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# contents

12



## features

- 12 twin peeks**  
Inside an artist's two California homes
- 28 northern exposure**  
A Toronto pool house that multitasks
- 38 domestic goddesses**  
Innovative & trendy appliances—60 years ago
- 50 heaven in grand haven**  
Updating a Michigan brick ranch
- 64 boomerang on the bayou**  
Saving an abused original home in Houston

28



38

# summer 2015

## departments

- 4** meanwhile, back at the ranch ...
- 6** modern wisdom
- 34** home page  
Standouts in North Carolina, Vermont & Pennsylvania
- 48** books & backs
- 62** cool stuff  
A book you'll dig & a retro kitchen concept
- 72** ranch dressing  
ID that armchair, a Lane dining table & crunchy croutons
- 76** events
- 77** resources
- 79** coming up in atomic ranch
- 80** atomic advertisers

64



James Schnepf

62

### cover

One of two homes owned by an artist and his husband, this 1960s condo looks out over a golf course lake in Palm Springs. The development was designed by Richard Harrison, and this unit received an 11-week makeover to strip off the '80s ick. "Our theory was, you should be able to put an icy glass on anything and not ruin it," says co-owner Steve Ziel. "Palm Springs is all about fun, fun, fun..." Story page 12.



# meanwhile... back at the ranch

**A**bout the time you read this, the series finale of AMC's *Mad Men* will have aired. Always a favorite of our readers for its provocative depiction of the '60s, its subtle characters, irony and humor, themes of inequality and office dynamics are set dressed with the furnishings, fashions, music, cars and vices that define, in part, the Atomic Age.

Recently, during a particularly bleak period of home entertainment, we decided to rewatch the premier season. Eight years can be a long time, but it felt fresh, funny and actually deeper, foreshadowing future character development in the very first episodes. The guileful Dick Whitman's tragic childhood and assumption of the persona of Don Draper is laid out. Beyond his abilities as a salesman and writer, perhaps Don's greatest talent is convincingly becoming something that he is not. Peggy Olson's worldly awakening, coupled with her awkward navigation of a male-dominated business at great personal cost, is also compelling. Similarly, Joan Holloway develops from office hottie to smart partner, wrapped in a cover of icy control. And Betty Draper moves from clueless innocence to seething anger and resentment, collapsing her dream life. As for Roger Sterling and Pete Campbell, both come from privilege but Roger is secure, sardonic and in command, while Pete is immature, manipulative and a borderline sociopath.



The second-tier characters are almost as interesting: Harry Crane, Ken Cosgrove and Paul Kinsey huddle like a troop of immature males waiting for a silverback to fall. Sal Romano starts as a thinly veiled wag/Italian stallion but eventually is tragically discarded. A pleasant surprise was the switchboard crew, which included Flo the Progressive Insurance Lady and Kristen Schaal in episode one. While the male characters are outrageous with their unbridled plotting, drinking, smoking and carnality, the females are more nuanced and sympathetic. It may be *Mad Men*, but for me the women are the real heroes.

I'm also fascinated by reading about subtle details, such as the symbolic breast-pocket squares: Bert Cooper's five white corners announce his king status, ex-Navy man Roger's three peaks are either the sign of a prince or harken to sails, and Don's thin white line marks a man who is barely revealed.

While well-researched, *Mad Men* is the creation of Matthew Weiner, born in 1965, and his irony is consciously presented, not random. For me the funniest line of season one is from Roger: "Consider the product: he's young, handsome, a Navy hero. Honestly, it shouldn't be too difficult to convince America that Dick Nixon is a winner."

If now is television's second golden age, then *Mad Men* is the one series that uses midcentury to frame its discussion of life in middle class America. The dichotomy between the modern offices and the dark, conventional homes in season one plays to the era's turbulent societal changes. I can't imagine a reader who is unfamiliar with the show, but I'd urge everyone to rewatch and enjoy *MM*, perhaps with a splash of Canadian Club.

*Jim Brown*, Publisher

# atomic ranch®

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# modernwisdom



I am a big, big fan of your wonderful publication and wanted to thank you for the lovely weekends I spend reading your latest issues, snapped up quickly at my local magazine store and pored over with a hot cup of coffee. I really do adore your magazine, so please keep up the fantastic work!

I am a midcentury modern furniture and home wares collector, and I create original illustrations based on my love of this wonderful design movement. My inspirations include the surface patterns of Lucienne Day, Tamms Keefe and Vera Neumann; paintings by Lee Krasner; jazz album art of the '50s and '60s; and MCM abstract printed textiles. This is a recent illustration, created with adoration for the beautiful modernist tableware designs of Jessie Tait for Midwinter Pottery. I hope it brings a smile to your face.

**Hayley Weston**

*Melbourne, Australia*

\* I read Jim Brown's comments on the T&C [Tarek and Christina El Moussa of *Flip or Flop*] makeover of a MCM in Long Beach [page 4, No. 44]. I, like many others, do not care for their makeovers as they are adept

only at removing any original features of houses and replacing with boring, vanilla decor designed to appeal to the average, boring, vanilla consumer. However, I noted his comment about them removing time-capsule bathrooms and kitchens.

The houses you feature in your magazine never show time capsules, which is what MCM is all about. You show slick, upper-bracket contemporary redos of MCM homes, mostly in California. It is possible to redo a MCM and retain the original look; throwing in high-dollar designer furniture does not preserve the historical integrity of the building when everything else has been modified for current times.

I have a pink bathroom and an original kitchen, which still has appliances from the era (at least they



look like it). Why not show some of this type of house instead of millionaire contemporary redos that say nothing for MCM except that the owners have more money than anybody else?

**Marti Hall-Powers**

*Dissatisfied in Kansas City*

\* I almost fell out of my chair [when I saw the Winter 2014 cover]. This picture is of my backyard pool area, which I designed in 2012. The pool has an oversized sun ledge and no deep end to keep it child-friendly. A 'stuff hut' holds pool toys, plus towels and chemicals and can be easily broken down and moved, as it is in the utility easement. A projector and DVD player are connected to outdoor speakers for wonderful summer outdoor movie nights.





We love our 1960s ranch home, and I've worked hard to make a comfortable and beautiful place to raise our family.

**Cat Anderson**  
Houston

\* I felt compelled to comment on a letter to the editor accusing AR of catering to the 'super-rich five percent of the U.S. population' of modern home buyers [Winter 2014]. Unless this person has missed the last 9.9 years of AR magazines, I'm trying to comprehend what direction he wants you to go with your wonderful and informative mag. All of the subjects he would like to see, I feel like I read in AR past issues.

On the economic side: The lifeblood of magazines is advertisers. They would like to reach the most folks with the most money. It's all about fixing up your home with the products shown in the mag, [whether you're] wealthy or not.

*Modernism* magazine stopped because the folks that ran it (Rago Auctions) were using it as a promo tool to reach their customer base of auction buyers. I'm sure they found that it did not increase auction results, so no reason to keep it alive.

Keep up the great work providing info and sources for today's best of yesteryear.

**Gary Gand**  
Chicago *Bauhaus and Beyond*

\* We were thrilled to receive the Fall 2014 issue of Atomic Ranch, which prominently displayed a vintage Z chair on the cover. As our own is the pride of our mid-century furniture collection, we were interested to know whether the one in your magazine was the original Poul Jensen design with the Selig medallion under the cushion and authentic Fagas straps. Alas, there was no detailed information. In any event, No. 43 is a beautiful issue!

We are big fans and loyal customers of your advertiser Evans Family Company [fagasstraps.com], for replacement Fagas straps or the typical lawn-chair straps that we often find on vintage chairs. They have



educated us on many MCM Danish imports, Selig and Kofod-Larsen items and numerous other bits of information; their service is excellent and the straps always fit perfectly.

Mid-century lives again in our house, even though the outside would give you no clue. What we have collected is not what our parents had—it is the furniture that a doctor or lawyer might own and we just aspired to. As both of us are mid-century humans, it only seems appropriate that our home reflects it.



# morewisdom

Receive this in good health, put on a Nat King Cole album, grab a cocktail and watch the sunset!

**Nikki Westra & Jim Doherty**

*Tucson*

\* I went to a garage sale and found several architectural magazines and *Better Homes and Gardens* from the late 1940s and early 1950s. They are oversized and originally cost 25 cents; I paid \$1 each for them. The *BH&Gs* drew me in because of the colorful ads, but they all were of white people and women in aprons in front of refrigerators.

In September 1953, 'This is the House That You Asked For' [below] interviewed eight families from the Chicago area; with additional readers' input, [their feedback helped] to design a house called the Five Star



No. 2309 by architects Brooks Buderus and Gerald Siegwart. The interiors in the article were done by John M. Smyth Co.—a Chicagoland furniture store that advertised on TV.

Examples of this H-shape modern house with a slight butterfly roof were built in cities all over the country so that readers could visit. I thought this would make an interesting article if you could locate one of the model homes. There were two in Indiana and one in Arlington Heights, Ill.

**Dennis Dell**

*West Lafayette, Ind.*

\* My partner and I bought a 1948 Herbert Burns home in Palm Springs. We have done a lot of work to bring it back to its original design with a little modern twist. And being in Palm Springs, we have stayed true to the desert landscaping.

Hope you enjoy the photo!

**Mario Cabrera & Barry Becker**



\* I just picked up my second issue at a Kroger in Columbus, Ohio. I was so amazed that this publication existed and I had never run across it.

We live in a midcentury modern ranch, but not like anything I am seeing in your publication. It is pretty standard stuff, but with a very unusual round dining room on the front of the house. We bought it four years ago to serve as our retirement home. All of the original woodwork and hardwood floors were mint and we love it to death. Soon we'll be attempting to restore the original kitchen back to its glory days from a very poorly planned and executed 1970s facelift. I will fix that!

Anyway, glad to have subscribed and looking forward to collecting the back issues and receiving the new ones.

**Thomas Warfel**

\* I am a subscriber and huge fan of Atomic Ranch magazine. We live in Saskatchewan, but have just recently purchased an original 1955 condo in the Las Olas area of Fort Lauderdale and are hoping to find some lovely vintage furniture to furnish it with. Could you point us in the right direction to find pieces that would

pay homage to our fantastic new winter home?

Also, we are planning a small renovation (it has two kitchens!) because it was two units made into one, and will have original wall ovens and cooktops coming out. Is there anywhere you can recommend where we could donate these items? They are in great condition.

**Colleen & Jayson Clunie**

*The 'My Favorite Space' feature on the Tampa condo in our Winter 2014 issue (available at [atomic-ranch.com](http://atomic-ranch.com)) addresses this very question. You can look for pieces that date from the built-year of your condo; focus on Canadian designers and manufacturers, such as Spanner, Imperial, Deilcraft or Snyder Bros.; or simply browse local antique shops to see what speaks to you stylistically: Danish modern, Heywood-Wakefield, Hollywood Regency, etc.*

*As for the kitchen, Habitat for Humanity ReStores (there's one in Fort Lauderdale), salvage yards and our own Facebook groups are good ways to reach like-minded enthusiasts who could appreciate your vintage appliances.*

—ar editor

\* Two years ago you inspired me to renovate and restore a 1,350-square-foot bungalow in Fonthill, Ontario. I was fortunate that this 1961 home had many



of the original features left intact. With plenty of my own elbow grease, all trim, hardwood floors and kitchen cabinets were restored. The exterior was also kept the original colors. Your magazine helped me understand the importance of keeping true to the style of this little gem!

**Lisa Cote**

*Lisa's appealing all-white kitchen will be featured in an upcoming issue; stay tuned!*

—ar editor

\* How thrilled I was to see you feature the Fiat 500 in the Spring 2015 issue! I didn't know that the original 500 was a deliberate effort to build an affordable post-war car for the middle class at a time when few families



could buy the average vehicle available. [Elsewhere], I also learned that it deliberately appealed to a new generation of first-time women drivers in Italy, who gained a certain degree of freedom and liberation from the constraints of society by owning one. I find that very interesting; despite my feminine first name, I'm a guy.

Here's my own Fiat in front of the Arvada, Colo., skate park I helped secure funding for; enjoy!

**Kim Grant**

Denver

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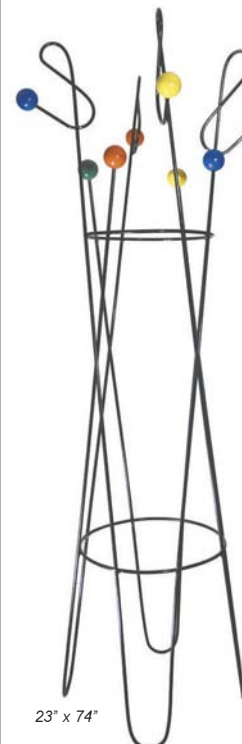
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# Twin peeks

*text* Michelle Gringeri-Brown

*photography* Jim Brown

**A** fascination with geography and cartography has been with artist Chase Langford since he was a boy poring over the road maps in the glove compartment of his parents' Ford station wagon. Today he lives in a modernist home off Mulholland Drive in L.A. and also owns a postwar condo in the desert with his partner, Steve Ziel. The idea of place being specific yet fluid has colored Langford's fine arts career as well as these two 1960s homes, which are more first cousins than twin brothers.







## Seven Lakes

Five years ago the couple purchased the smallest model in a 340-unit condo development overlooking Seven Lakes Country Club in Palm Springs. Designed by Richard Harrison—who partnered with Donald Wexler from 1953 to 1961 on a variety of projects, including Royal Hawaiian Estates, the Alexander Steel Houses and El Rancho Vista Estates—the condo has two bedrooms and two baths.

The units range up to three bedrooms/three baths in 2,800 square feet. “In the ’70s and ’80s some of the homeowners enclosed their courtyards and didn’t necessarily follow the architecture as Harrison designed it,” says Ziel, 58, who recently retired from a healthcare career and is now doing background acting.

“There is a new wave of people moving in who are unbotching them, if you will, bringing them back to a much more sensitive midcentury intent,” adds Langford. “There was a period where they didn’t really monitor changes and people didn’t have today’s appreciation for MCM architecture. Everyone tried to make these clean, modern spaces more fancy and ornate.”

