitous terra-cotta, I actually use some of my Fat Lava pots for houseplants. The planters are well made and the plants seem happier in them. I'm not afraid to plunk

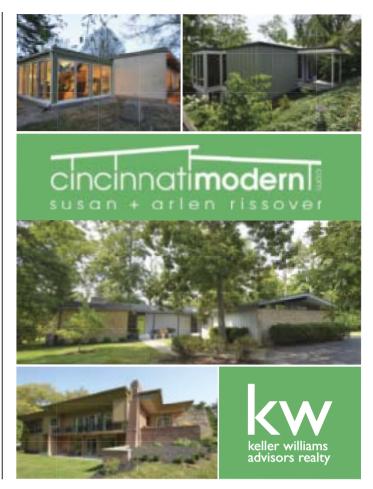


some daisies in the loveliest of vases, either. The objects, though indeed art, were made to be used. The West German maker Scheurich, still in production today, calls their products "fashion for plants." Who can argue that your fern would look better dressed in some Fat Lava?

Craig Campbell is a creative writing teacher at a fineand performing-arts high school in the greater Detroit area. He and Jacqueline Campbell are both members of the band Rock 'n' Roll Monkey & the Robots. Their last article for the magazine was Collecting: Shirt-Pocket Transistor Radios in Winter 2007, no. 16.

Illustrator Hayley Weston is a Melbourne-based, midcentury modern design fanatic who creates original, hand-drawn works based on her love of the era's style, culture, cocktails and music; visit modernbyhayley.etsy.com.









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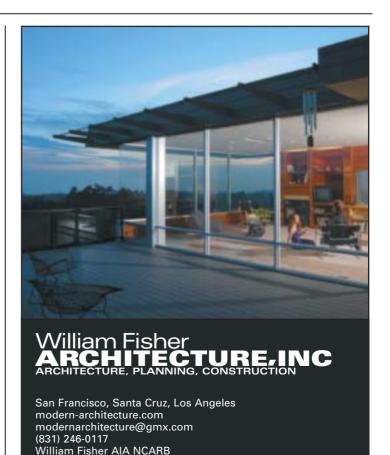
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A tale of Two Kitchens text Michelle Gringeri-Brown



The Collector's Kitchen

photography Marcia Prentice

Insurance VP Bruce Rockwell and his wife, Emily, an attorney, spent 15 years in their 1955 home before tackling a kitchen upgrade. "We had lived in the house long enough to know that the layout was quite functional and didn't need to be significantly changed," he says. "The kitchen cabinets were falling apart and the appliances needed upgrading. We knew nothing about midcentury modern design before moving in, but I did a lot of research in time for the kitchen redo in 2013."

The couple live around the corner from Case Study House #10 in Pasadena, Calif., and they spied a construction sign for Design Vidal when walking their German shepherd past the property. "I thought that they must know midcentury modern, so I visited their website and arranged to meet them," recalls Rockwell, 62.

Design Vidal is Karen and Guy Vidal; she's the designer, he's the business guy.

"Bruce's original kitchen had some great moments—original cabinets, great natural light and a good-size footprint," Karen Vidal says. "But there were some major aesthetic weaknesses, such as busy granite countertops and a series of doors with a laundry and a pantry [behind]. All the doors made that space feel more like a hallway than part of the kitchen. Finally, the kitchen sink was right under the pass-through [to the family room], so I relocated it to beneath the window facing the back yard."

Switching to a tankless water heater and relocating the furnace freed up space in a hall closet for the washer and dryer. This then meant room in the kitchen for a wet bar and a

Opposite: Above the pass-through to the family room, the display niches were carefully measured and designed to show off the homeowner's collectibles to best advantage. Heath dimensional Diamond tile was chosen in Tropics Blue crackle glaze in the workspace, and the boomerang pulls are from Rejuvenation.

