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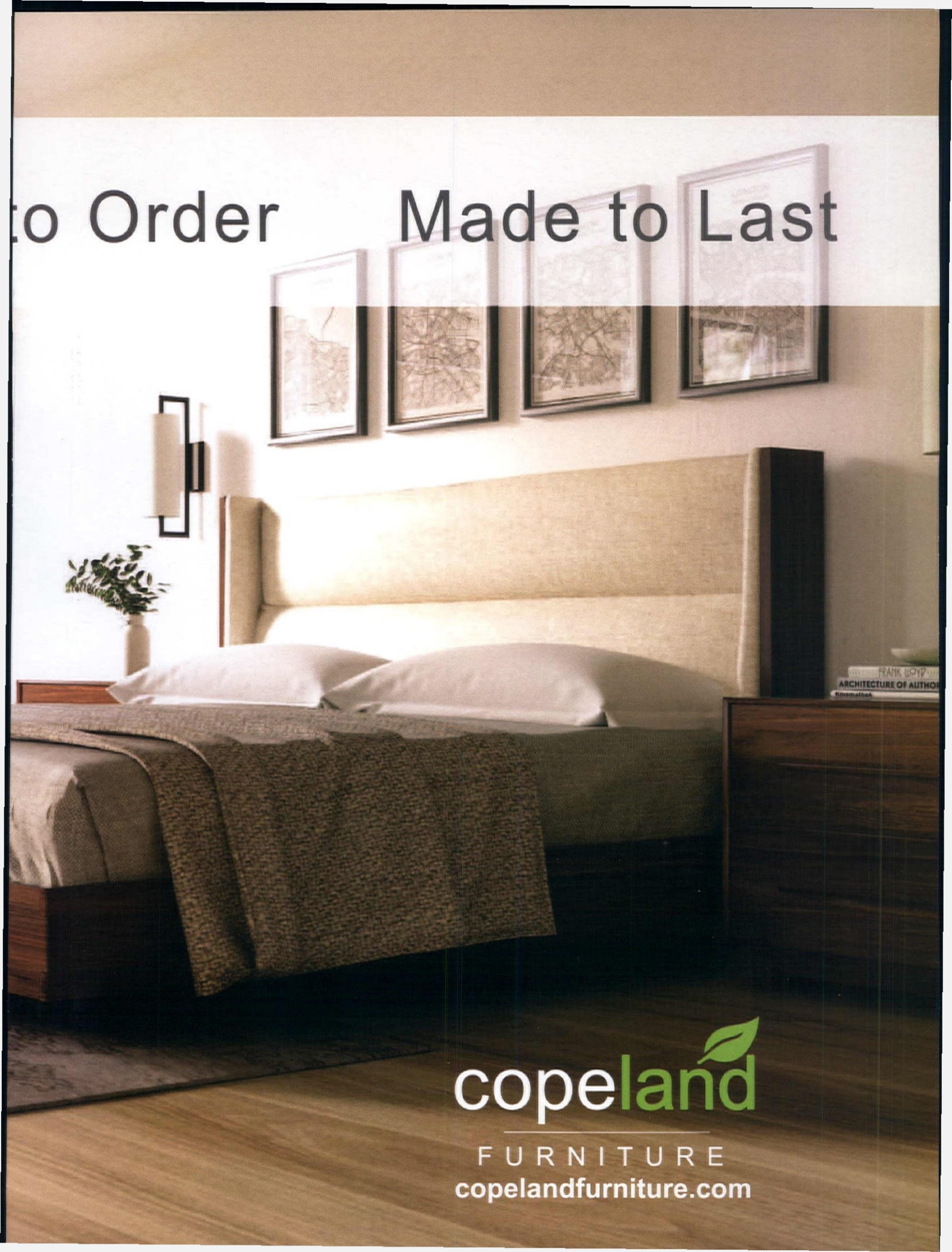
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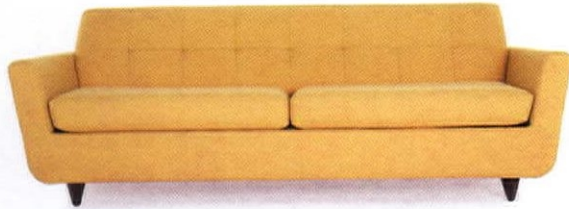
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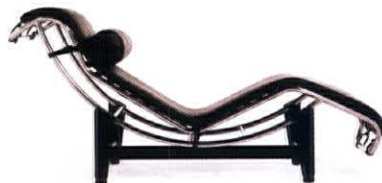
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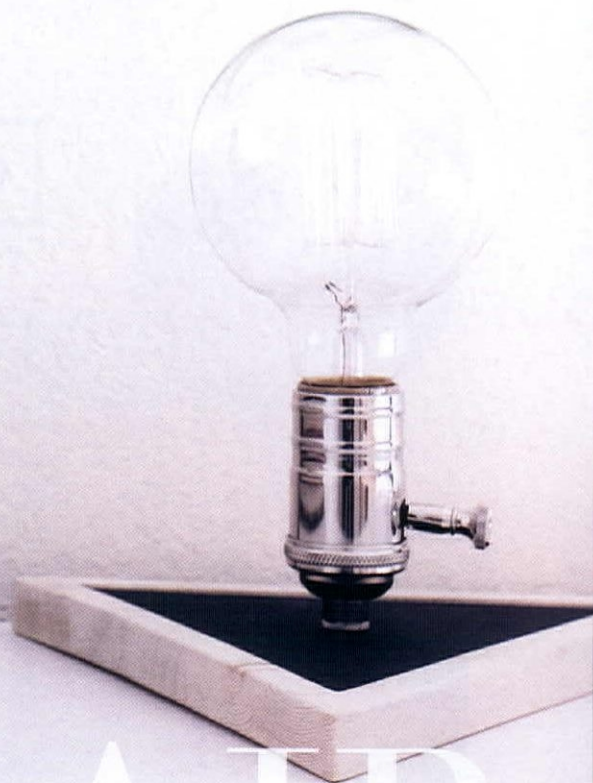
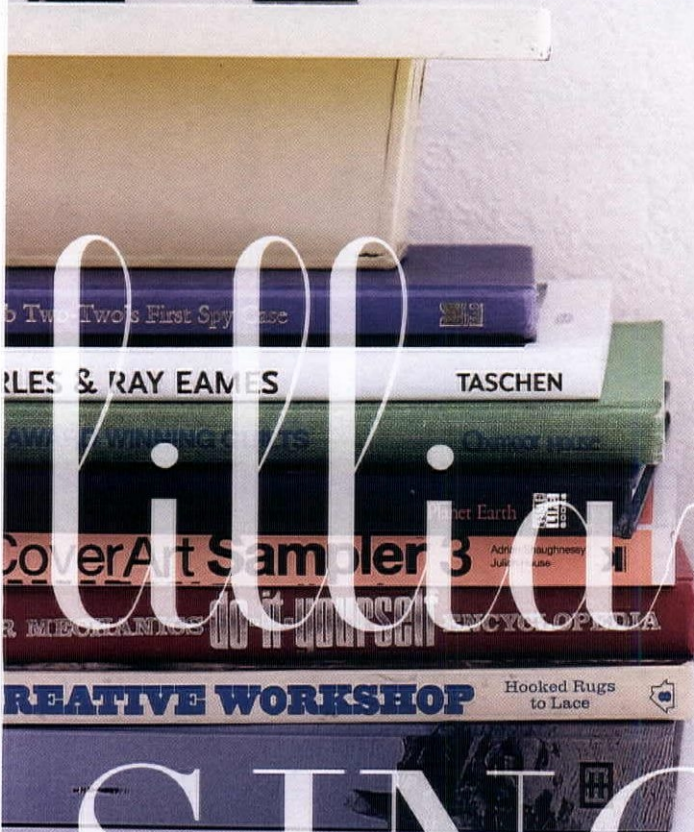
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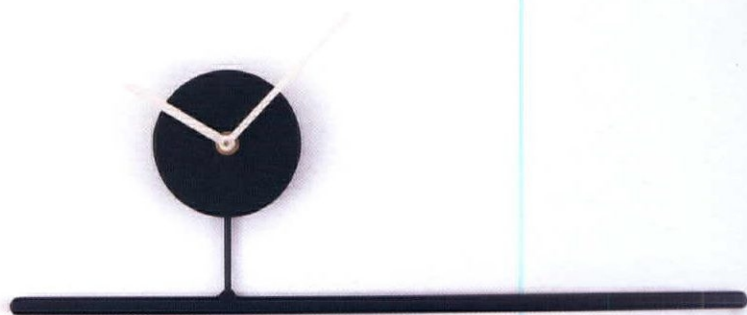
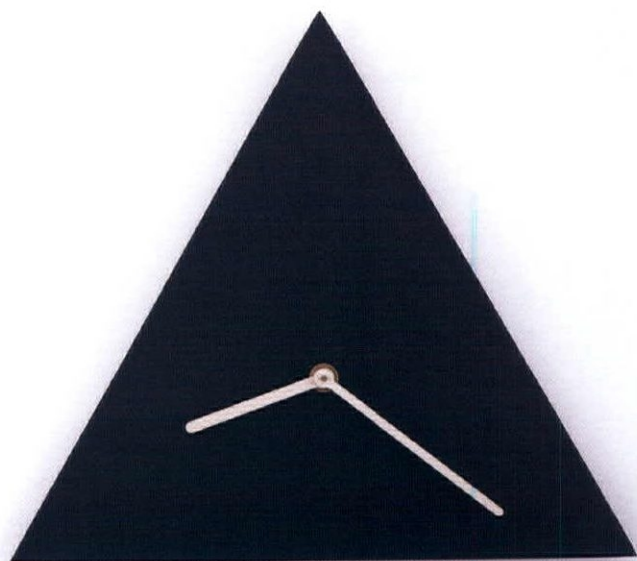
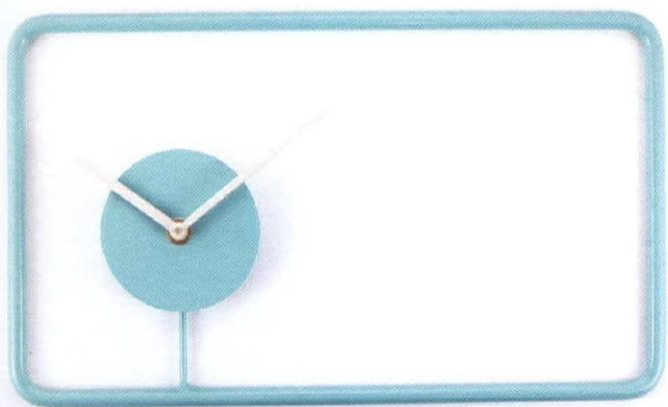
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editor's letter



Preserving the Art of Home

When you love midcentury architecture, there is a passion that accompanies it, a desire to save the elements that set it apart, the unique pieces of period charm. This is where preservation begins.

Many owners of Midcentury Modern homes see themselves as stewards. They are the protectors of their home's future and the purveyors of its history. Despite being the mid mod equivalent of a knight in shining armor, these homeowners moonlight as normal people who do normal things. They bring in piles of mail, make dinners that spill and splash, wash loads of laundry and curl up on the couch to watch movies.

So how does preservation line up with normal everyday life, let alone personalization?

Look no further, because the homeowners in this issue have mastered this delicate balance.

In Minnesota, a family of four has turned a two-bedroom house into a dream come true (page 30), while in Michigan a family blends together with perfectly quirky twists (page 42). Plus, an interior designer proves that a mid mod home can boast incredible vintage furnishings without feeling like a museum (page 54).

Making a midcentury house feel like a cozy, welcoming home doesn't need to feel like a battle, so if armor isn't your style, don't fret. Preserve your home by remembering to celebrate the elements that initially sparked your appreciation—look up at those clerestory windows more often and dust off the breezeblocks—then enjoy the process of filling it with furnishings that bring both joy and functionality.

Sarah Jane Stone

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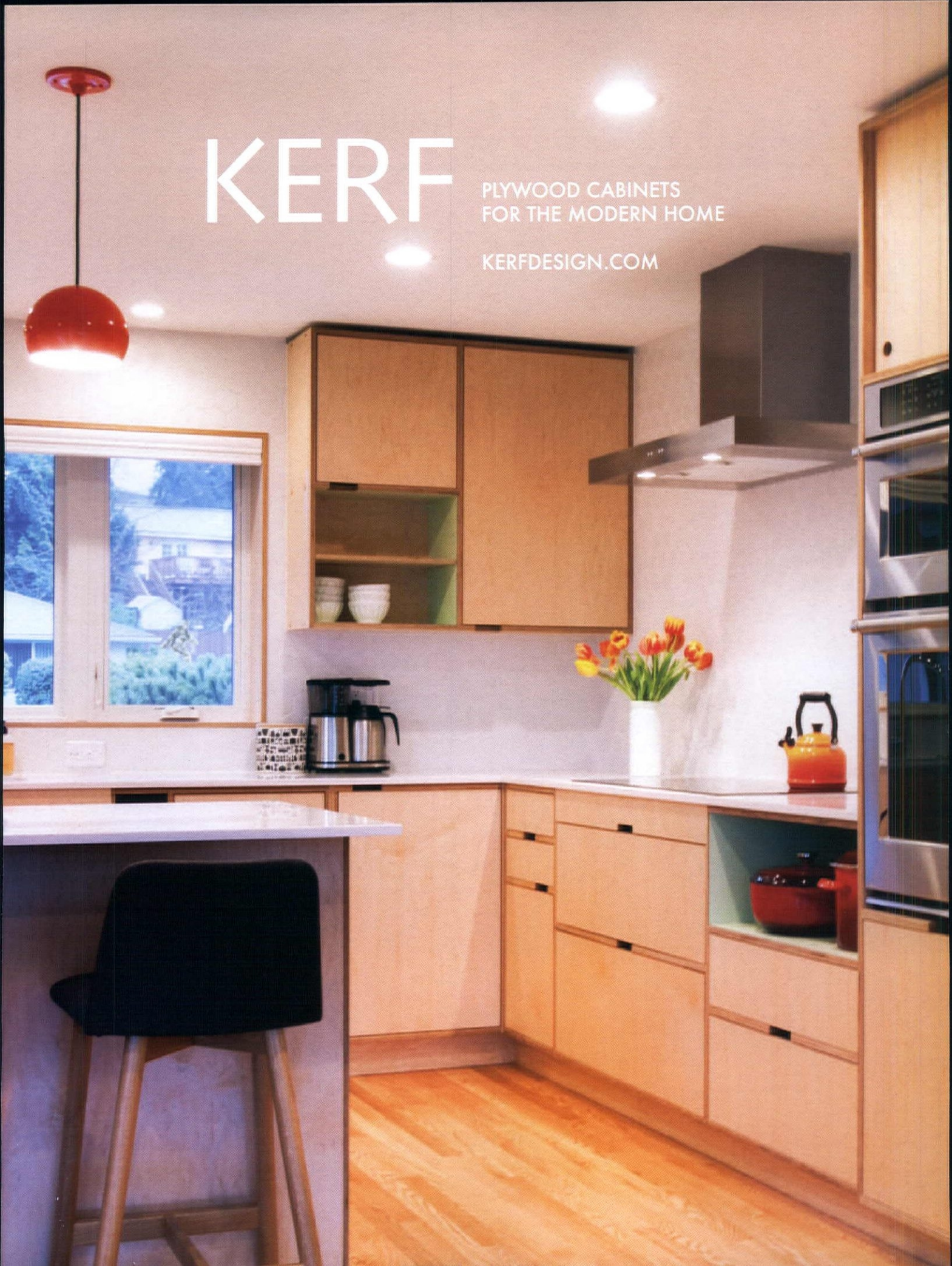
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This home's time capsule-quality furnishings and accessories are fit for 21st century living.

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Meet the famous architects and unlikely key players who came together to foster Michigan's modernity.