Their unit was original-ish but uninspired, they report: Pepto-Bismol-colored walls, popcorn ceilings, ho-hum carpeting and 1980s tile. What recommended it was the location and potential.

“In our L.A. home, we have an amazing view and you

become accustomed to a view when you have one,” says Ziel. “Coming to Palm Springs, I didn’t want to be closed in with a walled back yard or hedges. We kept looking and looking for a vista without wires or a tree or another home blocking the view. The view out our 9.5’-high windows is grass, a small lake, then an entire mountainside and the Bob Hope house on Southridge.”

## Speed Demons

To get from what they had to what they envisioned involved redoing all of the systems, along with new double-pane windows and sliding glass doors, fresh flooring and gutting the kitchen and baths. “These condos were built very solidly,” Langford, 54, says. “The floors are plumb, roofs are thicker than in an Alexander and there’s a soffit where the AC runs, so we were able to abandon the [defunct] plumbing in the concrete slab and run new pipes and electrical through [that].”

“In our L.A. house, the original kitchen cabinetry from the ’60s is good quality and we respect the design of it. But here, the cabinetry was poor, so it wasn’t anything that you wanted to keep. The architecture of these condos is superb, but I think the kitchens and baths were put in by the developer and they could have been better.”

“There was the architect and then there was the builder,” Ziel adds. “Some of the original homeowners had an extra

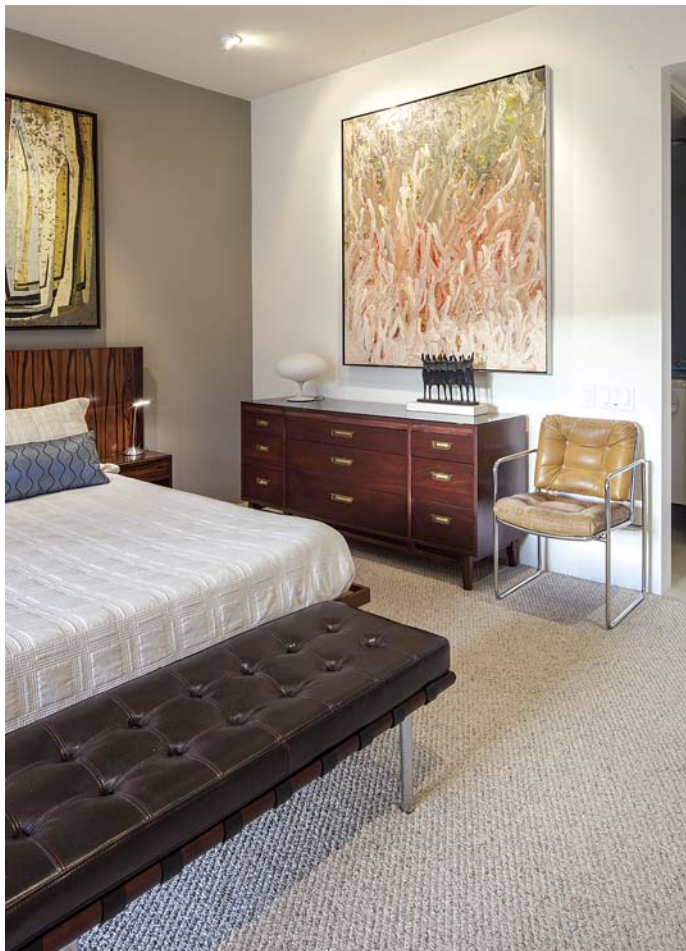




Previous spread: Chase Langford's 'Eastlake Totems' hangs over the Floor Plan LA sofa in the living room of the condo, dressed with silk pillows from Uzbekistan and flanked by Bertha Shaefer walnut and travertine side tables. The tall leather Bovenkamp vintage chairs are Dutch, while the Lulu swivel chairs are new. A custom rosewood and glass coffee table, based on a vintage Norwegian original, sits on a wool rug from India, while the blue vintage table lamp is from Hedge.

Opposite and above: A period rosewood credenza is set against a wall of favorite artwork by family, friends and artists like Hans Burkhardt and George Condo. Gabriel of Pasadena dinnerware is displayed on the Room Service tulip-style marble table; the Possini Euro Design lamp is from Lamps Plus.

The interior glows like a jewel box on an oasis come dusk.



The bed with built-in tables was custom made by Midcentury LA, while the vintage desk was found at JP Denmark, both in the couple's preferred rosewood. A pair of \$25 chrome and distressed-leather chairs came from a shop in Palm Springs, as did the vintage lamp. The contemporary bench is a BLVD, and the Ivory Coast and Mali masks were bought in New York. The mid-century dresser, left, was refinished in a darker stain to blend with its roommates, while the Modern Fan Co. Ball model keeps things stirred up.



window put in their kitchen or dining room, which breaks up the shadow-block walls. From the very beginning you can see the rub that existed back in the '60s and [the units] have more variation because of that.”

Langford’s flexible work schedule allowed him to come out four days a week to oversee the three-month project and help guard against change orders and redos. “If there was a material that was not available immediately, we moved on,” says Ziel. “And it was pretty much the bottom of the recession, so every subcontractor was available.”

### Light Touch

When it came to finishes, fixtures and furnishings, the couple kept things light and unified, including ceramic tile flooring that runs from the courtyard, through the interior and out to the golf course-adjacent patio. “We chose to be pretty conservative because I wanted my art to be the

most colorful thing in the room,” Langford says. “In our Mulholland house we have glass mosaic tile but didn’t want to feel like we were in the exact same house out in Palm Springs. While that would have been very appropriate for this place, and it’s very popular here, there is no material at the condo that repeats what we have in L.A.—cabinet pulls, doorknobs, you name it.

“I like light furniture, not too much mass, things that are floating,” he continues. “Our mantra is, if we buy a piece of furniture or even a shirt, we have to get rid of one. It keeps us down to a level of stuff that’s sustainable.”

“And our theory when we got this place was, you should be able to put an icy glass on anything and not ruin it,” Ziel adds. “Palm Springs is all about fun, fun, fun—put your feet up, have a martini. We come out here and don’t work, Chase doesn’t paint and we have friends over and it’s all about enjoyment.”

## Valley View

The Mulholland full-time residence, which they bought in 1997, began life as a 900-square-foot, 1948 clapboard house that was remodeled in the '60s to 2,100 square feet. The size of the living room doubled, and a dining room and master suite were added, along with a pool, patios and decks that overlook the Santa Monica mountains setting. This resulted in some quirky spaces, like a bedroom that was partially swallowed by a hallway.

"You walk in the front door and to the left are the public rooms, with the private spaces to the right; the bedroom proportions are a little odd," admits Langford. "That suits us fine because we don't have kids but do entertain a lot. Many of the midcentury architects did that, of course, labeling their bedrooms 'chambers' on their floor plans. They'd devote more space to the public rooms with the idea being the family had gathering spaces for social interaction."

"And the indoor-outdoor vistas really connect with the public rooms," Ziel adds. (The couple then debates if describing 'sweeping panoramas as far as the San Jacintos in Palm Springs on clear days' doesn't sound far better than the more mundane 'valley views of Encino and reflector panels at Universal Studios.')

"We often have dinner parties for eight or 10, but because of the wall of glass, you never feel [constrained] for space—it goes on and on."



Since buying in 1997, the couple removed the irrigation system and replanted a xeriscape that primarily gets by on its own. There is no trace of the original flat-roof clapboard house from the exterior of the modernist facade.

Two vintage Selig Z chairs and a curved, reupholstered sofa pair up with walnut Dillon armchairs and a period coffee table from Lawson Fenning; the white bench was from Simplaform, since closed. The homeowners believe the hardwood floors date from the '80s.





Langford painted 'Atomic Klimt' for the dining room expressly for the Atomic Ranch shoot. The rosewood table, Antica chairs and lobster ware bowls reflect the couple's eclectic style and humor, while the Bisazza tile on the floor stands in for the original terrazzo once in this room. Previous owner Herschel Daugherty used the desk nook to make morning phone calls to the East Coast while he watched deer feed in the yard. The three-legged Andrea chair was designed by Josep Llusca in 1990.

Between the house and the spider-legged art studio are the pool and multiple seating areas.



## Celeb Central

The modernist remodel was done by Frank Burton Wilson for owner Herschel Daugherty, who directed episodes of *Gunsmoke*, *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, *Wagon Train* and other series. When Wilson visited the house in 2002, he shared stories of Bette Davis socializing there with Daugherty, occasions that included both alcohol consumption and sometime drama.

The next owner was producer Harry Gittes—a name familiar to fans of *Chinatown*—who sold to the couple. The house has since been used for photo shoots and commercials, and they have a picture of Jack Nicholson attending a wedding there. Victor Mature, Warren Beatty, John Tesh and Connie

Sellecca have visited as well, and if they haven't already moved on, Paris Hilton and Lindsay Lohan live nearby.

Langford has a studio on the property, and the house functions as his defacto gallery, with artwork regularly rotating out the door to a buyer or show. He enjoys periodically rearranging their mix of vintage and new furniture, and suggests the same to his collectors. "After a while, take [a painting] to a spot where the light is different, or stash it away for a year. Art shouldn't become like a dresser in a bedroom; when you revisit it after it's been hidden or moved, you look at it with fresh eyes."

While the condo is a bit more laid back and fun, the



**The house functions as a defacto gallery,**



Opposite and top: Views of the San Fernando Valley, the street elevation and a private patio off the master suite; outdoor furnishings include Richard Schultz by Knoll.

Above and right: A travertine-top vintage table with a woven cane lower shelf cozies up to a Lucite chair by Aaron Thomas. A replica '50s bi-level table from Studio W Interior's Trend House has faux stingray leather surfaces that pivot.







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Custom cabinetry, 24" terrazzo Bisazza floor tile and Caesarstone counters and surrounds are in the updated master bath. The tub is sunken, so the curb on the shower and the bathtub surround are on the same plane.

Sliding barn doors were added during a 2002 master suite remodel; 'Nuevo Floreana 1' hangs on the wall and Walker Zanger mosaic tile wraps to the exterior surface.



The master bedroom platform bed and nightstands are from a since-shuttered furniture store, while the 'Atomic Essex' painting has sold to a collector.



houses share a refined aesthetic and a edict against clutter. When a rosewood credenza at the Palm Springs pad got the couple interested in other pieces made of the wood, that material also jumped to L.A. in the form of a custom dining table.

“The only real similarity in my mind is both homes are post and beam, and both have amazing vistas,” Langford muses. “From a finish perspective, they feel different.

“In Mulholland, you’re constantly aware of where you are: You see the views, you hear the owls and coyotes at night, hike the trails and see the deer walk by the house every day. We climb down the hillside and work on the garden—we’re very much aware that we’re in the Santa Monica mountains. In Palm Springs, there’s egrets and

herons and ducks and golfers going by—very PS—and palm trees and cactus everywhere. The local geography and ambience and spirit of the landscape need to permeate our homes.” ❁

Resources page 77

See additional Chase Langford paintings at [chaselangford.com](http://chaselangford.com). For more Palm Springs-area features, back issue no. 41 has a preservation update on El Rancho Vista Estates, no. 43 features a renovated Albert Frey–designed home, no. 44 showcases a remodel of a Palmer & Krisel residence and no. 45 has a b&w photo essay on Tamarisk Ranchos; order at [atomic-ranch.com](http://atomic-ranch.com).



Photo Chad Syme

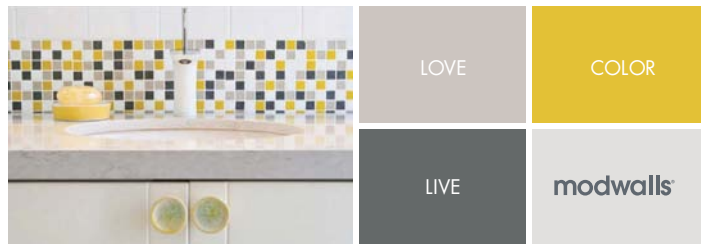
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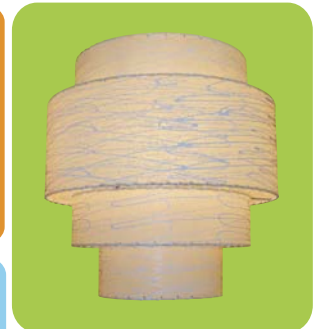
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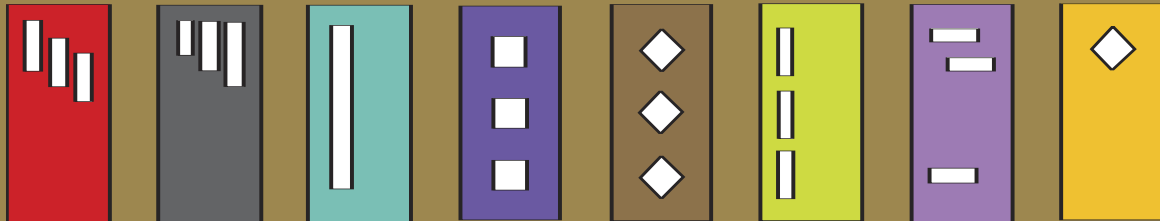


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# Northern Exposure

*text* Karen Burshtein  
*photography* Colin Faulkner









**T**his multitasking pool house sits in a garden behind a residence in an affluent North Toronto neighborhood. The home belongs to a man who recently retired from a successful career in advertising.

Its original midcentury charms had been lost over the years under layers of renovations, and the owner—his wife was less involved in the project, which he liked to call his ‘folly’—long obsessed about restoring the pool house to its former splendor. But he also wanted to mix in some of the playfulness of today’s start-up-office designs. For him, the meeting point was the can-do confidence of both eras.

Indeed, the pool house and its owner both have stories about new beginnings built on old foundations. After retiring from his first career, he wanted to flex his creative muscles by starting a social media company and decided the pool house headquarters would be a conversation piece. He also wanted to use the space privately. It would be a guest-house, entertainment area, dinner party venue, work studio, event space and a place for swimmers to shower and change—as well as a crash pad after the aforementioned parties.

Enter John Tong of Toronto firm +tongtong, the project’s architect, who loved the multitasking brief as well as the chance to honor the building’s heritage. Tong’s experience designing playful hotels, notably Toronto’s hipster boutique-crash pad, The Drake, came in handy.