Frosted pebble glass sliding doors and a 'hoodie-ring' bar sink are paired with a Dornbracht Elio faucet and more Heath Diamond tile in the wet bar area on the opposite wall. The Galaxy threelight pendant is new, while the others are vintage.



banquette that offers casual dining or a place for cocktails when entertaining.

"When we moved into the house in 1998, I suggested that we furnish it in a 1950s style, not having much of an idea what that was," Rockwell recounts. "I began doing research, going to flea markets, modern shops and visiting eBay, and then started purchasing. Basically, I collect anything that screams the '50s."

Vidal shared Rockwell's affinity for vintage collectibles, so they were on the same page virtually from the get-go. "Bruce almost didn't have to say anything—his love of original midcentury is so pronounced that we knew right away what he wanted. He was open to suggestions, like moving the sink and the laundry, and he loved the idea of creating a bar and adding a built-in banquette," Vidal explains.

"He was involved in every step. Bruce has a strong visual sense, so he knew immediately what he liked. Once I showed him Heath dimensional tiles as an option for the backsplash, there weren't any other contenders," she continues. "He's a historical Pasadena enthusiast, and the

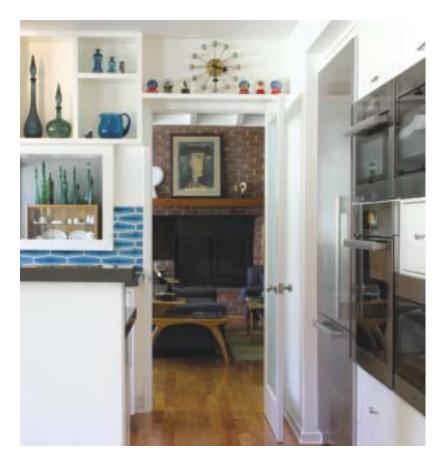
Norton Simon Museum with Edith Heath's tile installation is just down the street from his house, so it was a wonderful tie-in.

"We chose the two tile colors based on a small painting that he wanted to make sure had a place in the kitchen. For the appliances, Miele worked best visually because of the minimal styling and they also have the best function, so that was an easy choice."

"My favorite elements are the Heath tile backsplashes and all the aluminum ceiling and bullet lights," Rockwell says. "I'm always drawn to vintage first; we have almost no reproductions of anything. The only reason I went new on the light over the dinette table was at Karen's suggestion, and the quality is probably better than an original. I insisted on boomerang cabinet pulls, and the ones from Rejuvenation just fit the bill.

"There was absolutely no tension between [choosing] a contemporary kitchen and a midcentury one," he adds. "I've become obsessed with the period and wanted to keep the house true to the era. The kitchen ended up just great!"

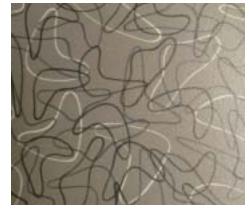




The appliance and storage wall includes a convection wall oven, a speed oven (combining convection, microwave and often a grill element) and two built-in microwaves. The Miele cooktop has a downdraft exhaust fan and the bar counter is boomerang Formica.







Left and opposite: When the dinette table and chairs are moved aside, the banquette is perfect for parties with the addition of a vintage coffee table.







Thoughtful details like the stacked base and midcentury tapered legs on the breakfast banquette tie the remodel stylistically to the vintage dinette table, kitchen canisters and other period collectibles.



Decorative glassware stands out against the Bright Yellow gloss–glazed Heath backsplash on the wet bar.

