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MID CENTURY MARVELS

THE
DESIGN
ISSUE
A RETROSPECTIVE

THE ERA OF COOL

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MAKERS**

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+

DISCOVERING
BOUNDARY BREAKING
BLACK ARTIST
ALMA THOMAS

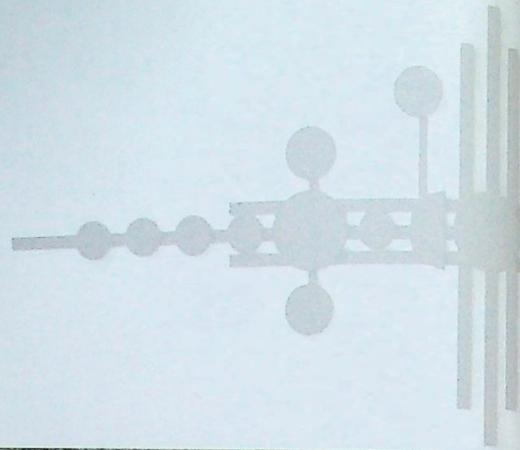
MID CENTURY STYLE
PERSONALIZED
5 Homeowners Who
Did It Their Way

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THE DESIGN ISSUE



64



76

MID MOD LIVING

- 32 Mid Century Spirit
- 42 From the Ground Up
- 54 Hillside Hideaway
- 64 Mod Respect
- 76 Personal History

BEYOND THE BASICS

- 24 Building Back Better
- 90 Back to the Atomic Age
- 100 The Vibe: Building the Bar
- 114 How to Style Modern Art
- 118 Big Design, Small Spaces
- 130 Last Look

12

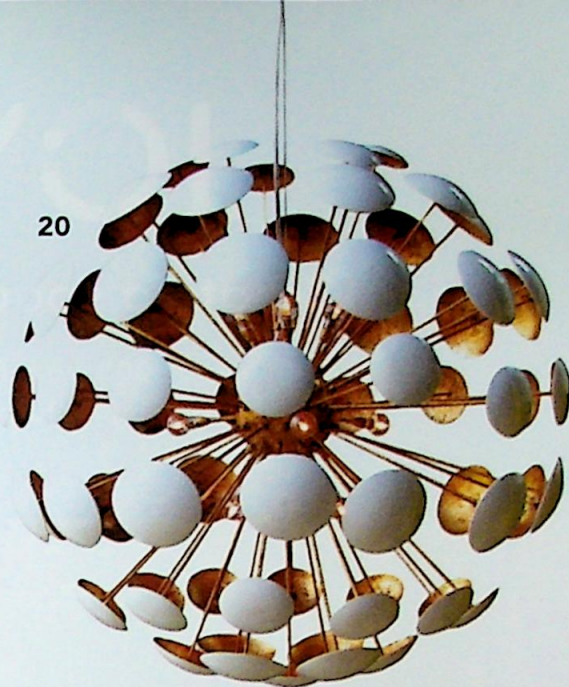




42



54



20



18

106

THE NAME GAME

- 22 Design Icon
- 106 Modern Makers

RETRO REDUX

- 12 Take It Home
- 20 Illuminate

MISC.

- 8 Editor's Letter
- 10 Web Update
- 126 Advertisers
- 128 Resources



16

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ON THE COVER

The Era of Cool 1-132

Discovering Boundary-Breaking Black Artist Alma Thomas 22

Mid Century Style Personalized: 5 Homeowners Who Did It Their Way 32, 42, 54, 64, 76

Furniture, Lighting & More: Editor's Picks for Every Room 12, 14, 16, 18, 20

Modern Makers Preserving the Craft 106

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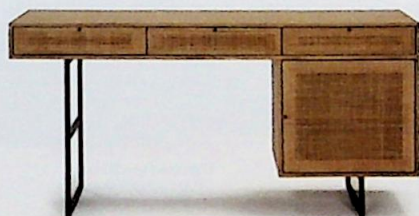
Hughes Swivel Chair
in Lucky Turquoise



Hughes Bed
in Royale Evergreen



Chelsea Sofa
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Florence Desk



Toscana Dining Set
in Taylor Felt Grey



Briar Sofa
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Design Heart

While I talk a lot about and have become quite the proxy expert in mid century renovations, architecture and structure, my origin story in Mid Century Modern works really comes from design and furnishings. Long before I understood the inner workings of cantilevered building design or helped extol the virtues of period-sensitive remodels, I was a college student on the prowl in thrift stores here in Orange County, California. I scanned the cluttered second-hand shops hunting for clean lines, sleek handles, hairpin legs and futuristic shapes. My boyfriend and I would score these amazingly cool dressers and chairs for 20 to 40 bucks to fill an apartment. Landing them was easy back then; pick up a couple of Bentwood dining chairs and some northern soul vinyl records. All in a day's work.

Then slowly I started to learn what they were, spotting in magazines—hey, that looks like our chair! This would cause me to dig a little deeper. Eames? Some guy named Eames made this chair and it's from the 1950s! Mid Century Modern? Oh, all this stuff we like is called Mid Century Modern! And so on and so on, the research fueling more research and names begetting names. And next thing you know I'm done. I'm a goner for all things mod.

So the annual design issue is a total treat for me. We get to focus on the furniture, products and interiors that for me were where it all began. What I love about the houses we visit in this issue is that they remind us that you can display your love of this style anywhere—a condo? A 1950s colonial? Don't see houses where you live that reflect what you love? Build it yourself! The makers we chat with have taken mid century influences and expressed them in their own way. So while it's easy to get caught up in the history and research, and it's exciting to uncover the authentic threads of this world, I don't believe it's all or nothing. We get to express our love of mid century style our way and forge our own paths to celebrating this era in our homes and our belongings in whatever way makes us happy. So here's to designing your haven, however you damn well please.



Jackie Torres

Jackie Torres

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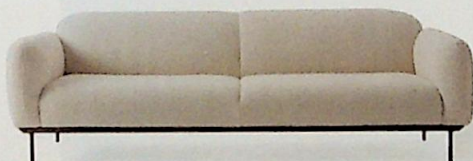
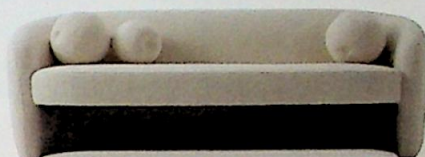
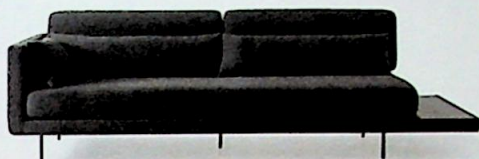
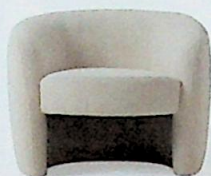
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COOL STUFF: HOLIDAY DINING ESSENTIALS

Get ready for holiday entertaining with dining table furniture, table settings and other retro/retro-inspired décor.



MERRY & MALM

There's no mistaking the Malm's modernist silhouette. And while it looks great, make sure yours also works great. Read up on how to care for your Malm so that it can warm you up all winter long.



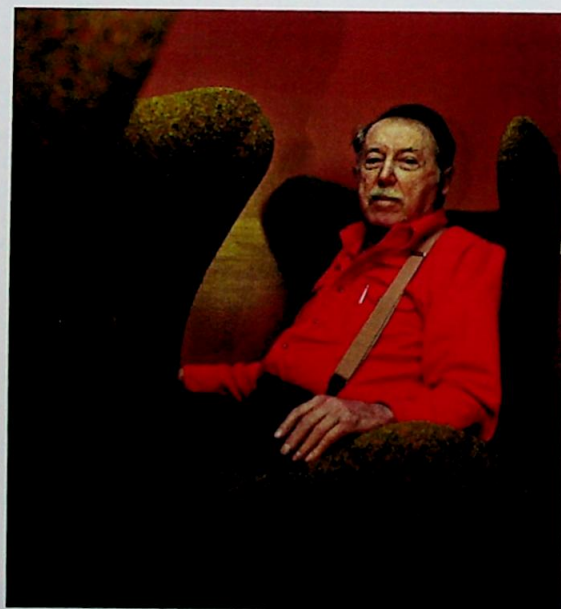
MODERNIST INDEX: ALEXANDER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

You've probably heard the name in association with Palm Springs Mid Century Modern neighborhoods. Find out more about this legendary MCM Palm Springs builder.



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ISSUE TO SEE WHAT
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JULIUS SHULMAN

Learn more about this famous architectural photographer, a friend of Charles Eames and photographer of many MCM structures like the Case Study Houses.



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/ TAKE IT HOME /

1



2

By IAN McMASTER

Sofas



3



4



5



6

These conversation pieces made to have conversations on, perfectly combine comfort, style and design.

1. The exposed oak, tight upholstery and welted seams give this sofa a clean, modern look perfect for any MCM home. Leon three-seater sofa in dijon, \$1,699. (888) 922-4199 or westelm.com.

2. This design combines Mid Century Modern, Scandinavian and industrial influences to create a simple yet cozy sofa meant for the most stylish lounge. Foundry sofa in navy, \$2,495. Visit gusmodern.com.

3. A centerpiece of any family room, this sofa offers a high level of practicality, comfort and style. Hughes grand sofa in olive, \$2,093. Visit joybird.com.

4. Soft velvet upholstery, hairpin-inspired solid wood legs and block-style tufting make this sofa a stunner in any room. Sussex velvet sofa in blush, \$869. (973) 276-0444 or inmod.com.

5. Luxurious and sleek, the plump cushions combined with slim arms make a gorgeous leather sofa fit for mod style. Corbin sofa by Violino, \$2,597. (877) 844-4988 or kasala.com.

6. With a curved tufted back and modern-slope arms, classic and contemporary styling come together to give this sofa an iconic feel. Casey sofa in grey, \$1,099. (844) 435-1144 or h3khome.com.



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"The Feline Fanatic," a new 13 color silk
screen print, debuting late 2021



/ TAKE IT HOME /

Add function, storage and style to almost any room with these impeccably designed storage pieces.

Credenzas

1. This strikingly designed credenza features brass pulls, tapered feet and vibrant teal doors that contrast perfectly with a stained walnut veneer frame. Brondby walnut and teal-door credenza, \$1,299. (312) 779-1979 or crateandbarrel.com.

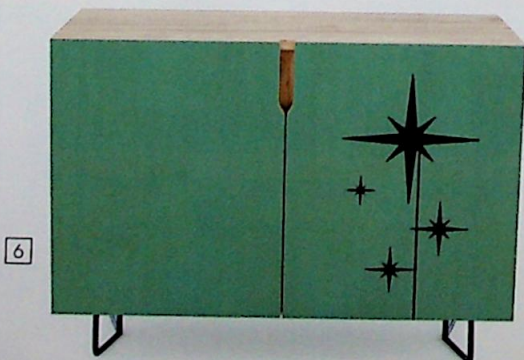
2. Yes, there is cable management and adjustable shelves, but this is more than just a TV stand. The body and legs are solid acacia wood, and when the slatted sliding doors overlap, the mosaic design created makes this more than just a place to set your television. Keenes solid wood TV stand, \$870. (844) 882-8925 or allmodern.com.

3. The perfect companion for the MCM dining room. This buffet makes plates, glassware and linens accessible, while bolstering a smart sleek look. Pinehurst three-drawer buffet by Wade Logan, \$259.99. (844) 492-3177 or wayfair.com.

4. Architecturally inspired and objectively beautiful, this walnut credenza offers ample storage space and style. The Belmont credenza by Gus, \$1,865. (888) 222-4410 or 2modern.com.

5. For a more understated look, the round edges, brass-capped legs and honey stain of this piece will bring a natural elegance to your living room. Almo TV stand, \$799. (866) 306-1666 or castlery.com.

6. Versatile and eye-catching, this credenza can be used in all rooms to store anything from office supplies to libations. Atomic age retro starburst credenza, \$519.19. Visit society6.com.



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/ TAKE IT HOME /

1



2

1. A versatile and handsome hutch with reversible shelves for bottle or flat surface storage offered in black walnut and cherry wood. Catalina 30-inch hutch in walnut. For pricing, (802) 222-9282 or copelandfurniture.com.

2. Iconic designer and artist Kipp Stewart made this solid walnut cabinet to become the centerpiece of your dining area and to include upper glass shelving and lighting that puts your best china on display. Kipp Stewart mid century walnut china cabinet for Drexel, \$2,795. (708) 497-9111 or midcenturywarehouse.com.

3. This smart and stylish wall unit offers a fold-down bar and hidable wine rack, saving space in your dining room without sacrificing storage. Theo modular shelving with bar by District Eight, \$1,705.50. (631) 270-4560 or franceandson.com.

4. Modern yet timeless, this expertly crafted cupboard from Belgium has a simple, clean and polished look, while maintaining all the functionality needed for your home. Oak Ligna storage cupboard by Ethnicraft, \$3,709. (800) 605-1859 or camodernhome.com.

5. G-Plan produced this gorgeous hutch in the U.K. in the 1960s with utility in mind. All your dining essentials are stored seamlessly, a large drop-down cabinet can be used as a small desk and a second cabinet can be enjoyed as a bar. Mid century Danish modern G-Plan hutch, \$1,995. Visit spacedout.studio.

Hutches

3



4



5



Versatile, striking and practical, these hutches and display cabinets will be the perfect addition to your modern dining room.