Tong immediately saw the midcentury modern bones in the pool house, what he calls its Miesian elements. In its original incarnation the pool house had one volume. To emphasize the MCM language, he extended the roofline forward from the edge of the building, creating a brow that seems to float over the patio. Windows were pushed flush to the ceiling to articulate the plane of the roof, framing the view.

Tong also layered a cedar deck and boardwalk over the edge of the pool to change its original oval shape and proportion, exaggerating the lines of the yard and the outbuilding with it. He used the original stone fireplace and exterior stone wall as a starting point for the renovation. Here as throughout, the homage to the structure’s MCM roots integrate the more contemporary elements. A black steel bench and fireplace surround were introduced to the original form, while on the other side of the

Quick change artists: The base of the live-edge coffee table flips to bring it up to buffet height, while doors slide out from the black room divider to close off the sleeping alcove and bathroom facilities on the other side.



Opposite: A Spine lounge chair near the blue artwork and a wood version of the Stingray rocking chair, along with the Spin poufs on the deck, all came from Mjök, which means 'milk' in Swedish.

Leather butterfly chairs are equally at home near the fireplace or outside by the pool.

glass wall, an exterior COR-TEN steel firebox projects from the chimney. Cedar slats now clad the facade and the concrete floor has radiant heat.

To counter the need for privacy with the idea of interior openness, Tong created a black millwork block as a dividing device. On the public side, the monolith holds IT and audio-visual equipment. In the private space is a shower and a toilet encased in vibrant blue colored glass walls with a remote control privacy blind that rolls down when in use. There's a Murphy bed with integrated side tables for storage and luggage, and trackless, cantilevered sliding doors come out of each side of the block. There's a microwave, coffee machine and even a kind of minibar stocked for overnighters.

Tong says he's a modernist but a warm modernist—an idea that comes across as quite Canadian, and also explains a lot of the materials he used. "I'm always inspired by natural materials and their natural expression. I like wood to be wood," he says. "And I think steel is as natural a material as can be."

Butterfly chairs and a George Nelson bench (off camera) fulfill the midcentury criteria, but head-to-toe MCM would have rung false. Other chairs and the circle-stitched poufs are from Mjöl, a Toronto interiors store specializing in contemporary Scandinavian and Japanese design. An elegant, live-edge coffee table designed by Tong and made of wood salvaged from the Panama Canal can be raised to counter height by rotating the legs, taking it to buffet level for a party. And a tangerine wall provides a bold background for the owner's artwork.

The finished result is a place that bridges two American eras, which are alike in many ways. It's a place you definitely wouldn't mind taking a meeting—or working on a tan. ☼

*Karen Burshtein is a Winnipeg-based writer who has contributed to Condé Nast Traveller, Travel+Leisure, Dwell and Azure magazines, as well as various Canadian newspapers. Colin Faulkner's work is at [faulknerphoto.com](http://faulknerphoto.com).*

Resources page 77



# home page



## Greensboro, N.C.

My beautiful brick and redwood ranch was built in 1959. From the sunroom you have a panoramic view of a koi pond lined with lilies, a slate patio and a covered porch. Interior features include a cool retro kitchen with a vintage Litton Micromatic glass-top range set against a sunburst-patterned ceramic tile backsplash. Light streams through the wall of windows in the living room, which is furnished with classic midcentury modern furniture and accessories from my 20-year collection. Viko Baumritter to Heywood Wakefield, Wegner to Eames, they have all found a place and help to make my home a marvelous midcentury modern haven.

**Eric Woodard**

## Moon Township, Pa.

The renovation of our 1958 ranch took just over two years. In this room I wanted to create a dining-lounge atmosphere where we could comfortably entertain and still have room in the adjacent kitchen to prepare dinner. A leather sectional with new taller legs creates a booth feel, and tiger bamboo floors and the sputnik lamp set everything off. The new stone wall is one of my favorite things from the midcentury era, while the ashtrays are all from the '60s, mostly purchased on eBay or at local retro shops. I learned a lot about the manufacturers while I was collecting them. Heck, we don't even smoke, but they are just so iconic and colorful!

**Mike & Lori Boruch**

## Shelburne, Vt.

We were thrilled when we found this 1960 'California ranch' three years ago, since there do not seem to be many in our part of Vermont. Reportedly it was designed by Gene Alexander for a Bell Telephone executive and his family (which might explain the fact that every room had at least four phone jacks). The sprawling house sits sideways on the one-acre lot, which doesn't lend much in the way of street presence but is wonderful for views and privacy. It has a great open character, including a sunken living room, interior planters and two screened porches.

**Jeff Hodgson & Paul Deslandes**

We can always use homes for our fridge; 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.



Greensboro, N.C.

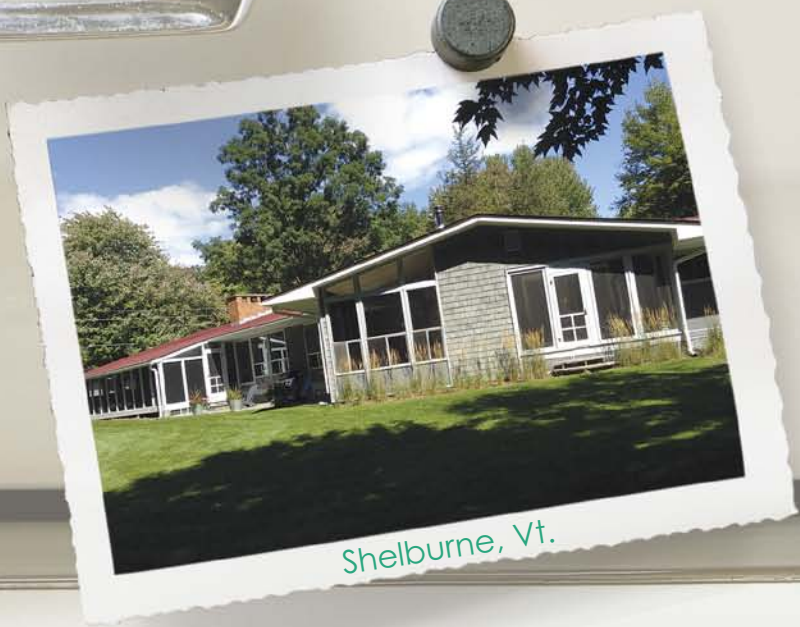


Moon Township, Pa.



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Shelburne, Vt.



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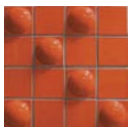
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# DOMESTIC Goddesses:

## Midcentury Appliances That

'Innovation' and 'style' are just two words that describe American home goods during the postwar years. When WWII ended in the summer of 1945, not only did the country have cause to celebrate the end of a major world crisis, but we also cheered the conclusion of rationing and lack of consumer products during the Great Depression and war years. In terms of design and technology, the era's coming domestic products would change the way Americans thought about modern living forever.

### NEW DAYS

The postwar period began with soft, rounded forms on appliances, carried over from the 1940s when manufacturers put the production of just about everything on hold to support the war effort. Afterward, many appliance companies simply picked up where they left off, since it took factories several years to convert back to domestic production and consumer demand was high. This can be seen in the 1948 Kelvinator refrigerator, a great example of art deco styling. Over at GE, they borrowed heavily from the burgeoning airline industry with their Stratoliner, Stewardess and Airliner ranges that used the popular streamlined designs of the past. Manufacturers did begin to address requests for more color in their products, though. Philco introduced a range designed by industrial designer Harold Van





# Rocked Our World

text & images Don Emmite



 **Stratoliner**  
AUTOMATIC ELECTRIC RANGE

GENERAL  ELECTRIC

Doren with a choice of four accent colors—yellow, green, red and neutral taupe.

One innovative company would set a trend that was so new and different it would take other manufacturers years to compete. Los Angeles-based Thermador brilliantly separated the oven from the burners of a standard range to create the first built-in oven and cooktop in 1946. Beautifully designed in stainless steel, the units appeared solid and heavy duty, yet sophisticated. The

America's Most Advanced Electric Range—The  
**COLOR-STYLED** PHILCO for '53



**For the First Time in Range History —  
a choice of radiant accent colors**

Now Philco brings you your *choice* of accent color in your new electric range. Choose any one of five brand new Philco models and at no extra cost you get the color of your choice. Smart, new color accents, bringing radiant new sparkle and life to any kitchen setting. See the Color Styled Philco models on following pages. 5 models—2 with double oven —3 with Banquet Oven only. And all with exclusive cooking features offered *only* by Philco.

**Four Beautiful Colors**  
Yellow, Key Largo, Red and Neutral—a color accent for every kitchen, old or new.

*the original  
eye-level  
oven*



*with Thermador  
—the Built-in range!*

Only Thermador, the original Built-in Electric Range with separate oven gives you complete flexibility of kitchen design. You can locate the oven wherever you like at a back saving, eye level height...choose from three cooking top models that fit standard size kitchen counters...add a built-in warming drawer or griddle or both. Thermador allows you to plan for work efficiency and the fewest number of steps. It gives you custom styled beauty in stainless steel and clean, cool fully automatic electric cooking at no more cost than a conventional range of comparable size. Plan a kitchen to suit yourself with Thermador.

**QUICK WARMTH WHERE YOU NEED IT**

**ROOM HEATING**—The Thermador portable circulating heater is designed to heat the living zone from floor to head height, it provides safe, clean healthful heating with top efficiency. In summer use it as a circulating fan.

**BATHROOM HEATING**—Thermador's radiant type head-to-heels bathroom heater floods you with instant warmth when you step out of the shower. Built-in to the wall of your new or remodelled bathroom it adds beauty and value to your home.

*Look for the name...  
no others the same* **THERMADOR**

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Thermador Built-in Range units  
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Not an inch wasted on a fancy but impractical chassis

Because most kitchen appliances are bought now at a time without any thought about fitting them together with other equipment, manufacturers have been using an fancy chassis but work an second, efficient, interior planning. Here is a case where more space adds up for you, thereby leaving the space gained for always-wanted storage space. Remember most!

**THEMADOR**  
Masterpiece "Bilt-in" Electric Range

*Pamper Yourself*  
Cook Faster, Easier with a **THEMADOR** Masterpiece "Bilt-in" Electric Range

Choose the finest, the Thermador "Bilt-in" electric cooking top and oven. Install it anywhere you like, at just your right height, in lifetime stainless steel finish or 5 exciting decorator colors. Consult your architect or builder for installation ideas.

Choose your cooking top from 15 surface arrangements... your "Bilt-in" oven from a choice of single or double side-by-side. "Easy-View" window optional. Get every favorite cooking top and oven feature in Thermador "Bilt-ins"... plus unequalled quality and beauty. "Bilt-in" refrigerator-freezers, too.

Live Best Electrically with Thermador. Look for Thermador in your builder's Madison Home.

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**YOUR NEW BILT-IN ELECTRIC KITCHEN CAN START WITH THIS COUPON...**

Your kitchen becomes personally yours, when you build or remodel with Thermador Bilt-ins.

**For indoor barbecuing fun** - The beauty below is the new Thermador Masterpiece Double Oven... all electric and completely automatic. Imagine roasting a 27 pound turkey or 5 chickens at a time on one oven, while you cook, bake or broil in the other. Each oven has removable three spit, two-speed position rotators for indoor barbecuing fun. The broiling element has the exclusive Vari-Speed control... which gives you thousands of heat selections from "a sizzle to a scorch." Thermador provides the largest cooking capacity available. Air-cooled doors are never too hot to touch. There's also a Masterpiece single oven, with or without rotisserie. 8 oven models in all to choose from, some in stunning decorator colors.

**For modern, convenient living** - At the right in your picture of Thermador's newest bilt-in... the distinctive new Masterpiece Refrigerator-Freezer. This unit is properly proportioned for most practical family use... over 14 cubic feet of storage in all... 10.2 in the refrigerator, 4.8 in the freezer, both in a single, self-contained unit. Easy-to-clean, safe-smooth stainless steel.

**For easy automatic cooking** - To the right is one of Thermador's Masterpiece cooking tops. Select from heavenly four different models... 15 in stainless steel, 8 in color. Shown is the quiet middle griddle model. This model and others have the new Thermo-Matic Thermomatically controlled element that actually watches the pot for you, prevents burning, scorching and boiling over of foods. The new Speed-Matic element with Vari-Speed control... gets red hot in just 26 seconds, actually faster than gas, then returns to your pre-dialled heat selection.

Look for other quality Thermador products that help make your house a home - built-in and portable heaters, ventilating fans, electric water heaters, console ranges.

**THEMADOR\***  
"THE ORIGINATOR OF THE BILT-IN RANGE"

BITTNER HINES & GARDNER, NOVEMBER, 1954

dials and controls, inspired by aircraft cockpit panels, were simple to read and operate. Builders and architects embraced the concept, as it gave them greater freedom to place the components anywhere in the kitchen. And the housewife loved it, since the oven could be placed at whatever level best suited her.

In the mid-'50s, Thermador introduced the Masterpiece Series with side-by-side ovens and a built-in refrigerator. The line was endorsed by famous architects such as Richard Neutra and used in some Case Study Houses. The units were also installed in Eichler homes as a sign of style and quality, and are cherished today, with many still in use.

**Revco**  
BILT-IN

*Charm and Convenience!*



Custom-Matched in Approval House & Garden Color—Carnation Pink

*You'll be fascinated and delighted... when you include the wonderful New Revco Built-in Refrigerator and Freezer Custom Combination in Your New Kitchen Plans.*

Enjoy REVCO BILT-IN Compactness that adds valuable floor-space to your kitchen... make your kitchen the food preparation center that saves steps, saves time, saves money. The big 8-4 cu. ft. Revco Refrigerator has automatic defrost... the 6.3 cu. ft. Freezer, with lifetime aluminum liner, has the famous Revco Fast-Freezing action. Choose Stainless Steel, Antique Copper or choice of Colours for kitchen color harmony. Plan location and arrangement to exactly satisfy your requirements. Write for complete information and where to buy!

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Contemporary Kitchens in Charmingly New... Send 25¢... your name and address on Day, P.O. for kitchen ideas book in color.