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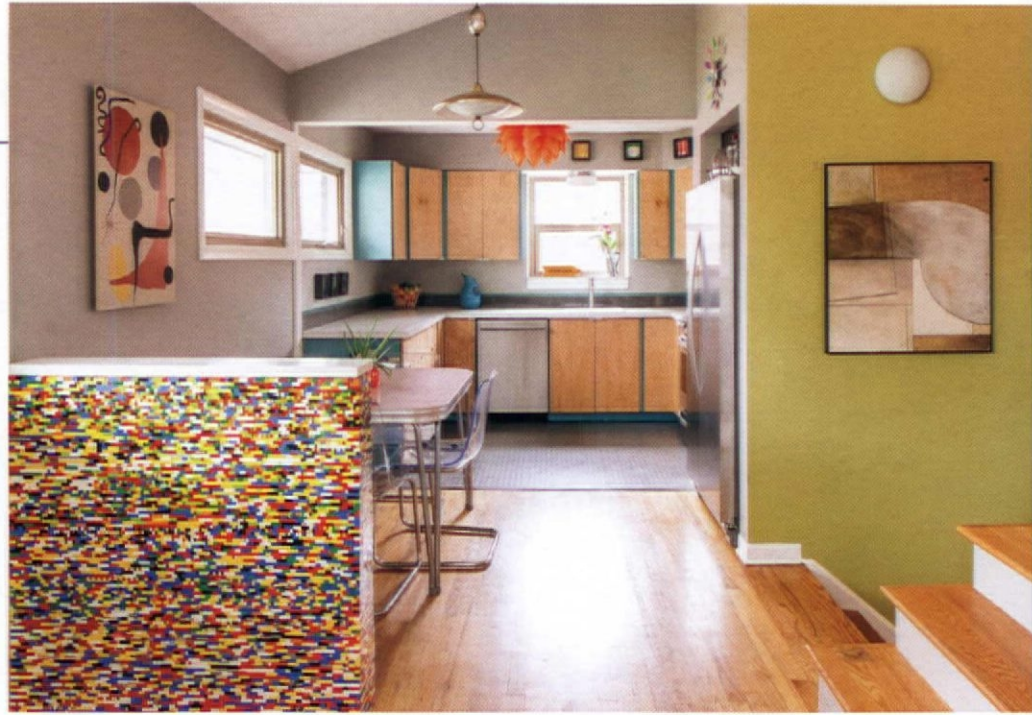
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cover

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Cover design by Gabby Oh

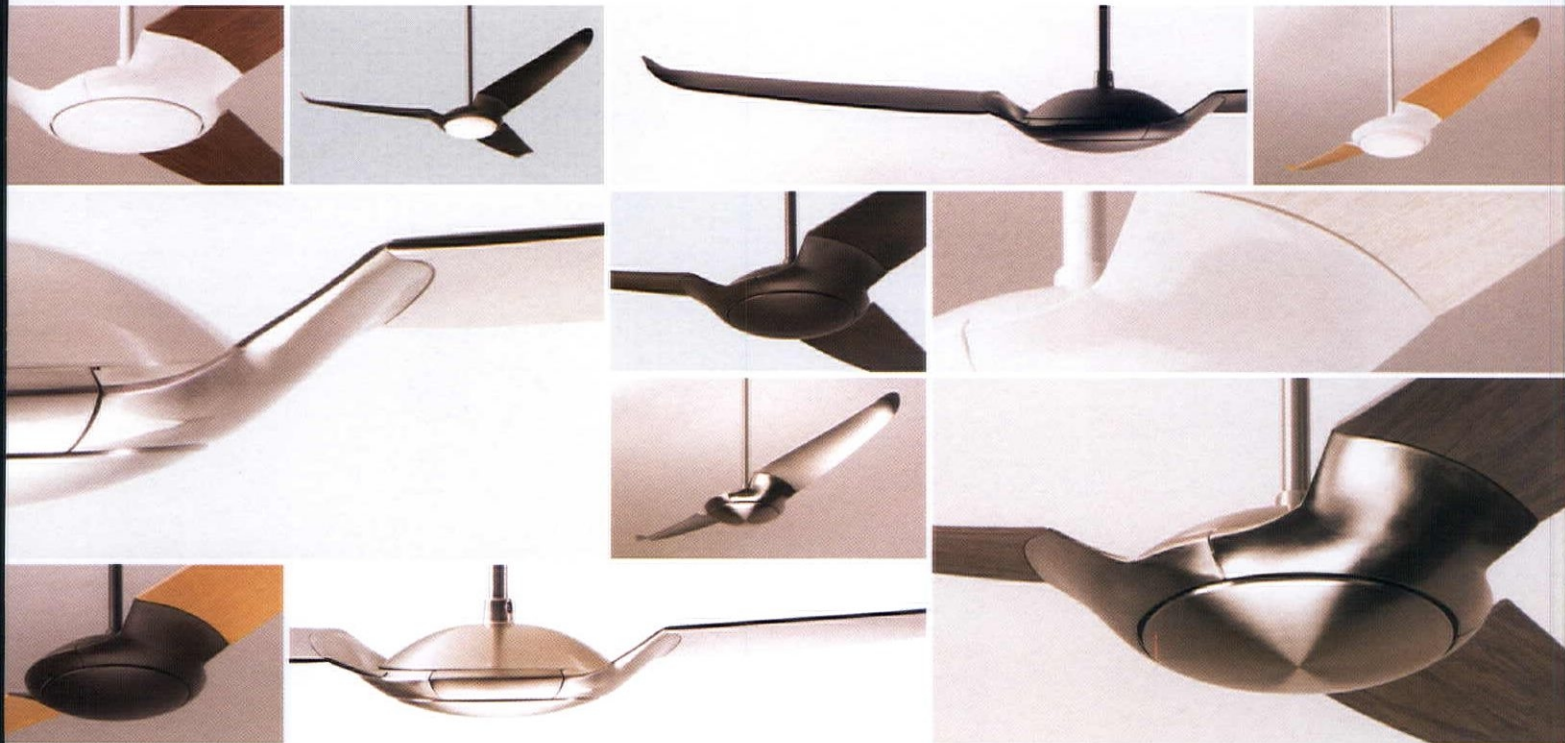


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Inside Scoop!

PHOTO COURTESY OF QUARTERLAB DESIGN BUILD



Good ol' Peggy Blue.

Tour a home in Austin, Texas, which salvages the best MCM features, adds a few period-style elements and results in an atomic home with a country spin.

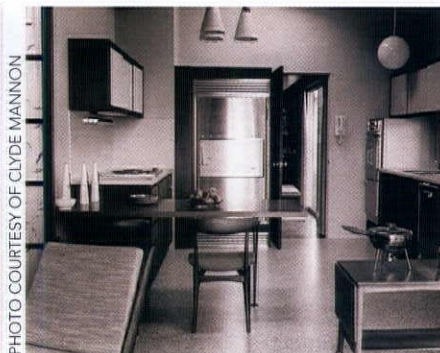


PHOTO COURTESY OF CLYDE MANNON

Researching Your MCM Home.

A homeowner moved into a historic neighborhood and wanted to know more about its history. She tells us how she managed to dig up info and photos with some tips for how you can get started.



PHOTO BY JIM BROWN

Listed.

Introducing "Listed," our new column all about current real estate listings. Every month, we'll have new live listings from MCM real estate agents around the country for fans and house hunters alike.

PHOTO BY JIM BROWN



Winterize Your Home.

Find the best ways to prepare your home for a season of cool weather outside and cozy fun inside.

PHOTO COURTESY OF YLIVING



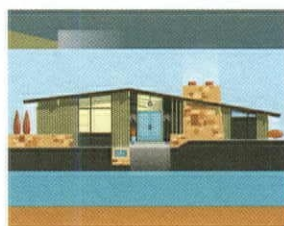
Warren Platner.

Known for his furniture design as well as his interiors, this icon of '60s modernism left us with a legacy of pieces and places.

Cool Stuff



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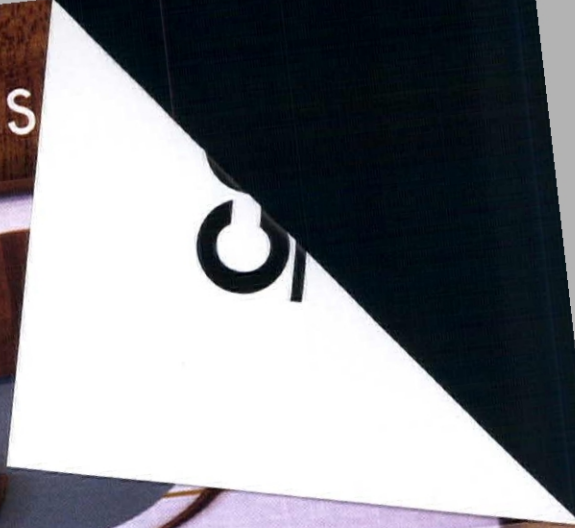


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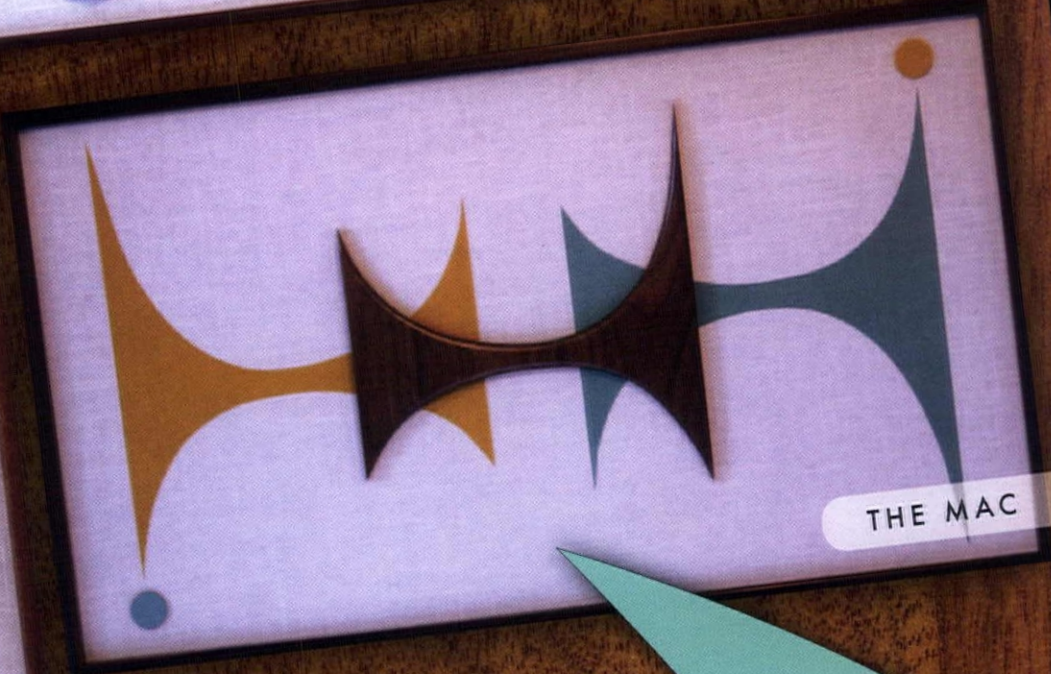


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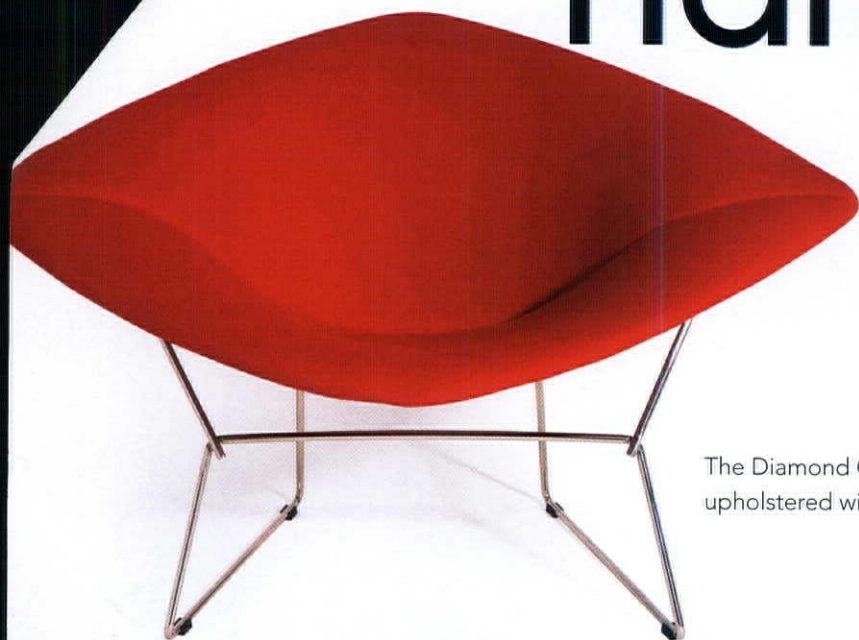
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Handsome Hues

By Madison Nauta

Make your lime green dreams come true or show off your red hot passion for mid mod with these vibrant pieces.



The Diamond Chair is a classic, plain and simple. Bertoia upholstered wire Diamond Chair, \$749. Visit inmod.com.



Whether you're a cat person or a dog person, these glasses are too cute to pass up! Fishes Eddy Charley Harper glassware, \$8-10. Visit westelm.com.

Storage never looked so good. Danish modern teak corner bar cabinet by Omann Jun, \$1,250. Visit aymerickmodern.com.



Protect your beloved collection with a bench that doubles as storage. Vinyl LP storage bench lo-fi edition with Midcentury Modern stylings, \$950. Visit etsy.com/shop/PeteDeebleFurniture.





This brass Brutalist beauty is the work of Curtis Freiler and Jerry Fells. Signed C Jeré metal bridge sculpture, \$795. Visit trystcraft.com.

Add comfort and retro-inspired flair to your sofa. A. Atomic twist (52_2016) Arnge pillow, \$59; B. TV Set Arnge pillow, \$59. Visit arnge.bigcartel.com.

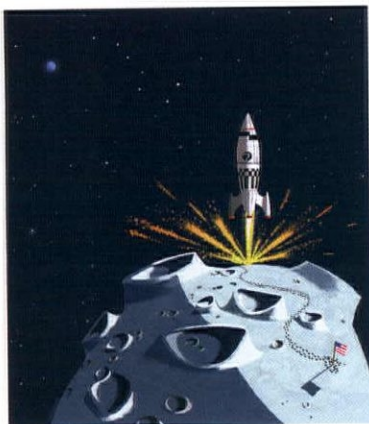


Get personal with this customizable table and compact dining set. Toscano dining set, \$2,349. Visit joybird.com.

Decorating your wall doesn't have to be complicated. Dewey clock, \$285. Visit lilliansinclair.com.



Make a statement with this lime green platform sofa that mixes contemporary style with vintage vibes. Midcentury inspired platform sofa, \$1,695. Visit atomicfurnishings.com.



This retro-inspired art is out of this world. "Headin' Home," print by Mac George, \$70. Visit macartprints.com.



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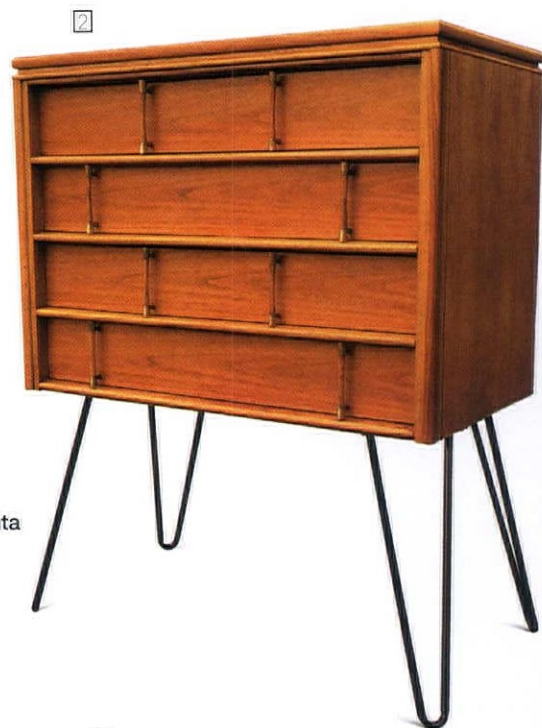


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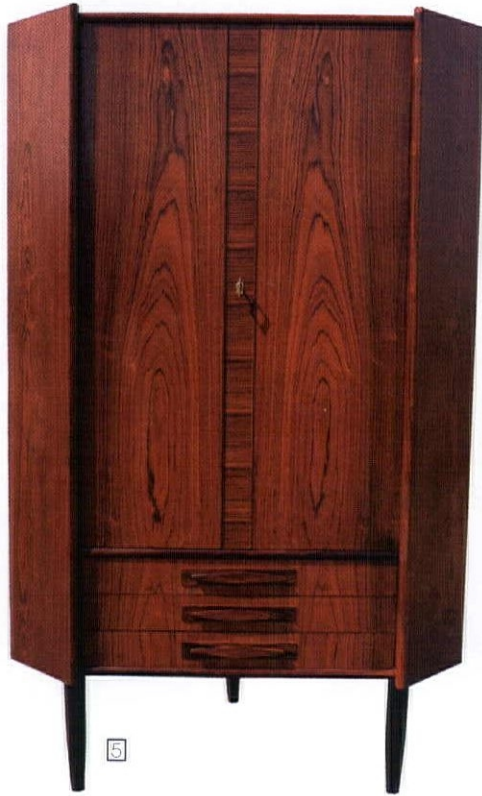
Dress It Up By Madison Nauta

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5. Vintage Danish rosewood corner cabinet, \$1,800. (855) 549-9990 or chairish.com.
6. Diamond front Midcentury Modern tall dresser by United Furniture, \$900. Visit trystcraft.com.
7. Brutalist diamond relief nightstand, \$2,800. (713) 522-5252 or lynngoodevintage.com.
8. Nine drawer miniature chest, \$1,997. (877) 224-6663 or inmod.com.
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Heat Wave

A random warehouse sale leads to a serendipitous discovery.