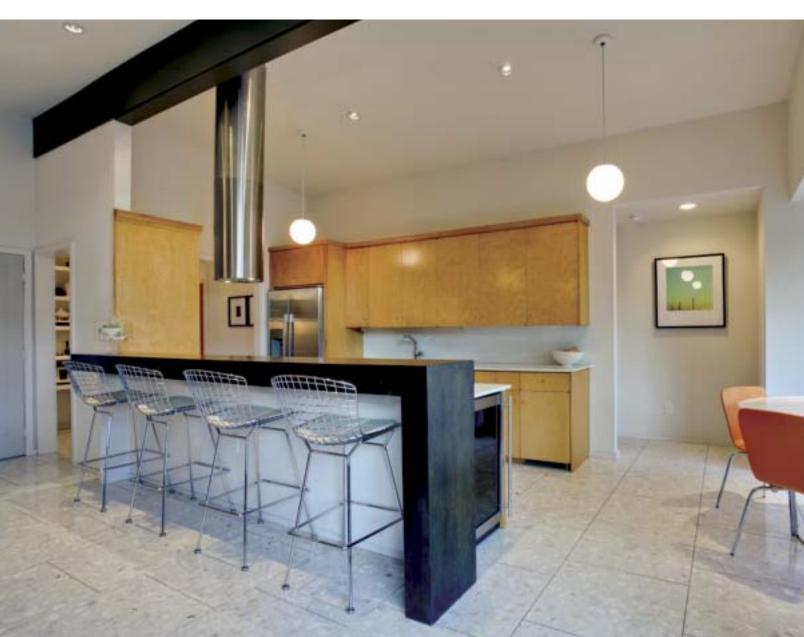


The Realtor's Kitchen

photography Shoot2Sell

John Weber bought his brick ranch in Dallas from the original owners. Four years later, he has added on a new master bath in the rear, lightly updated the front and rear facades and reworked the interior spaces to reflect his preferred mix of contemporary in a yesterday setting. In the kitchen, he kept some of what he found while making it look thoroughly modern.

"The house was built in 1957 by one of Dallas' more well-known midcentury architects, Arch Swank, for one of his cousins," the 38-year-old Realtor says. Weber hired Chad Dorsey of More Design + Build for the remodel, which included merging two rooms and changing the functions of several original spaces.







A knockoff tulip table is surrounded with West Elm molded wood chairs, similar to the Cantrelle models on overstock.com; the barstools are Harry Bertoias from Knoll. All of the appliances are Fisher & Paykel, with the exception of an off-brand beverage fridge at the end of the breakfast bar.

The height of the lofted ceiling required a custom duct for the Vent-A-Hood exhaust fan, and tall cabinets opposite and wrapping the fridge were built to match the originals.



A custom credenza that matches the breakfast bar hangs near a new Malm fireplace and a Sapien bookshelf in the living room.

The black beam in the living room marks where the space was once divided into two rooms.

The kitchen faced a narrow family room, which was next to the master bedroom. Those two spaces are now one large, open-plan den, and the master bedroom moved to what was a formal living room and dining room.

"The previous family room was so small that none of my furnishings would have worked," Weber says. "I flipped the plan and made the master separate from the other bedrooms, gained a larger family room and lost the formal living and dining—making it a more livable layout for my lifestyle."

In the kitchen, he kept both the baby and the bathwater. "The kitchen cabinets are birch and were kept intact and refinished to the original stain color. They already had some great amenities, like pullout drawers in the larger cabinets, and the boxes were in terrific shape. We removed overhead cabinets between the kitchen and family room because the height of those was designed for the original owner to see into the [adjoining] room, but they were too low for most other [people]," he explains.

A few new cabinets were added for additional storage, and quartz counters and a glass backsplash installed. The ceiling was raised and, with the wall between the kitchen and family room gone, the space became much lighter and brighter. Older, unoriginal white appliances were replaced with stainless steel, and a new breakfast bar is wrapped in dark oak. Terrazzo tile flooring—chosen for its period-appropriateness—ties the two rooms together, and ball lamps from bedroom closets became the kitchen pendants.

"Luckily we had the plan drawings from Arch Swank with all of the original materials lists. The only challenge was, in order to open up the ceiling, we had to





rework some of the mechanicals because that was the only attic space in the entire home—every other ceiling is vaulted," Weber explains.