*Ultimate Kitchen Efficiency in a Social Setting... featuring*

**Revco**  
BILT-IN

Just a sliding glass wall to separate pool and barbecue from kitchen... it's an open invitation to hearty entertaining! Above the exposed oak beams, the pool is roofed by translucent plastic and automatic shade louvers. The huge peninsula sink in the kitchen can double as a serving buffet, and with the big 14.7 cu. ft. Revco BILT-IN, the gracious hostess is always prepared for guests.

Contemporary home built around a swimming pool in Garden City, California. Designed by Henry C. Cox.

## TRENDING

The year 1955 can be singled out as one with incredible new design concepts. Seizing on the built-in trend, Revco Refrigeration Company of Deerfield, Mich., developed the first counter-depth refrigerator. Units were offered in any number of combinations, including freezer units. In booklets like *How to Plan a Trendsetting Kitchen*, Thermador ovens were shown alongside Revco refrigerators. The Revco units were offered in custom colors to match kitchen color schemes, along with stainless steel and copper. Their 1958 Gourmet series squared off the corners of the doors and was available with ice-makers and in undercounter applications.





**Amazingly compact 4-in-1 unit** combines (from left) G-E Washer-Dryer Combination, Disposal, Sink, Automatic Dishwasher and Space-maker Range ... under one gleaming, easy-cleaning stainless-steel counter. The G-E Kitchen Center comes in 8 1/2 or 9 1/2 ft. lengths. Easily installed, this

work-saving wonder is internally wired and plumbed. You reduce installation costs of separate appliances. The ease convenience includes: plug-in panel with outlets for four small appliances; one-hand water faucet control; under-sink storage center.



**Soft washes and dries continuously.** In an extra cabinet ... not one more space-gobber. Washes and dries a full day's supply in a twinkling. **No more garbage pail.** Wonderful General Electric Disposal automatically erases (and, of course, grinds, blends) away. **Sub-water makes clean work of a daily chore.** Water filters are never to be touched. Washes and dries a full day's supply at once. **Big, wide 11-inch oven ...** provides plenty ... automatic even broiling, bake and broil unit of range are fully enclosed. No open coils.

200 SMALL HOMES GUIDE—37TH EDITION

Here's everything for worksaving living built into one  
**NEW G-E 8 1/2-FOOT KITCHEN CENTER**

- First "package" kitchen for homes
- 4 G-E appliances under stainless steel top
- Every inch usable work space
- Mix-or-Match color beauty
- Fits into any kitchen plan

Just imagine the four arms of the kitchen where you spend the most time now grouped together into one unit! Without your moving but a few steps either way, you can have your family wash completely handeled, the garbage disposed of, the whole day's dishes washed, a big company meal cooked in the hour. And have it all done automatically! Efficiently!

The new G-E Kitchen Center eases your convenience like no other appliance in the world! Its compact, streamlined design fits into any kitchen plan. Its custom-built look enhances the most luxurious home.

Lovely Mix-or-Match color choices include century yellow, turquoise green, pearl pink, sandstone brown, and cedar blue. Take this new way to plan a glamorous kitchen.

Progress Is Our Most Important Product  
**GENERAL ELECTRIC**



In "package" kitchens its sleek styling and simplified installation help solve your decorating, remodeling or modernizing problems. Above, the versatile Kitchen Center in a spacious "L" room harmonizes with other cabinets and counters ... adds elegant convenience.



Small "L" shape kitchen takes on an over-flow arrangement that may require several units. In new home kitchens of any design, the G-E Kitchen Center centralizes mail and laundry activities while adding the "backstop" look of custom architecture.

Low monthly payments added to an "open end" mortgage can bring you this G-E Kitchen Center.

It's as easy as adding a few dollars a month to your regular mortgage payments. To enjoy this smooth-flowing workover in your home soon, see your G-E dealer for help in your home financing arrangements.

For Brochure or details on the beautiful, world G-E Kitchen Center is available by writing General Electric Company, Kitchen Center Section, Appliance Park, Louisville 1, Kentucky.



New "open-space" kitchen. Here the G-E Kitchen Center stands alone as an island or peninsula which securely spaces the cooking area with the dining area. For "open" family room the G-E Center in lovely Mix-or-Match colors is easy to scheme with house decor.

SMALL HOMES GUIDE—37TH EDITION 201

The February 1955 issue of *Industrial Design* announced that "GE has startled the market this year with three innovations: the first kitchen package which puts everything but the refrigerator under a single counter top [sic]; a production model of its wall-hung refrigerator; and a full line of five colors for all its appliances." To cut production costs, GE simply took their line of appliances—a new washer-dryer combination, dishwasher, garbage disposal and 24" range body—and put them together under a seamless stainless steel top with integral sink and burners. Offered in two sizes and five colors, the Kitchen Center was perfect for the booming home building industry. Developer William Levitt used them in his homes, while architect Pierre Koenig specified one for Case Study House #21 in canary yellow. The unit was priced to sell at \$1,500 in 1955. After updating to new design standards, in 1957 the Kitchen Center won an award from the Industrial Designers Institute in Chicago.

The wall-hung refrigerator-freezer was, perhaps, the most stunning and marvelous new product of the mid-'50s. The rectilinear design had doors that were sealed by magnets and opened by grasping a groove along the bottom. Weighing in at 385 pounds, it was advertised to hang on the wall "like a picture" via a sturdy metal bracket. GE factory-approved installation instructions were very specific and required—at the least—two men. The refrigera-



New General Electric Wall Refrigerator-Freezer comes in Mix-or-Match colors: Century Yellow, Turquoise Green, Pearl Pink, Woodstone Brown—no White.

**All foods at your eye level**

in the new General Electric Wall Refrigerator-Freezer

Everything is within easy reach—at your eye level—in this General Electric Wall Refrigerator-Freezer. And see how much valuable work surface you gain directly under the refrigerator! That's because this wonderful appliance hangs on your wall like a cabinet, with a simple but sturdy bracket. So roomy, too! You get a big 11 cubic feet of space for storing both fresh and frozen food. And for extra convenience, you can add one of two 5-cubic-foot General Electric Roll-Out Freezers under the counter, in place of floor cabinets, as shown. Let your G-E dealer show you how easily you can transform your kitchen with this new Wall Refrigerator. Ask about his easy terms and trade-in allowance. Household Refrigerator Dept., General Electric Company, Appliance Park, Louisville 1, Kentucky.

Progress Is Our Most Important Product  
**GENERAL ELECTRIC**



**Before.** An outdated kitchen like this can be modernized with just a few simple changes, adding new color, new beauty and a new look ... at little remodeling expense. Just see how the kitchen at the right has been transformed.



**After.** A truly modern kitchen because the Wall Refrigerator makes it so. Notice the new planning desk, providing valuable extra counter surface. Your General Electric dealer will show you how easily and quickly this can be done at reasonable cost.



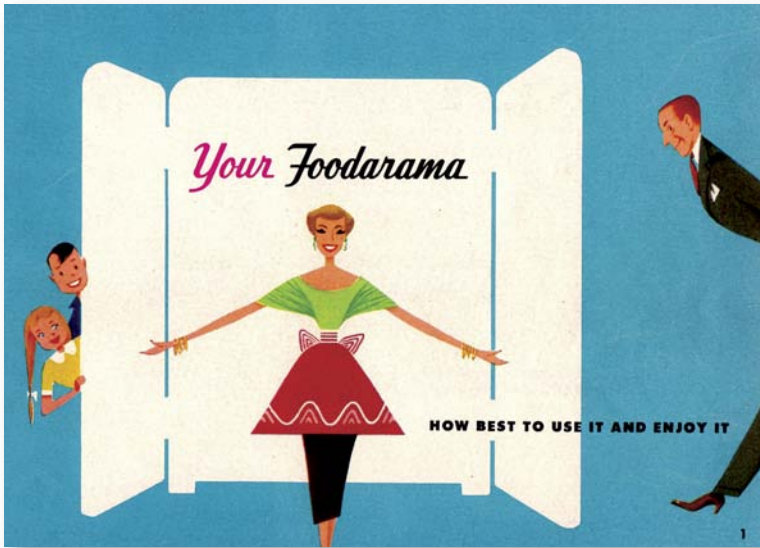
Complete unit: 48" long, 39 1/2" high, 17 1/2" deep. 1. 11-cubic-foot capacity. 2. Automatic-defrost refrigerator section. 3. Magnetic Safety Doors. 4. Fruit and vegetable compartments. 5. Adjustable door shelves. 6. True zero-degree freezer. 7. Mini-Cube ice trays. 8. Sealed-in refrigeration system. 9. 5-cubic-foot General Electric Roll-Out Freezer.

tor could be placed at any height, built into an alcove or installed as a room divider using a special K-shaped frame for support. Once the unit was in place, it was serviced by removing the upper panel above the three compartment doors.

The refrigerator was offered in mix-or-match colors of Canary Yellow, Turquoise Green, Petal Pink, Cadet Blue, Woodtone Brown and white. George Nelson Associates was asked to design a model kitchen for The Merchandise Mart in Chicago to show off the Kitchen Center and Wall Refrigerator-Freezer. The refrigerator won several awards and was chosen for the 1955 Museum of Modern Art Good Design exhibit at the Merchandise Mart. Those two GE units were often sold together, offering a complete, space-saving kitchen package.

### OTHER INNOVATORS

Parent company American Motors Corporation introduced "a brand new concept in luxurious living," the fabulous Foodarama by Kelvinator in 1955. This product essentially ushered in the now ubiquitous side-by-side refrigerator. It came in a variety of colors and boasted



# FABULOUS FOODARAMA

a 12 cu. ft. deluxe refrigerator and a 6 cu. ft. upright freezer in one cabinet only 41" wide, 63" high and 25" deep!

*Better Living for Everyone... from Kelvinator*

**The Rakehals:** "WE EAT BETTER!" More exciting, healthier meals are easier to plan and prepare with Foodarama's tantalizing variety of foods within easy reach. The refrigerator side is 100% usable for fresh foods... the upright freezer is 207 pounds big. Arrangements in an convenient, with meat-moist foods where they're most accessible. There's no stopping to use the wide-level Cold-Mini Freezer, New Package Party items ready-wrapped fruits and vegetables right in their plastic "crisper" bags.

**The Andersens:** "WE SAVE TIME AND MONEY, TOO!" You shop less frequently, "run out" of things less often! And Foodarama's huge 18 cu. ft. capacity—6 cu. ft. upright freezer and 12 cu. ft. refrigerator—lets you fix so many things in advance... a whole, cooked roast if you like. You save big money, too! Foodarama lets you buy in quantity when prices are lowest. It costs much less to buy than a separate freezer and refrigerator... operates from a single, economical unit.

**The Thompsons:** "WE HAVE MORE FUN!" Teen-age or adult party, entertaining is always more gracious and easy-going. You're free for fun and hospitality like never before. You won't run out of frothy cold beverages... Foodarama holds enough for a week. Even when sudden guests drop in... Foodarama's abundance turns emergencies into relaxed repairs. Incidentally, see how Foodarama's glamorous cabinet fits into 40-inch space to make a beautiful built-in, if you desire.

*Foodarama costs much less than a separate deluxe refrigerator and upright freezer*

Line Better Electrically

*A brand new concept in luxurious living*

## ...THE FABULOUS "FOODARAMA" BY KELVINATOR!

**A** NEW STAR is born in the foodkeeping field! From Kelvinator comes a new concept in modern living. Here is the ultimate result of years of planning and more than four decades of appliance experience. It is the fabulous FOODARAMA—without an equal anywhere.

Open one door to a whole new kind of luxury living—freezer living. Here is an upright freezer with storage space for 166 pounds of delectable meats and frozen foods.

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This last word in food keepers can be yours—at far less cost than a comparable separate refrigerator and freezer.

See it at your Kelvinator Dealer. Or write Kelvinator, Detroit 32, Michigan. In Canada: Kelvinator of Canada, Ltd., Toronto 15, Ontario.

**FOODARAMA... REFRIGERATOR AND UPRIGHT FREEZER IN A CABINET ONLY 41" WIDE. 8 glassware exterior colors to choose from!** Select the dominant color that harmonizes with your kitchen decor. Color models have beautiful white and gold interiors. New Kelvinator electric ranges, with disposable aluminum oven linings\* and Broiler, are available in colors to match. [www.kelvinator.com](http://www.kelvinator.com)

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DIVISION OF AMERICAN MOTORS MEANS MORE FOR AMERICANS



You'll like cooking on these wonderful

*Fold-Back* units . . .

• Your new smartly styled Frigidaire Fold-Back Surface Units are housed in durable easy-to-clean stainless steel with plastic handles. Each 30-inch section contains one 6-inch and one 8-inch Radiantube Surface Unit. The separately controlled units may be pulled down individually (as shown) for cooking. When not in use, they fold back against the wall and are automatically disconnected leaving the work surface free.



End "arm's length"  Cooking

with a Built-in  
**FRIGIDAIRE**  
*French Door*  
**WALL OVEN**

A Frigidaire exclusive! Gently pull one French Door and both swing wide open—completely out of the way. The whole oven is at your finger tips—so easy to use, so simple to clean, so very much safer. Sturdy shelves roll all the way out and provide their own "set down" space without handling hot utensils. And since each door is only ten inches wide you can install a Frigidaire Wall Oven in narrow areas where side space is at a premium.

And that's far from all! Frigidaire Imperial Wall Ovens are completely automatic through the full range of oven needs—including rotisserie cooking in most models if you wish! And one model, with the exclusive Wonder Oven, is two-ovens-in-one in one-oven-space and at one-oven-cost. It broils and bakes at the very same time. All models are remarkably easy to install and available in Satin Chrome or in the stunning Chrome-frame long-lasting Porcelain Enamel colors listed below. Start your built-in kitchen with a Frigidaire French Door Wall Oven. There is no other oven like it in the world in beauty, in convenience and in famous Frigidaire oven performance.

**COLORFUL COMPACT BUILT-INS**  
...all by Frigidaire

Wall ovens, cooking tops, fold-back cooking units, dishwashers, disposers, fold-down air conditioning and heating—Frigidaire has them all. Plus Sheer-Look Refrigerators, Food Freezers, Ranges and Laundry Pairs that build-in and blend-in with smartest kitchen styling. And in some models, you can choose from Snowcrest White, Mayfair Pink, Sherwood Green, Stratford Yellow, and Charcoal Gray. Let your imagination be your guide to a truly wonderful, magically convenient Frigidaire kitchen.