Written and photographed by Chad Baker

I'm not a big yard sale fan. Years of running from sale to sale only to find baby clothes and brand new knick-knacks in neighborhoods full of cookie cutter houses did me in.

One fall morning, I was running late getting to the warehouse and came across a sign that read "Warehouse Sale." Located around the back of some storage units in an older area of town, something told me this sale in a nonresidential area may not be full of "new junk." The sale wasn't busy, but looking around, it seemed I had been suckered into just another yard sale—until I saw a wonderful orange enamel stove with all the original pipes.

So as not to seem super interested, I didn't rush over immediately. Continuing to walk as if scoping out the other merchandise, I slowly made my way over. Pretending to almost trip over it, I inquired about the unique stove.

The lady having the sale told me it had been in her house in Michigan and that she had brought it with her years ago when moving to Hickory, North Carolina. Honestly, I was

shocked she had thought enough about the stove to move it and still have it in her possession. Keeping this apparent attachment in mind, I asked the



price. Seeming surprised that anyone would ask about the stove, she replied "\$30." Without hesitation, I pulled out the cash, loaded it up and headed home.

Knowing that someday my wife Tina and I would own our forever midcentury home, we decided to hang on to the stove. Years later while working on the remodel plans for our 1963 midcentury home, it was finally time to bring the stove into the mix. We had the perfect spot for it in our basement and even based the accent wall paint off the stove's original finish. Not wanting to deal with the mess associated with bringing firewood in the house, we found a set of gas logs that finished the stove off perfectly. 🌀



Chad Baker is a knowledgeable midcentury enthusiast who has been digging for mid mod treasure for more than 10 years. As a result, he has a plethora of stories about rescuing, restoring and scoring great finds. Along with his wife Tina, Chad lives in a stunning North Carolina home that the couple has lovingly preserved. For more on Chad, visit facebook.com/simplychad.

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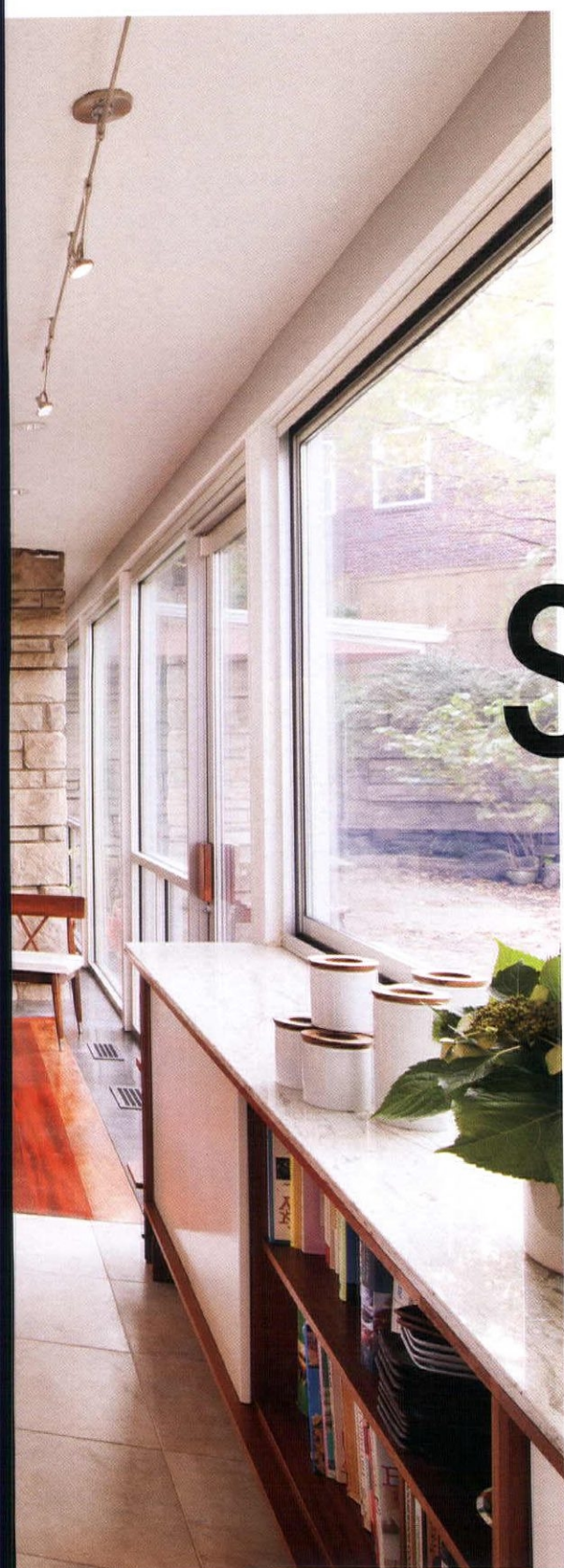


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THE HOMEOWNERS HAD TO MAKE A COMPROMISE WHEN IT CAME TO WINDOWS, REPLACING THEM WITH MILGARD DOUBLE PANED ALUMINUM WINDOWS. THE COUPLE FOUND THEM TO BE AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE ORIGINAL SINGLE PANED WINDOWS, AS WELL AS THE CLOSEST TO PERIOD STYLE.

DESIGN MUST-HAVES:

- Floating upper cabinets
- Custom cookbook display
- Ample hidden storage



Authentic Additions

A 1949 kitchen blends modern additions with a midcentury aesthetic and becomes a space fit for a gourmet cook.

By Kristin Dowding • Photography by Sam Oberter Photography

SOMETIMES, YOU JUST HAVE TO START FROM SCRATCH. When Val Nehez of Studio IQL was brought on to this kitchen upgrade, she knew they had a lot of work ahead of them. "It had all the original everything," she says. "But it was really broken down after 55 years of use." Though everyone involved had respect for preserving midcentury authenticity, there was no saving what was left.

"It was hard to have the confidence to take it out, because it was original," Val says, "but the homeowners are huge gourmet cooks and the original space and appliances weren't sufficient." With a new vision in mind, they set to work blending the midcentury bones they were given with a more functional space.

SUFFICIENT SPACE

Their first priority for this Hermit Street, Philadelphia home was making the kitchen large enough to move around in. Because the kitchen is connected to other spaces, they needed to move the entire back wall of the house to accomplish this task. The line visible down

/REAL HOME 101/

TYPE OF HOME: 1949 ranch

ARCHITECT: Arthur Tofani

BACKGROUND: While everything was original to the house, the kitchen was worn down and too small for the homeowners, and not sufficient for their frequent gourmet cooking.

INNOVATIVE IDEA: The designers custom-made a steel triangular kitchen cart on casters that can serve as extra work space in the kitchen or be wheeled outside for outdoor dining.



WHAT MAKES IT MCM?

- Vibrant red backsplash
- Steel and sapele wood materials
- Sleek white lacquered cabinets

THE KITCHEN DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF SPACE FOR UPPER CABINETS, SO STUDIO IQL CUSTOM BUILT CABINETS WITH STEEL FRAMES THAT SUPPORT FLOATING SHELVES FOR EXTRA STORAGE.

the middle of the fireplace represents where the wall used to be and gives an idea of how big a difference a few more feet can make.

"We were able to make the house seven feet bigger when we moved the glass wall," Val says. "This swallowed the fireplace into the house, as half of it used to be outside." With the extra space, they were able to add a low counter to hold cookbooks and provide a convenient seating area at the bar.

CREATIVE THINKING

With limited wall space, Val had to get creative to include upper cabinets. They custom-built a steel bracket bracing system to connect upper cabinets to lower without using a wall for support. The design is reminiscent of floating shelves that were popular in the 1950s, so the idea suits the homeowners' desire to preserve the midcentury aesthetic.


The biggest challenge, however, was getting all the countertops to line up. "There wasn't a single right angle in the house," Val says. "They were all 45 degrees." To make the workspace consistent, they built a triangular kitchen cart that rests at the end of the main counter space. Made of steel with a butcher-block top, the cart has shelving for extra storage and was built on casters, so it can be moved if needed. "We didn't want to make it a permanent feature," Val says. "Now, they can wheel it outside if they need to."



“Staying true to the MATERIALITY is the most important part of designing a midcentury home.”

MIDCENTURY FEATURES

To ensure the new additions blend with the rest of the MCM home aesthetic, Val used authentic period materials for the custom-built pieces and kept original features where she could. “Staying true to the materiality is the most important part of designing a midcentury home,” Val says. “The walls had colored glass in them that we kept.” For everything else, they used appropriate materials that would keep the additions from looking new and out of place.

Steel, sapele and lacquered wood were the main materials they used to finish the kitchen. “We wanted people to be unclear as to what was the new part,” Val says. These materials are in line with the sleek look of midcentury and add the utility the homeowners needed for their gourmet cooking. Part of the steel bracing was used to create extra storage for pots and pans over the sink due to the limited number of cabinets. When it comes to your midcentury remodel, Val advises to “follow the voice of the original house.” 

ABOVE LEFT: VAL MADE SURE TO USE PERIOD APPROPRIATE MATERIALS FOR THE NEW CABINETS TO SEAMLESSLY BLEND THEM INTO THE PERIOD AESTHETIC. A COMBINATION OF SAPELE WOOD AND WHITE LACQUERED WOOD MAKE UP THE CABINETS AND SHELVING IN THE KITCHEN.

ABOVE RIGHT: THE VIBRANT RED BACKSPLASH IS A CONTINUED FEATURE THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE AND BRINGS MIDCENTURY COLOR INTO THE NEUTRAL KITCHEN. THE HOMEOWNERS CHOSE A GRANITE COUNTERTOP THAT CLOSELY RESEMBLES CARRARA MARBLE BUT COMES AT A LOWER PRICE POINT.



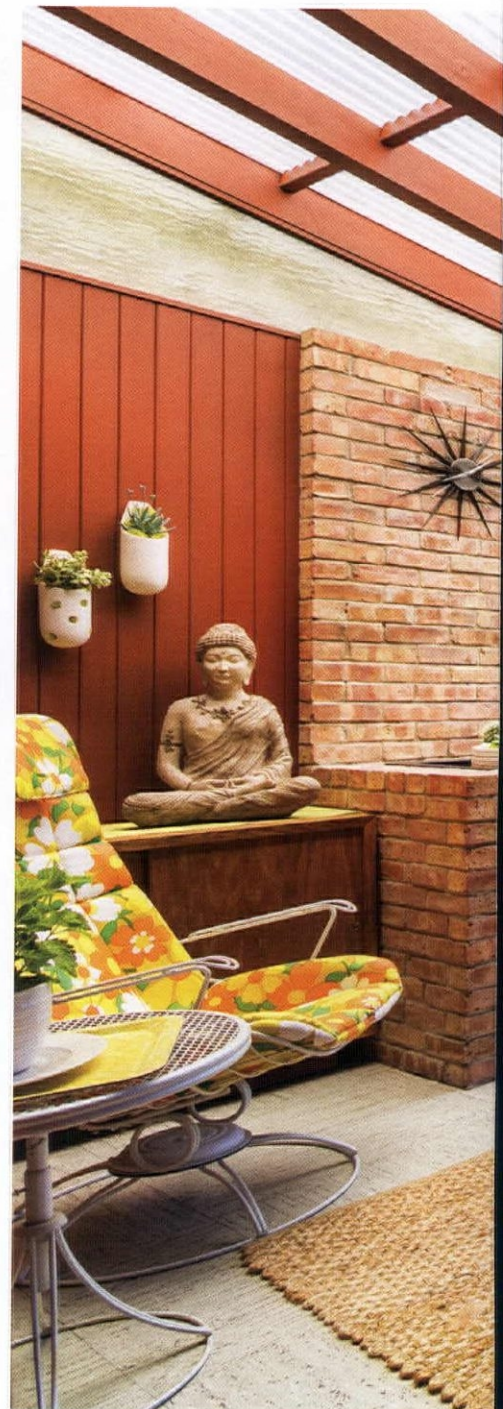
By Leslie Thompson
Photography by Andrea Rugg

Twin Cities TREASURE

Home to its original designer for 60 years, this midcentury gem needed only minor upgrades for modern living.



FUNCTIONAL UPDATES INCLUDED ADDING ENERGY EFFICIENT MARVIN WINDOWS ON BOTH LEVELS OF THE HOUSE.



Architect Don Davies was a commercial artist by trade, but when it came time to build a home for his family,

he was just the man for the job. His walkout rambler, nestled behind a cluster of trees in a quiet neighborhood outside Minneapolis, provided an idyllic home for his wife and three girls in the mid-1950s. It was the vision of postwar suburban bliss—so much so that Better Homes & Gardens even sent a photographer to document the family's stylish abode, capturing a moment in time that endured for more than five decades.

"When we walked through the house, we felt like it was a movie set. Don and his family did not change anything," Kari Brandt says. Kari and her husband Eric purchased the

Architect Don Davies designed the **1950s residence** for his family after building a similar house next door.

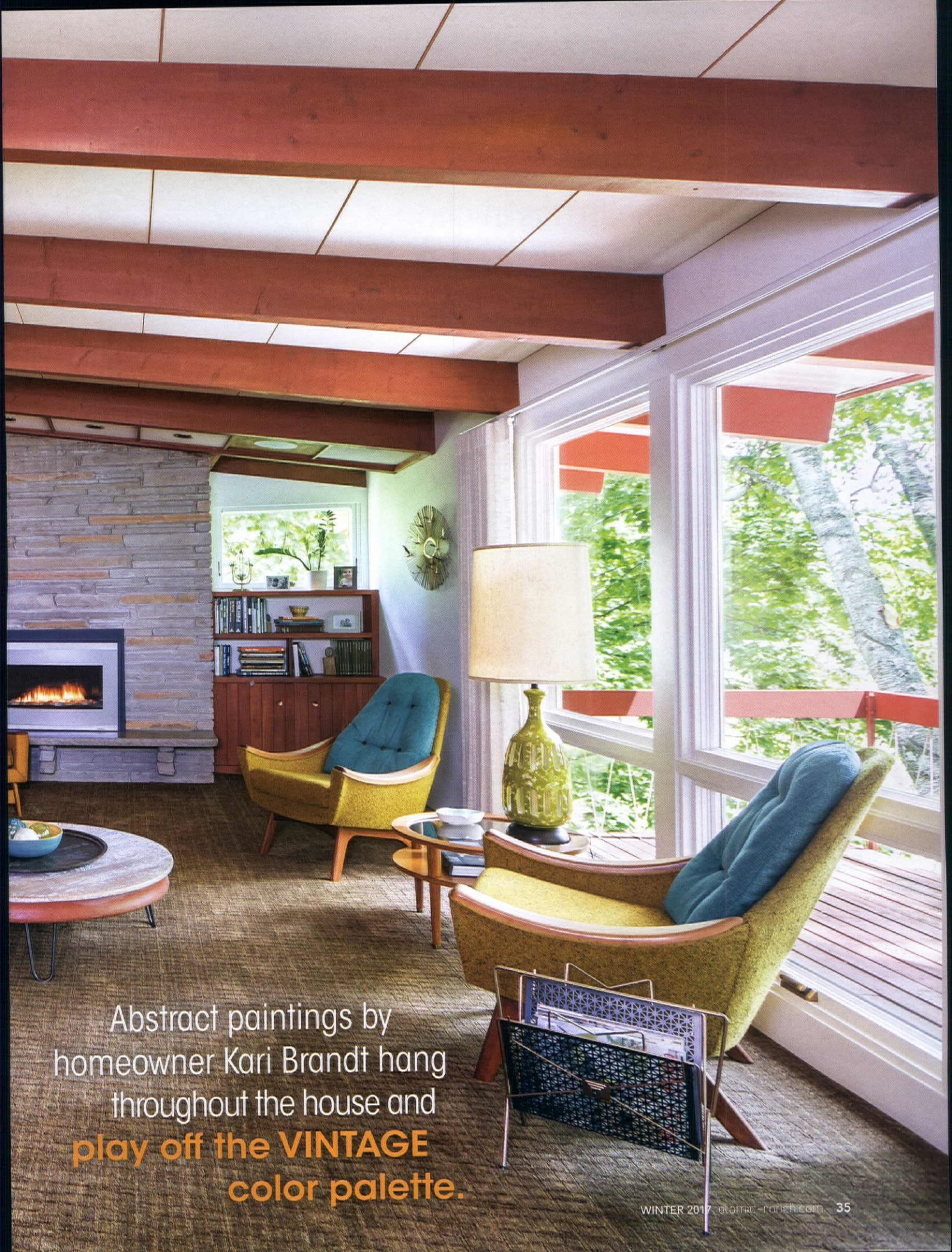


OPPOSITE TOP: THE ORIGINAL BREEZEWAY BETWEEN THE GARAGE AND HOUSE WAS CONVERTED INTO A FORMAL ENTRYWAY AND MUDROOM, COMPLETE WITH AMPLE STORAGE.