"I went to Chad Dorsey and his team due to their knowledge and appreciation of older homes and homes with architectural significance. They had done several midcentury houses in the area and understood that I didn't want to necessarily gut the house but [more] improve on what Swank had originally designed."

Mission accomplished.

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This is one of a pair of lamps my parents bought when they were married in 1957. Few people know how to turn the lamp on, as the switch is the small white collar at the base of the shaft, which

rotates. I always fought my mom to keep these lamps, as they are so unique, so naturally they're mine now.

Everything is original, but the wood finials are missing



and the drum shades need some work—the metal frame needs welding, but the fabric is in great condition. Also, one of the lamp bases is a little loose and needs some of its parts tightened up to keep it from leaning. How can I find a reputable lamp renovator who knows how to work with lamps of the modern era and this unique switch?

ML San Miguel

A: A traditional lamp repair shop can likely figure out the nuances of the repairs your lamps need—and

might enjoy seeing some unusual specimens that were built to last. We've personally had various vintage lamps rewired and tuned up by Larry's Lighting Repair here in Portland, Ore. Two of our MC lighting advertisers had some suggestions to share as well.

D'Lana Arthur of Moon Shine Lamp & Shade (moon shineshades.com) replied, "We can restore these for her. I have never worked with that type of switch before, but we are not replacing that so it would not be a problem. They are a beautiful pair; love them!"

Kelley Sandidge of Hip Haven (hiphaven.com) had some additional thoughts: "What a great lamp! As for tightening it up, in most cases that can be done underneath the lamp base by just tightening down the nut that holds it all in place. Often that means peeling off the felt on the base of the lamp, but if you are careful, it might stay intact and be easy to glue back down.

"As for the welding, as far as I know it couldn't safely be welded without removing the fabric. It might be worth trying some J-B Weld on the broken piece of the metal frame."

I've been slowly restoring our 1948 Roman-brick ranch house here in Seattle to include some period details. It's been extremely difficult to find a MCM outdoor post lamp (e.g., a vintage Lightolier). My current one was installed by the prior owner and it is Arts & Crafts style. While not horrible, I'd like something a little more atomic age in appearance. Any suggestions? Tracy Lemke

A: The Home Depot carries white acrylic globes and, depending upon the size of the shade fitting, and the scale and ornateness of your current A&C post, it might be as simple as switching out the top lamp. Here's a link to an economical model by Newport Coastal:

goo.gl/KfijRi.



Left to right: Hollywood Hills, Cascade and Solara.

Presuming that you're looking for a 6' to 8' fixture, not path-light height, if you want something contemporary, the field opens up quite a bit. These models from YLighting.com would look great at a modernish ranch or in a minimalist landscape. The Hinkley Solara and Cascade are both LED models, and the Philips Hollywood Hills 1 takes an incandescent, CFL or LED; all are available in various finishes, and posts are sold separately.

We can also make the argument that, depending upon how traditional or modern your home is architecturally, it quite likely had a Colonial-style fixture once upon a time.

Q: My mother recently passed away and I inherited her exquisite Peter Hvidt & Orla Mølgaard-Nielsen sofa. I shipped it to my home in Phoenix, but the legs and nuts and bolts that hold it together were lost in the move. I am at a loss as to how I can replace the parts, especially the legs. If you have a recommendation, I'd greatly appreciate it.

Jennifer Baum

A: If your Hvidt & Mølgaard-Nielsen frame looks similar to this daybed from Deja Vu's website, it appears that both the chrome backrest and arm supports and the wooden legs are attached with through bolts and nuts. The examples we found online all shared the Experspring seat supports; if you need to replace those, Ranch Dressing in Nos. 44 and 46 has several resources.

If the legs you remember from your mother's piece are like those in the photo, Tablelegs.com gives lots of options, ranging from 4" to 29" tall: goo.ql/EfZq33. They have two profiles, a McCobb-style that tapers to a narrow point and can be dressed up with metal tips in six different finishes, while their Wegner-style is curved and a bit chunkier.