For illustrated literature see your Frigidaire Dealer or write FRIGIDAIRE Division, General Motors Corporation, Dayton 1, Ohio.



**'57 FRIGIDAIRE Built-ins** 

BETTER HOMES & GARDENS, APRIL, 1957 153

New! The first home laundry that's more than automatic



*For the Westinghouse 3000 Loadmaster and beautiful washing Electric Dryer use at leading appliance stores.*

**Westinghouse**

**FRIGIDAIRE PRESENTS**  
*The most exciting change that*



It's so all-out stunning you can't believe your eyes. But it's here—the Sheer Look! A whole new design idea that makes a dream kitchen come true.

On Frigidaire Refrigerators, Ranges, and Laundry Appliances for 1957.

Here, too, are the most mechanically perfect appliances ever built—all new, with the best in engineering for

bring the beauty of modern simplicity into present kitchens, or kitchens of the home-you-hope-to-build. Here, surely, is styling so right that it sets the trend and pattern of tomorrow.

Here, too, are the most mechanically perfect appliances ever built—all new, with the best in engineering for

both Frigidaire and General Motors. Open any door, for new surprises. You'll see interiors that sing with colors, like fashion-first Charcoal Gray. You'll see a refrigerator with a Plan-A-Door that also zips out ice at lever touch. You'll see the final word in automatic ranges—with "Thinking Panels" that practically do your cooking for

Come and see The Sheer Look at your Frigidaire Dealer's show place. Look for him in the Yellow Pages of your Classified Telephone Directory under "Electric Appliances."

**THE SHEER LOOK**  
*ever came into your Kitchen!*



SHEER LOOK COWS BY JAMES WELLS

you. You'll see a new laundry pair that hands you a sizable saving every washday.

Come and see these stunning beauties at your Frigidaire Dealer's today. Buy with double assurance—for this is it. The Sheer Look—styled to keep you years ahead—and money ahead—for the years to come.

Look for the **SHEER LOOK**

**'57 FRIGIDAIRE APPLIANCES**

Frigidaire—Built and Backed by General Motors

such features as a Breakfast Bar in the door for bacon, eggs and juice, a frost-free refrigerator, a shelf just for ice cream and a compartment to store bananas.

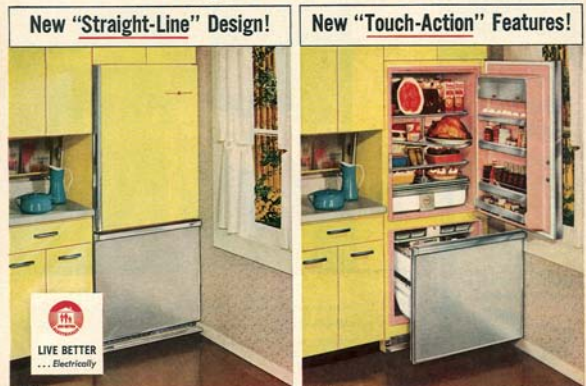
The same year, Frigidaire offered brilliant alternatives to the range. The Fold-Back Radiantube cooking units presented the option of pulling cooking surfaces down for meal preparation and then folding them back against the wall for additional counter space. The first series was 30" in width and only 6" deep when closed. They also put a new spin on the built-in oven with the French Door unit, which had 10"-wide doors that opened wide, allowing the cook better access. By 1957, the Fold-Back burners came in 24" and 48" models, and they and the oven became part of a new series from Frigidaire.

**GOING STRAIGHT**

In one of the most glamorous ad campaigns of 1957, the sophisticated Sheer Look by Frigidaire touted its straight lines and square corners—better to fit into a line of cabinets and achieve a built-in look. Standouts were the washer and dryer with their flat tops and "control tower," along with the backsplash of the range, which resembled an automobile dashboard. All were offered in Frigidaire's color line along with a new, stunning charcoal gray interior.

At the same time, GE introduced its own Straight-

**Distinctive new General Electric Refrigerator-Freezer**



New "Straight-Line" Design!

New "Touch-Action" Features!

**OUTSIDE.** Refrigerator fits flat against wall or square into corner—no coils protrude in back. "Straight-Line" Design brings a new beauty to your kitchen.

**INSIDE.** "Touch-Action" puts all foods at your fingertips in the 10-cubic-foot refrigerator section at top, the 5-cubic-foot freezer at bottom.

**EVERY LINE** is smooth and straight in this smart, new General Electric Refrigerator-Freezer! Not a hinge or handle protrusion to mar its beautiful, trim look. Sides, top and back are all flat and straight. That's why you can set it flush against the wall in line with your other appliances or square into a corner. You can make it a "built-in" simply by hanging wall cabinets around it.

Inside, just a touch puts all foods at your fingertips with General Electric's Revolving Shelves, Revolving Vegetable Bins and Roll-Out Freezer.

A touch of your toe opens the Magnetic Safety Door on the refrigerator. Since it has no latch, it helps protect children from the danger of being locked inside.

So dependable! More than 3,500,000 General Electric Refrigerators have been in use 10 years or longer. Ask your General Electric dealer about his easy terms and generous trade-in allowance. Household Refrigerator Department, General Electric Company, Appliance Park, Louisville 1, Kentucky.

**NOW, EVERYTHING AT YOUR TOUCH!**



**TOUCH**... and the shelves revolve, getting all the food you want within easy reach!

**TOUCH**... and the freezer rolls out. You see and choose what you want at a glance!

**TOUCH**... and the Magnetic Safety Door opens to the big economy-driven refrigerator.

Progress Is Our Most Important Product  
**GENERAL ELECTRIC**

# DOMESTIC Goddesses:

**Yes, it's the same kitchen  
... but the range has been changed!**



**New 1958 General Electric Built-in Ranges**  
Beautiful to look at... wonderful to cook on... so easy to install!

Great your kitchen of tomorrow... today... with an exceptional G.E. Built-in Range! It's the first step toward that modern kitchen you've wanted. And look at how *you* benefit!

- Electric induction • Built-in oven vent • Choice of seven controls • Canary Yellow, Pearl Pink, Frodoform, Brown, Turquoise Green, White or Satin Chrome • Easy credit terms for range...

See your G.E. Dealer... he'll help you choose a model exactly right for your needs. Range Department, General Electric Co., Louisville 1, Ky.

**GENERAL ELECTRIC**

Line Design for refrigerators, freestanding ranges and washers and dryers. The refrigerator had revolving bins and shelves, a freezer drawer at the bottom and "not a hinge or handle ... to mar its beautiful, trim new look." By 1959 the GE built-in oven became a part of the Straight-Line Design series with stacking double ovens available as one unit.

Other companies offered their own noteworthy designs. Tappan's Fabulous 400 range of 1958 had a control panel straight out of the jet age. The unit could be hung on the wall or set into the counter. It offered two ovens at eye level, a cutting board that would fold down out of the way and four burners in a continuous line with built-in lighting above. When not in use, the burners pushed back to allow the cutting board to become extra counter space. Two years later, Frigidaire would bring to market its similar Flair range, with glass doors that hinged upward. Its design offered flexibility— as a freestanding range with an optional metal base, or simply setting the unit



**opening the door  
to your  
new**

**GENERAL ELECTRIC**  
STRAIGHT-LINE DESIGN  
REFRIGERATOR-FREEZER

**GE**

**NEWS! ALL CONTROLS AT EYE LEVEL!** Only General Electric offers pushbutton cooking controls built into the hood. They're easy to see, easy to use, easy to clean... and out of reach of children! Efficient exhaust fan and floodlights are built into hood.

**TWO FULL-SIZED OVENS**... not just an oven-and-a-half... install in one unit. Each oven has its own automatic timer, broiler, floodlight, tea drawer. Top oven has automatic warmer and electric meat thermometer. Both doors slide off for easy oven cleaning.

**Find the range to fit your kitchen... your budget... in**  
**General Electric Built-In Ranges for 1959**

You'll find the range that's just right for your kitchen—in the wide selection of General Electric Ovens and Cooktops. Choose from four decorator colors: Pink, Yellow, Green, Brown or White. Or Satin Chrome or new Copperfinish.

Easy credit terms can be arranged, including cost of installation. And don't forget... a new built-in range does more than make your kitchen truly modern—it actually increases its value of your home!

**BE SURE TO LOOK FOR THESE FEATURES!**

- New Automatic Oven Timer**... easy to set as a clock! Cooks meals while you're out. Controls appliance outlet, too.
- Face-Heat broiler**... for chirocol-type results.
- Unique vents built into oven**... prevent wall staining.
- Choice of 4 cooktops**... each with hi-speed, self-cleaning surface units. Choice of pushbutton cooktop controls, too.

Range Department, General Electric Co., Louisville 1, Ky.

**NEWS! OVEN DOORS SLIDE OFF** for easy cleaning! Each sliding range door has two simple catches that can be flipped open to let door slide right off when it's oven-cleaning time!

**GENERAL ELECTRIC**

8778 HOMER & GARDNER, OCTOBER, 1958



*New!* ... a range with built-in glamour, without built-in expense

*Flair* by FRIGIDAIRE

FLAIR looks, cooks and cleans like nothing you've seen before! It moves right in place of your present stove. Costs little or no more than fine quality conventional models. Choose 40- or 30-inch size (double or single oven); 4 models in all.

**Oven-cooking without stooping**—the oven is at See-Level—above the counter. Eye-high controls are easiest, safest to reach.

**Surface-unit cooking without stretching.** New, lower height is scientifically best for comfort and convenience. Surface cooking top slides neatly away!

**Cleaning without slaving**—Chrome-lined, See-Level ovens are easy to reach. Ingenious new oven door glides up out of your way!

**FLAIR by Frigidaire glorifies any kitchen—yours, too!**

7



on a prebuilt cabinet. Featured in *Bewitched*, it is a much beloved appliance today.

The 1950s were an astonishing era for good design from just about every American company. Luckily for us, major appliance manufacturers were bold enough to step away from the earlier aesthetics, thus changing the way our kitchens looked forever. Trends changed rapidly, and shelter magazines such as *Better Homes and Gardens* and *House Beautiful* frequently featured articles on these “new, smart innovations.” And the public happily embraced each and every change.

Today, original, intact kitchens can still be found, proving their timeless appeal. There are those who will go to great lengths to preserve and protect these precious gems from becoming extinct. I enthusiastically encourage anyone who has a midcentury kitchen with any of the above mentioned design innovations to do what you can to preserve and protect the legacy handed down to us from our industrial design forefathers. ☼

*Don Emmite, ASID, is an interior designer and longtime collector of midcentury industrial design. His Houston home appeared in No. 13, and he wrote 'Designs for Domesticity' for No. 38, available at atomic-ranch.com. Our thanks to House Beautiful, Frigidaire, and Bosh and Siemens for permission to reproduce their vintage ephemera.*

Can be hung on wall or placed on a cabinet to suit your height. Available in 40-inch width (above) . . . or 30-inch Debutante model.

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Gold Star Award gas range. The finest gas ranges built.  
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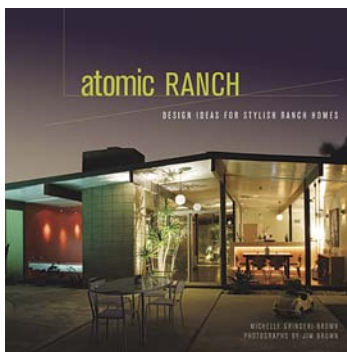
See more on this title on page 63.

**Enjoy colorful characters and iconic desert architecture?** James Schnepf's amusing photography of Palm Springs residents in their midcentury environments offers new takes on the House of Tomorrow, Sunnylands, the Edris House, Bougain Villa, the Wexler Steel Houses and many others. From interior and exterior shots to portraits, collections and landscapes, *Palm Springs Modern Living* is a great addition to your MCM bookshelf. Hardcover, 224 pp., \$40



## From the team that brings you AR magazine

**Why does this home's interior look so good?** We answer that in our 2012 book focusing on the interior details of eight ranches all across the U.S. From a split-level rambler and a typical tract home to an Eichler and a kit house, homeowners share their processes and challenges. Tips and resources for materials, furnishings, colors, window coverings and making your home reflect your personality—whether that's DIY weekend warrior or leave it to the pros. *Atomic Ranch: Midcentury Interiors*, hardcover, 192 pp., autographed, \$40



**Aren't ranch houses boring?** From modest makeovers to higher-end transformations, our 2006 book is a great introduction to the various styles of postwar ranches and the ways their homeowners have imbued them with livable flair. Whether your taste runs to thrift store kitsch, time capsules or iconic furniture and modern kitchens, the 35 homes in this book have plenty of inspiration for your own ranch. Landscaping, decorating with collectibles, hallmarks of the style, neighborhood preservation—it's got it all. *Atomic Ranch: Design Ideas for Stylish Ranch Homes*, hardcover, 192 pp., autographed, \$40

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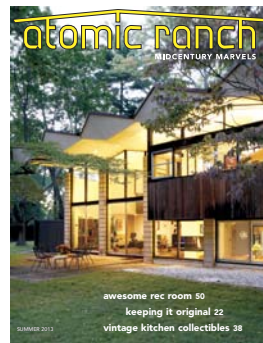
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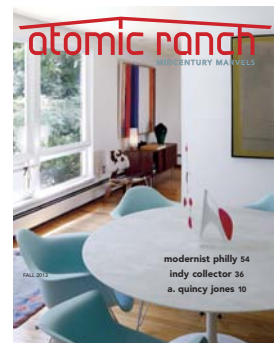
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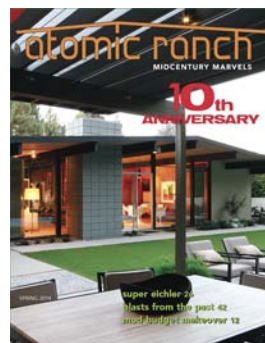
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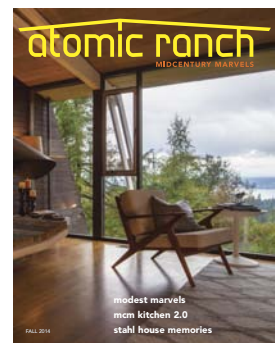
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# Grand Haven

*Heaven in*



text Aletha VanderMaas

images Kristen Carlson/K. Holly Photography



With a young child and small dog, my husband and I were looking to settle in a place with good schools and plenty of outdoor living space, one that was close to Greg's job in Zeeland, Mich. We also wanted a 'Goldilocks home' we could potentially stay in forever—not too big, not too small and all on one level.