ABOVE: THE FORMER SUNROOM WAS CONVERTED TO A SCREENED PORCH OVERLOOKING A NEW OUTDOOR PATIO.

WARM AND INVITING, THE LIVING ROOM'S ORIGINAL WOOD PANELING PERFECTLY COMPLEMENTS A REFURBISHED MIDCENTURY SOFA AND CHAIR SET.





Abstract paintings by homeowner Kari Brandt hang throughout the house and play off the **VINTAGE** color palette.

“We were able to delicately
put these things in and
retain the **COOLNESS**
of the space.”



ABOVE: A VINTAGE DANISH TEAK DINING
TABLE AND SIDEBOARD COMPLEMENT
THE WARM WOOD TONES OF THE WALLS,
FLOORS AND BEAMED CEILINGS.

LEFT: BOLD YELLOW HOMECREST VINTAGE
PATIO FURNITURE GIVES THE SCREENED
PORCH A SUNNY OUTDOOR VIBE.



house in 2010. Although the couple had been looking for a larger home to accommodate their family of four, they fell in love with the clean lines and efficient use of space in Davies' two-bedroom design. They were equally enamored with the home's distinctive features—from the cherry-paneled walls and vaulted, beamed ceilings, to the built-in brick grill in the sunroom.

"It was important for them to bring in the modern-day things they need for the way they live, without infringing on the spirit of the house," lead designer and project manager Kristine Anderson of Peterssen/Keller Architecture, who oversaw the six-month renovation, says.

HABITABLE SPACE

The final design scheme retained the original footprint, but closed off the breezeway between the garage and the house to create two habitable spaces. The front area was transformed into a formal entry and mudroom, with built-in lockers that match the look and feel of the original cherry cabinetry throughout the house. On the back side of the entry, the original sunroom became a screened porch, which opens onto a large patio space perfect for outdoor entertaining. "Most of the time, when people move into houses, they're trying to knock walls down," Kari notes. "They don't even think, 'Let's put a wall up.'"

Other changes included upgrades to the electrical and plumbing, and installing energy-efficient Marvin windows



ABOVE: MODERN APPLIANCES THAT FIT INSIDE THE ORIGINAL CABINETRY ALLOWED FOR MINIMAL CHANGES TO THE KITCHEN.

LEFT: A NEW FIREPLACE INSERT CREATES THE PERFECT COZY GATHERING PLACE. THE OVERSIZED COFFEE TABLE WAS BUILT BY THE HOME'S ORIGINAL DESIGNER, DON DAVIES.

“Living in a house **before you touch**
it is really important.”



RIGHT: THE BRANDTS KEPT THE ORIGINAL KITCHEN CABINETS, BOOMERANG-PATTERN COUNTERTOP AND LINOLEUM TILE FLOORING, ALL OF WHICH WERE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION.

on both levels. Because the walls connecting the master bedroom and hallway did not extend to the ceiling, insulated glass was added to close the vaulted space and buffer the sound. "If somebody so much as opened the silverware drawer, it would jolt you awake," Eric recalls, laughing.

The kitchen itself was left almost entirely intact, with the Brandts opting to keep the original linoleum floors, cherry cabinets and boomerang-patterned Formica countertops. Kristine helped source new appliances that could fit into the existing boxes. "We were able to delicately put these things in and retain the coolness of the space," she says. Likewise, the bathrooms were barely touched, with the owners replacing the toilets and faucet fixtures, but little else.

TIMELESS STYLE

Since moving into their midcentury home, Eric and Kari have become adept at hunting out vintage furniture that fits the modernist design. They scored a Danish teak dining table





ABOVE: A SCREENED IN PORCH ON THE BACK OF THE HOUSE OPENS ONTO AN EXPANSIVE PATIO, COMPLETE WITH A REFURBISHED HOMECREST HANGING LOUNGE CHAIR.

RIGHT: MATCHING THE STAIN IN THE NEW ENTRYWAY TO THE HOME'S ORIGINAL CHERRY WOOD PANELING WAS A PAINSTAKING ENDEAVOR, DESIGNER KRISTINE ANDERSON SAYS.






ABOVE: A STUDY IN SERENITY, THE MASTER BEDROOM FEATURES A MIDCENTURY WALNUT DRESSER AND NIGHTSTANDS SURROUNDING A MODERN PLATFORM BED.



LEFT: CHERRY WOOD CABINETS AND BRASS PENDANT LIGHTS IN THE GIRLS' BATHROOM WERE ORIGINAL TO THE HOUSE.

at an estate sale, and drove to Milwaukee for two original Adrian Pearsall lounge chairs they found on Craigslist. The screened porch looks much like it did in the old magazine photos, thanks to a classic Homecrest patio set the Brandts acquired from an elderly couple, who had kept the items in storage. Several pieces also were original to the house, including a large coffee table in the living room that Don Davies built himself.

Although they at first considered adding on to the home, the Brandts cherish the original design, and are grateful that they didn't rush to make changes. "I think that living in a house before you touch it is really important," Kari says. They also realized they didn't need as much space as they thought. Eric notes, "Don and his wife raised three daughters in this house and we're raising two daughters, so we ought to be able to manage." ☼



AS A HOUSEWARMING PRESENT, ELIN'S DAD AND
STEPMOM GIFTED HER WITH A DELIGHTFUL MOBILE,
THINKING IT WOULD TIE IN WITH THE LEGO WALL'S
RAINBOW COLORS. ELIN SUSPENDED IT OVER THE STAIRS
WHERE IT GIVES THE ROOM A LIGHT, PLAYFUL FEEL.

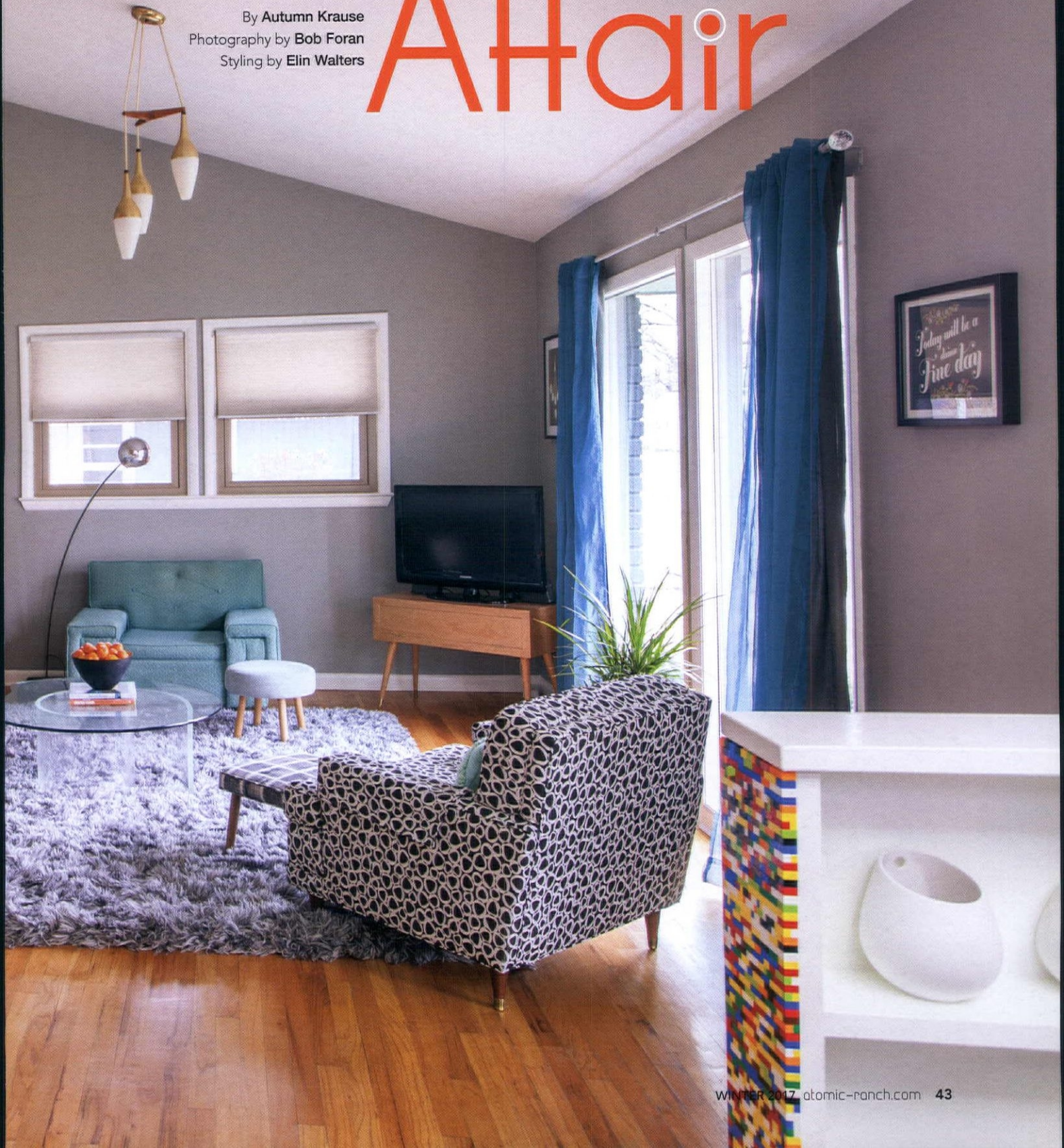
"I'm a believer in using similar
materials throughout the
home, **creating continuity.**"


A Family

An interior designer and a realtor curate their vision for a Midcentury Modern inspired home—and create the perfect place to unify their blended family.

By Autumn Krause
Photography by Bob Foran
Styling by Elin Walters

Affair





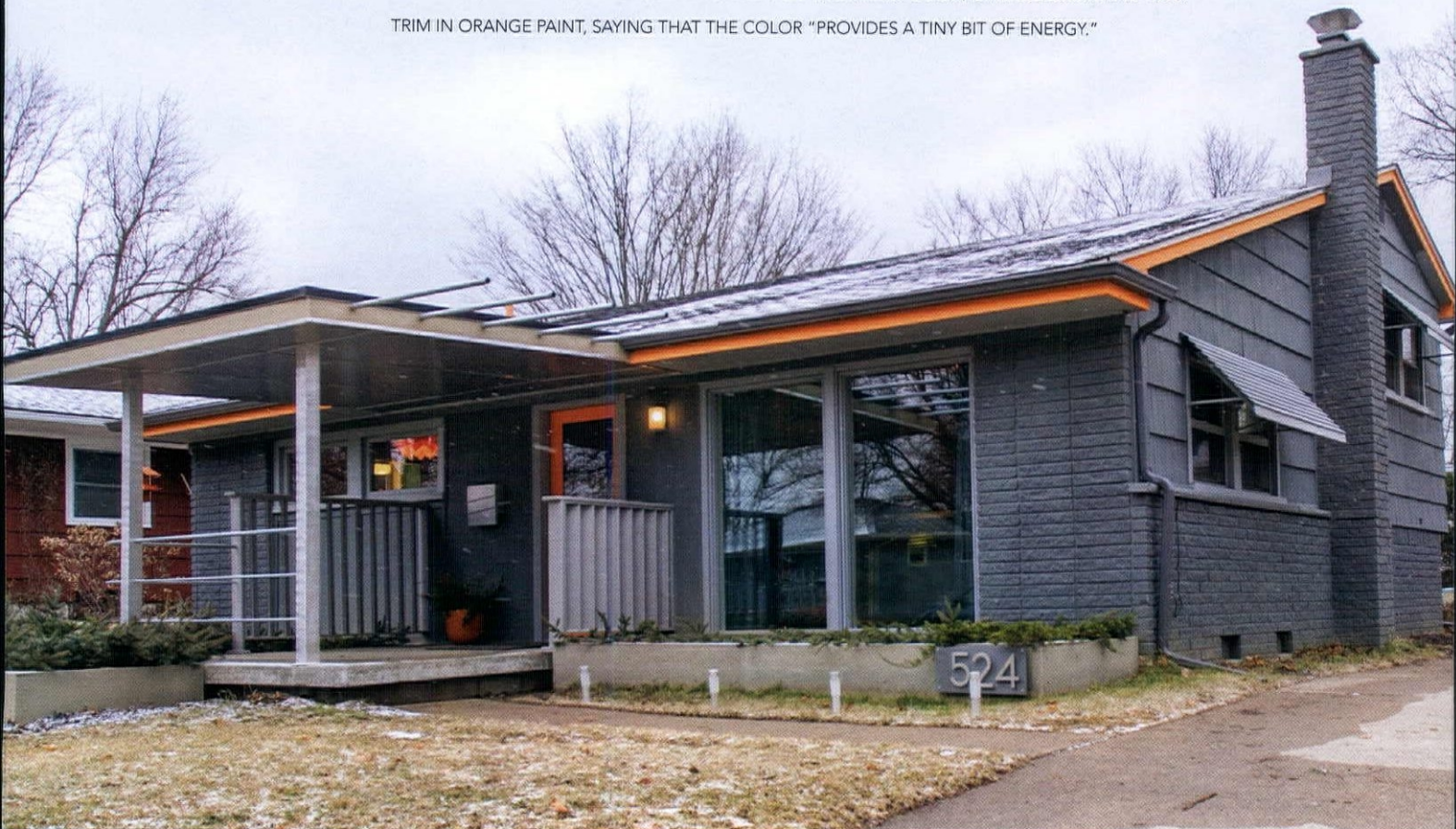
hen interior designer Elin Walters and her realtor husband Christian Ward first saw the green and maroon tri-level 1958 home in Ann Arbor, Michigan,

they'd been touring properties in the area for a couple of months, seeking, as Elin puts it, "an affordable, manageable home with an open floor plan and good bones." For Elin and Christian, their search was particularly significant: Whatever home they found, it would be the place to bring together their blended family of seven.

This one, with its unfortunate color scheme and unattractive porch might have turned away other potential buyers but Elin and Christian weren't deterred. Instead, their years of design and realtor expertise (she is the principle designer and owner of Exactly and he is a realtor with Reinhart Realty) enabled them to see the residence for its potential—and, in the areas it was lacking, opportunities to truly make it their own and fit the needs of their family. "It didn't have any curb appeal," Elin says. "But inside we noticed things that both of us really liked."

As they walked around, they fell in love with the vaulted ceilings, Midcentury Modern lighting in the living and dining rooms, and open floor plan. It quickly became clear that they had found the perfect place to unify their family and articulate their vision of a stylish, Midcentury Modern inspired home filled with vintage pieces, IKEA finds and clean, Swedish lines.