You'll want to select a length that gives the sofa a comfortable sitting height; our Finn Juhl Japan couch measures 13" from the floor, and a Grete Jalk sofa with the same coiled spring seat supports, sits 16" high. Be sure to allow for the cushion depth when measuring your piece.



You'll also need to see if the legs' standard hanger bolt length would work for your specific sofa, and select a wood species that either coordinates or contrasts with the frame color. If all of this is a bit too much to take on personally, sharing photos and website examples with an experienced furniture repair shop could help put the sofa back together for its next 50 years of service.

ranchdressing



I came across a sideboard at a yard sale in Toronto. The rich color of the wood and the angled legs called to me, even though there was a small ding on the bottom corner of the unit. My friend and I were surprised at the weight—we could barely hold on to it while going up the stairs. This intrigued me to find out more. I opened the drawer and there was a stamp that read 'Ruspan by Spanner' so I Googled it and found it was Canadian made, but no more than that. I was hoping someone would know more about this piece.

Michelle Richardson

A: Shauntelle LeBlanc, proprietor of Ethel–20th Century Living vintage shop in Toronto filled us in: "That is, indeed, a RuSpan piece and, yes, they are heavy as hell! We have a RuSpan Catalina dining set at home, and if a nuclear bomb ever hit, that set would still be standing.

"Spanner Products was a Toronto company that got its start making battery boxes in the '20s and eventually evolved into a furniture company. Some of the early RuSpan pieces have a battery-box-style seat. That line, and many after it, was designed by Russell Spanner, a son who joined the family business after a career as a semi-professional wrestler. (Here's a link: goo.gl/coA3bm.) He wanted the family company to be more modern and pushed for some American-style designs. In fact, I've often seen Spanner chairs mistakenly listed as Heywood-Wakefield on American websites.

"From 1950 to 1953, the Spanner factory manufactured his designs and they were sold through Canadian department stores like Eaton's and Simpson's. I've had a few RuSpan sets in the shop and they don't last long.





There's a lot of interest in Spanner, due to an exhibition 25 years ago at The Power Plant gallery in Toronto, curated by Robert Fones. Copies of the catalog, A Spanner in the Works, can sometimes be found online.

"The RuSpan stamp in the drawer is the same one as in ours at home, but I don't recognize the piece itself. The legs match our Catalina sideboard, but the door and drawer hardware aren't anything I've seen on a Spanner piece. It is quite possible this was from a small run that was manufactured but not put into major production."

Robert Fones weighed in as well: "Since doing the exhibition and catalog in 1990, I have seen a number of Spanner pieces that I didn't know about when I put the show together. Certainly the style of this credenza suggests a date of around 1950–52. The legs of the Originals line (1950) are rectangular in cross section, while the next line (Catalina) are slightly rounded. This [detail] could help associate this piece with a particular line. However, I also think that Spanner Products produced custom items, so this could be a custom order for a client."

Need a renovation resource or wondering if that flea market find is anything? Send your questions and photos to editor@atomic-ranch.com and we'll run them past our experts.





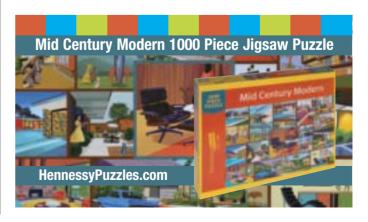




















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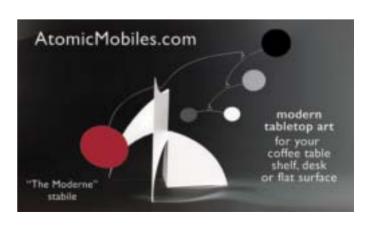
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Fall 2015 Mount Dora, Fla.

Esherick to Nakashima

Bringing together the works of Wharton Esherick and George Nakashima, this exhibition continues Modernism Museum Mount Dora's examination of the 'DNA of modernism.' Visit their site for the specific opening date, as well as info on the VIP opening with guest speaker Mira Nakashima, who will share insights into her father's work; modernismmuseum.org.