SODA TABLE BY YIANNIS GHIKAS FOR MINIFORMS, ITALY



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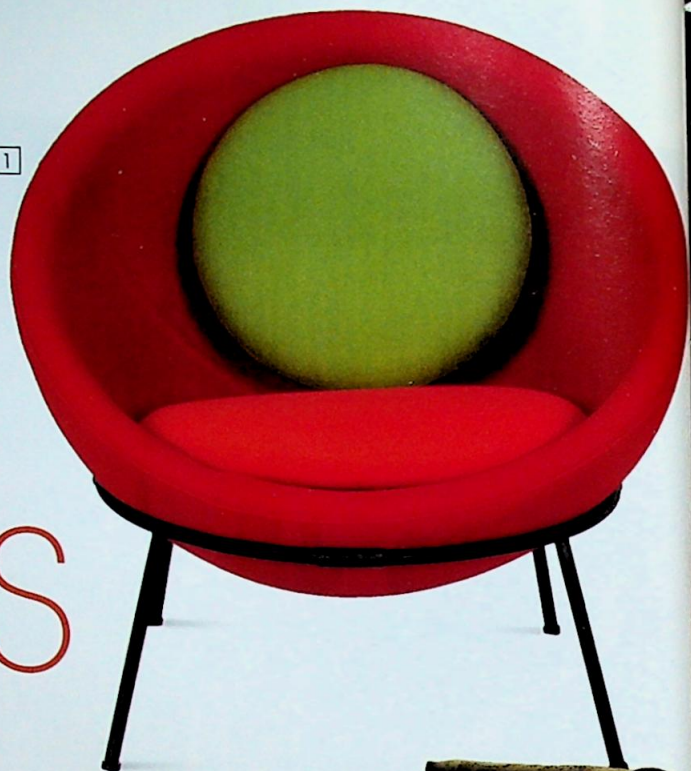
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/ TAKE IT HOME /

Take a load off in these modern chairs that bring more than just comfortable seating to your home.

Chairs

1



3



4



2



5



1. Designed by Italian-Brazilian architect Lina Bo Bardi in 1951, this fun yet industrious chair features a molded fiberglass seat, powder-coated steel base and vibrant upholstery. Bowl chair, \$1,359. (800) 993-0903 or eternitymodern.com.

2. Solid walnut, soft cream fabric and steel come together on this lounge chair that mixes materials perfectly to create a piece that will work in office and living spaces alike. Bluff lounge chair, \$630. (800) 382-9303 or industrywest.com.

3. An unbelievably cozy chair that offers style and luxury with a sophisticated silhouette and sink-in comfort. Hans armchair, \$599. (866) 306-1666 or castlery.com.

4. The slight curves on this solid wood frame along with simple cushions bring a mid mod aesthetic to any bedroom, great room or study. The Scandinavian lounge chair in ash brown, \$499. (855) 310-1450 or levityhome.com.

5. Ib Kofod-Larsen's 1960s lounge chair offers a stunning example of sturdy utilitarianism and playful design. Modern Hill Furniture high-back lounge chair and ottoman by Kofod-Larsen, \$2,495. (708) 497-9111 or midcenturywarehouse.com.

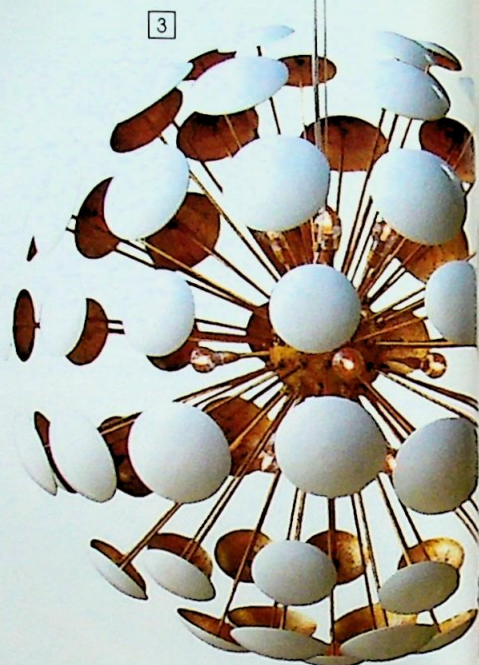
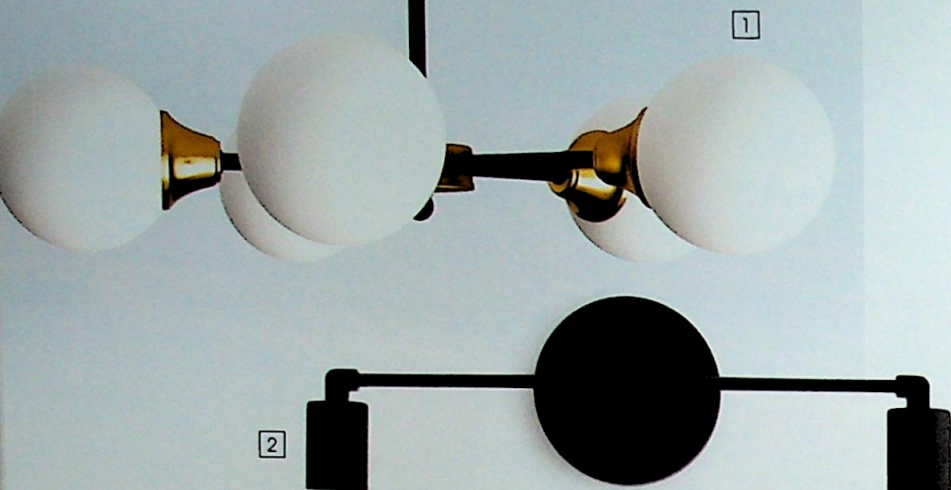


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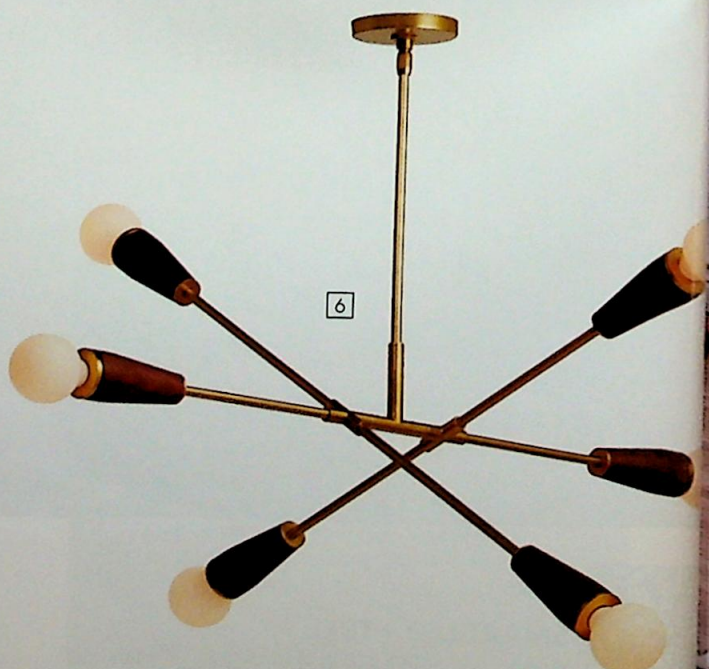
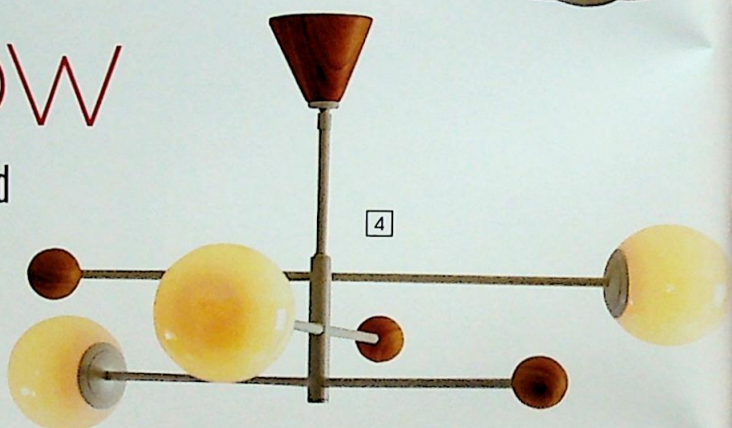
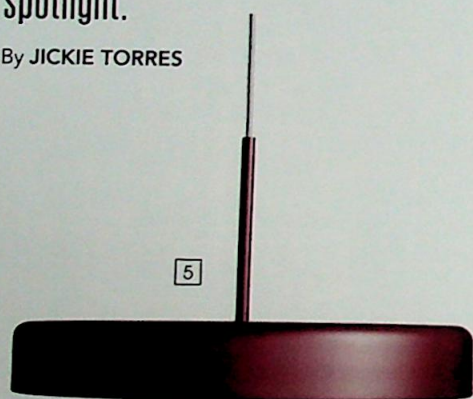
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Stars of the Show

Check out these beautifully designed and crafted lighting options worthy of the spotlight.

By JICKIE TORRES



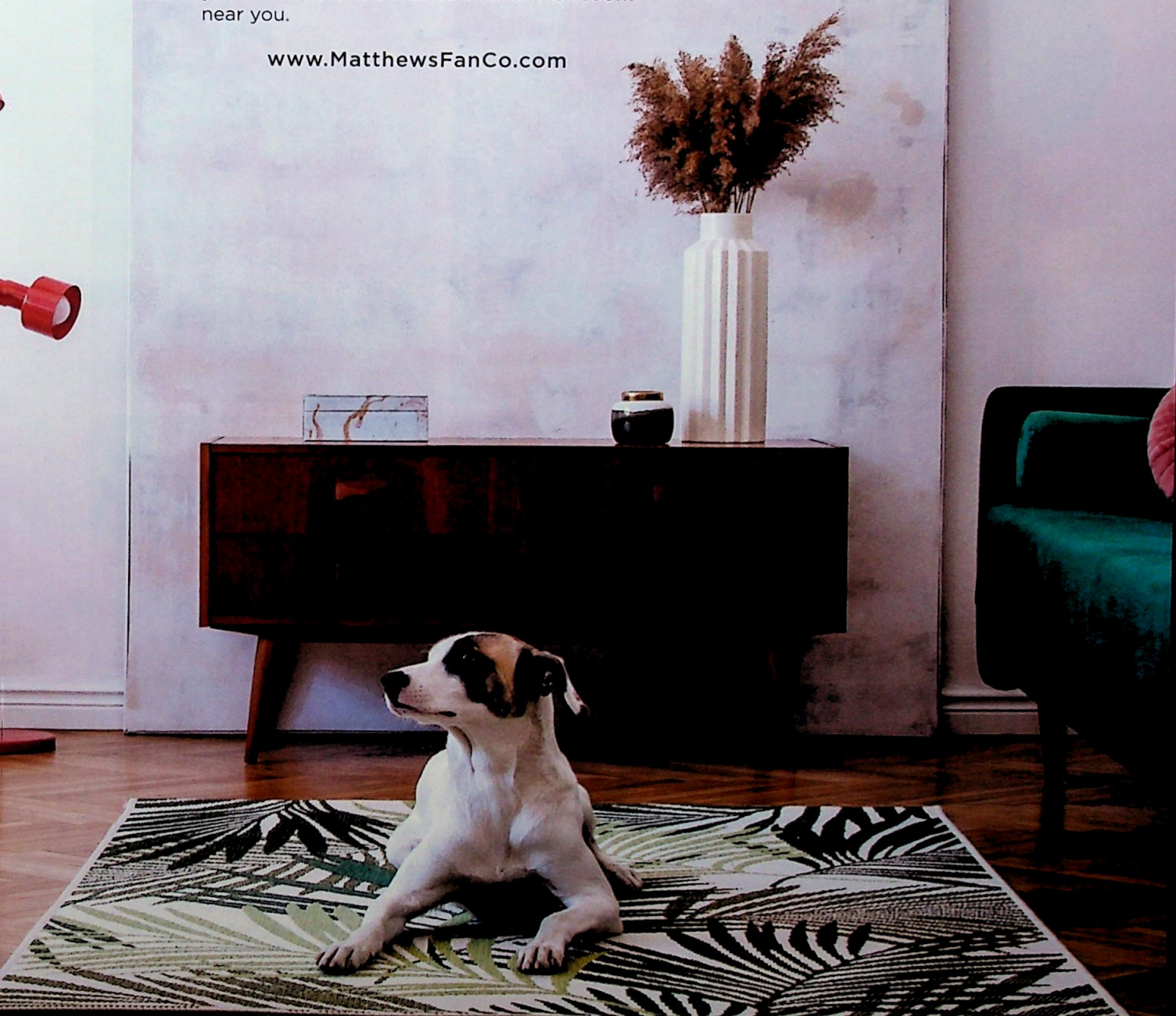
1. Diedre 5 Sputnik sphere chandelier, \$280. (844) 810-0647 or jossandmain.com.
2. Vanity model No. 8412, \$99. Visit pearedcreation.com.
3. Bilbao Sputnik style pendant light, \$1,700. (855) 549-9990 or chairish.com.
4. Quinn metal & wood ceiling light, \$299. (800) 967-6696 or crateandbarrel.com.
5. Bobber large pendant light. For pricing, (844) 425-8368 or bludot.com.
6. Altona bare-bulb chandelier in aged brass and walnut, \$1,159. (800) 526-7329 or rejuvenation.com.

MATTHEWS

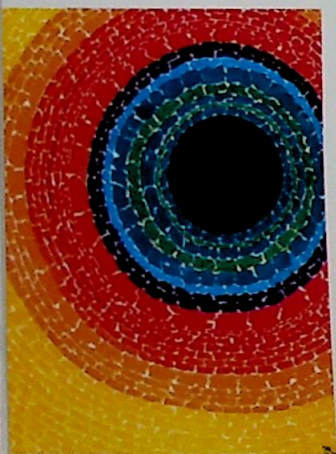
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Alma Thomas



This American educator turned painter and art ambassador was unfaltering in her pursuit of beauty and became a ground-breaker for Black artists in the mid century and beyond.

By Ian McMaster

Images provided by the Smithsonian American Art Museum



ALMA THOMAS. PHOTOGRAPHY © MICHAEL FISCHER, 1976. COURTESY OF THE SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM, WASHINGTON, DC.