WHEN IT CAME TO REVAMPING THE HOME'S EXTERIOR, ELIN WENT FOR A "LESS IS MORE" APPROACH. TO DRAW THE EYE, SHE HIGHLIGHTED THE FRONT DOOR, GARAGE DOOR AND ROOF TRIM IN ORANGE PAINT, SAYING THAT THE COLOR "PROVIDES A TINY BIT OF ENERGY."





ABOVE: PIECES OF METAL CONDUIT OVERHANGING THE DECK DRAW THE EYE UPWARDS WHILE A FULLY RUSTED FIREPLACE FROM HOZZS TIES IN WITH THE PLANTERS. "THE FIREPLACE GAVE ME THE IDEA TO LET THE HANGING PLANTERS RUST AS WELL," ELIN SAYS. "I'M A BELIEVER IN USING SIMILAR MATERIALS THROUGHOUT THE HOME, CREATING CONTINUITY."

ELIN AND CHRISTIAN REMOVED THE WROUGHT IRON RAILING ON THE STAIRS AND EXCHANGED IT FOR A CUSTOM BENT ELECTRICAL PIPE TO MIMIC THE RAILING ON THE PORCH. THEY ALSO PAINTED THE WALLS ELLIE GRAY FROM SHERWIN WILLIAMS AND ADDED IN AN ACCENT WALL IN VALSPAR'S CARROT CAKE.

"It didn't have any curb appeal. But **inside we noticed things that both of us really liked.**"



THIS ADDITION TO THE HOME IS A GORGEOUS REFLECTION OF ELIN AND CHRISTIAN'S PASSION FOR MIDCENTURY MODERN STYLING AND SLEEK, MINIMALIST LINES. HERE, THEY DESIGNED THE ROOM AROUND THE VINTAGE FIREPLACE AND MIXED IN A VARIETY OF BOTH OLD AND NEW PIECES. "THE BEAUTY OF DESIGNING FOR MY OWN HOME IS THAT I DON'T HAVE TO RUSH THE PROCESS," ELIN SAYS. "I CAN CURATE OVER TIME, PICKING UP VINTAGE PIECES TO ADD TO OUR COLLECTION AS WE FIND THEM AND ULTIMATELY CREATING SPACES THAT MIX OLD AND NEW, ADDING SOUL AND ENERGY TO THE MODERN."



STAIRS ARE THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO ADD IN A BIT OF DÉCOR. HERE, ELIN PLACES RED POTTERY ON THE VARIOUS STEPS. "THESE PIECES WERE PURCHASED FROM AN ANTIQUE DEALER IN GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN. THEY ARE DUTCH, WE THINK, AND DEFINITELY MIDCENTURY MODERN," ELIN SAYS.



WHEN DESIGNING THE ADDITION, CHRISTIAN REQUESTED A SMALL DESK SOMEWHERE IN THE SPACE. "WE CAME UP WITH A VARIETY OF LOCATION AND DESIGNS," ELIN SAYS "BUT LANDED ON THIS ONE IN THE END. IT WAS SUGGESTED AND CONSTRUCTED BY MY STEPFATHER."

THE MASTER BEDROOM IS LOCATED IN THE 600-SQUARE FOOT ADDITION. ELIN AND CHRISTIAN DESIGNED THE ROOM AROUND A CONCRETE WALL CONCEPT. "WE HAD SEEN A SIMILAR USE OF CONCRETE IN A HOUSE PRESENTED IN AN *ATOMIC RANCH* BOOK," ELIN SAYS. "IN OUR APPLICATION OF THE WALL, WE DECIDED THIS COULD BE THE DIVIDER BETWEEN THE SITTING AREA AND THE BEDROOM. WE WANTED THERE TO BE FLOW, BUT STILL RETAIN SOME PRIVACY." A NATURAL, IMPERFECT LOOK WAS ATTAINED BY ASKING THE CONCRETE POURERS TO LEAVE THE BUBBLES AND BAR MARKS IN.





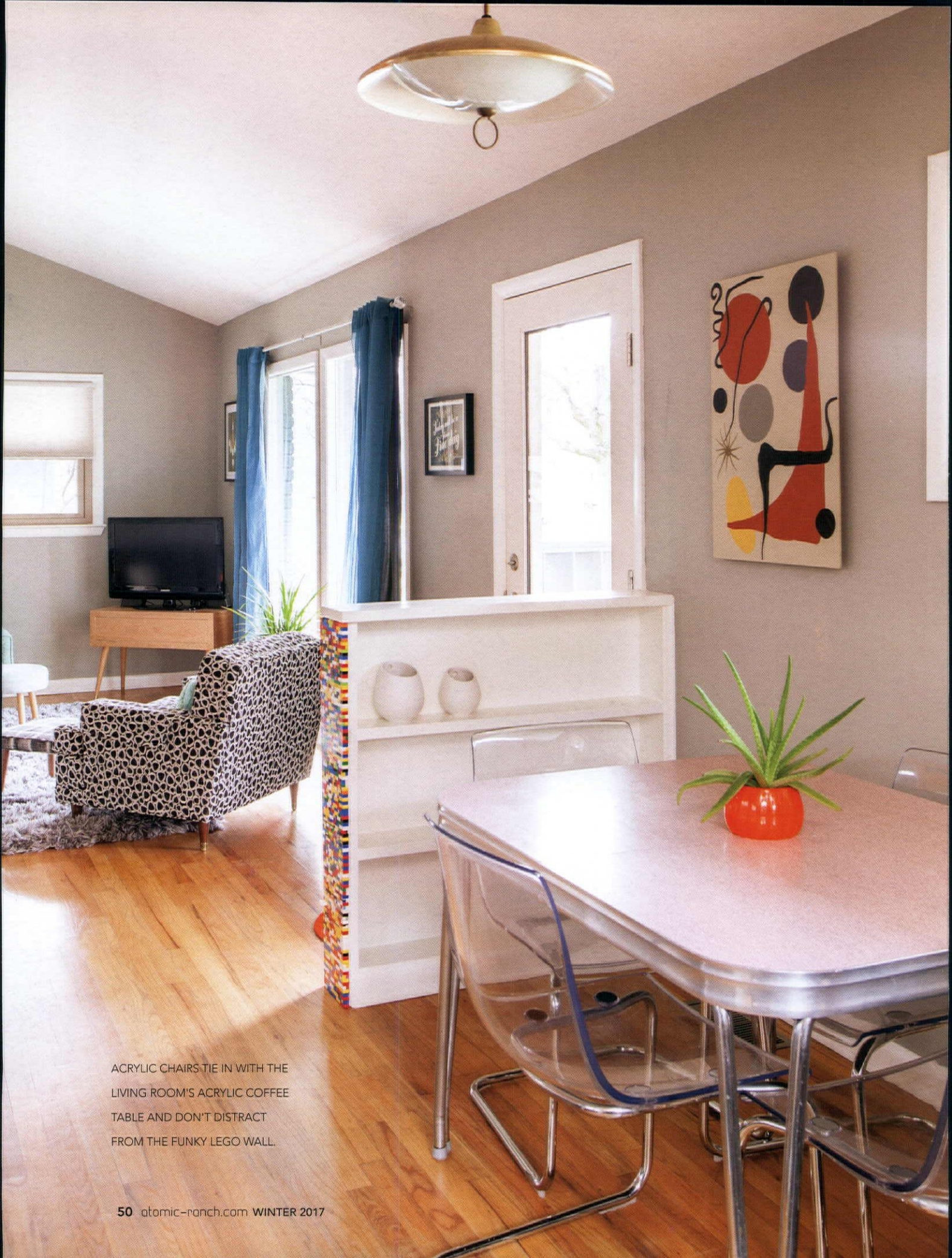
EXCITING EXTERIORS

One of their first moves? Repainting the home's exterior in a unique orange and gray color scheme. "Orange is my favorite color and gray is Christian's," Elin says. Bright yet minimal uses of orange for the trim, front door, and garage door give the home's exterior mod-friendly interest and intrigue. Restored windows and a new glass front door "took our home back to its original form and honored the midcentury mode of bringing the outdoors in." They ripped off the small, deteriorating porch and collaborated with Elin's stepfather to create a new face for the home with a porch roof cantilevering over a concrete patio with metal conduit that extends the porch's linear reach.

In addition, the couple also designed and built an outdoor living space that sits between a 600-square foot addition and the garage. "We decided that the area would be best used if we connected the two buildings with a deck," Elin says. Like over the porch, metal conduit was cut and hung, giving the illusion of an open ceiling and creating an intimate atmosphere. "The space is a haven where we retreat to in the evenings," Elin says. "I particularly love that it was designed as a family and constructed as a family. That's just how we like to do things."

THOUGH THE KITCHEN HAD BEEN REDONE BEFORE ELIN AND CHRISTIAN MOVED IN, CHANGES WERE NEEDED TO FIT IT TO THEIR AESTHETIC. THEY KEPT CERTAIN ASPECTS AND GAVE OTHERS MAJOR FACELIFTS. "ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT LIKE THE LOOK OF THE CABINETS, WE APPRECIATED THAT THEY WERE WELL MADE AND FUNCTIONAL," ELIN SAYS. THEY WORKED AROUND THE EXISTING CABINETRY, INCORPORATING IT INTO THEIR STYLE BY REPLACING THE DOORS AND DRAWER FRONTS AND REPAINTING THE CABINETS.





ACRYLIC CHAIRS TIE IN WITH THE LIVING ROOM'S ACRYLIC COFFEE TABLE AND DON'T DISTRACT FROM THE FUNKY LEGO WALL.



A NO FUSS, NO FRILLS LIVING ROOM

The living room, which is situated in the 600-square foot addition that Elin and Christian added onto the home, is an ode to the Midcentury Modern aesthetic: no fuss and frills, natural materials and simple form. A half wall and concrete stairs give the room interest while minimalistic furnishings are comfy and welcoming.

"We relish the surprise that almost always is expressed by visitors as they walk down the stairs from the front of the house and see the entry to the addition," Elin says. "It is exactly the effect we wanted to achieve." Elin and Christian styled the room around a vibrant orange vintage Malm fireplace, mixing in other pieces like a Thaden-Jordan sideboard, reproduction shell chairs inspired by Hans Wegner's 1963 design, and a Dot & Bo sofa.

A built-in desk with a bookshelf unit was created for Christian. In a move to unify function and design, the whole bookshelf can be pulled out of the wall to reveal the boiler for the heated floors and house water supply. "We read, play games by the fire and entertain here," Elin says. "We find this space to be quiet and peaceful."

FOR THE LOVE OF LEGOS

The couple decided to keep the original small yet

cozy kitchen layout. They removed the kitchen cabinet doors and drawer fronts and painted them turquoise. Elin's stepfather built slab doors out of natural birch plywood and clear-coated them. For the counters, "we removed the [old] laminate and toyed with replacing it with concrete until we discovered this amazing pattern of Wilsonart laminate. Knowing that laminate was used in Midcentury Modern homes, it seemed fitting to use this material," Elin says. And while the kitchen has many visual charms and Midcentury Modern nods like a vintage kitchen dining table, its crown jewel is the handmade Legos wall that shields the dining area from the entry.

"The wall itself was there when we moved in, but we decided to face it in Legos to make it more interesting," Elin says. "We purchased used and new Legos on eBay over the course of a couple years and built it as a family as we bought the Legos." The project, which incorporated the entire family, is particularly beautiful, a symbol of unity as the blended family worked to create something unique for their home.

The residence, which is an intersection of midcentury and modern design with dashes of DIY renovation, is Elin and Christian's dream home as well as the unifying backdrop to the blending of their families. 🌀

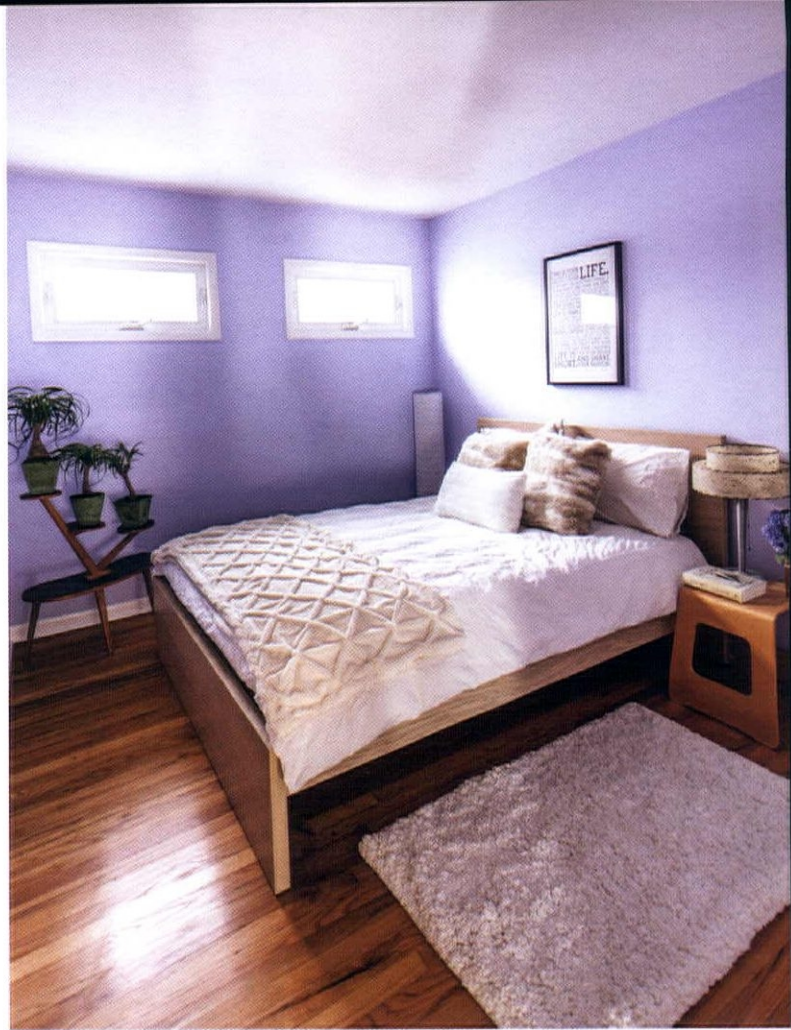
"I particularly love that our home was
**DESIGNED as a family and
CONSTRUCTED as a family.** That's just
how we like to do things."



OPPOSITE: THIS ROOM BELONGS TO ELIN AND CHRISTIAN'S TEENAGE DAUGHTER. SHE CHOSE A DARK GRAY COLOR AND ELIN SUGGESTED THAT THEY PAINT TWO, RATHER THAN FOUR, OF THE WALLS GRAY IN ORDER TO KEEP THE ROOM LIGHT. THE DUVET COVER AND POÄNG CHAIR ARE BOTH FROM IKEA AND THE 3D FLOWERS TO THE RIGHT OF THE HEADBOARD ARE FROM A PAPER KIT FROM MICHAEL'S, ALLOWING FOR "TEXTURE AND SCULPTURE."

BOTTOM LEFT: THIS MASTER BATHROOM/LAUNDRY/WALK-IN CLOSET COMBO SERVICES THE MASTER BEDROOM IN THE ADDITION AND THE FOURTH BEDROOM IN THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE ORIGINAL HOUSE. A GLASS BLOCK WALL SEPARATES THE ENTRY FROM THE TOILET AND VANITY, PROVIDING PRIVACY WITHOUT SHUTTING OUT LIGHT. WHITE PENNY ROUND TILES MAKE UP THE WALK-IN SHOWER STALL AND IS DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO THE STACKED WASHER AND DRYER.