September 8-December 13 Brooklyn

Isamu Noguchi at Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Fifteen important sculptures dating from the 1940s to the '80s will be on view in the Japanese Hill-and-Pond Garden and elsewhere at the botanic garden as they celebrate their 100th anniversary; bbg.org.

September 11–13 Denver

Denver Modernism Show

The 10th anniversary of this midcentury furniture, collectibles and vintage clothing bazaar has a 'class reunion' theme, complete with a prom night and '70s fashion show. Music, dancing, cocktails, cars, a Charles Phoenix slideshow & lots of stuff to buy; denvermodernism.com.

Through September 20 Princeton, N.J.

Collecting Contemporary, 1960–2015: Selections From the Schorr Collection

The Princeton University Art Museum hosts works from Keith Haring, Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol and Jean-Michel Basquiat, among others; artmuseum. princeton.edu.

September 25–27 Sturbridge, Mass.

The New England Shake-Up

Bands, record hops, a vintage car show, an indoor pool—sounds good, right? Rockabilly, honky-tonk and roots musicians from Sweden, Australia, the U.K. and all across the U.S. perform, while vendors fill your yen for

retro apparel and all manner of midcentury kitsch. Or learn to dance in the ballroom of the Sturbridge Host Hotel; newenglandshakeup.com.

September 26 Wheat Ridge, Colo.

Mid-Century and Modern Tour

This every-other-year tour takes you inside both midcentury and contemporary modern residences in the Denver suburb; wheatridge2020.org.



Transcendence, 1958, Mariska Karasz

Through September 30 NYC

Pathmakers: Women in Art, Craft and Design, Midcentury and Today

Women made an important contribution to postwar modernism, and a Museum of Arts and Design exhibition focuses on clay, fiber and metalwork by the likes of Edith Heath, Eva Zeisel, Karen Kames, Toshiko Takaezu, Anni Albers and others; madmuseum.org.

October 2015–March 2016 Concord, Mass.

Middlesex County Modern

Harvard helped shape the landscape of the area's suburbs, when architects like Walter Gropius, Marcel Breuer and Henry Hoover experimented with modernism in Concord, Lincoln and Lexington. The Concord Museum's exhibition will include Scandinavian-inspired furniture, vintage ads for flat-roof homes, architectural models, building materials, photographs and driving tours; concordmuseum.org.

October 1–3 Fort Lauderdale

Ohana Luau by the Sea

A new sister event in south Florida to the summertime Lake George Ohana. Kitschy roadside attractions, thrifting, a Polynesian dance review, tiki artists and vendors, cocktails and likeminded friends; luaubythesea.com.

October 9–12 Palm Springs Modernism Week Fall Edition



Columbus Day weekend brings a mini-version of the February Palm Springs event that draws thousands of midcentury fans. Forty-five vintage dealers will be at the Modernism Show & Sale at the Palm Springs Air Museum, along with architectural tours, parties and a retro yard sale; modernismweek.com.

October 10 Nationwide

Docomomo Tour Day

An annual day of architectural tours and lectures in multiple cities and states, with details updated in September; check out what's near you at docomomous.org/tourday.

Through October 18 NYC

Andy Warhol: Campbell's Soup Cans and Other Works, 1953–1967

MoMA's exhibition title pretty much says it all: the 32 iconic soup can paintings, as well as *Double Elvis*, screenprints from Warhol's Marilyn Monroe series and commercial work from his early years; moma.org.



November 6–8 Sarasota, Fla. Sarasota MOD

The Sarasota Architectural Foundation's fall event will focus on Paul Rudolph's work, with lectures, tours and dinners at MCM homes, including the Umbrella House. A special day and night at The Ringling Museum will feature SAF's replica of Rudolph's Walker Guest House; sarasotamod.com.