(ABOVE) ALMA THOMAS, *UNTITLED (MUSIC SERIES)*, 1978, ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM, GIFT OF THE ARTIST, 1978.40.5

(LEFT) ALMA THOMAS, *THE ECLIPSE*, 1970, ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM, GIFT OF THE ARTIST, 1978.40.3

ALMA THOMAS' LIFE WAS FULL OF FIRSTS. She was the first of four children and was in the inaugural class of graduates for Howard University's first Fine Arts program. In 1938 she opened the first art gallery in a Washington D.C. public school. Three decades later Thomas became the first African-American woman to have a solo exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art. And 40 years after her death, Thomas' work was selected by First Lady Michelle Obama to hang on the walls of the White House.

EARLY LIFE & EDUCATION

Born in Georgia in 1891, as a child Thomas moved with her family to Washington D.C., escaping the racial violence of the South. Although still segregated, D.C. would offer her the freedoms of attending school. She would in fact live a life surrounded by education and art.

Thomas graduated from Howard's Fine Arts program, received a master's degree in art education from Columbia University and pursued advanced studies at American University. While pursuing her education, Thomas taught art at a D.C. junior high school, occupying the same classroom for 35 years. Her curriculum deliberately incorporated Black history in

relation to art, while she developed art clubs, lectures, field trips and exhibits for her students. Her love of art and community can also be seen in her involvement in founding the School Arts League Project and the Barnett-Aden Gallery.

THE WORK

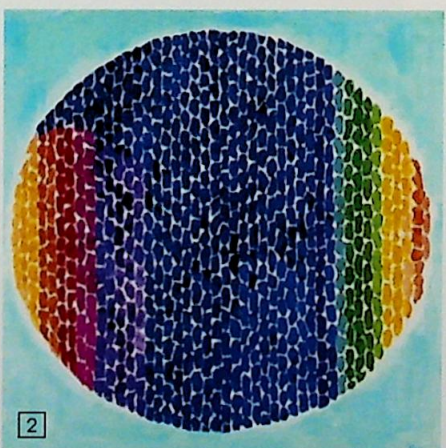
It wasn't until 1960 that Alma Thomas, at the age of 68, would retire from teaching and become a full-time professional artist. She used her extensive studies and experience to ultimately create luminous, abstract and contemplative pieces. Considered a part of the Washington Color School movement, Thomas' work is defined by her use of color, shapes and patterns to express natural phenomena. She explained her aesthetic, saying, "Man's

highest aspirations come from nature. A world without color would seem dead. Color is life. Light is the mother of color." Her inspirations ranged from flowers in her garden to space and the moon landing.

LEGACY

Although she faced discrimination throughout her life, Thomas' work focused on the creative spirit rather than society's harsh shortcomings. While her contemporaries used realism to depict the brutality and struggle of the civil rights movement, Thomas took a different approach to inspire. "The use of color in my paintings is of paramount importance to me. Through color I have sought to concentrate on beauty and happiness, rather than on man's inhumanity to man," Thomas said in a 1970 interview.

Her work continues to influence and inspire today, well past her death in 1978, as seen through her art featured in countless exhibits across the country and most notably in the Smithsonian American Art Museum. In 2015 Thomas' painting *Resurrection* was hung in the Old Family Dining Room of the White House; it was the first work by an African-American woman to enter the White House Collection. ✻



1. ALMA THOMAS, *ELYSIAN FIELDS*, 1973, ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM, BEQUEST OF THE ARTIST, 1980.36.8

2. ALMA THOMAS, *SNOOPY--EARLY SUN DISPLAY ON EARTH*, 1970, ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM, GIFT OF VINCENT MELZAC, 1976.140.1

3. ALMA THOMAS, *LIGHT BLUE NURSERY*, 1968, ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM, GIFT OF THE ARTIST, 1970.324

Building Back

Modern

A DILAPIDATED KITCHEN IN VENTURA, CALIFORNIA, RECEIVES AN MCM MAKEOVER THAT CELEBRATES ITS OCEAN VIEWS AND RESTORES ITS MOD CHARM.

By **Kristin Dowding**
Photography by **Gavin Cater**

HOMEOWNERS SHARON VASQUEZ-RAY AND RICK RAY INCORPORATED BLUE ACCENTS INTO THEIR KITCHEN TO COMPLEMENT THEIR OCEAN VIEWS. THE SAND-BLASTED POST-AND-BEAM CEILING IS ORIGINAL TO THE HOME.



A man with glasses and a goatee, wearing a dark blue t-shirt, stands in a modern kitchen. He is leaning on a white countertop. The kitchen features a large, curved wooden pendant light hanging from a ceiling with exposed wooden beams. In the background, there are wooden cabinets, a window with a colorful stained-glass design, and a large potted plant. The overall aesthetic is mid-century modern.

What Makes It MCM?

- Post-and-beam structure
- MCM-style décor such as L'eau barstools and glass bubble pendants
- Sleek, clean cabinets

YOU MIGHT HAVE HEARD THE ADVICE to live in your new home for a while before you make any permanent changes to it. In the case of homeowners Sharon Vasquez-Ray and her husband Rick Ray, they waited eight years after moving into their Ventura, California, home to remodel their kitchen, and the timing was perfect.



Real Home 101

• **Type of home:** 1959 California Ranch

• **Architect:** Don Knight

• **Background:** The home is located on top of a steep, winding street that gives it the perfect ocean view. The renovations by previous homeowners weren't in keeping with the home's mid century style and didn't take advantage of the ocean view from the kitchen.

• **Color Scheme:** Neutral foundation of brown, white and tan with pops of blue and orange to highlight the ocean view

• **Innovative Idea:** The appliance bay hides appliances and appears to be another set of cabinets when closed.

(ABOVE, LEFT) INSPIRED BY A PINTEREST IMAGE, SHARON DECIDED ON RIBBON SAPELE WOOD FOR THE CABINETS. THEY OPTED FOR NO HARDWARE FOR A SLEEK LOOK.

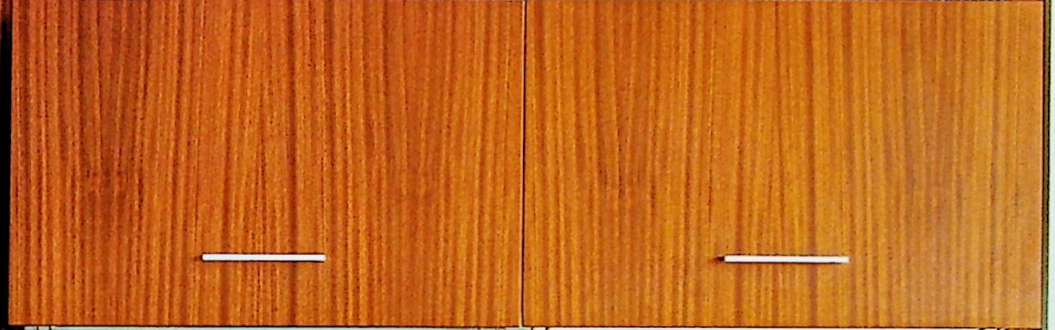
(ABOVE, RIGHT) THE QUARTZ COUNTERTOPS END IN A WATERFALL EDGE FOR A CLEAN LOOK AND PROVIDE AN EXTRA SEATING AREA.

Having previously lived in a Spanish bungalow, this couple wasn't aware of their 1959 home's mid century style when they moved in in 2012. But Sharon had always been fascinated by Mid Century Modern furniture and had dreamed of attending Modernism Week in Palm Springs. Her husband surprised her with tickets one year, and after attending, they noticed their own home's mid century architecture and decided to remodel their kitchen to complement it. With the help of a resourceful team, they transformed their dilapidated kitchen into a space worthy of its history.

Mid Century Makeover

Another reason Sharon and Rick didn't know the true style of their home was because it had been stripped of its original interior details. "The previous homeowners had makeovers done that didn't make sense with mid century," says Sharon. "The tile countertops had grout lines, the cabinets were stained and not sealed and they added a Mexican prefab tile on the floor. It would have been amazing to see the original treatment."

THE APPLIANCE BAY IS ONE OF SHARON'S FAVORITE FEATURES IN THE KITCHEN. IT HIDES THE APPLIANCES SHE DOESN'T WANT DISPLAYED, AND THE DOORS OPEN UP INSTEAD OF OUT FOR A MORE FUNCTIONAL DESIGN.



"As the cabinet doors would fall off, I would just keep them off. It's like we had a forced open shelf design."



Design Must-Haves

- Set of waffle glass cabinet doors
- Large windows that start at countertop height
- Ribbon sapele wood cabinets

(TOP, LEFT) SHARON LOVED THE ORIGINAL WAFFLE-GLASS CABINET DOORS AND HAD THE GLASS REINSTALLED. "I LOVED THE WAFFLE-GLASS LOOK, SO JOSH KEPT IT AS AN ELEMENT IN THE KITCHEN AND INCORPORATED IT A BIT HIGHER WITH THE APPLIANCE BAYS SET," SHE SAYS.

(TOP, RIGHT) AFTER RELOCATING THE REFRIGERATOR AND OVEN, THEY TURNED THIS AREA INTO A PANTRY FOR EXTRA STORAGE.

Not only was the old look not in keeping with MCM design; it was also falling apart. "Everything started sagging," says Sharon. "As the cabinet doors would fall off, I would just keep them off. It's like we had a forced open shelf design." Plus, the previous layout was not functional. With an island in the middle of the small kitchen, Sharon and Rick had to squeeze by the tiny space to get to the cabinets, and the sink was in the corner of the kitchen. "When you did dishes, you'd be looking at the wall instead of the stellar ocean view out the window," says Sharon.

A Fresh Start

To ensure their kitchen remodel would be successful, Sharon and Rick hired architect David Ferrin of Arketype Architects and designer Josh Ganzhorn of Able and Baker Design. "David came up with the initial concept, and Josh designed the cabinets within that concept," Sharon says.

They gutted the kitchen to have a fresh start, removing the island, the cabinets and even a sliding glass door so they could expand the layout for a bigger space. Sharon had her heart set on using ribbon sapele wood for the cabinets, and Josh was able to find the right materials. "I gave them a Pinterest picture with sapele wood that inspired me, and they worked off of that," says Sharon. Now, there's plenty of storage that can be easily accessed, and the white quartz countertops give the space a clean look.

An Ocean View

Because the home is located on top of a winding hill, the kitchen has an incredible view of the ocean, so Sharon wanted to incorporate features that would celebrate that. She chose a neutral palette with touches of blue in the backsplash, barstools and dinnerware. The glass pendants hanging in front of the window remind her of bubbles, and the sink now faces the large window to take advantage of the view. "I love the relaxation and inspiration I get from being in the kitchen," says Sharon. "I actually enjoy cooking now, proving that design has the power to enhance your daily life." 🌊



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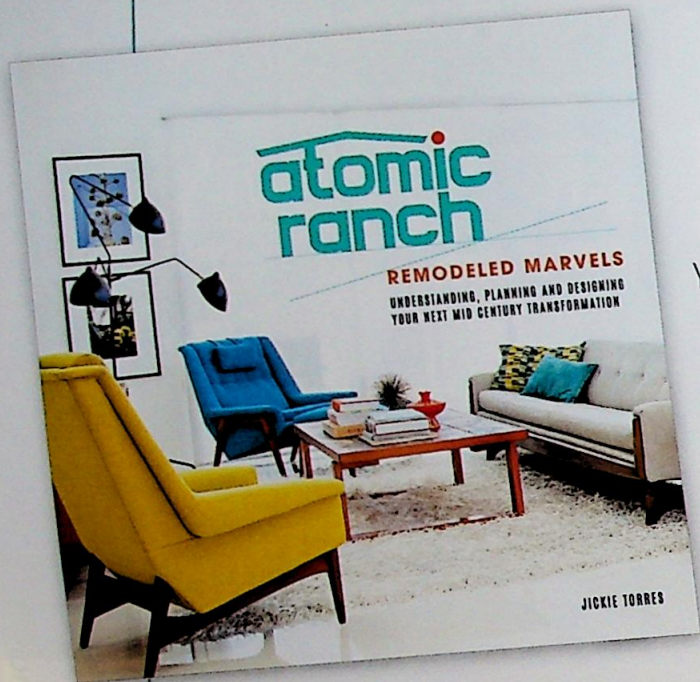
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A DESIGN-MINDED COUPLE SETS OUT TO BRING CALIFORNIA MID CENTURY STYLE TO THE EAST COAST.

By ERIN LAWRENCE

Photography courtesy of STUDIO 818



THE MAIN LIVING AREA EPITOMIZES INDOOR-OUTDOOR LIVING WITH ITS FLOOR-TO-CEILING AND CLERESTORY WINDOWS. WHILE THEY GIVE THE ILLUSION THE ROOF IS FLOATING OVER THE HOME, THIS IS A CLEVER DESIGN TRICK THAT ADHERES TO HURRICANE-RESISTANT BUILDING CODES, WHILE STILL CREATING A MID CENTURY MODERN AESTHETIC.

MID CENTURY SPIRIT





Part of the allure of a Mid Century Modern home

is the history that's seeped deep into every corner. Trying to replicate that feeling can be a challenge when it comes to a new mid century-style build, and when that home also has strict rules about setbacks and it needs to be built to withstand a hurricane, well, that's a challenge that's not for the faint of heart.

None of that deterred Janie and John-Paul Micek of Studio 818 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. As California transplants, the couple were intimately familiar with Mid Century Modern architecture and design. When they began looking at the homes in the city—seeking those with the openness, natural materials, connection to the outdoors and soaring rooflines mid century homes in Palm Springs are known for—they were stymied. Undaunted, they decided to build what they couldn't find on the market.

PALM SPRINGS TO SOUTH FLORIDA

"I'm obsessed with Mid Century Modern architecture," reveals Janie. "JP and I met in California and we spent a lot of time in Palm Springs, and I just fell in love with the mid century architecture. I think I gravitate towards that when we're looking at projects to take on."