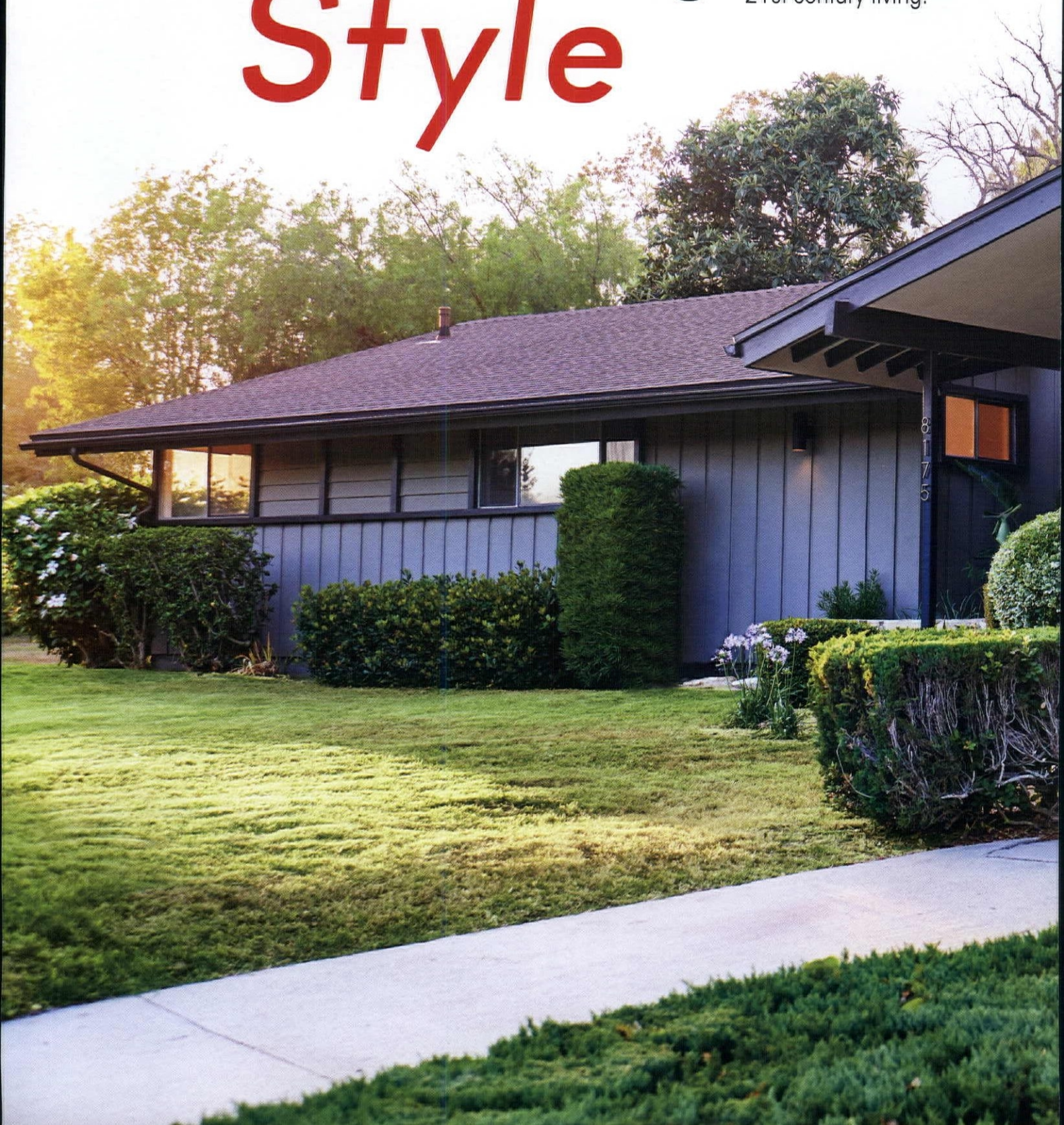
BOTTOM RIGHT: ORIGINAL BLUE TILES IN THE UPPER FLOOR BATHROOM DICTATED THE DESIGN. CHRISTIAN REPLACED THE VANITY, TOILET, AND MIRROR, WHILE ELIN INCORPORATED TURQUOISE DETAILS TO SHOWCASE THE GORGEOUS TILES.



By Sarah Jane Stone
Photography by Steven DeWall
Styling by Claudia Andrade-Desbiens

Preserving Style

This home's time capsule quality furnishings and accessories are also fit for 21st century living.





"OUR HOME SITS AT THE BASE OF ARROYO PESCADERO, A NATURE PRESERVE AND WILDLIFE REFUGE, AND WE ARE REMINDED EVERY NIGHT WHEN WE GO TO BED THAT OUR BIGGEST PRIVILEGE IS TO BE ABLE TO FALL ASLEEP LOOKING AT THE STARS AND LISTENING TO THE CRICKETS AND THE COYOTES," CLAUDIA SAYS. "WE LOVE LIVING SO CLOSE TO NATURE—IT'S A PLEASURE. THIS AREA IS TRULY A HIDDEN GEM."

“T

o get to our home, we have to go up this bucolic hill or drive through a small web of winding and hilly country roads,”

Claudia Andrade-Desbiens, the homeowner and designer, says. “It is a very pretty ride that helps us unwind, and a great escape from the fast-paced and high-stress urban environment of LA.”

Along with her husband Michale Desbiens, whom she describes as “partner-in-crime, business partner and marketing manager,” the couple owns a stunning 1959 ranch in the Friendly Hills neighborhood of Whittier, California.

DREAM HOME 101

The custom home was the work of Titan Construction Co., a local builder that was responsible several of the homes in the neighborhood, while the architect and engineer were from Durand Designs. Set on a half acre of land, the sprawling 2,892 square foot home consists of four bedrooms, three baths, a large circular driveway and an attached three car garage. In 1961 a pool was added, but other than that, not too much of the home ever changed.





BELOW: CLAUDIA AND MICHALE DEEPLY LOVE THEIR CLASSIC CALIFORNIA RANCH HOME. ACCORDING TO CLAUDIA, IT "DISPLAYS THE ESSENCE OF MIDCENTURY MODERN LIVING." FROM THE OPEN CONCEPT OF THE MAIN LIVING AREAS AND THE EXTERIOR'S LOW PROFILE, TO THE VAULTED CEILINGS, SUNKEN LIVING ROOM AND DRAMATIC CLERESTORY WINDOWS, THEY'VE WORKED HARD TO RESTORE AND CELEBRATE THIS GEM OF A HOME.

ABOVE: "I AM OBSESSED WITH BITOSSI AND MIDCENTURY ITALIAN POTTERY AND HAVE AMASSED QUITE A COLLECTION IN THE LAST FEW YEARS," CLAUDIA SAYS. "HARRIS G. STRONG AND MAURICE CHALVIGNAC CERAMIC WALL TILES ARE ANOTHER OBSESSION THAT, THANKFULLY, I THINK I'VE GOT UNDER CONTROL."



WHILE NOT A CONVENTIONAL SEATING ARRANGEMENT, THE BENT PLYWOOD EAMES SEATING AREA IN THE LIVING ROOM IS AN ARRANGEMENT THE COUPLE HAD CREATED IN THEIR LAST HOME. THEY LOVED IT, SO THEY RECREATED IT FOR AN ENTERTAINING-FRIENDLY FAMILY ROOM. "THE SLATE TILES WITH THE WHITE GROUT WERE FRESHLY LAID AND CAME OUT SO BEAUTIFULLY, WE DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO USE A RUG!" CLAUDIA SAYS.



The home boasts two fireplaces—a **black Malm fireplace in the family room and a stone clad focal point** in the sunken living room.

“We love going for walks with our rescue Doberman, Bella Zulu Mecca, in the evening and discovering other homes in the surrounding area that exhibit the same traits and midcentury elements as ours does,” Claudia says.

RENOVATING & PRESERVING

Claudia and Michale purchased the home on July 1, 2015, and began their restoration process that fall, finishing in the spring of 2016. “The restoration was very intense and took us longer than we predicted. We moved in the house one year to the date that we purchased it, on July 1, 2016,” she says. “Instead of barbecuing and enjoying the fireworks, we spent the 4th of July weekend of last year carrying heavy boxes and moving into the house!”

During that nearly year-long restoration process, the couple transformed the home. “When we first saw and decided to purchase the house, it was a complete mess and in a sad state of disrepair,” Claudia says. “An older couple had lived and raised their children here, but the children grew up and moved out, and [the couple] were left alone to take care of this big house and huge lot.”

Wanting to be sensitive to the structure they were working within, Claudia and Michale decided to keep the original footprint and update only the necessities—like the bathroom fixtures, plumbing, electrical and roof.

Asbestos was discovered in the popcorn ceilings and bathroom tiles, so the couple had them removed. In the kitchen, the original cabinetry was rotting away and unsalvageable. “The house was very dark, but I knew exactly what we needed to do to remedy that. We painted most of the walls a bright white,



CLAD WITH ROCK, A FLOATING SLATE HEARTH AND PATINAED COPPER, THE SUNKEN LIVING ROOM'S FLOOR-TO-CEILING FIREPLACE STEALS THE SHOW—AND RIGHTFULLY SO. IT ACTUALLY HELPED CLAUDIA AND MICHALE FIND THE RIGHT CONTRACTOR TO WORK WITH, AS THEY FILTERED OUT ANYONE WHO SUGGESTED PAINTING IT OVER.

"CHARLES EAMES ONCE SAID, 'THE ROLE OF THE DESIGNER, IS THAT OF A VERY GOOD, THOUGHTFUL HOST, ALL OF WHOSE ENERGY GOES INTO TRYING TO ANTICIPATE THE NEEDS OF HIS GUESTS.' THINK OF THE NEEDS OF YOUR FAMILY AND GUESTS AND USE PIECES THAT WILL MAKE THEM COMFORTABLE AND HAPPY," CLAUDIA SAYS.



"I love the **SIMPLICITY** of **midcentury design**, the use of organic elements, the lack of ornamentation and the 'less is more' attitude."



took down all the crumbly funkiness, layers of dust and old chandeliers, took out the dirty carpet and did a deep cleaning," she says.

With the house starting to gleam once more, Claudia turned her attention to the flooring. "I needed to find and match the original slate to replace some damaged slate in the family room. It was very difficult, almost impossible, but I persisted and found the perfect match," she says. The couple had the slate installed in the family room, kitchen, laundry and small bathroom—creating a cohesive flow.

STYLIST SECRETS

Claudia describes the couple's style as "unfussy," and sought to strike a balance of modern elements with authentic, vintage midcentury furnishings and décor.

"Although we wanted to be respectful of the midcentury architecture, we wanted to avoid the time capsule look and feel with throwback wallpaper, etc.—because to be honest, it's just not who we are," Claudia says. "We wanted to surround ourselves with pieces that made us happy."

In designing such a personalized and fuss-free home, Claudia opted for a consistent palette of period-appropriate colors—narrowing the selection down to just two or three colors for each room and peppering them evenly throughout the spaces. Hues of orange and yellow won for the kitchen and the family room, while blues, greens and grays make up the sunken living room.





OPPOSITE TOP: "THERE IS DEFINITELY A FINE BALANCE TO THE USE OF VINTAGE AND NEW FURNISHINGS," CLAUDIA SAYS. TO CREATE A DESIGN THAT NOT ONLY CELEBRATED THEIR HOME'S ARCHITECTURE BUT ALSO SUITED THEIR LIFESTYLE, CLAUDIA BROUGHT IN EVERYTHING SHE THOUGHT COULD WORK AND THEN HEAVILY PARED DOWN HER SELECTIONS.

CLAUDIA'S MANTRA FOR DESIGNING THE HOUSE WAS, "KEEP IT SIMPLE AND PERIOD-APPROPRIATE, HIRE PROFESSIONALS, LISTEN TO THE HOUSE BECAUSE IT WILL TELL YOU WHAT IT NEEDS, AND FOLLOW CLOSELY THE ETHOS OF MODERNISM."



PERIOD-APPROPRIATE MOSAIC TILES were a priority for the bathrooms, so Claudia tracked down tiny tiles in shades of white, cream and bronze to create a truly retro look.

Having amassed a collection of midcentury furnishings over the years, Claudia and Michale already had a great selection of pieces to work with. "My day job with Modern Mecca is to source and purchase furniture and objects for my clients' homes—sometimes unique, vintage items and sometimes new, so this comes easily to me," she says.

MOD APPRECIATION

Location has proven to be more than just a selling point. Not only is the home set just 12 miles southeast of Los Angeles, but the couple has easy access to conveniences and comforts while feeling a world away from the bustle. The town itself has also come to mean a lot to Claudia and Michale. Named after John Greenleaf Whittier, an American Quaker poet and advocate of the abolition of slavery, the town's history carries deep meaning to the couple. It also has a track record for preservation, with multiple historical home districts. "Unfortunately, they haven't worked on preserving any midcentury buildings yet, but since we moved here, that is about to change," she says. 🌀



Making Modernism

Meet the famous architects and unlikely key players who came together to foster Michigan's modernity in the 1950s.

By Madison Nauta

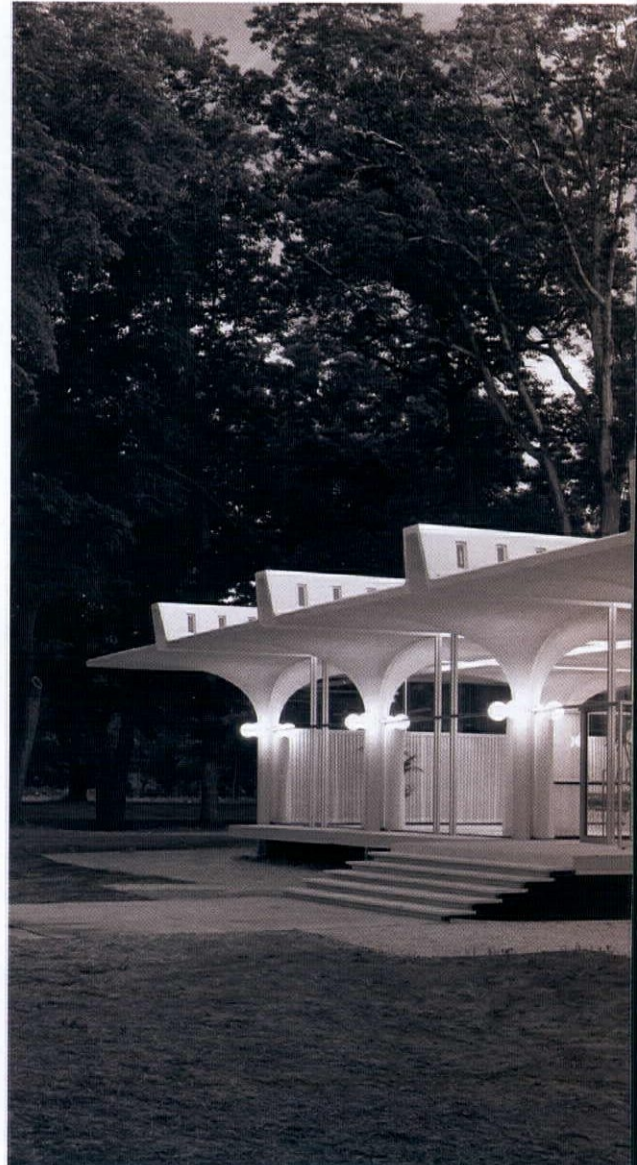
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HE 1950s WERE A TIME OF INNOVATION ACROSS THE COUNTRY, AND THE MIDWEST WAS NO EXCEPTION. Advances in technology meant mass production was becoming more and more popular. Automobile and factory work in Michigan was helping to shape North America's trends and lifestyles.

Michigan Modern: Design that Shaped America by Amy Arnold and Brian Conway, takes a close look at this iconic time period—zeroing in on how one state managed to make its own mark on the era.



LEFT: PHOTO BY BALHAZAR KORAB, COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



THE MINIMALIST TREND

Modernist architecture's approach to home design is well-suited to the region. With its sunning landscape, the Midwest is a perfect setting for walls of windows that take advantage of natural light and bring the outdoors in. Amy and Brian note the contrast between the predominantly neutral hues on the state's mid mod home exteriors, set against the bright green of their surroundings. Michigan's famed Kessler house, built by architect William Kessler for his family in 1959, stands as evidence of the state's mid mod proclivity, embodying the minimalist trends of the midcentury.

THE ARTISTS

For many of the big players in Midcentury Modern architecture, taking functional design ideas and mixing them with innovation was what made a home unique. The creative genius behind the Goetsch-Winckler house exemplifies this.

OPPOSITE: THE REYNOLDS METALS REGIONAL SALES OFFICE STANDS OUT AS AN EXAMPLE OF MIDCENTURY MODERN ARCHITECTURE. PHOTOGRAPHY HELPED POPULARIZE DESIGNS LIKE THIS, AS WELL AS PRESERVE THEIR ORIGINAL STATE.

BELOW: THE LESTER K. KIRK CENTER, AMONG OTHER PUBLIC AREAS IN THE STATE, INCORPORATED MODERN DESIGN.