Through November 29 Bloomfield Hills, Mich. Bent, Cast & Forged: The Jewelry of Harry Bertoia

In the centennial year of the artist's birth, the Cranbrook Art Museum has 30-plus examples of his jewelry on display, much of it produced during the early years of his career when he was a student and instructor at Cranbrook; cranbrookart.edu.

Through March 17, 2016 Corning, N.Y.
America's Favorite Dish:
Celebrating a Century of Pyrex



Learn about the history and enjoy the wide variety of vintage glass housewares at this Corning Museum of Glass exhibition; cmog.org.

You'll Like This...

addition to shooting, writing and assembling this issue of Atomic Ranch, there has been some feverish activity in the offices lately; beginning with the Winter 2015 issue, you'll start to see some of those changes.

For all you ink-and-paper traditionalists, you can look forward to wider availability on more newsstands around the country. And this issue, Fall 2015, is receiving special expanded displays in all Barnes & Noble bookstores, so tell your far-flung friends to check it out.

Many of you have asked (and continue to campaign) for digital editions, so I'm happy to report that soon there will be electronic versions of Atomic Ranch. Down the road, a digital archive will also be offered.

All in all, I think you'll be pleased with the new elements to your favorite magazine. Stay tuned... Jim Brown, Founding Publisher

resources

Historical Record, pp. 12-21

Arapahoe Acres Historic District: arapahoeacres.org * Artwork: carolannwachter.com # etsy.com/shop/ RusticModernDesigns **x** art-object.totokaelo.com/art **x** Jere sculpture & Bensen Neo sectional: modlivin.com **≭** Spindle coffee table & Mid-Century Task Table Lamps: westelm.com **X Plum & Bow Libby side table:** urbanoutfitters.com **X** Antwerp Floor Lamp: jonathanadler.com * Alfred Ivory rug: crateandbarrel.com **≭** Kitchen counters: caesarstone.com * Cabinetry: executivecabinetry.com * Hudson tile: mod-craft.com **≭ LEM barstools & Sapporo** storage units: dwr.com **≭** NUTID appliances: ikea.com **≭** Range hood: broan.com * Tankless water heater: us.navien.com * Bath: Vanity, furnishmevintage.com * Savoy tile, annsacks.com **≭** Mirror & shelves, smedbo.com **≭** Muse toilet, icerausa.com **≭** Fixtures, hansgrohe-usa.com **≭** graff-faucets.com **≭** Light, robern.com **≭** Office Swag Leg Armchair: hermanmiller.com

Cabin Fever, pp. 24-32

Architecture & interiors: David Heide Design Studio, dhdstudio.com * Windows: marvin.com * Appliances:

liebherr-appliances.com **x** zephyronline.com **x** Remy chairs & Aro barstools: bernhardtdesign.com **x** Custom dining table: JP Woodworks Ink, St. Paul, 651.225.4343 **x** Rug: surya.com/rugs

Sure Thing, pp. 36-47

Mild steel: thesteelyard.com * Metal fabrication:
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* Exterior systems: Oregon Outdoor Landscaping,
oolandscape.com * Kitchen counter: Ighausys.com
* Esque Studio glass jug: esque-studio.com

*** Galaxy pendants:** rejuvenation.com

A Tale of Two Kitchens, pp. 58-68

Collector's kitchen: Designers: designvidal.com *
Appliances: mieleusa.com * Counters: silestoneusa.com *
Tile: heathceramics.com * Galaxy pendant & drawer pulls: rejuvenation.com * Faucet: dornbracht.com * Realtor's kitchen: Designer: moredesignbuild.com * Appliances: fisherpaykel.com * Range hood: ventahood.com * Bertoia barstools: knoll.com * Fireplace: malmfireplaces.com *
Sapien bookcase: dwr.com

comingup



- ◀ Treasuring originality in Milwaukee
- ▶ An architect's son remembers
- ▼ A midcentury jewel in the rough



Plus, a heritage house in Houston and a modest Ontario kitchen

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