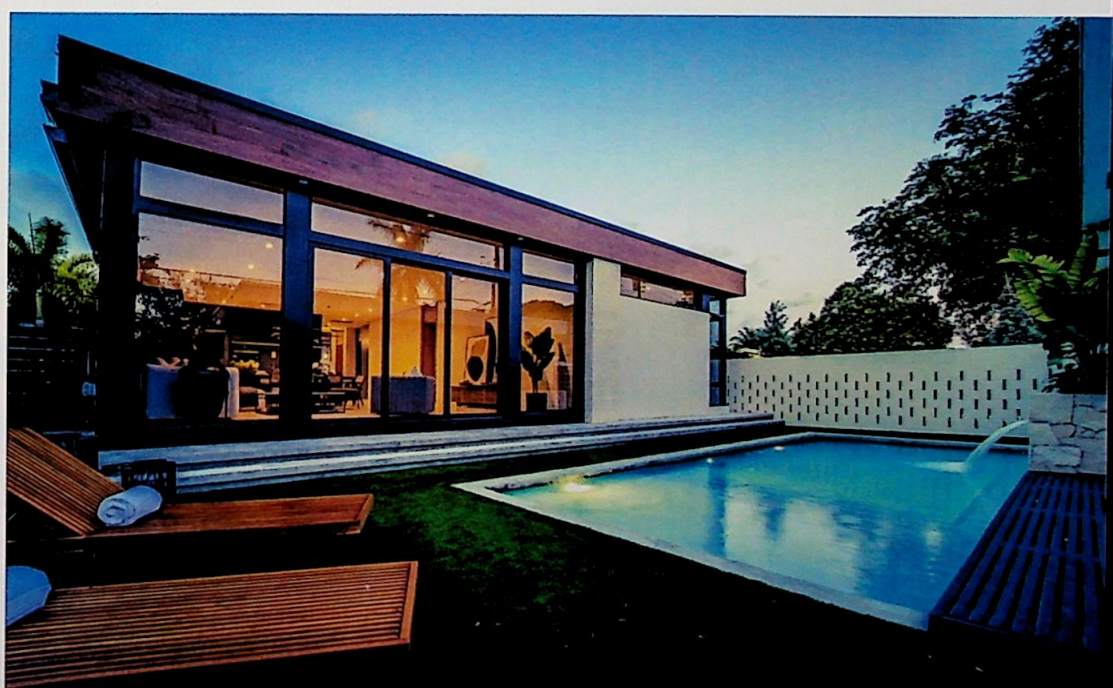




(LEFT) THE TWO STRUCTURES AT PLAY ON THE PROPERTY—AND THEIR DIFFERENCES—ARE CLEARLY VISIBLE. THE BUILDING AT LEFT IS WHAT REMAINS OF THE ORIGINAL GARAGE, BUT AT THE BACK IT TRANSFORMS TO AN OPEN, AIRY, NEW-LOOK GUESTHOUSE. A BREEZE-BLOCK WALL WAS DELIBERATELY SITUATED TO UNITE THE OLD WITH THE NEW AND CREATE A COHESIVE FEEL.

(BOTTOM, LEFT) A NARROW YARD AT THE SIDE OF THE HOUSE COULD HAVE SIMPLY BEEN XERISCAPED, BUT JANIE AND JOHN-PAUL GAVE IT PURPOSE BY ADDING A BUILT-IN CONCRETE BENCH, A FIRE PIT AND A HORIZONTAL PRESSURE-TREATED PINE FENCE PAINTED BLACK, CREATING AN INTIMATE CONVERSATION AREA.

(BOTTOM, RIGHT) THE SMALL LOT WAS MAXIMIZED AND THERE'S NO WASTED SPACE. A PLANTER WAS ADDED TO THE BACK OF THE GARAGE, AND IT ALSO HOUSES A WATER FEATURE THAT'S VISIBLE FROM THE LIVING ROOM OF THE MAIN HOUSE. "I DECIDED TO APPROACH THE EXTERIOR AS A SERIES OF OUTDOOR ROOMS," SAYS JOHN-PAUL.



(BELOW) THE HOME'S MONOCHROMATIC COLOR SCHEME IS MEANT TO KEEP THE OVERALL AESTHETIC RELAXING. THE FLOORING IS A MODERN FLORIDA TWIST ON TERRAZZO: HERE, IT'S CONCRETE WITH A SMALL AGGREGATE BLEND MIXED IN. JOHN-PAUL HAD HIS TEAM FINISH THE FLOOR BY GRINDING AND POLISHING THE CONCRETE TO CREATE A LUXURIOUS, SMOOTH TEXTURE WITH COLOR AND PLENTY OF VISUAL INTEREST. THE STARBURST LIGHT FIXTURE IS AN ETSY FIND.



"Eichler's architecture is what I really gravitate towards. He definitely influenced the design of this house."



Janie designed the home with support from an engineer and, together with John-Paul, oversaw its construction in 2019. The 2,782-square-foot new build in the Wilton Manors neighborhood has been named “Midmod” and features three bedrooms and three bathrooms all under a cantilever-style roof that juts toward the sunny Florida sky.

HURRICANE PROOF

The roof posed a significant challenge for Studio 818. Florida’s strict building codes are meant to ensure even hurricane-force winds do only minimal damage to structures. A traditional cantilevered roof didn’t pass muster, so Janie, in conjunction with en-

gineer Gary Powell, designed a roofline that would mimic the roof floating above clerestory windows.

“Everything in south Florida has to be concrete and steel reinforced, with hurricane strapping,” John-Paul explains. “That roof structure was built with drop-in box trusses; then it was all hand-framed on the outside to give the illusion it was overhanging the perimeter.” Janie says, “We probably got a few snickers, but we knew we wanted clerestory windows, so we started investigating how we could make this happen. We knew it’s not going to be a mid century-looking house if we don’t do this, so we didn’t move on until we could figure it out.”



The sleek wood panels on the front of the home aren't wood at all, but a creative solution to Florida's hot sun: they're wood-look porcelain tiles by Coverlam.

(TOP) IN A NOD TO TRADITIONAL PALM SPRINGS MODERNISM, JANIE CALLED FOR A BUILT-IN PLANTER BOX TO RUN THE LENGTH OF THE HOUSE, SPRINKLED WITH NATIVE PLANTS. THE WHITE OF THE BRICK MESHES PERFECTLY WITH THE WOOD-LOOK FACING, WHICH IS ACTUALLY NOT WOOD AT ALL. IT'S PORCELAIN TILE. "IT WILL NEVER FADE," JANIE SAYS.

(RIGHT) JANIE AND JOHN-PAUL WANTED THE KITCHEN TO STAND OUT. THE CABINETRY IS BIRCH PLYWOOD WITH WHITE-OAK VENEER AND AN ARMY-GREEN VARNISHED FINISH. THE DEEP TONE CREATES A FOCAL POINT—AND FLOWS INTO THE STUNNING LEATHERED-FINISH BRAZILIAN BLACK-MARBLE COUNTERTOPS AND ISLAND. "EVERYBODY WANTS TO TOUCH IT," SAYS JANIE. THE ARROWHEAD-SHAPED LIGHT FIXTURE OVER THE DINING TABLE IS A MODERN TAKE ON A MID CENTURY LOOK. CUSTOM BUILT-IN CABINETS LINK THE SPACE TO THE KITCHEN, CREATING AN OPEN-CONCEPT LOOK THAT FLOWS, THANKS IN PART TO THE DECISION TO ESCHEW CABINET HARDWARE.



A detached garage structure also posed a significant problem for the couple. The original building was small and interfered with the ideas Janie and John-Paul had for the backyard landscaping including a pool. But tearing down the building would have meant having to set any new buildings back further off the property lines—space Janie and John-Paul just couldn't spare on the narrow 50 by 125-foot lot.

"We basically rebuilt it but kept the same footprint," explains John-Paul. "There's now a guest suite at the back with the two-car garage. Putting the pool in was an architectural challenge because it was only two feet off the garage, but Janie was adamant about having the pool right up against it. It was a visual thing, and you can see it worked out very well."

TACTILE ELEMENTS

The visuals were important to the project, and considerable effort was put into the choice of materials. A support wall, which runs right down the center of the home and out to the exterior, was clad with a product known as shell stone. While the stone comes from a quarry in Spain, it's a fitting Florida material.

"It's fossilized shells. But you can see just the outline of the shell. It's a stone that looks like it's got crushed shells inside it, and it's got a matte, satin finish," says Janie. "Anybody that walks through the house can't help but want to touch it."

Naturally the fixtures and furniture were chosen to complement the finishings. A Sputnik light beckons visitors in the main hallway, while over the island in the kitchen Studio 818 wanted something



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PART OF THE CHALLENGE OF SITUATING THE HOME ON ITS SMALL LOT WAS THAT JUST OVER THE PROPERTY LINE THERE WAS A SMALL APARTMENT BUILDING. JANIE'S DESIGN FOR THE HOME CLEVERLY USES THE WALLS IN THE PRINCIPAL BEDROOM TO BLOCK THE VIEW (BOTH IN AND OUT), WHILE THE CORNER WINDOWS SOAR UP TO BECOME CLERESTORY WINDOWS, LETTING IN PLENTY OF LIGHT AND PROVIDING A VIEW TO THE OUTSIDE THAT MAKES THE SPACE FEEL SPACIOUS AND OPEN.

that provided plenty of task lighting and still let the house shine during the day—and a light that wouldn't compete with the neo-space age chandelier over the dining table. A minimalist, black, thin-line pendant from Sonneman fit the bill. "We wanted something very streamlined, that kind of disappears. Once you turn it on, the whole island lights up, but if you were to walk through the house without the lights on, you probably wouldn't even know it was there," Janie reveals. "It's an awesome fixture."

John-Paul and Janie say they feel like they achieved their goal to create a seamless flow between interior and exterior spaces so that the home feels like a part of the outdoors and vice versa. "We designed a hardscape that combines solid walls, breeze block, linear wood fencing, grade changes and varying materials to complement the architecture of the home and further reinforce the feeling of outdoor rooms. It's also a nod to many Palm Springs Mid Century Modern homes that maximize privacy while creating a sense of openness from inside the property." 🌿

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 128.



(BELOW) TO CREATE AN AIRY LOOK WITH A TROPICAL VIBE, THE VANITY WAS CUSTOM DESIGNED AND CRAFTED TO FIT THE SPACE—WITHOUT THE NEED FOR HARDWARE. FULL-HEIGHT PORCELAIN SLABS WERE PLACED ON THE WALLS TO GIVE IT A LUXE LOOK, WHILE PROVIDING A ZERO-MAINTENANCE FINISH THAT RESISTS FADING OR STAINING ASSOCIATED WITH MARBLE. “WE BROKE TWO SLABS DURING INSTALLATION. THE THIRD TIME WAS THE CHARM,” JANIE REVEALS.



"MID CENTURY MODERN, IN MY OPINION, BRINGS IN THE FLORIDA LIFESTYLE, BECAUSE IT WANTS TO MARRY THE INSIDE WITH THE OUTDOORS," PATTI SAYS. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE BATHROOM, THERE IS A WINDOW IN EVERY ROOM OF THE HOUSE. TO FLOOD THE LIVING ROOM WITH NATURAL LIGHT, THE COUPLE OPENED TWO INTERSECTING WALLS AND INSTALLED SLIDING POCKET GLASS DOORS THAT LEAD TO THE BACK PORCH. "WE WANT IT TO FEEL LIKE YOU'RE NOT JUST MOVING TO YOUR OUTDOOR FURNITURE; YOU'RE MOVING TO ANOTHER EXPERIENCE IN THE HOME," SHE ADDS.



FROM THE GROUND UP

A FLORIDA COUPLE
ENAMORED WITH MCM
STYLE DESIGNED AND
FURNISHED THEIR DREAM
HOME THEMSELVES—
COMPLETE WITH PERSONAL
TOUCHES AND A RETRO
SOUL.

By TESS LOPEZ

Photography by

MARY ELIZABETH GARDNER





When it came time to move from Kansas City, Patti Pate and her husband, Joel Butner, decided to settle near downtown Punta Gorda, Florida. It wasn't just the proximity to the Gulf of Mexico or the shops and restaurants within walking distance that drew them to the coast, but the ability to build a modern, out-of-the-box home. "We liked the fact that downtown really encouraged diversity in home styles," Patti explains. "So that allowed us to realize that we could be a little bit more creative in our design."

The couple's fondness for Mid Century Modern design was the main influence behind the 2018 build. "We've had a love of that era forever," she says. "But we also love the playfulness of adding the unexpected aspects of a home when you walk in."

With their desire for color and contrasting materials came an equally determined decision not to be predictable. But after realizing local builders and drafters weren't grasping this vision, Joel assumed the role of architect. "Ultimately we took over the design of the house, totally. And actually sourced everything inside the house ourselves," Patti says.

(TOP) PATTI AND JOEL WANTED EVERY DETAIL OF THE HOME TO BE MODERN, DOWN TO THE FRONT AND BACK STEPS. WHEN THEIR SEARCH FOR SOMEONE TO POUR CONCRETE STEPS FELL THROUGH, THE COUPLE APPROACHED A METALWORKER, WHO SUGGESTED BLEACHER SEATS. THE COMPANY POWDER-COATED THE SEATS AND MEASURED AND BUILT THEM ONSITE. "THOSE THINGS ARE GOING TO WITHSTAND THE TEST OF TIME," PATTI SAYS.

(OPPOSITE) PATTI AND JOEL DESIGNED THE SALTWATER POOL WITH VISITORS IN MIND. "SOMEBODY MAY WANT TO SUNBATHE ON THE BAJA DECK, WHILE SOMEBODY ELSE MAY WANT TO SIT ON THE BENCH WHERE THEY ARE IN THE WATER AND NOT ON THE EDGE," PATTI EXPLAINS. THEY ADDED IPE WOOD DECKING THAT CAN NOT ONLY WITHSTAND FLORIDA'S YEAR-ROUND SUN, BUT ALSO SERVE AS A RESORT-STYLE POOLSIDE LOUNGE.