'Contemporary, open floor plan, with a large outdoor patio'—all those things were on our wish list and mentioned in a Grand Haven MLS listing. But the photos? Nothing really grabbed us.

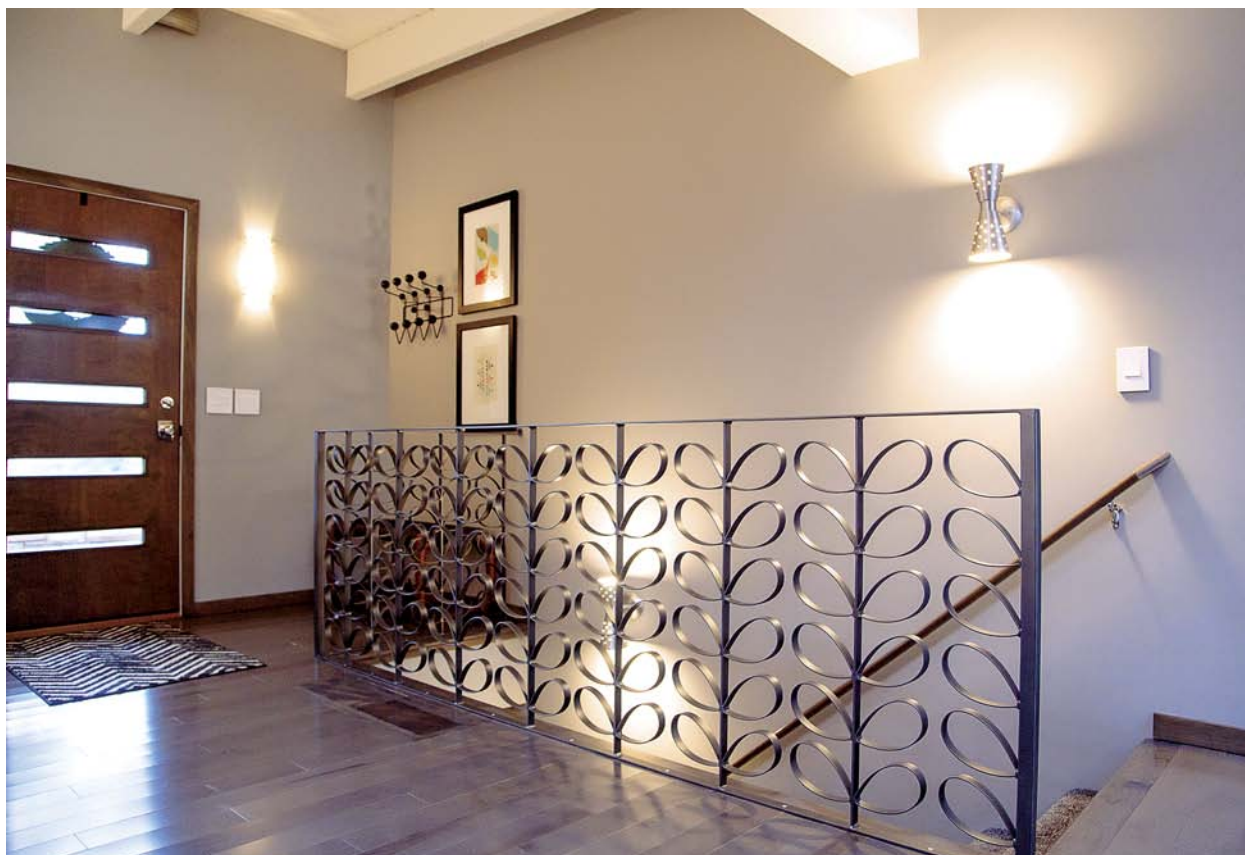
Our Realtor had scheduled a showing at a different, much larger midcentury modern home in the area, so we added this one to the list because we were already driving out that way. As we pulled into the driveway I exclaimed, "This is the one I want; I don't even care what the inside looks like!" I'd fallen in love with the yard, the prominent stacked-stone chimney, the recessed front door with built-in planter; it didn't matter if we made it to the next house appointment—I was mentally already moving in.

While the interior was certainly full of projects—starting with the tiny powder room and closed-off hallway just inside the front door—we thought it had potential. There were discussions about making the kitchen larger and splitting up an odd combined bathroom/laundry room, but our biggest concern was budget: Could we afford to take this project on? And if we did, how long would it take? Well below our overall budget and much less than other MCM homes in the area, we knew we could put some money into renovations, but how much would be too much?



I'd fallen in love with the recessed front door with built-in planter

## An Orla Kiely wallpaper print served as inspiration for the steel stair railing



### And so it begins

In November 2012 we launched a nearly yearlong home renovation. The weekend after closing, we removed the outdated 1990s kitchen; appliances went to Habitat for Humanity and the cabinets to a family who needed them. Since Greg is willing to try any task once, and I have experience managing large design projects, we acted as our own general contractors.

Because of budget constraints and time being less of an issue, we took on many of the demo projects. We removed all of the drywall (and the one billion fasteners holding it on!), demoed the full bath and the laundry/half bath, then scraped all of the previous patchwork flooring off. The kitchen alone had three layers.

While we would have loved to do all the work ourselves, we did need assistance, especially where permits were involved. We hired a contractor, plumber, electrician, HVAC company, mason, drywall company and painter. Contractor Bruce Vugteveen's help in converting the bathroom/laundry room back to separate spaces, replacing the windows and opening up the staircase to the basement proved invaluable.

Taking down the drywall was the most time-consuming project, but completely worth it in the end because the walls were then open for all new electrical work and appropriate insulation for our Michigan winters. In doing so, we discovered the studs in the hallway were not attached to any sort of subfloor—they had literally rotted away due to water damage.

Then we got into the mechanicals: questionable electrical work, no cooling system in place for muggy summers and DIY plumbing throughout. We worked with a great electrician who brought everything up to code and gave us new outlets where they made sense; we saved some money by installing all of the fixtures ourselves.

Previous spread: The brick, stone and concrete materials carry through from the facade and built-in planters to the interior of the 1959, 1,600-square-foot ranch. Under the eye-catching angled supports are a covered dining area and a screened porch; the vintage Malm fireplace had been painted black and was found for \$150 on Craigslist.

Near the Crestview door, decorative details include a Herman Miller Eames Hang-It-All, giclee prints by Thedor, a bench designed by John Vogel and a light fixture put together on the cheap. "The Jonathan Adler sconce was purchased secondhand from Practical Props for \$5 because the interior glass was broken," Aletha VanderMaas reports. "I called up Jonathan Adler and bought a piece of glass for \$35; the fixture normally retails for \$225!"



## Pragmatic thinking

Because of the moisture in Michigan, wood windows were not a long-term option for us. It was difficult for me to finally decide vinyl windows would be OK, and we then ordered the Andersen 100 Series, taupe on the outside with white inside. All original windows were replaced with the same style—fixed stayed fixed, sliding remained sliding and the crank-outs still crank out.

We also ordered all of the plumbing and lighting fixtures, and the doorknobs and hinges, searching high and low for what we thought would be close to original looking. Tile orders for the baths and kitchen were placed, and everything began to arrive at the house.

Kitchen appliances were something Greg and I debated for quite a while. Based on old photos, we knew the original homeowners had an above-the-counter fridge and freezer, and we wanted our new kitchen to be just as modern as it was in 1959. But this was no





Opposite: Craigslist Danish modern sofas and an armchair in the screened porch team with a vintage bench and fiberglass Herman Miller chairs. The acrylic globe lamp is new, as is the indoor/outdoor chevron rug from Grandin Road.

### **At this point I never want to leave this house**

The view from the front entryway shows the new kitchen, dining area and living room with the screened porch beyond. The vintage dining set has a Meteor pendant overhead and new Herman Miller fabric on the seats, while the barstools are from Modernica. "Our Sub-Zero glass-front fridge was a Craigslist score, and our Whirlpool for IKEA wall oven and matching microwave were secondhand finds as well," says Aletha.

time capsule, so we decided to approach the renovation and finishes as if the original owners were doing the same home today. We wanted the woodwork to look like it has always been here, but we also wanted to live in the 21st century.

Of course, Greg and I didn't always have the same design ideas, but we were usually on close to the same page. The biggest thing I had to convince him of was the reproduction 60" sputnik light fixture in our living room from Practical Props. After a trip to Palm Springs Modernism Week in 2013, we placed our order after I wouldn't stop talking about how much I loved that model.

The only other thing we weren't seeing eye-to-eye on was using a bit of graphic wallpaper in the house. I really wanted to incorporate some '60s-inspired color and pattern into the small dining area near the front door. I showed Greg sample after sample of ones I loved, and we just didn't agree on any of them. When he said he did not hate an Orla Kiely print, I ordered it the next day from John Lewis in the U.K. A welder by trade, Greg ended up liking it more than he anticipated; in the end it served as inspiration for the steel stair railing he fabricated, which took more than 50 tedious hours to complete.





Top: A unique zigzag brick wall in the living room sets off the Thrive sectional and ottoman, flanked by a low Lane end table and round Kroehler occasional table. A 5' Sputnik lamp from Practical Props hangs from the ceiling. Since the beams were already painted, and white conduit to new electrical boxes runs on top of the tongue-and-groove, the couple opted to paint the entire ceiling. The gray floors are maple from Lauzon, a Canadian company, and the screened porch is just through the sliding glass door.

Opposite: In the reverse living room view, vintage armchairs and a tray table form a seating group near Yorkie Olive's perch on the ottoman. The VanderMaases painted the white concrete fireplace surround gray to match the walls, and the planter and raised hearth are the same stone as on the patio. "I heard from the first owner's family that the stone was from Tennessee and the original owner drove a dump truck there and hand-picked it himself," Aletha relates.

Orla Kiely Multi Stem wallpaper enlivens the dining area and drove the design of the custom stair railing (page 53) fabricated by homeowner Greg VanderMaas.



## End of the tunnel

“We went with a very basic GE gas stovetop and simple Broan hood,” says Aletha. “Our Bosch dishwasher and Sub-Zero freezer drawers have wood panels on them so they blend right in with the cabinets and make our kitchen warmer than all stainless steel would. Bruce Vugteveen’s woodworking talent was a key component in the overall look of the kitchen and baths, as he custom made all the birch cabinets in the house.”

Chrome globe pendants hang over the white quartz kitchen counters, with their Vigo faucets and under-mount sinks.

Hardwood flooring went in, doors and baseboards were hung and stained, and we started moving in our furniture—mostly estate pieces we had been collecting for more than a year. The first night in our house was in August, just shy of 10 months after closing. We didn’t have bathroom sinks, a shower door, dishwasher or a mattress for our new bed, but we were so excited to be sleeping there!

Today we are still plugging away at small projects, and there have been a few roof problems leading to some rot in the tongue-and-groove wood of our eaves; those issues will need to be resolved as soon as finances allow. We spent twice as much on renovations as we initially planned, in part because we had no idea how much things cost, but also because we got into the mindset of ‘If we are truly staying here until we retire, we need solid wood doors, a tile surround in the bath, etc.’

We’ve grown to love Grand Haven, and at this point I never want to leave this house. I’ve been interviewing other owners of midcentury modern homes in the area and am putting together a home tour for this summer. I’ve cataloged at least 40 houses locally, which is a lot for our small west-Michigan town. Most are quite original and, as they pop up for sale, they seem to be snatched up quite quickly. As we all know, MCM is getting pretty popular.

We are so thankful we found this house when we did. It’s been a labor of love for our family and provided a fun project to work on together. And yes, we would do it again in a heartbeat if we found the right house! ✨

Resources page 77

*After a career as a successful event designer, Aletha VanderMaas has launched TrueHomeRestorations.com, focusing on home renovations with appropriately curated interiors. For myriad details on her house project, visit midmodmich.com. Kristen Carlson is a lifestyle photographer in the Bay Area. You can find her on Instagram @k\_holly and at kholly.com.*

**We wanted our new kitchen to be just as modern as it was in 1959**



A vintage bookcase, IKEA wheel toy and a shag rug in son Eames' vibrant blue bedroom.

Over the eucalyptus wood Acorn bed in the master are Jantzen sconces; the door with reeded glass inserts is from Crestview.



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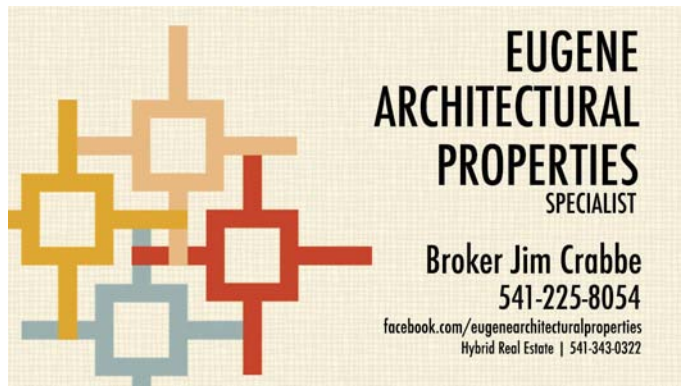


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# cool|stuff



## All in One

GE's 1950s Kitchen Centers (see page 42) are back, or at least on the horizon. Their Monoblock MicroKitchen concept offers customizable appliances in an integrated, stand-alone package designed for smaller residences. The 24"-wide drawer modules allow you to pick and choose your components—a fancy microwave, conduction oven, fridge/freezer or dishwasher—along with countertop radiant cooktops, downdraft exhaust fans and sinks with swing-away faucets. Still in R&D, price is projected at \$7,000 to \$15,000. See the deets at [goo.gl/brjrzo](http://goo.gl/brjrzo).