PHOTO BY BALTHAZAR KORAB, COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

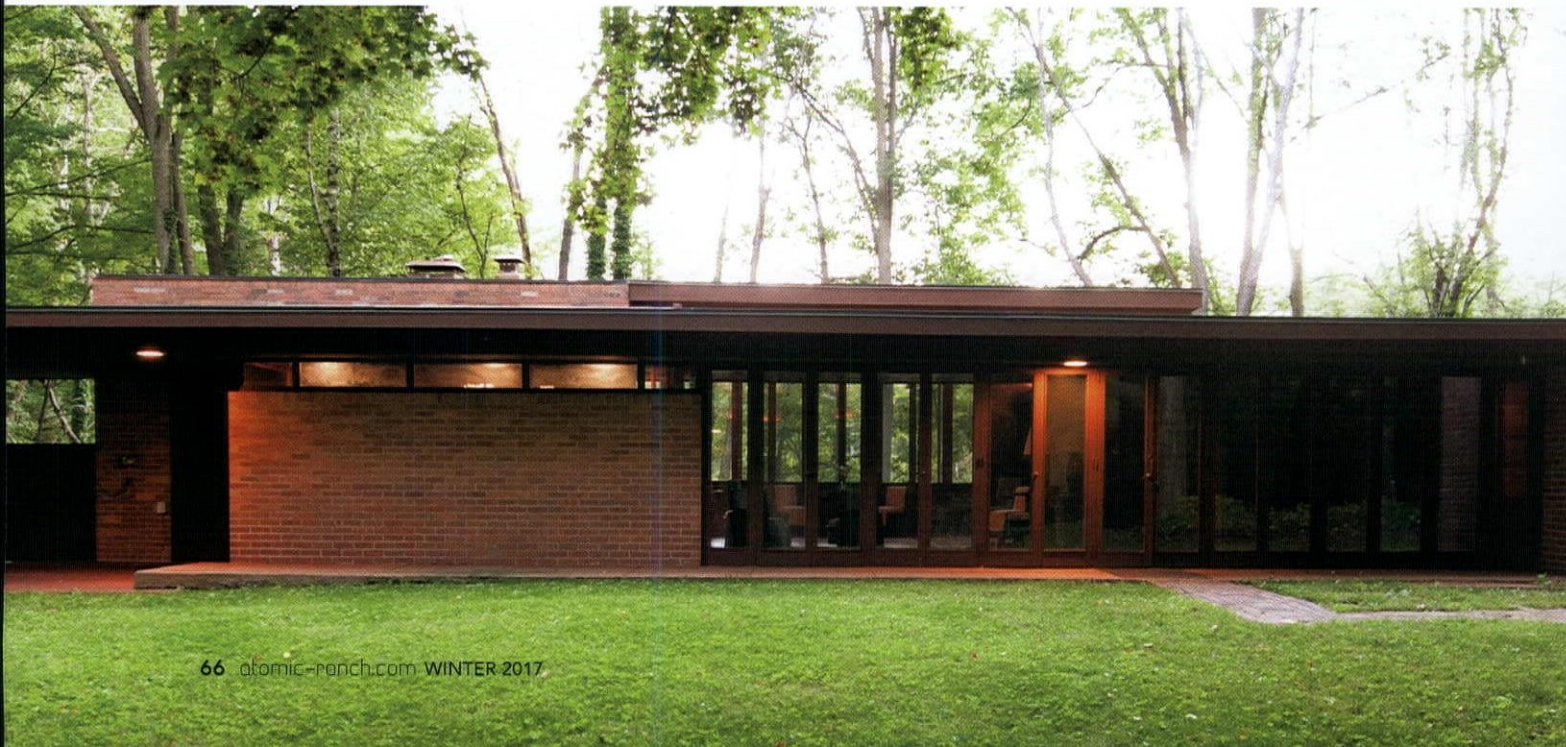
“Michigan's role in the development of Modernism follows three intersecting tracks—**industry, architecture and education,**” Amy Arnold writes.



PHOTO BY BALTHAZAR KORAB, COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

ABOVE: THE MOUNT CLEMENS FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION BUILDING EXEMPLIFIED THE POPULAR DESIGN IDEAS OF THE ERA. BUILDINGS EXAGGERATED CERTAIN SHAPES AND REPLACED DRYWALL WITH WINDOWS TO CREATE AN OPEN, AIRY DESIGN.

BELOW: FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S GOETSCH-WINCKLER HOUSE USED BASIC BUILDING MATERIALS TO CREATE AN ARCHITECTURALLY COMPELLING HOME.





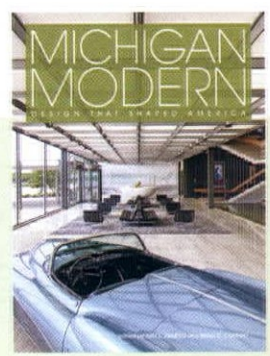
Alma Goetsch and Kathrine Winckler, professors from the art department of Michigan State University, asked Frank Lloyd Wright to build a community of modernist homes. While he wound up building just theirs, he defied odds—and suggestions from the Federal Housing Administration—to create a magnificent and architecturally astonishing home. Although the home continues to stand as anything but simple, the Goetsch-Winckler house proves that basic materials can yield a unique modernist masterpiece.

Michigan's modernist architecture had another creative advocate—Balthazar Korab. Trained in architecture in his native Hungary, Korab immigrated to Michigan and delved into photography. According to Amy and Brian, this new art form helped Korab and the other designers he worked with to make masterful architectural pieces. His photography became an indispensable asset. At the time, it helped to further the vision of a design as well as accurately portray the unique finished works, and, today, to preserve the same buildings.

THE SIMPLICITY

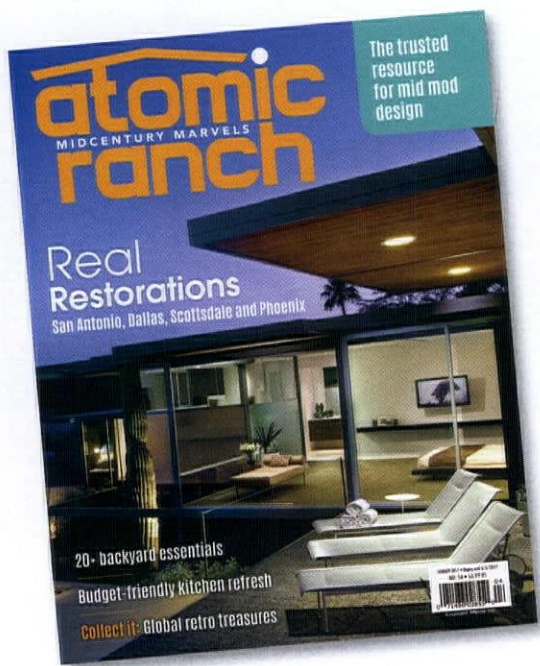
Home to automotive and furniture makers, designers and architects, as well as the University of Michigan and Cranbrook Academy of Art, Michigan's approach to Midcentury Modern style was all-encompassing. Simple materials took on new form—from crisp lines to sharp angles—creating homes, buildings, artwork and more that showcased the modern advancements of not only the state, but the country in the 1950s. 

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MICHIGAN MODERN: DESIGN THAT SHAPED AMERICA BY AMY ARNOLD AND BRIAN CONWAY, PUBLISHED BY GIBBS SMITH, © 2016; GIBBS-SMITH.COM.

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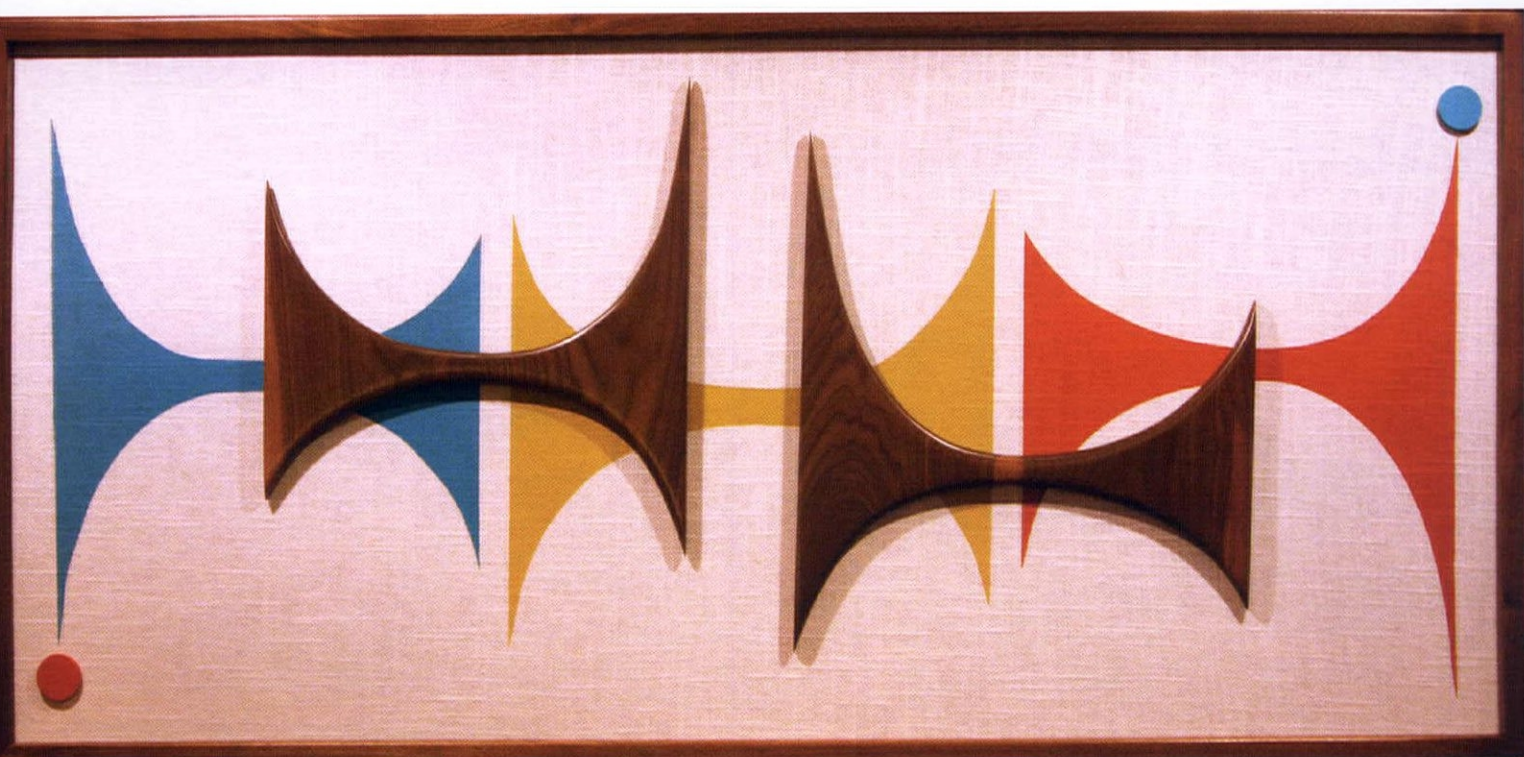
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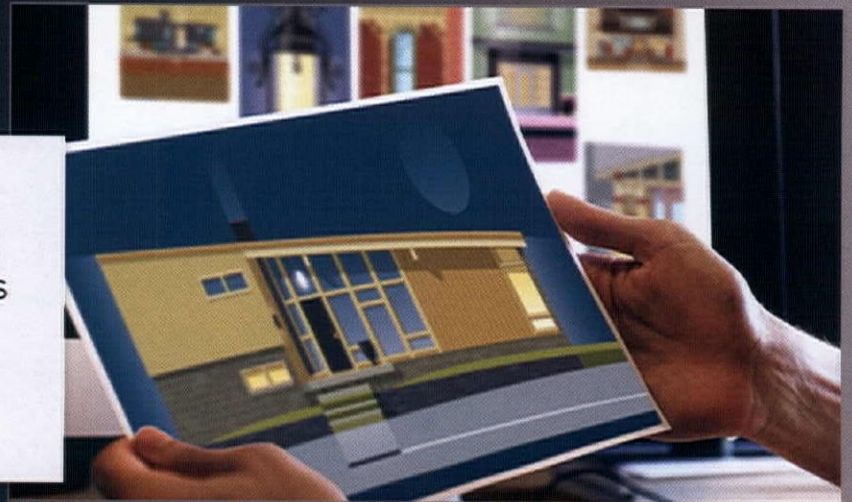