THE MID CENTURY
FLAIR BEGINS
AT THE CUSTOM
MAHOGANY
FRONT DOOR. "IT
WAS EXTREMELY
IMPORTANT TO
HAVE SOLID WOOD
DOORS THROUGH
THE ENTIRE
HOUSE," PATTI
SAYS. "I WANTED
THAT FEEL OF
THOSE HEAVY
DOORS MOVING."
SHE ACCENTED
THE FOYER
WITH A VINTAGE
CONSOLE.





Non-negotiables included an abundance of windows for natural lighting, a front porch and functional design that couldn't be dated. To achieve the geometric look of the exterior—partly inspired by Joel's favorite architect, Hugh Newell Jacobsen, who designed the home of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis in Martha's Vineyard in the 1980s—the couple had to get the vernacular approved by the Punta Gorda City Council, which previously didn't acknowledge a design similar to Patti and Joel's home. But the city adjusted its building codes to add the new look to its roster.



FUNCTION FIRST

"We really did follow Mid Century Modern in terms that it always starts with function first, and then form follows. And that was very much a part of our design, that it functionally had to work for us and how we lived," Patti explains. The interior of the home, therefore, needed to showcase the couple's beloved collection of classic pieces, like their Eames chairs, Nelson bench and bright-pink antique cuckoo clock. Patti opted for timeless cement flooring and white walls to serve as the backdrop.



ALL THE CABINETS IN THE HOME, FROM THE KITCHEN TO THE BATHROOMS, ARE IKEA BASES. "JOEL RESEARCHED IT, AND THE BASES STOOD UP TO ALMOST ANYONE ELSE IN THE INDUSTRY IN TERMS OF QUALITY," PATTI SAYS. THE COUPLE CONSULTED A DESIGNER FROM LOS ANGELES TO HELP CUSTOMIZE THE FRONTS, WHICH WERE THEN COMPLETED BY SEMIHANDMADE.

Joel designed a peaked ceiling and a spacious open layout for the kitchen and living room that make the home friendly for entertaining while keeping sight lines clean. And the chef's secrets are kept under wraps with a butler's pantry off the kitchen that is admittedly one of Patti's favorite rooms in the home. "I didn't just want a pantry," she says. "I also wanted it to stand on its own; we were able to tuck in some high-end shelving."

The ability of key pieces and rooms to work independently became a guiding principle for Patti as she furnished the home. "Every piece should be able to move and stand on its own. You have to have a love for that piece you bought, not that it happens to match your couch."



(TOP) IN ADDITION TO THE HOME'S THREE BEDROOMS THERE IS A BONUS ROOM THAT FUNCTIONS PRIMARILY AS A STUDY, BUT IT HAS ALL THE NUTS AND BOLTS TO TRANSFORM INTO A FUN GUEST SPACE OR A COZY READING NOOK. A DAYBED RESTS BELOW A GALLERY OF FAMILY PORTRAITS AND ARTWORK, AND JUST AROUND THE CORNER IS A WINE COOLER TUCKED INTO A CLOSET.

(ABOVE) ENSURING EACH SPACE COULD STAND ON ITS OWN WAS ONE OF PATTI'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES, SO WHEN IT CAME TO APPEAL, NO ROOM WAS OVERLOOKED—NOT EVEN THE BUTLER'S PANTRY. ALTHOUGH DESIGNED SIMPLY TO CONCEAL DAY-TO-DAY KITCHEN ACCESSORIES, THE PANTRY TOOK CUES FROM MID CENTURY STYLE, WITH HIGH-END SHELIVING, BRASS HARDWARE AND A SOLID WALNUT COUNTERTOP.

(BELOW) THE COUPLE ARE OPEN-MINDED ABOUT FURNITURE AND DÉCOR TO INFORM THEIR STYLE, REGARDLESS OF WHERE IT'S BEEN SOURCED FROM. THIS LEADS TO A FUSION OF HIGH-LOW PIECES THAT EVOKES WARMTH AND FAMILIARITY. IN THEIR DAUGHTER'S ROOM, FOR INSTANCE, AN EAMES ARMCHAIR COMPLEMENTS SIDE TABLES FROM TARGET.

(BOTTOM) TO ACHIEVE THE EXACT PATTERN FOR THE TILE MOSAIC IN THE GUEST BATHROOM, THE COUPLE SPENT AN EVENING PLACING EACH SQUARE ON THE LIVING ROOM FLOOR IN THE DESIGN THEY WANTED, ENSURING THAT NO SINGLE COLOR OVERWHELMED THE OTHERS. JOEL HANDED EACH ONE, PIECE BY PIECE, TO THE TILER THE NEXT DAY.





(ABOVE) OVER THE YEARS, THE COUPLE HAS SAVED UP TO PURCHASE CLASSIC PIECES, INCLUDING SEVERAL EAMES CHAIRS. THE PRIMARY BEDROOM PLAYS HOST TO A HANDFUL OF VINTAGE FURNITURE PIECES, LIKE THE DRESSER, BLACK CHAIR AND NELSON BENCH OPPOSITE THE BED. "THEY WILL BE TIMELESS NO MATTER WHERE WE GO," PATTI SAYS.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

To strike a balance between budget and quality in the kitchen, the couple chose Ikea cabinet bases and worked with a Los Angeles designer and Semihandmade to customize the fronts, which are all cut from a single slab of walnut. "The grain follows the entire bank of all the cabinets," Patti says. Front-push mechanisms eliminate the need for clunky knobs, and the white quartz countertops allow the focus to remain on details like the dry bar nook, which is painted in a vibrant navy blue.

For guests to feel more comfortable during their stay and to keep a tidy visual from the main living area, the couple constructed small vestibules in front of the study and all three bedrooms, each of which boasts a set of wooden double doors. Hanging from each vestibule is a custom chandelier created by an artisan Patti found on Etsy. "It's not just a crafty place anymore; there truly are artisans out there, and they're willing to really get into the space and the feeling that you're trying to create," she says.

Until that point, they had kept the palette balanced, playing up neutral elements with occasional pops of color. But by the time Patti reached the guest bathroom, she was done playing it safe. Taking the plunge on a loud statement that would still work with their aesthetic, the couple chose to lay a dramatic mosaic of teal, orange, black, gray, white and green tiles from Daltile in the guest bathroom shower.

Classic design often acts as a muse and doubles as the impetus for an authentic reflection of the self. Patti and Joel's decision to borrow Mid Century Modern elements for their new home did just that. "We really picked the part of it that we loved and is kind of our personality," Patti says, offering a bit of advice for homeowners considering the same idea: "It's just going to be an expression of yourself; it's not going to feel like work." ❁

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 128



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OF THE BEST MOD
MAKERS ON ETSY AT
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(TOP) PATTI OPTED FOR WIDE, WALL-MOUNTED SINKS FROM BADELOFT FOR EACH BATHROOM IN THE HOME. "WE HAVE THAT LONG GRANITE COUNTERTOP, AND THEN ON THE SIDE YOU STILL HAVE THE TWO FAUCETS FOR TWO PEOPLE," SHE SAYS OF THE PRIMARY BATH. "BUT IT WASN'T THE TRADITION OF TWO SEPARATE SINKS, WHERE YOU'RE TAKING UP A LOT OF COUNTER REAL ESTATE FOR NOTHING."

THE HOMEOWNERS LEFT THE EXTERIOR UNCHANGED FROM THE PREVIOUS OWNER'S RENOVATION. THE LANDSCAPE WAS INSPIRED BY THE TRANS-PECOS DESERT, A REGION IN WEST TEXAS BOUNDED BY THE RIO GRANDE AND THE BORDER WITH NEW MEXICO. THE FLORA INCLUDES CACTUS, YUCCA, OCOTILLO, TURK'S CAP AND DATURA MOONFLOWER. "THE EXTERIOR COLORS WERE FROM THE ORIGINAL 1955 DESIGN, AND THE PREVIOUS OWNERS DID THE EXTERIOR AND ACHIEVED THE LOOK WITH THREE COATS OF A SIKKENS PRODUCT ON TOP OF A BENJAMIN MOORE PAINT," THE HOMEOWNER SAYS.



By LAURA SHIMKO

Photography CHASE DANIELS

Interior Design MICHAEL HSU OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE

HILLSIDE HIDEAWAY

DISCOVER THIS HOME BY NOTED
AUSTIN ARCHITECT A.D. STENGER
THAT SEAMLESSLY BRINGS
TOGETHER PAST AND PRESENT, FOR
A WELCOMING AND UNIQUE TAKE ON
MID CENTURY MODERN DESIGN.





Location, location, location! Heralded in real estate as the defining value factor for a property, a home's location can deeply influence its architecture and its overall design. The connection between indoor and outdoor living is an essential feature of the Mid Century Modern style, leading to an abundance of windows, open and covered outdoor spaces and architectural features that draw the eye while also somehow seeming to blend into the landscape.

Local Austin architect A.D. Stenger loved to play with these elements of Mid Century style, all while adding in his own bit of flair. A prolific developer and architect, he is responsible for more than 100 homes around Austin. This 1955 build located in the Barton Springs area exemplifies the creativity, functionality and welcoming feel that characterize Stenger's designs.

The current homeowners, a family of three, found that this home reflected their love of Mid Century Modern design while also accommodating a fresh interpretation. For the husband, a love for all things mid mod came at an early age. "We had an Eames lounge chair that was my favorite to sit in, so I literally grew up in it without knowing it," he says. "We always had a very social house with Mom creating dinner parties, which I feel is a current that runs through Mid Century Modern—places that people want to gather, find interesting and feel very comfortable and welcome in."

(TOP) NEARBY BARTON SPRINGS IS A 3-ACRE LIMESTONE POOL FED BY A LOCAL SPRING. "IT IS KNOWN AS THE 'HEART AND SOUL OF AUSTIN' AND AUSTINITES TREAT IT ALONG WITH LADY BIRD LAKE AS THE BEACH AND GATHERING SPOT," THE HOMEOWNER SAYS. SEVERAL TOUCHES INSIDE THE HOME REFERENCE THE BODY OF WATER, ONCE AGAIN TYING TOGETHER LANDSCAPE AND DESIGN TO CREATE AN IMMERSIVE FEEL.

(OPPOSITE) ON THE LEFT, HEATH TILE ADDED DURING THE PREVIOUS OWNER'S REMODEL BRIGHTENS THE SPACE AND CONTRASTS WITH THE LONGLEAF PINE WALLS TO THE RIGHT. THE HOMEOWNERS WANTED THEIR RENOVATION TO CREATE A WELCOMING FEEL. "THIS ROOM WAS A CENTRAL GATHERING PLACE FOR THE HOUSE, SO WE WANTED IT TO BE A PLACE WHERE YOU'D LIKE TO SPEND A LOT OF TIME," HE SAYS. THE RUG RECALLS THE NEARBY BARTON SPRINGS, AND WINDOWS FURTHER THE FEELING OF BEING IMMersed IN NATURE.



(BELOW) WITH ALL THE TEXTURES, WINDOWS AND MATERIALS, THE DESIGNERS AT MICHAEL HSU OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE UTILIZED ORIGINAL MID CENTURY FEATURES AND SUPPLEMENTED THEM WITH MODERN TOUCHES TO CREATE A RELAXING AND IMMERSIVE SPACE IN THE LIVING AND DINING ROOMS. "WITH [THE HOME] LOOKING OUT INTO THE TREETOPS, STONE AND WATER, FEELING CONNECTED TO NATURE WAS A BIG INSPIRATION," THE HOMEOWNER SAYS.





Couch Searching

Selecting the perfect seating arrangement for your home can be challenging, especially with all the fun options that Mid Century Modern style offers. Here are a few tips to guide you during your couch hunt.

Get a firm grasp on the space. Measure the room you're furnishing so that you know exactly how much area you have to deal with, and then measure your current furniture to determine what limitations or opportunities you might have with new pieces. Consider drawing up a scaled sketch of the room and playing with rearranging your furniture, if that's on the table.

Know your style. Before purchasing something new (or new to you), make sure you already have an idea of what does and does not "go" with the rest of your décor. Figuring this out will greatly help you narrow your search and give you an idea of where to begin.

Consider functionality. Take into account how you use your room. If you host a lot of parties and family functions, you might want to look at pieces that move easily or can hold more people. If you have small children, that can play a factor in what kind of material you'll need.

Make the money work. Finding a piece that truly lights up your home is priceless. If you're on a tight budget, look for ways to save on other pieces in your home. With all the fun shapes and colors of mid mod design, remember that your couch can be a statement piece.



LOCAL MATERIALS GIVE THE HOME TEXTURE AND CELEBRATE THE DISTINCTLY TEXAS TAKE ON MID CENTURY MODERN DESIGN. THE FIREPLACE IS ALL ORIGINAL AND IS MADE UP FROM LIMESTONE, FOUND IN LOCAL ROCK FORMATIONS. WHILE NOT A NECESSARY FEATURE FOR THE WARM CLIMATE, IT EVOKES THAT MID CENTURY COCKTAIL PARTY FEEL. FOR THE HOMEOWNER, THIS IS ESSENTIAL FOR AUTHENTIC MCM DESIGN. "A WELL-DONE MID CENTURY DESIGN IS A SOCIAL GATHERING PLACE, A PLACE THAT PEOPLE GRAVITATE TO AND IS WONDERFUL FOR HANGING OUT AND BEING CREATIVE," HE SAYS. THE DESIGN OF THE ROOM WAS CENTERED AROUND THE CAMALEONDA LEATHER COUCH.