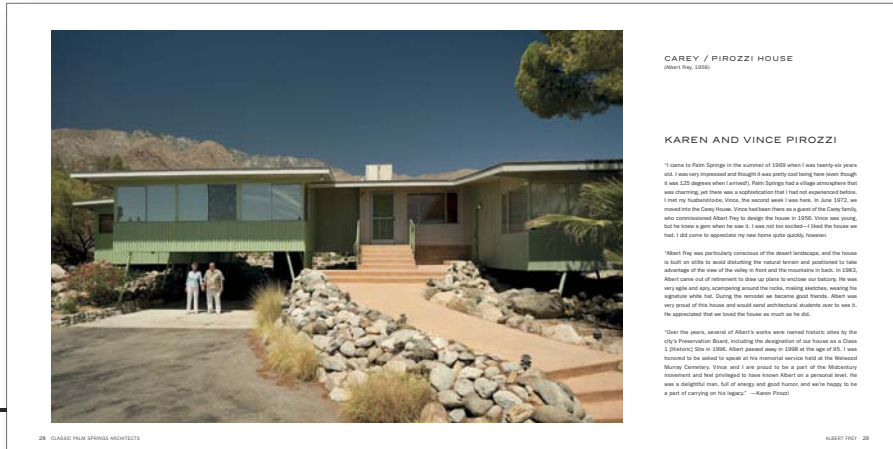






**Palm Springs Modern Living**

Iconic desert architecture has gotten plenty of coverage, but this new book from Gibbs Smith has a cheeky vibe. James Schnepf's wonderful photography captures the quirky personalities of residents in their chosen midcentury environment—Donald Wexler peering into one of his homes, Hugh Kaptur on a rock in front of a signature facade, Josh Agle by the pool en familia. William Krisel pens the foreword, and famous (and less so) characters wax philosophic about Palm Springs. \$40 at [gibbs-smith.com](http://gibbs-smith.com) and [atomic-ranch.com](http://atomic-ranch.com).





*text* Michelle Gringeri-Brown

*images* Benjamin Hill Photography & David Bowman

# Boomerang on the Bayou

**C**heryl Bowman comes by her atomic age bona fides naturally: She grew up in Richland, Wash., a stone's throw from the Hanford nuclear site that produced plutonium for the Manhattan Project. She recalls elementary school duck-and-cover air raid drills, cheering on the Bombers basketball team and the sturdy houses neighbors would help each other build in the close-knit community.

"I remember in our home we had an alarm we had to keep in case there was a nuclear radiation leak or an accident at Hanford, a couple miles away," she recounts. "That seems strange, now." Today the 58-year-old mental health professional lives in Houston in another tight community, Glenbrook Valley.

## Down but not out

"This house is actually the one that got me started on saving Glenbrook Valley," says Realtor Robert Searcy about Cheryl's modernist ranch. "I just happened to stumble across the neighborhood by accident back in 2004. I really didn't know much about MCM back then, but when I walked into the Bowmans' future house, I was stunned. It was listed for sale for \$124,900. I wasn't sure what I was looking at, but I knew I was looking at something good."

The house was part of Houston's 1954 Parade of Homes, with an original price of \$35,000. Its carport included a patio, wet bar and half bath. But although the area was once prosperous, by the time Searcy discovered the tract, rundown properties and blighted thoroughfares made Glenbrook Valley a hard sell for the architects, designers and professors who would appreciate such a gem. He was unable to find a buyer for the transitional neighborhood and 1,900-square-foot ranch, which was in dusty but good, original condition.

During this same period, other midcentury homes nearby fell prey to second stories and heavy-handed remodels that destroyed their original intentions, Searcy says. The next owners of the Bowmans' house did it no favors.





David Bowman

The Bowmans found a truly epic-size Valentine Seaver sectional by Kroehler and had it reupholstered for the sunken living room. Other elements include a red Adrian Pearsall chair and a photo of Natalie Wood printed on canvas. The wall looking out to the back yard is a mix of fixed panes and vintage Arcadia sliding glass doors. “Three of the five doors have the original Arcadia handles; I would like to have new ones that match the originals for the other doors, but they are copper and I would have to have someone make a mold and form the new ones,” says purist-leaning David Bowman. “I think it would be extremely expensive.”

Opposite: The modest front facade doesn’t reveal the home’s boomerang shape and wall of glass until you’re in the back yard. Off camera at the rear of the driveway is the carport, which previous owners enclosed into an apartment. The Bowmans have turned it back into a carport and are renovating its wet bar and half bath.

## Frightful site

Facing foreclosure and back on the market in early 2011, the home was now in poor condition. "The carpet was soaked with dog urine, staining the original hardwood floors underneath, the cabinets were filthy and damaged, while the bathrooms were non-functional," Cheryl recalls. "The subfloor was rotting, the sliding glass doors were jammed or broken, and the entry door had been kicked in. Water leaks caused rotting on the external wood paneling, the windows leaked or were broken and the gutters were partially gone—to name only a few of the issues. However, thanks to the solid design, quality construction and architectural integrity, the core strength and beauty of the home was still intact and able to be restored."

A George Nelson X-Leg table and cane-back side chairs for Herman Miller are lit by a vintage Italian Stilnovo pendant (opposite); the parquet panels on the back of the partition flip up to serve as buffet tables.

David Bowman, 56, brought his own pedigree to the project. His father was an architect in Oklahoma City, and David ran a construction company prior to becoming an IT manager. Those skill sets and interests made the Bowmans a good fit for rescuing the ranch.

"Since my father is an architect and he did pass on those attributes to me, I have the ability to see what things will look like in my head. I am able to look past all the stuff that really doesn't matter and see what the future holds," he says.

## Built to last

The house has two bedrooms and two baths, a kitchen/dining/living room, a laundry room and hallway. Other sprawling ranches in the neighborhood are closer to 4,000 square feet, Cheryl notes. The couple decided to keep as many of the original features as possible, from the custom cabinetry in the kitchen and the flip-up parquet buffet tables built into the dining room to the metal windows and '60s lighting.

"One of the things that we had to remove were vintage 12"x12" ceiling tiles because we wanted to add insulation," David says. "I hope to replace those tiles at some point to make it as close to original as possible. I also need to have the



intercom system refurbished, and then I'll reinstall it, along with speakers, throughout the house and the carport."

The casement windows, sliding glass doors spanning the back of the home and flagstone patio were repaired and the original custom gutter system re-created. Inside, bathroom tile and fixtures, cabinets, light fixtures, hardwood floors and built-in wardrobes were also renovated. Layers of '70s paneling, paint and wallpaper were meticulously stripped away—uncovering a vintage wallpaper mural that now hangs in the master bedroom.

"We learned an appreciation for the quality of how things were built back in the day," Cheryl says. "Our windows had to be restored, and the company that came to do this told us that the aluminum they are made out of is so strong it is the same used for airplanes."

"The person working on the windows said, 'Don't get rid of these!' " David adds.

"I also learned that new isn't always the way to go," Cheryl continues. "Initially I wanted to gut the whole kitchen and put in newer cabinets. I am so glad that my husband had the vision to want to keep the gorgeous old cabinets."

"I really hoped to keep the kitchen more original than what we ended up with," he says. "I wanted to either keep the original Formica or replace with new, but compromised with Cheryl on black granite countertops. My thinking behind everything we are doing to the house is to keep or bring it back to its original glory. The original cabinets are made from walnut and, for the most part, they were in good shape, so having them refinished brought them back."

## Home at last

The majority of the work was completed by September 2011, and the Bowmans were able to start enjoying their house and neighborhood—the latter, thanks in no small part to Robert Searcy's booster efforts. "Recognizing the potential offered by the Bowmans' house and others in Glenbrook Valley, 10 years ago I decided to take on marketing the neighborhood to midcentury enthusiasts and those wanting to be close in but who were priced out of more gentrified areas," explains Searcy.

Appliances were replaced but kept in the same locations, flooring is new VCT, countertops are black granite and the walls are glass mosaic tile, applied floor to soffit. The cabinetry was repaired and refinished, and double wall ovens replaced a single.





The excavated wallpaper mural hangs in the master bedroom along with a vintage clock. “Dave enjoyed finding out about the low voltage lighting system and the panel in the bedroom that controls all the fixtures in the entire home,” says Cheryl Bowman of her husband. “It was amazing that it was so state of the art back in 1954!”

“Since then, we have become the city’s largest postwar historic district, *This Old House* named it a top old-house neighborhood, and several local publications have dubbed it ‘where to live now’ or a ‘hot market.’ A management district has formed for the commercial areas [nearby], bringing tax money in to fix up the area, and Scenic Houston has a large donation for landscaping Broadway Boulevard, which bisects the neighborhood.”

“We were welcomed with a gathering at a local restaurant,” recounts Cheryl. “We love the feel of the neighborhood—the large lots, the great classic homes, the history—and the eclectic diversity found here. We’ve never been in a more social and fun neighborhood. It is a great group and a great community!”

Resources page 77

## It’s Historic

Developed between 1953 and 1962, Glenbrook Valley has approximately 1,250 homes, many of them architect-designed and custom built for Houston’s community leaders. Kansas City landscape architects Hare and Hare worked with developer Fred McManus on the design of the tract, which includes expansive lots, some of which front on a bayou.

Traditional and Colonial Revival ranches, along with midcentury modern homes, make up the neighborhood, which was designated as historic by the city of Houston in 2011. Robert Searcy maintains several sites with info on Glenbrook Valley, including [glenbrookvalley.com](http://glenbrookvalley.com).



Courtesy Robert Searcy





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# ranchdressing

House parts ...  
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the inside scoop on  
what's what  
and where to get it

**Q:** Our family purchased this chair in about 1956; as I recall, it was fairly expensive. My parents were very discerning in their midcentury modern furniture purchases, and apparently it won some sort of design award. I removed the worn leather cushions for the photo. Do you know who designed it?

**Lawrence Burde**

**A:** Bill Kurth (see contact info opposite) recognized your chair right away: "It's an early Dux lounge by Folke Ohlsson, which would make its origin Sweden. I know some early Dux was made of beech. I've had a few pairs



in the past, and typically they had a tinted lacquer finish if they were constructed of walnut or beech."

Ohlsson's wares were very popular and he is credited with creating the knockdown furniture concept, winning more than 30 awards, including at the Triennale Exhibit in Milan, a Good Design Show at MoMA and Sweden's Royal Order of Vasa—or so says the Internet.

**Furnishmevintage.com** sold a rehabbed one with

this description: "Vintage 1950s Folke Ohlsson lounge chair for Dux of Sweden. Precision styling with contoured joinery and blade-like arms. Flat bar slats form the backrest, rather than the typical spindles of Danish chairs. Well crafted, with bolts holding the seat together rather than dowels." (Hence, the knockdown IKEA approach.)

**Danishmodernla.com** had two for sale in walnut that they attributed to the '60s; another listing pegged the wood as teak. **VintageSupplyLA** on Etsy has a reupholstered walnut example priced at \$895, while one on **chairish.com** is going for \$1,455. All in all, a nice inheritance from your folks.

**Q:** I refinished this Lane dining table for a friend. It is 42" across and has room for several leaves, which have been misplaced over time. The numbers on the bottom, 222-56, were probably written at the factory—maybe a

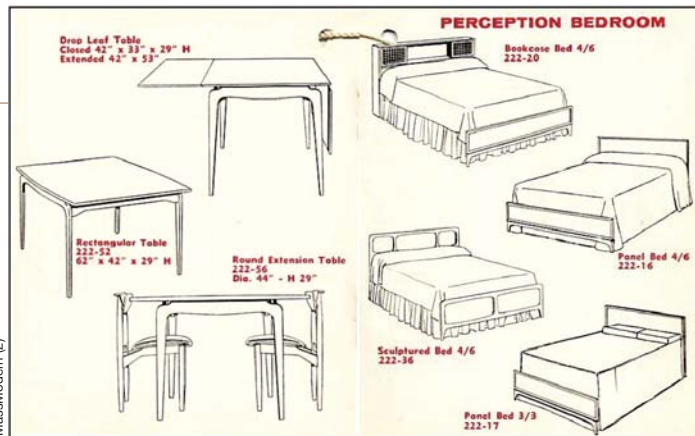


model number or a code date of manufacture. Any information on this piece of furniture would be helpful.

**Charles Cox**

**A:** A scanned Lane hangtag shared by Peter Kelley from MassModern Gallery in Boston shows this to be a 44" Perception Round Extension Table with the same model number you found under your friend's table. It was available in oak or walnut, and the hutches, buffets and dressers from the line had a basket weave accent on the fronts.

While we couldn't find other examples of the table currently on offer, MassModern ([goo.gl/6pYTp5](http://goo.gl/6pYTp5)) pro-



MassModern (2)



vided details from a 1959 example Kelley sold: "A classic dining table made of beautifully figured American black walnut. Expands to 56" with one removable 12" leaf and legs are removable. Walnut veneer over hardwood solids with hardwood legs; likely solids and legs are pecan."

Kelley says that very little Lane modern-era archival materials exist today. "The collections Lane developed in their modern heyday of the 1950s and 1960s are some of the most important offerings in the American 20th

Century design lexicon. Originally created for a mass-market consumer, the Lane collections of the period, including Perception, are now seeing a similar mass popularity with the resurgence of interest in good, collectible modern design.

"It looks as though your reader did a nice job on the table. I'd expect a retail price in the neighborhood of \$800, with another \$800 for matching chairs if all in very nice shape."

## croutons

✘ The daybed Patrick Flynn asked about in Winter 2014 [page 71] is Norwegian. My wife and I own Golden Age Design in Minneapolis, and we've had a couple of them come through our space. Both had 'Norway' or 'Made in Norway' burned on the bottom of a structural element, and typically they have pullout end tables and additional



storage under the seat cushions as Patrick stated.

**Bill & Kara Kurth, facebook.com/goldenagedesign**

✘ Like Clair Rollins' mother [No. 44, page 70], I needed to replace the coiled-spring cables on the seats of our chairs. Fortunately, I never stumbled across Experspring [goo.gl/NnQd8n]; if I had, I wouldn't have discovered net curtain wire." [Lightweight net or voile café curtains are threaded on this stretchy cord in the U.K., and are "great for letting light into your home whilst giving you a decent amount of privacy," best spo-

ken in your plummiest John Oliver accent. —ar editor.]