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- ILLUSTRATION -

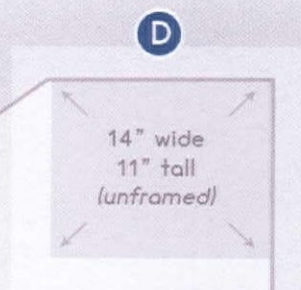
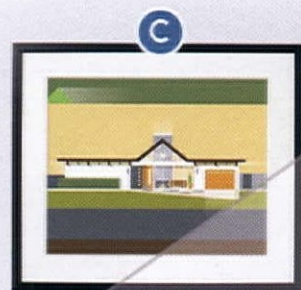
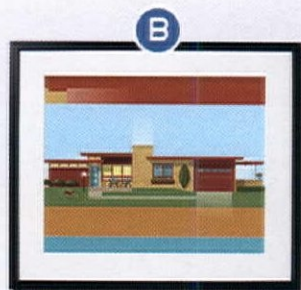
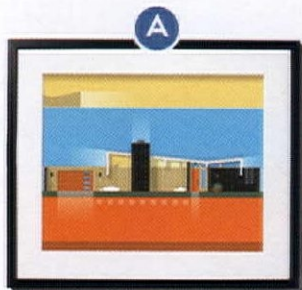
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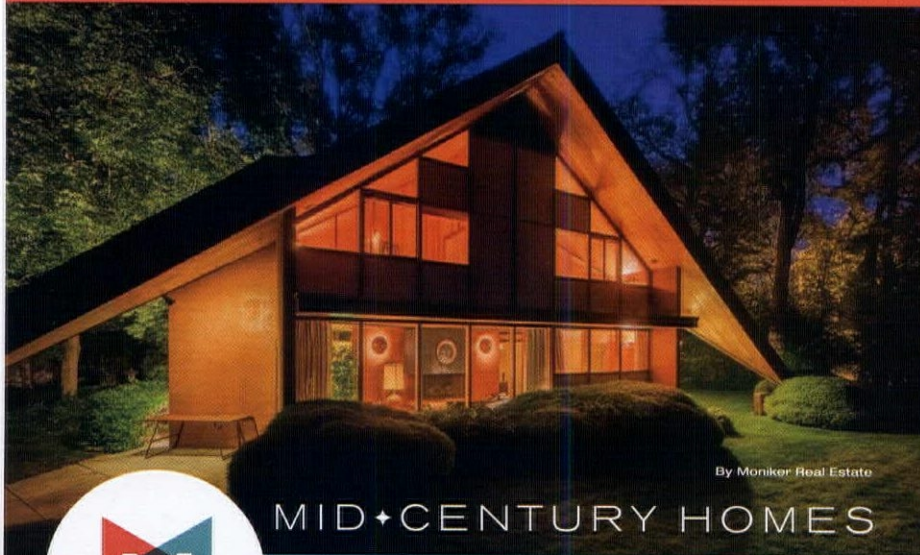
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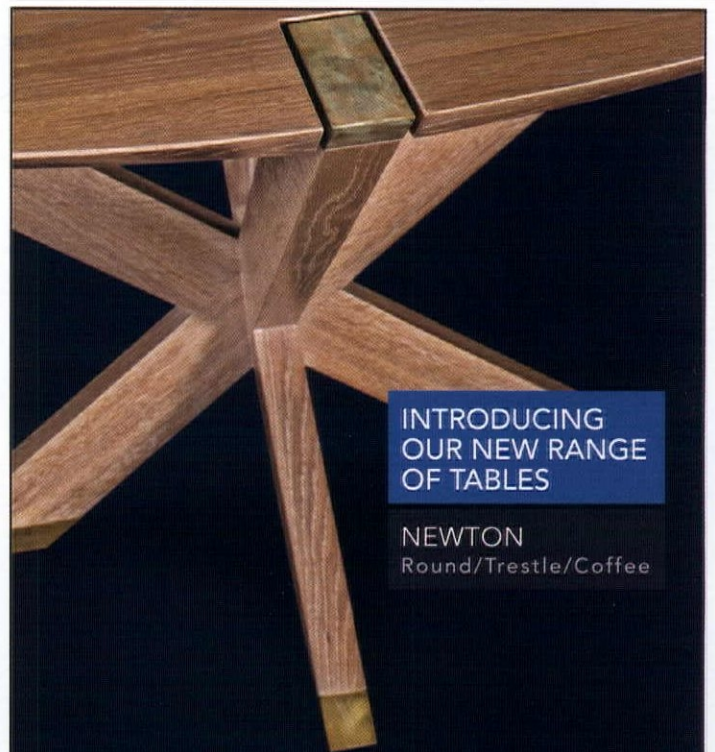
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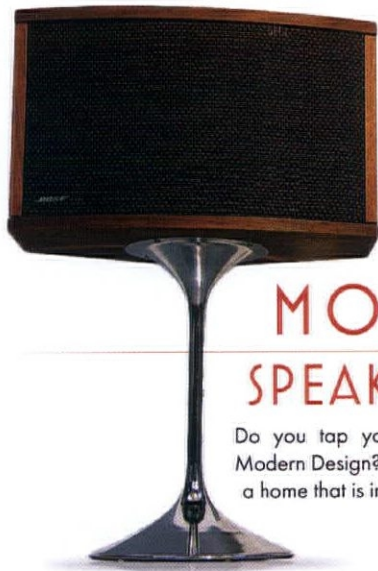
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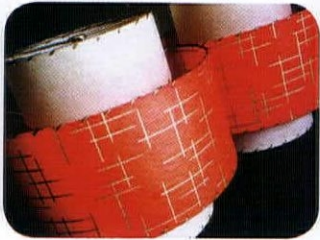
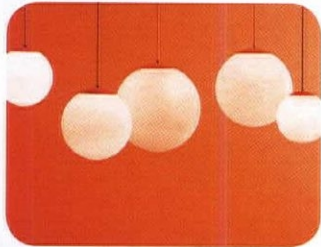
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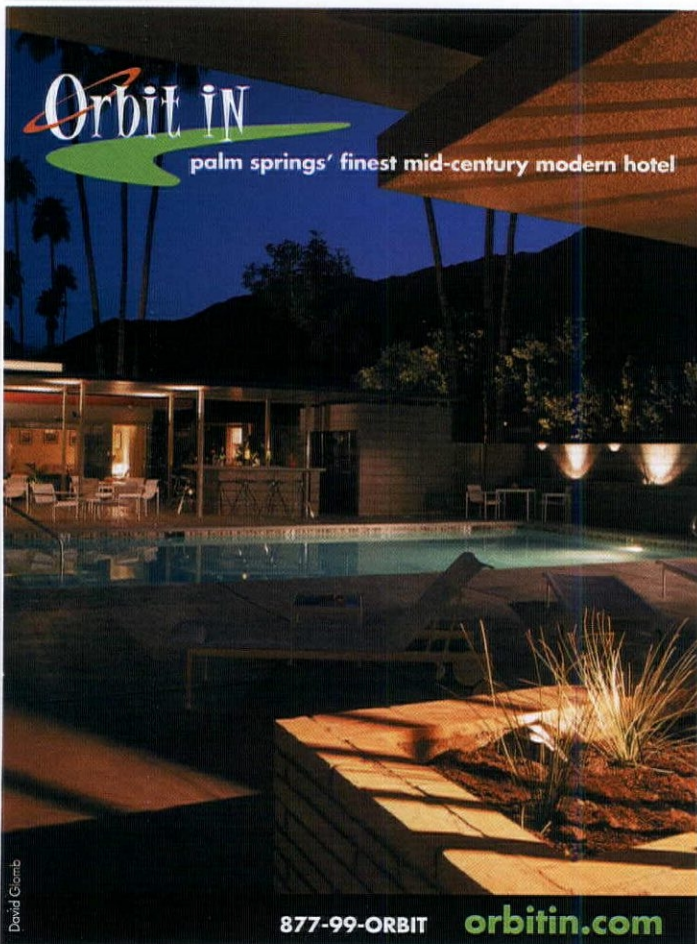
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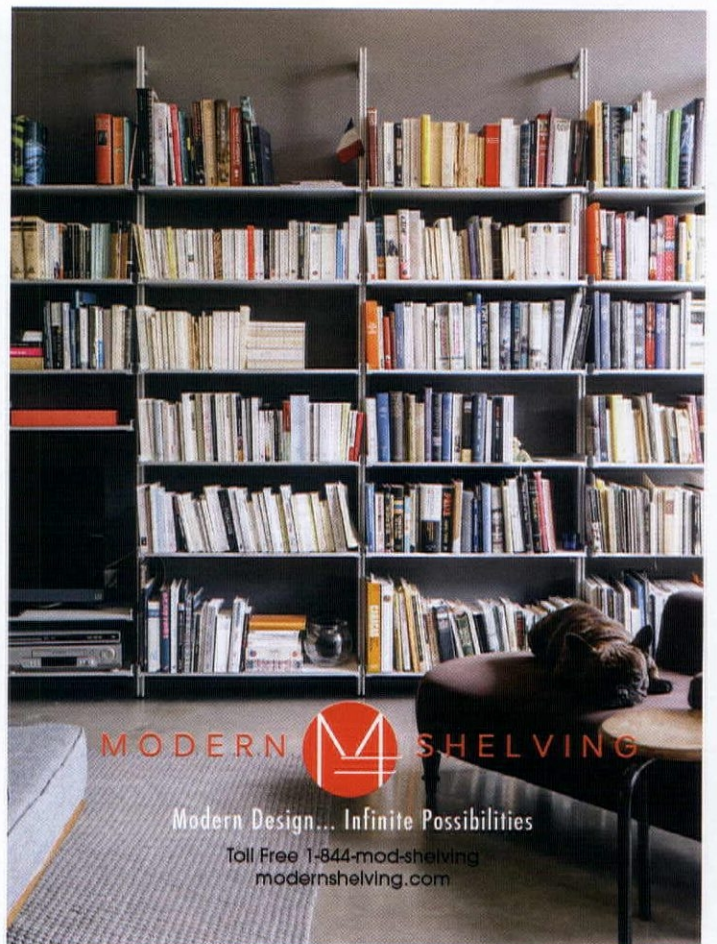


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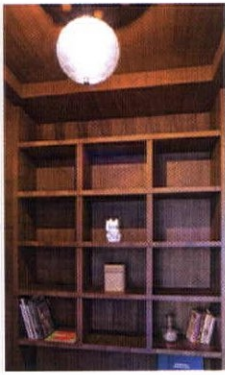
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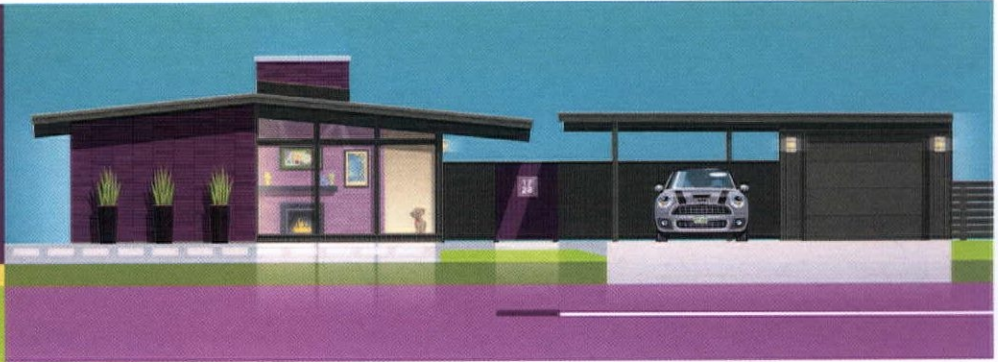
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resources

Atomic Kitchens, pp 26

For more on Val, visit studioiql.com.

Bar stools: West Elm, visit westelm.com.

Kitchen cart: custom-made by Studio IQL, visit studioiql.com.

Twin Cities Treasure, pp 30

Dining Area

Atomic age wall sconce: Rejuvenation, visit rejuvenation.com.

Kitchen

GE Monogram Induction Cooktop: All Inc., visit allinc.com.

Living Room

Brass end tables: Ciel Loft & Home, visit cielloftandhome.com.

Danish teak secretarial desk: Danish Teak Classics, visit danishteakclassics.com.

Midcentury-style couch and vintage

green ceramic lamp: Retro Wanderlust, visit retrowanderlust.com.

White chevron vase: Crate & Barrel, visit crateandbarrel.com.

Main Bathroom

Cabinet hardware: Rejuvenation, visit rejuvenation.com.

Master Bedroom

Ceramic owls: Michael's, visit michaels.com.

Headboard: Crate & Barrel, visit crateandbarrel.com.

Side chair and table lamps: Danish Teak Classics, visit danishteakclassics.com.

Screened porch

Slim outdoor coffee table: Room & Board, visit roomandboard.com.

Starburst clock: Stardust Modern, visit stardustmodern.com.

A Family Affair, pp 42

Living Room

Paint: Ellie Gray, visit sherwin-williams.com; Carrot Cake, visit valsparpaint.com.

Mobile: from MODmobile, (801) 592-5473 or modmobiles.com.

Cordless cellular shades: Levolor, visit levolor.com.

Shag rug: Rugs USA, (609) 447-4515 or rugsusa.com.

Master Bathroom

Vanity mirror with built-in light: Storjorm, visit ikea.com.

Sink cabinet: Godmorgon in gray gloss, visit ikea.com.

Toilet paper holder: Cloud, (888) 365-0056 or uncommongoods.com.

Soap dispenser: Umbra in Surf Blue, (844) 211-5986 or wayfair.com.

Toilet: Brisbane 270 Round Front Plus, (800) 460-7019 or caromausa.com.

Towel bar, hooks and toilet paper

dispenser: Blomus, allmodern.com.

Paints:

Green wall over stairs: Valspar Olive Martini, visit valsparpaint.com.

Kitchen cabinets: Valspar Spa Pool, visit valsparpaint.com.

Addition Living Room/ Master

Bedroom: Valspar Linden, visit

valsparpaint.com.

Exterior: Trim: Valspar Stone Mason Gray; closest match for the main color of the house: Benjamin Moore Chelsea Gray, visit benjaminmoore.com.

Addition Living Room

Sofa: Dot&Bo, visit dotandbo.com.

Kitchen

Clear chairs: Ikea, visit ikea.com.

Preserving Style, pp 54

Restoration, interior design and

landscaping design: Modern Mecca, visit modernmecca.com.

Contractor: L.A. Remodeling Company; (800) 995-2107 or laremodelingco.com.

Real estate agent: Steven Ward and Keller Williams; (213) 305-8537 or modernhomeslosangeles.com.

Gardening and landscaping installation:

Eric Valdez of Renovating Landscape Designs, (562) 536-1467.

Art

Wall panels: Modern Retrograde, visit etsy.com/shop/modernretrograde

Paint colors

Exterior: Benjamin Moore Squirrel Tail, visit benjaminmoore.com.

Front Door: Benjamin Moore Aura Tawny Day Lily

Interior Walls: Benjamin Moore Aura Super White

Interior Ceilings: Benjamin Moore Aura Super White.

Living Room and Family Room wood

beams: Benjamin Moore Aura Black Panther

Feature walls in Living Room, Dining Room and Master Bedroom: Benjamin Moore Aura - 1630 Ocean Floor

Family Room

Planter: Fiberglass Bullet Planter in Hot Orange from Hip Haven, visit hiphaven.com.




Pillow: Judy Ross Textiles, (212) 842-1705 or judyrosstextiles.com.

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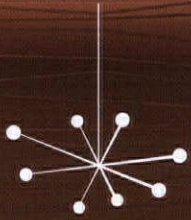
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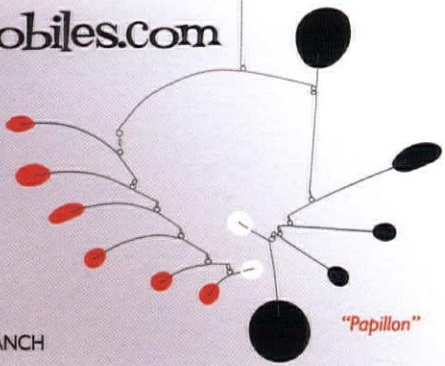
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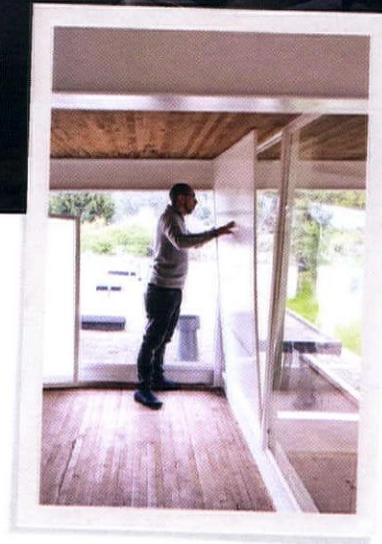
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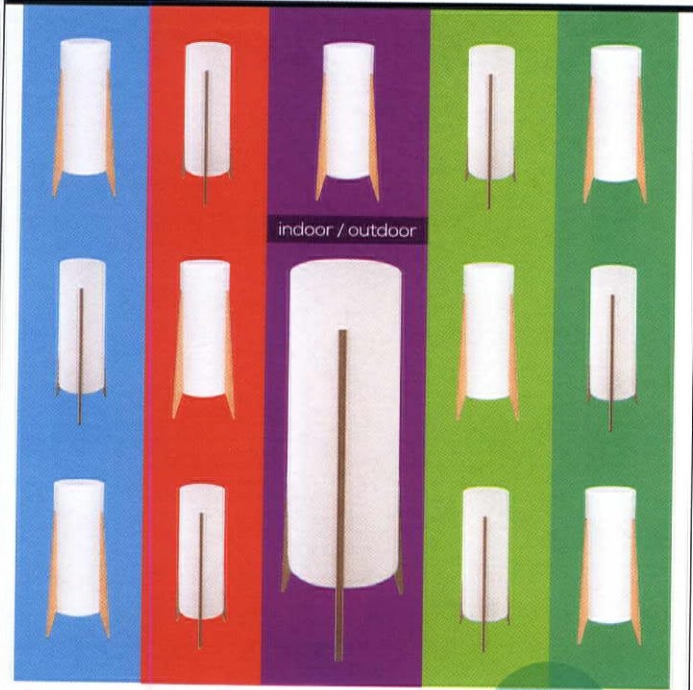


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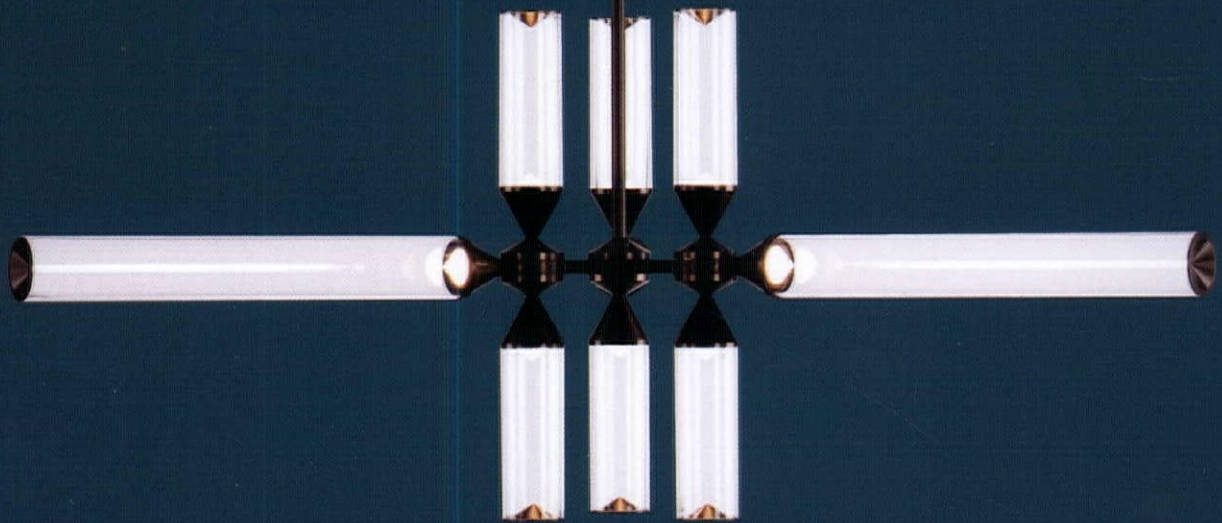


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