STAYING ORIGINAL

Originally built in 1955 as a duplex, the house largely stayed the same and was under the care of one family for over 40 years. About 10 years ago, the grandson of the owners undertook a renovation that converted the duplex into a single-family dwelling but preserved many of the original features of the home, such as the pickled wood paneling, stone walls and fireplaces, clerestory and casement windows and custom drawers. Stenger also included a unique feature to the home's foundation. "It's built on a steel frame with a preformed slab, which was really advanced for the time," the homeowner says.

When the current homeowners purchased the home a year ago, they wanted to give it a personal touch but were not sure how much they actually wanted to change. "We knew a lot of thought and care had gone into the original design and renovation, so we didn't want to change things just for the sake of change," the husband says. The homeowners' goals were to create a home that was, in their words, "mentally peaceful, creatively energizing and connected to nature." They enlisted the help of Michael Hsu Office of Architecture, a local firm specializing in both architecture and interior design, to put the finishing touches on the interior of the home. "We talked with the design team about reimagining this design as mid century seen through a lens of the younger generation—'mid-century millennial' if you will," he says. "These generations have such similar ethos, appreciation of nature, blending comfort and interest, mixing materials and looking at innovations to push design." In collaboration with the Michael Hsu Office of Architecture's team, the homeowner was able to blend old and new for a fresh and personalized design.

IN THE DINING ROOM, THE CURRENT HOMEOWNER DID NOT ALTER MUCH FROM THE PREVIOUS RENOVATION. "WE DECIDED TO LEAVE THE ORIGINAL PICKLED WOOD SHELVING AS A WAY TO BLEND THE MID CENTURY AND AN UPDATED STYLE," HE SAYS. THE CHANDELIER, TABLE AND CHAIRS ADD A DISTINCT CONTEMPORARY TWIST TO THE OVERALL DESIGN IN THE SPACE. HE CHOSE THE CHANDELIER FOR ITS "ORGANIC AND FEMININE NODS." IN KEEPING WITH THE MCM STYLE, THE DINING ROOM LEADS OUT ONTO THE UPPER ENCLOSED PATIO, AGAIN BRINGING TOGETHER INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPACES.

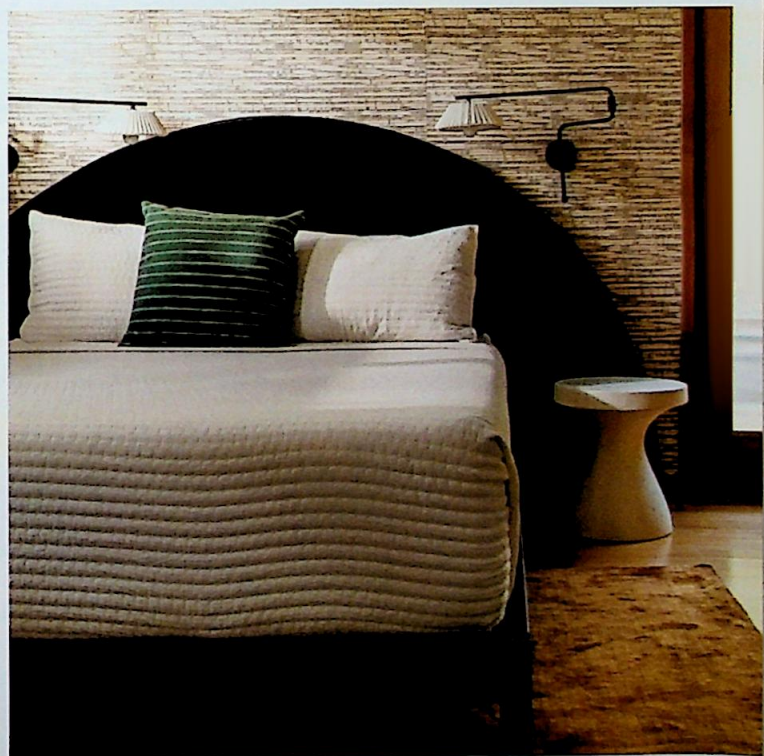




(TOP) THE KITCHEN RETAINS THE ORIGINAL PICKLED WOOD CABINETS THAT GIVE IT A WARM AND MID MOD VIBE. "IT HAS REALLY GREAT NATURAL LIGHT FROM ALL THE CLERESTORY WINDOWS ABOVE THE CABINETS REFLECTING OFF THE WOOD CEILING," THE HOMEOWNER SAYS. THE PREVIOUS OWNERS ADDED GRANITE COUNTERTOPS AND A TILE BACKSPLASH THAT EVOKES THE GREEN TREES PEERING THROUGH THE WINDOWS.

ONE WITH NATURE

Getting creative with the exchange and interplay of interior and exterior spaces in a home is a hallmark of Mid Century Modern design. Stenger used the landscape surrounding this home to draw inspiration, as well as influence the choices he made. For the homeowner, the location of the house played a large part in the purchase of the home. "We had been looking for a house around Barton Springs for as long as we've been in Austin, 18 years," he says. "This was set up on a hillside amongst the treetops,



(ABOVE, RIGHT) SOMETIMES THE DESIGN FOR AN ENTIRE SPACE CAN STEM FROM ONE DETAIL. IN THIS GUEST BEDROOM, TEXTURES GIVE THE ROOM AN INVITING FEEL, WHILE MODERN FURNITURE PIECES KEEP TO THE UPDATED, MID CENTURY FEEL. "WE FELL IN LOVE WITH THE WALLPAPER FIRST—IT'S A GRASSCLOTH PHILIP JEFFRIES WALLPAPER THAT HAS A NATURAL FEEL, AND THAT INFORMED THE STYLE OF THE REST OF THE ROOM," THE HOMEOWNER SAYS. THE CUSTOM HEADBOARD COVERED IN MAHARAM ALPACA VELVET MAKES A STATEMENT.



(ABOVE) THIS BEDROOM, NOW BELONGING TO THE HOMEOWNER'S DAUGHTER, RETAINS THE FUN CORKBOARD WALLS ADDED DURING THE PREVIOUS OWNER'S PERIOD REMODEL. THE FURNITURE AND PALETTE, WITH THE BOLD TEAL PAINT AND SOFT BLUES IN THE RUG AND COUCH, TAKE THEIR CUES FROM BARTON SPRINGS. "WE ASKED HER WHAT SHE WAS MOST EXCITED ABOUT IN THE NEW HOUSE AND SHE SAID, 'SLEEPOVERS,' SO WE MADE THE COUCH A PULLOUT AND A LOUNGE AREA," THE HOMEOWNER SAYS.

(OPPOSITE, TOP) THE WATERSIDE VIBES CONTINUE IN THE DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM, WHERE THE CURRENT HOMEOWNER DECIDED TO KEEP THE FLOOR TILE. "THE TILE IS AMAZING, THIS SORT OF VARIEGATED AQUEOUS HEX TILE, AND AGAIN A NOD TO BEING NEAR THE WATER," HE SAYS. THE ORIGINAL CABINETRY AND WALL PANELING REMAIN, WHILE THE HOMEOWNER ADDED IN ARTWORK TO GIVE THE ROOM A PERSONALIZED TOUCH.

with a path down to Barton Springs and trails to Lady Bird Lake, Zilker Park and the Barton Creek Greenbelt." The treehouse vibe of the home is furthered by the multilevel construction and forest of native florals that surrounds it. An abundance of windows brings in the light and natural surroundings. "You feel completely immersed in nature, yet access to queso at Chuy's and downtown is right around the corner," he says. "At night you feel you could be out in the hill country."

The interior design of the home plays on this theme, with several nods to nearby Barton Springs and Zilker Park. "High-light pieces were the custom headboard covered with Maharam Alpaca velvet on a Philip Jeffries feature wall, and the Camaleonda sofa, a favorite of ours and the designers," the homeowner says. The blue/green palette reflects the waterfront, just a stone's throw away. Wood and leather touches add warmth, while limestone walls and fireplace give texture and a sense of connectedness to the surrounding environment. All of these elements come together to create a cozy and inviting feel that celebrates the best of mid mod style in the heart of Austin. "For us, it just feels like home," he says. ✨

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 128.



(RIGHT) IN THE MASTER BEDROOM, THE WINDOWS, ALL ORIGINAL, PROVIDE GLIMPSES OF THE TREES OUTSIDE AND BRING IN THAT EXTERIOR-INTERIOR CONNECTION. "THE LIGHT FROM OVERHEAD WILL SHINE DOWN WARMING YOUR FEET IN THE AFTERNOON," THE HOMEOWNER SAYS. "IT'S REMINISCENT OF A LIMESTONE ROCK FORMATION IN ZILKER PARK CALLED ROCK ISLAND THAT YOU CAN BE UNDERNEATH AND LIGHT CASTS OVER." MUCH OF THE INTERIOR DESIGN REFERENCES VARIOUS LOCAL ATTRACTIONS AND MEMORIES OF THE HOMEOWNER AND HIS FAMILY. "THE DESIGNERS TOOK SOME OF OUR RECOLLECTIONS ABOUT THE PARK (HOME TO AUSTIN CITY LIMITS MUSIC FESTIVAL) TO INSPIRE THE DESIGN," HE SAYS.



LEARN HOW THIS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HOME GOT A VIBRANT NEW FACELIFT FOR MODERN-DAY LIVING.

By LAUREN HOFER

Photography by BRET GUM

Styling by CLARISSA BUTLER



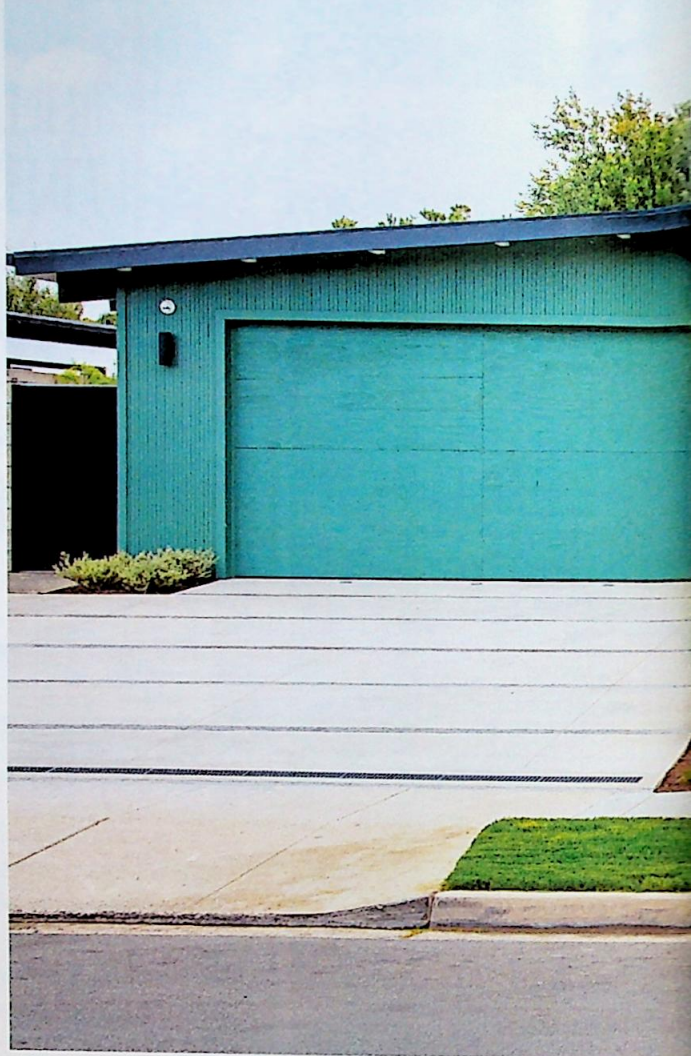
MOD Respect

THE WINDOWS BESIDE THE FIREPLACE WERE AN ADDITION THAT CAME WITH THE REMODEL. "WE CREATED A GLASS ROOM IN THAT RESPECT," DEIDRE SAYS. A CUSTOM MARBLE SLAB MAKES A DRAMATIC STATEMENT ON THE FIREPLACE, WHILE BEAUTIFUL FURNITURE PIECES ADD TO THE CLASSY LIVING SPACE.



(ABOVE, LEFT) BEFORE THE REMODEL THE ENTRY CEILING WAS LOW. THE ARCHITECT SUGGESTED UPDATING IT TO CREATE A MORE OPEN AND WELCOMING SPACE.

(ABOVE, RIGHT) THIS STUNNING TREE WAS PRESERVED THROUGH THE RENOVATION AND SPEAKS TO THE HOME'S MID CENTURY ORIGINS. EVEN THE LOCAL NEIGHBORS WERE GLAD TO SEE IT WAS KEPT. A NEW PAINT COLOR ON THE EXTERIOR IS SUBTLY BOLD.



When Deidre Campbell and her husband, Frank, did a walkthrough of this Newport Beach home, she didn't know it was about to become her new project. "We bought it thinking that we would use it as a rental, and I just got inspired and it became a design project," Deidre says. The home, just around the corner from their own, was for sale by the original owner and in desperate need of some new life.

There was no original architect listed on file and no pedigree to speak of, so Deidre doesn't consider the house a mid century masterpiece, but she was still so drawn to the space. "I love the bones of the house. It's just a really simple, great house," she says. "There were some elements that made me really nostalgic for my childhood."

FIRST UP, REMODEL

The first order of business was a remodel, and the couple brought on architect Michael Porter to help them make that a reality. While they kept the original floor plan, they expanded the kitchen and made some major updates to the entry. "When you walked into the house the ceiling was really low," Deidre says. In addition to opening up that space, they also added windows to the back wall of the living room to create the feeling of an entire glass room. Other updates included new flooring and brand new windows throughout the house for energy efficiency, with the exception of the mitered windows in the front of the home.