"While net curtain wire doesn't come with the obscure little double-ended connectors, it does have hooks and eyes and it's easy enough to thread an eye into one end, a hook into the other, and crimp the hook a little to close it. This may not be the most faithful restoration of our Hans Olsen chairs, but nobody will ever see it. More importantly, net curtain wire costs a fraction of Experspring, which can set you back as much as \$8.50 per meter.

"I paid less than \$20, including international shipping, for 25 meters of net curtain wire with plenty of hooks and eyes. I bought it on eBay U.K. ([stores.ebay.co.uk/Blue-Lagoon-Products](https://stores.ebay.co.uk/Blue-Lagoon-Products)), but there are many similar vendors and I think it's all pretty much the same product."

**Mike Johnson**



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# atomic events

**June 3–7 Minneapolis**

## **Modernism on the Prairie: Rural to Metro Regional Interpretations of the Modern Movement**

A symposium that includes tours featuring modern furniture makers and restorers, Ralph Rapson's residential designs and Eero Saarinen's 'Big Blue' IBM facility in Rochester; [docomomo-us-symposium.com](http://docomomo-us-symposium.com).

**June 10–14 Fort Lauderdale**

## **The Hukilau**

This gathering for Polynesian Pop enthusiasts held at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 hotel and The Mai-Kai restaurant includes live music, vendors and tiki history. From gone-but-not-forgotten midcentury attractions like POP and Disneyworld's Polynesian Village Resort, to mixologist Jeff 'Beachbum' Berry's cocktail event in a revolving ballroom, there's a lot to enjoy; [thehukilau.com](http://thehukilau.com).

**June 25–28 Lake George, N.Y.**

## **Ohana Luau at the Lake**

This annual three-day event at the time-warp Tiki Resort features live music, cocktails, vendors, a traditional luau and a Polynesian show with hula and fire dancers; [luauatthelake.com](http://luauatthelake.com).

**August 28–30 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, Charles Phoenix slideshow & lots of stuff to buy; [denvermodernism.com](http://denvermodernism.com).

**September 25–27 Sturbridge, Mass.**

## **The New England Shake-Up**

Bands, record hops, 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. Learn to dance in the ballroom of the Sturbridge Host Hotel; [newenglandshakeup.com](http://newenglandshakeup.com).

**September 26 Wheat Ridge, Colo.**

## **Mid-Century and Modern Tour**

This every-other-year tour takes you inside both mid-century and contemporary modern residences in the Denver suburb. Ticket sales likely begin in July; [wheatridge2020.org](http://wheatridge2020.org).

**Through September 27 NYC**

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

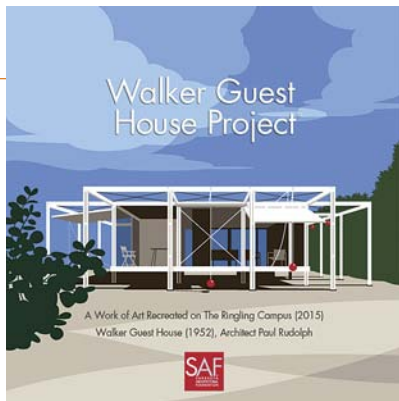
Women made an important contribution to postwar modernism, and a Museum of Arts and Design exhibition focuses on clay, fiber and metalwork by the likes of Edith Heath, Eva Zeisel, Karen Kames, Toshiko Takaezu, Anni Albers and others; [madmuseum.org](http://madmuseum.org).



**October 1–3 Fort Lauderdale**

## **Ohana Luau by the Sea**

A new sister event to the June Ohana features kitschy roadside attractions, thrifting, a Polynesian dance review, tiki artists and vendors, cocktails and likeminded friends; [luabythesea.com](http://luabythesea.com).



**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.



Frank Stella, Gran Cairo, 1962

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**Ongoing New York City**  
**Frank Stella**

The Whitney Museum of American Art, in its new Renzo Piano building in the Meatpacking District as of May, celebrates the career of Frank Stella with 120 works, both well-known and rarely seen. The museum also houses the largest collection of Alexander Calder’s work in the world, some of which will be on display during the inaugural exhibition season; whitney.org.

# resources

**Twin Peeks, pp. 12-25**

**Palm Springs condo:** Sofa & Lulu swivel chairs: floorplanla.com ✖ Living room area rug: athomeinthevalley.com ✖ Coffee table & Bed 5017: midcenturyla.com ✖ Possini Euro Design pendant: lampsplus.com ✖ Reproduction Tulip table & chairs: modshop1.com ✖ BLVD bench: boulevardps.com ✖ Ball fan: modernfan.com ✖ Mulholland house: Master bath: Oceania Tess Sandstone 5 wall tile, walk-erzanger.com ✖ Logos 713.1 floor tile, bisazza.com ✖ Counters, caesarstone.com ✖ Dining table & Antica chairs: midcenturyla.com ✖ dwr.com ✖ Dillon armchairs & coffee table: lawsonfenning.com ✖ Vintage furniture & accessories both: amsterdammodern.com ✖ modernspaces.net ✖ hedgepalmsprings.com ✖ jpanantik.com ✖ studiowinteriors.com

**Northern Exposure, pp. 28–33**

**Architect:** John Tong, tongtong.co ✖ **Furnishings:** mjolk.ca ✖ fredericia.com

**Heaven in Grand Haven, pp. 50-59**

**Contractor:** Bruce Vugteveen, Grand Rapids, Mich., 616.735.0885 ✖ **Windows:** andersenwindows.com ✖ **Flooring:** Shadow Gray hard maple, lauzonflooring.com ✖ **Backsplash:** Loft Ash Gray 1"x4" glass tile, amazon.com ✖ **Quartz counters:** sunstonegranite.com ✖ **Appliances:** subzero.com ✖ ikea.com ✖ ge.com ✖ broan.com ✖ bosch.com ✖ **Kitchen pendants:** Access Lighting Retro Ball Mini Pendant, amazon.com ✖ **H-base barstools:** modernica.net ✖ **Meteor pendant & Jantzen sconces:** rejuvenation.com ✖ **Sputnik & IWS12 sconces:** practicalprops.com ✖ **Porch lamps:** Acrylic glove white hanging pendant, loveitlighting.com ✖ **Parker wall sconce:** jonathanadler.com ✖ **Hang-It-All:** hermanmiller.com ✖ **Bed & John Vogel bench:** westelm.com ✖ **Caymun chevron area rug:** grandinroad.com ✖ **Artwork:** Thedor, etsy.com/shop/Thedor



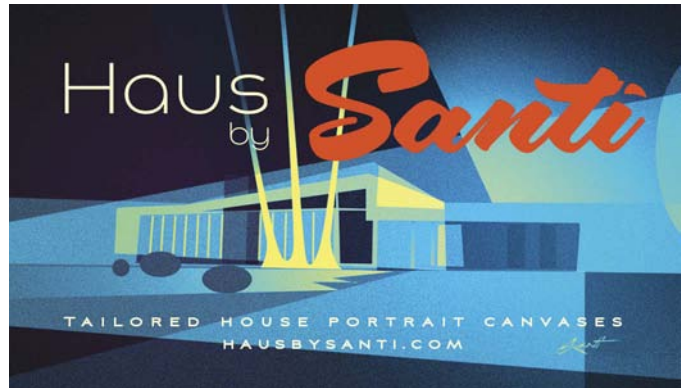
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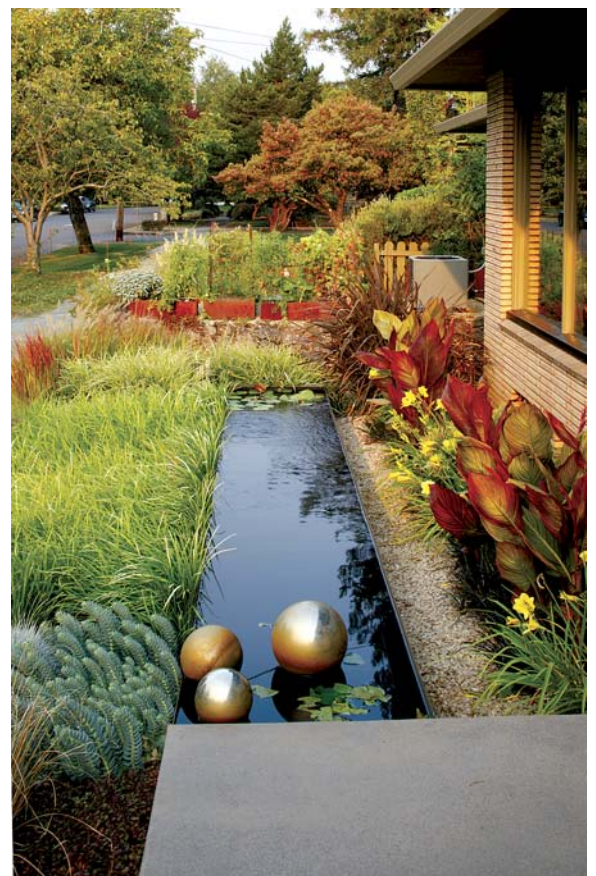
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# coming up



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<b>DSprints.com</b> 571.235.8736	11
<b>FOS Design</b> 888.591.0751 radius-design-usa.com boxdesignusa.com	37
<b>Haus by Santi</b> 917.272.8403 Hausbysanti.com	78
<b>Hennessy Puzzles</b> 310.391.0519 HennessyPuzzles.com	75
<b>I Adorn U</b> iadornu.net	74
<b>J Schatz</b> 866.344.5267 jschatz.com	37
<b>Mac George Designs (Art Prints)</b> mgeorge59@gmail.com macartprints.com	11
<b>Moda Industria</b> 812.330.5135 modaindustria.com	10
<b>modbox USA, Inc.</b> 919.781.8403 modboxusa.com	26
<b>Of-Steel Industrial Arts</b> 678.656.3012 ofsteel.us	11
<b>Roantree Weaves</b> 215.922.4079 roantreeweaves.com	75
<b>Sin in Linen</b> 206.935.2079 SinInLinen.com	61
<b>Storage Studies</b> 503.756.3436 storagestudies.com	71

## design resources & books

<b>Atomic Ranch books &amp; back issues</b> atomic-ranch.com	48
<b>Diane Vallere</b> 469.865.9640 dianevallere.com	75
<b>Kerf Design</b> 206.954.8677 kerfdesign.com	1
<b>Lackey Construction</b> 503.318.0012 lackeyconstruction.com	36
<b>Modernous</b> 206.399.1419 Modernous.com	61
<b>William Fisher Architecture</b> 831.246.0117 modern-architecture.com	26
<b>lighting</b>	
<b>Hip Haven</b> 512.462.4755 hiphaven.com	60
<b>Moon Shine Lamp and Shade</b> 830.935.2350 moonshineshades.com	26
<b>Remcraft Lighting Products</b> 800.327.6585 remcraft.com/ar	74
<b>The Sconce Queen</b> 210.733.7557 thesconcequeen.com	75
<b>YLighting.com</b> 866.428.9289	bc
<b>midcentury realtors &amp; accommodations</b>	
<b>Allen Real Estate Services Inc.</b> 941.350.1220 SarasotaWowHomes.com	74
<b>Cincinnati Modern/Keller Williams Advisors Realty</b> <b>Susan &amp; Arlen Rissover, Realtors</b> 513.886.7841 cincinnati-modern.com	37
<b>Ed Murchison, Dallas Realtor</b> 214.395.7151 midcenturymoderndallshomes.com	27
<b>Eugene Architectural Properties</b> 541.225.8054 facebook.com/eugenearchitecturalproperties	61

<b>EveryPortlandHome.com</b> 503.260.7876	27
<b>Fresno Modern</b> 559.960.3229 fresnomodern.com	71
<b>Lisa Harding, SoCal Iconic Homes</b> 800.687.0540 socialiconichomes.com	37
<b>The Marye Company</b> 512.444.7171 themaryecompany.com	60
<b>Modern Illinois—Lou Zucaro Baird &amp; Warner</b> 312.907.4085 modernil.com	78
<b>The Orbit In/Hideaway Hotels</b> 877.99.ORBIT orbitin.com	60
<b>Robert Searcy Properties</b> 832.279.5332 glenbrookvalley.com	36
<b>sfvmod</b> 818.312.3930 sfvmod.com	61
<b>modern furnishings</b>	
<b>BDI</b> 800.428.2881 bdiusa.com	ibc
<b>Copeland Furniture</b> 802.222.9282 copelandfurniture.com	ifc
<b>Housefish</b> housefish.com	78
<b>Infinite Storage Solutions</b> 949.366.0780 issdesigns.com	60
<b>MASHstudios</b> 310.313.4700 laxseries.com	74
<b>NuModernDesign</b> 614.315.9603 NuModernDesign.com	75
<b>OrWa Designs</b> orwadesigns.com	71
<b>Woodwaves Inc.</b> 888.850.3348 woodwaves.com	10
<b>YLiving.com</b> 800.236.9100	bc

## other house stuff

<b>Clayhaus Ceramics</b> 503.928.3076 clayhausceramics.com	36
<b>Frank Lumber Co., Inc.</b> 206.362.2311 franklumber.com	27
<b>Index-d</b> 877.777.0592 index-d.com	11
<b>The Modern Fan Co.</b> 888.588.3267 modernfan.com	5
<b>modwalls</b> 877.439.9734 modwalls.com	26
<b>Vintage Plywood Mill Works/ Eichler Siding</b> 415.883.5300 vintageplywood.com eichlersiding.com	36
<b>vintage shops &amp; furniture rehab</b>	
<b>A Modern Line</b> 813.234.4500 amodernline.com	71
<b>Atomic Threshold</b> 626.244.7880 atomicthreshold.com	75
<b>California Furniture Restoration</b> 909.620.8580 californiafurniture.com	75
<b>Evans Family Company</b> fagasstraps.com	78
<b>Furnish Me Vintage</b> 877.557.1151 furnishmevintage.com	75
<b>Hairpinlegs.com</b> hairpinlegs.com@gmail.com	74
<b>MIDCENTURYLA</b> 818.509.3050 midcenturyla.com	78
<b>Modern Mobler Vintage Furnishings</b> 202.882.1648 modernmobler.com	71
<b>The Purple Moon</b> 304.345.0123 thepurplemoon.com	71

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