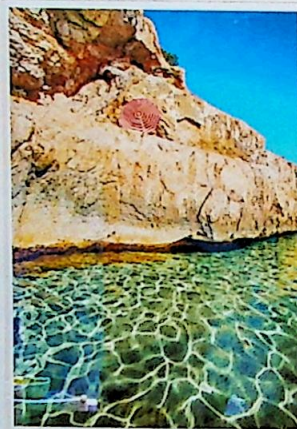


(BELOW) THIS VISUAL WAS A FAVORITE OF BOTH CLARISSA AND DEIDRE. THE COMBINATION OF THE YELLOW DOOR, NATURAL LIGHT AND FINISHING TOUCHES FROM HOUSE OF MORRISON CREATES A STUNNING MOMENT IN THE ENTRY.



"I think the living space was a good eclectic mix of items and textures and vibes, but it all came together."

THIS STRIKING TEAL ROCKER BY HOUSE OF MORRISON IS A PIECE OF ARTWORK IN ITSELF.





(ABOVE, RIGHT) WHILE THIS SPACE COULD DOUBLE AS A THIRD BEDROOM, CLARISSA STAGED IT AS A STUDIO OFFICE SPACE. SHE WANTED THE ROOM, WHICH IS FILLED WITH LIGHT, TO BE A LITTLE MORE YOUTHFUL THAN OTHER SPACES IN THE HOME.

CREATING THE BASE

While Deidre brought in Clarissa Butler of CB Creative Agency to finesse the space prior to selling, she chose all the home's finishes and details herself. "She just really went all out on every finish," Clarissa says of Deidre's initial design choices. "She created this perfect, beautiful canvas."

In the master bathroom, Deidre wanted to implement something timeless and unique for the mirror wall. With some effort, she was able to track down a ceramic "KitKat" tile, which she had originally seen in international design. "It's ceramic, but it's laid out just like a KitKat bar," Deidre says, "so you grout it whatever color you want it."

Instead of opting for more classic mid century design in the kitchen with wood cabinets, Deidre wanted to add some vibrancy to the space. The result was a mild seafoam-green cabinet that is eye-catching yet subtle and sleek. "I just thought it was a little playful, and I didn't want to see another white kitchen," Deidre says, "so we decided to add a pop of color in the kitchen and that was the pop of color I thought was fun." Other unique finishes include cement tile throughout the main living spaces and the stunning, yellow front door.





IN A STUNNING NOD TO MID CENTURY DESIGN, THE WEST ELM DINING TABLE, MID CENTURY CHAIRS AND ART PIECE BY DANIELLE BEWER COLLABORATE TO CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF THE HOME.



DEIDRE WANTED TO ADD A POP OF COLOR IN THE KITCHEN AND CHOSE THESE ELEGANT CUSTOM CABINETS IN SEAFOAM GREEN TO COMPLETE THE SPACE.

STYLED TO PERFECTION

With a brilliant base to work from, the home was more than ready for interior designer Clarissa Butler to come in and implement her vintage-meets-modern style. "I love the eclectic mix of pulling a very traditional Mid Century Modern desk and then grabbing a street art piece or something that juxtaposes with that, but they actually work and feel really good together," Clarissa says. With a focus on artwork and pieces that capture the essence of Mid Century Modern design, she created a space that's a blend between the modern design world and classic mid mod aesthetics.

One of her favorite spaces is the entry. A massive circular mirror, wooden bench and other finishing details, all from House of Morrison, create a stunning visual. "Everyone just was blown away by the entry," she says. In the dining area, an art piece by Danielle Bewer consists of framed ceramic tiles. "I love every room for a different reason," Clarissa says. "Some areas I really felt like I wanted to bring more pop." The front studio has a youthful and bright aura complete with a faux surfboard by Hati Home, while the living room feels a little more refined. "I think the living space was a good eclectic mix of items and textures and vibes, but it all came together and feels like a place where you really want to hang out," she says.

With a brilliant base to work from, the home was more than ready for interior designer Clarissa Butler to come in and implement her vintage-meets-modern style.



With a focus on artwork and unique found pieces, Clarissa's style has always blended genres, and this project is no different. "It's got all the mid century finishes and nods, but we also added in some high-end pieces, some eclectic art pieces, and it was just kind of a hybrid," Clarissa says. A teal rocker in the living room by local designer House of Morrison really stands out, while a handwoven rug by Soho Design ties the whole room together.

(LEFT) WITH FRENCH OAK FLOORS AND A COOL COLOR PALETTE, THIS MASTER BEDROOM IS AN INTENTIONALLY CALM AND COLLECTED SPACE.

(BELOW) ARTWORK BY JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT AND A RATTAN LOUNGE CHAIR EFFORTLESSLY ELEVATE THE GUEST BEDROOM.

(OPPOSITE) WHILE THERE WAS PREVIOUSLY A GLASS SLIDER IN THE MASTER BATH, DEIDRE OPTED INSTEAD FOR THIS LARGE WINDOW TO THE EXTERIOR. TERRAZZO FLOORING AND A LARGE TUB WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE A DREAMY AND CALM SPACE.



Capturing the Aesthetic

LOVE THIS LOOK? HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR ACHIEVING A SIMILAR VIBE IN YOUR OWN SPACE.

1. Make it timeless. When Deidre was selecting finishes for the home, she wanted them to be new and bold, but also something you wouldn't get tired of. When selecting tiles, flooring and other finishes, look for materials and finishes that you know you'll love for years to come.

2. Don't be afraid of color. Well-placed pops of color add so much life to modern spaces. In this home, Deidre opted for a yellow door, seafoam-green kitchen cabinets and a bold exterior. Dramatic art pieces also add life to the space.

3. Mix old and new. When designing the space, Clarissa used timeless found pieces that speak to mid century design alongside new and bold artwork. A tasteful combination of styles and time periods will add texture and visual interest to any space.





(ABOVE) SINCE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WEATHER IS PERFECT FOR OUTDOOR LIVING, THESE TEAK AND RATTAN DINING CHAIRS WERE A MUST FOR THE EXTERIOR.

(LEFT) ALL THE CONCRETE SLABS WERE REPOURED WITH THE REMODEL, AND LANDSCAPE DESIGNER BRIDGET SKINNER CREATED A VIBRANT OUTDOOR SPACE.

(OPPOSITE) THESE MITERED WINDOWS, ORIGINAL TO THE HOME, FILL THE INTERIOR SPACES WITH LIGHT.

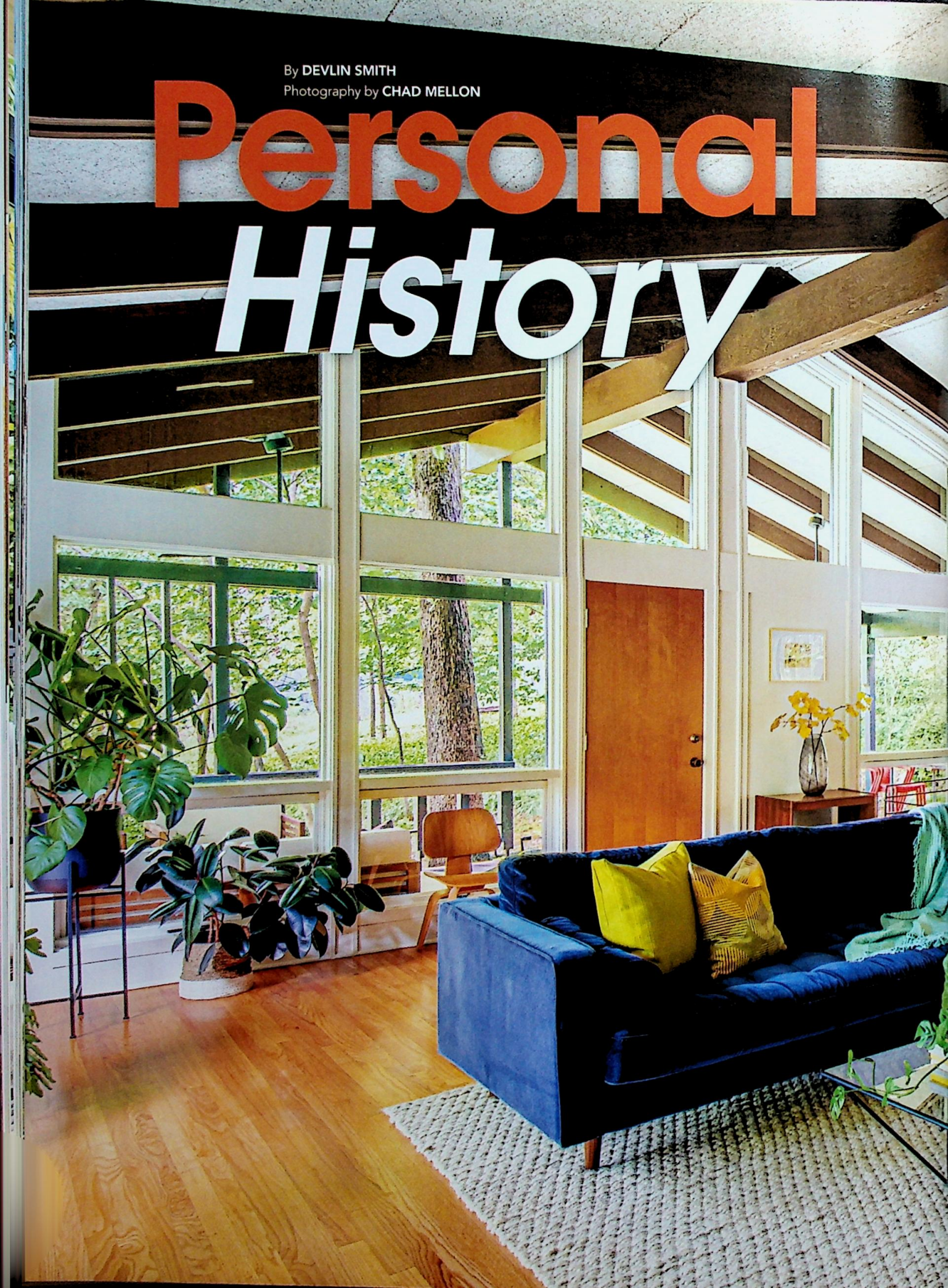
From beginning to end, this remodel and design project was a labor of love to revitalize an old home and make it something both updated and beautiful. "I just think that there are so many amazing houses that have potential" Deidre says. "We felt like rather than scrap a perfectly good house, we could rebuild it." With color, vibrancy and impeccable design, the house is a place for modern living with a happy nod to its mid century origins. ✨

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 128.



By **DEVLIN SMITH**
Photography by **CHAD MELLON**

Personal *History*



A NEW
GENERATION ADDS
ITS TOUCH TO THIS
ARKANSAS GEM,
WHILE TAKING
CARE TO RESPECT
THE PAST.





"I love everything about it; it's the perfect blend of its original charm and our modern taste and function." —Elisa Belknap



The L-shaped, two-story, wood-nestled home boasting an array of enviable original features would be a must-see for any house hunter with a passion for mid century design. For current owners Elisa and Clayton Belknap, it was the Little Rock home's story as much as its style that made it a must-buy for them. The home had been owned by just one other family: Elisa's grandparents.

"My grandparents were a huge part of our lives," she says. "They kept me before I was old enough for school, on holidays, on days I was sick, and we always had Sunday night family dinner at their house. If there is one house that has been a constant in my entire life, it is this one."

Dr. Eugene Towbin had the home built in 1960 for his family after he took a job as chief of staff with the local VA hospital system (a VA healthcare center in North Little Rock was named in his honor). He enlisted Hollis Belk, a draftsman with a nearby lumber company, to design the home, and he designed the landscaping himself.

(ABOVE) THIS LITTLE ROCK HOME WAS CUSTOM BUILT IN 1960 FOR THE CURRENT OWNER'S GRANDFATHER, A VA DOCTOR WHO DESIGNED THE HOME'S LANDSCAPING. SOME OF THE ORIGINAL TREES AND FEATURES WERE LOST OVER THE YEARS, BUT THE HOMEOWNERS "STRIVE TO MAINTAIN THE FOREST FEEL AS MUCH AS WE CAN," CLAYTON BELKNAP SAYS.

(RIGHT) THE LIVING ROOM HAS AN ARRAY OF BEAUTIFULLY PRESERVED ORIGINAL FEATURES THAT INSPIRED THE NEW KITCHEN AND BATHROOM DESIGNS, AMONG THEM THE RAISED FIREPLACE WITH SUSPENDED CONCRETE SLAB HEARTH AND WOOD-PANELED SURROUND.

(BELOW, LEFT) THE ORIGINAL CABINETRY HAD TO BE REMOVED TO ACCOMMODATE NEW APPLIANCES. IT WAS REPLACED WITH CUSTOM WALNUT PIECES INCLUDING CABINETS, A BENCH, SHELVING AND A ROOM DIVIDER THAT FIT THE ARCHITECTURE AND SENSIBILITY OF THE 1960s HOME.

(BELOW, RIGHT) THE UPDATED KITCHEN HAS MANY ORIGINAL FEATURES, INCLUDING THE GLOBE PENDANT LIGHTS AND CRANK WINDOWS, ALL COMPLEMENTED BY THE NEW CABINETRY, COUNTERS, SINK AND APPLIANCES





ORIGINAL CONDITION

Once the home was officially theirs, the Belknaps enlisted Herron Horton Architects Inc. to get this family home ready to welcome in new generations. "When Clayton and Elisa showed us this house and walked us through what they wanted to do, we were amazed by the design and the finishes of the house," architects Jennifer Herron and Jeff Horton recall. "Every decision was purposeful, yet simple."

Even with an impressive list of original features—from the raised fireplace to exposed beams to the terra cotta floor—the home still had areas that needed some extra attention.

MAKING SPACE

The homeowners quickly identified the main bathroom as one of those areas. "Many MCM bedrooms and bathrooms are small," Elisa says. "The original master had an office nook that was offset to the original bathroom. We wanted both a shower and a bathtub, and in order to do both, extending

the bathroom into the office nook and combing the shower/bathtub space was the best option."

Taking over that nook was just the start. "There weren't any structural changes to accommodate the space for the primary bathroom; however, there were layout changes that involved incorporating a small space called the study into the new primary bathroom," the architects say. "By doing this, we were able to position the freestanding tub by the windows and have a separate shower along with space to the double vanity. We removed a linen closet, a tub/shower unit and a built-in vanity unit. The toilet remains in the same location but is now in a private space with a door. The original bathroom had a door entry from the hallway as well as a door entry from the main bedroom. We kept the original door at the main bedroom and removed the door entry off the hallway. The vanities were removed, and the new double vanity unit was designed and positioned where the old door to the hallway had been."



"They wanted the renovations to fit right in with the house, almost like you wouldn't be able to tell if it had been renovated." —Jennifer Herron and Jeff Horton

SADLY, THE CHERNER DINING SET ONCE FOUND IN THE DINING ROOM IS GONE, BUT THE HOMEOWNERS WERE ABLE TO REKINDLE THAT 1960s FEELING WITH A LANE TABLE AND ROVE CONCEPTS CHAIRS AND A NEW LIGHT FIXTURE.



OLD AND NEW

The kitchen was also in need of updating. "The kitchen appliances were originals, and many were inoperable," Elisa says. "Additionally, the dimensions of these appliances were obsolete, and replacing them with modern equivalents was not an option. Since the cabinetry was white birch veneer plywood and site built, it was not possible to modify to accommodate."

Digging Deeper

TURN TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES TO UNCOVER YOUR HOME'S HISTORY.

As the granddaughter of the original owner, Elisa Belknap was already primed on the history of the home she shares with her husband, Clayton, but wanted to know more. When she and Clayton began the process of purchasing the home, they reached out to a Little Rock-area Mid Century Modern Facebook group to get help finding out more information. The group helped the couple uncover more of their home's history and got the home listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"Little did we know they were in the habit of nominating houses for our local historic register and were adding Mid Century Modern homes especially," Elisa recalls from reaching out to the group. "Once they realized that my grandfather was a person of local significance, they realized that with the uniqueness of the home and his prominence in the community, the home deserved a chance at being recognized nationally."

You can learn more about your home with the help of area historical societies and conservancies, public libraries, community museums and nearby universities that may have materials like marketing brochures for your tract, architectural plans or newspaper stories about the original owners (your home could have been featured in the lifestyle section of your local paper). In addition to filling in your home's story, these resources could also help you get special recognition for your home, maybe even a national designation like the Belknaps got for theirs.





CHECK OUT
 ATOMIC-RANCH.COM
 FOR A GALLERY OF
 INTERIOR ARCHITECTURAL
 SCREEN IDEAS.

(OPPOSITE) FEW CHANGES WERE MADE TO THE ORIGINAL LAYOUT OF THE KITCHEN. MOST OF THE APPLIANCES AND THE SINK ARE IN THE SAME SPOT AS THEIR PREDECESSORS. THE WASHER AND DRYER WERE MOVED DOWNSTAIRS, WITH THE NEW REFRIGERATOR NOW TAKING THEIR SPACE.

Unlike the bathroom update, the kitchen renovation didn't require any major layout changes.

"This kitchen has some wonderful features of mid century design that we did not want to lose," the architects say. "Those features included the exposed columns, beams and rafters, the natural light from the awning windows at the carport, the cabinets that did not go all the way to the ceiling, the base cabinets with upper cabinets supported by a metal pipe, which allowed someone sitting at the dining room table to see through to the kitchen as well as someone who could sit at this counter and converse with others in the kitchen."

For the other side of the kitchen, the homeowners requested a piece that would connect that space with the living room. "Mid Century Modern design has different types of screens, layers and incorporates the openness, light from the exterior to the interior, so we did not want to enclose this kitchen in any way," the architects say. "The size of the kitchen was sufficient; it did not need to be bigger. So we opened up the kitchen to the living room by providing a bench at the kitchen with an open space above it. We took cues from the idea of the screen ... by designing various size openings allowing for more visual connection to the kitchen/living room."

THIS COZY SITTING AREA CONNECTING THE DINING AND LIVING ROOMS FEATURES A DAYBED AND BUILT-IN DISPLAY SHELVES ORIGINAL TO THE HOME.



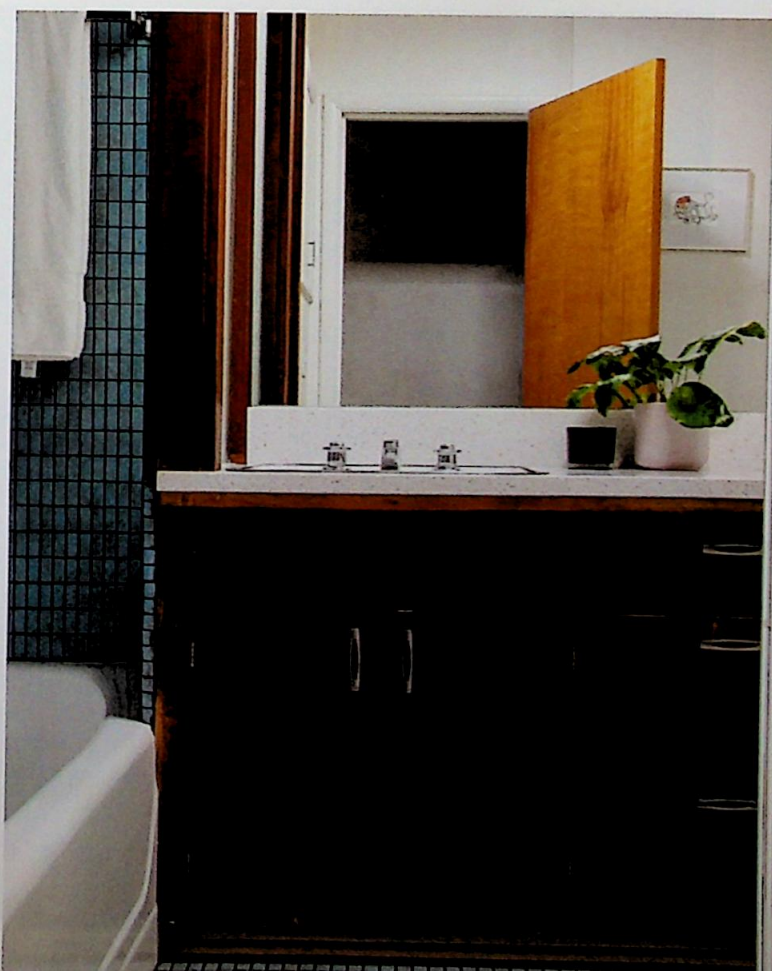


(TOP, LEFT) ELISA DESIGNED THE NEW CUSTOM VANITY, TAKING INSPIRATION FROM THE CLEAN, SIMPLE LINES AND TAPERED LEGS OF MID CENTURY MODERN FURNISHINGS. (TOP, RIGHT) THE HOMEOWNERS WANTED TO HAVE BOTH A SHOWER AND BATHTUB IN THEIR NEW BATHROOM, BUT SPACE WAS AN ISSUE. ONE SOLUTION WAS TO PLACE THE BATHTUB INSIDE THE SHOWER.

A NEW CHAPTER

The renovations took two years to complete. Along with these projects, the Belknaps also updated light fixtures, brought in new and vintage furnishings to complement what came with the house and continued to maintain Dr. Towbin's landscape (unfortunately, though, some of his trees have been lost over the years).

"Obtaining and renovating this home was a much more arduous process than we had imagined, but it was worth it," Elisa says. "It's been an honor to own such a beautiful, and significant, piece of property. The admiration it receives from friends and family, and even strangers, brings us a huge sense of pride, not only in our family history but in the work that we did to update it." ❁



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BEFORE



Back to the Atomic Age

A mid century home is remodeled and redesigned after decades of décor disinterest.

By Meryl Schoenbaum

Photography by Jess Blackwell Photography

Design by Ashley Christensen

Styling by J. Collaborative



THE LIVING ROOM/DINING ROOM SPACE DISPLAYS MANY OF THE KEY ELEMENTS FOUND THROUGHOUT THE HOME, SUCH AS THE CLEAN, OPEN, HORIZONTAL LINES OF THE HANDRAIL LAYERED WITH THE ATOMIC CHANDELIER THAT EXUDES A PLAYFUL, MODERN ELEGANCE. WHEN YOU ENTER THE HOME, THE VAULTED CEILING GIVES YOU SIGHTLINES TO OTHER PRIMARY SPACES OF THE HOME. THE BLUE ACCENT WALL ON THE SECOND-FLOOR LANDING PROVIDES A BEAUTIFUL BACKDROP FOR THE HOMEOWNERS' PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THEIR TRAVELS.

THIS VIEW OF THE LIVING ROOM WAS FORMERLY THE GARAGE DOOR. THE HOME-OWNERS ARE AVID READERS AND WANTED A NOOK WITH COMFORTABLE READING CHAIRS, SO ASHLEY SEARCHED TO FIND CHAIRS THAT WOULD BE COMFORTABLE FOR MEG'S PETITE FRAME AS WELL AS MATT'S TALL STATURE. SHE FOUND THESE STYLISH ALMOND-COLORED RECLINERS WITH WALNUT FRAMES THAT BLEND IN WELL WITH THE ROOM'S MID CENTURY STYLING.

IF YOU WANT TO SEE HOW A HOME CAN BE TRANSFORMED from design-era disaster back to its former glory as a mid century marvel, here's an amazing case study for you.

Meg Tracz and Matt Mendell moved into this 1959-built ranch in Denver, Colorado, so they could feed their passion for hiking through the region's mountains. They loved the home's architecture, but the interior displayed decades of outdated décor and floor plans. It was a daunting task that required a design professional at the helm, so they asked Ashley Christensen, lead designer at TVL Creative, to transport the home back to its former glory.

"Our clients purchased the home from the original owner/builder and brought us in to orchestrate their remodel before moving in," Ashley says. "There hadn't been any major additions or updates made to the home beyond a 1980s kitchen remodel. The original owner took care of the home but hadn't done any aesthetic updates in the last 40 years. We all fell in love with the original bones of this house but couldn't wait to strip away the fussy '80s elements to let those mid century features shine."





(TOP) AS THE BEFORE PHOTO SHOWS, THE KITCHEN HAD AN EARLY 1980s DÉCOR WITH YELLOW OAK CABINETS. ASHLEY TRANSFORMED THE SPACE INTO AN MCM AMBIENCE FEATURING AN EYE-CATCHING TEAL BACKSPLASH WITH ESCHER-PATTERN HANDMADE TILES. THE ORIGINAL OAK FLOORING WAS EXTENDED INTO THE KITCHEN TO CREATE A WARM, OPEN-FLOW DESIGN TO THE ROOMS. THE ISLAND HAS A SIMILAR BLUE SHADE TO THE LIVING-ROOM SOFA AND SECOND-FLOOR ACCENT WALL.

(BOTTOM) THE GARAGE STAIRCASE AND WINDOW STAYED IN THE REMODEL. ASHLEY ENVISIONED AND DESIGNED THE RENOVATION, AND DAVE LOWREY, GENERAL CONTRACTOR/OWNER OF HOMELAND REMODELING, INC., EXECUTED THE DESIGN. HE BLOCKED OFF THE STAIRWAY CONNECTION TO THE BASEMENT AND OPENED UP THE WALL BETWEEN THE FORMER GARAGE AND LIVING ROOM.





(TOP) DESIGNER ASHLEY CHRISTENSEN STANDS BESIDE ONE OF HER FAVORITE DESIGN FEATURES, THE KITCHEN ISLAND, WITH ITS CUSTOM-MADE BUTCHER-BLOCK WATERFALL COUNTER. THE FLOATING WOOD SHELVES WERE MADE BY THE HOMEOWNER'S UNCLE. THE DELICATE LIGHTING FIXTURE BY WORLEY'S LIGHTING FEATURES GLASS SHADES WITH BRASS RODS AND WALNUT CANOPIES ATTACHED TO THE CEILING

(LEFT) THIS VIEW OF THE FORMER GARAGE-TURNED-LIVING ROOM SHOWCASES A BAR CART THAT CAN SERVE GUESTS IN BOTH THE DINING ROOM AND LIVING ROOM.



REVIVING THE REVIVAL

Before the interior design could begin, there was some major remodeling work that needed to be done. Dave Lowrey, contractor at Homeland Remodeling was up to the formidable task.

"This was an extensive full-home remodel, though we maintained the original footprint of the house," he says. Major renovations included converting the single-car garage into a living room, expanding the kitchen and creating a primary suite by converting an existing bedroom into an en suite closet and bath.

"The homeowners wanted to create a more open flow on the main level and incorporate a primary suite into the home," Ashley says. "They also needed dedicated office spaces and plenty of room for entertaining their extended family. They wanted to keep their home feeling light and playful while leaning into clean, modern lines."

KITCHEN RECIPE

The kitchen was the first project the design team took on, and it illustrates how striking the change was from before to after the remodel and redesign. "The kitchen we started with had '80s oak cabinetry, a ceiling fan, linoleum floors and stained-glass shutters," Ashley says. "It was the first space we focused on since it was going to set the stage for design decisions throughout the rest of the home. We wanted the kitchen to flow better with the rest of the home, so we expanded the kitchen into the former dining room."

Ashley spent a lot of time finessing the color palette of the kitchen before settling on the rich aqua backsplash and navy-blue island. "Those cool tones informed the accent colors we used throughout the home," she says. "This is also where we made the decision to incorporate dark wood accents, such as the shelves and butcher-block counter, which we developed into a theme that reappears in each space."

THE DINING ROOM TABLE HAS A CLASSIC PARSONS DESIGN WITH A WALNUT TOP AND STEEL FRAME THAT RELATE TO THOSE ELEMENTS IN THE HANDRAIL. THE FIREPLACE MANTEL CONTINUES THE HORIZONTAL LINES AND WOODEN ACCENTS FOUND THROUGHOUT THE HOME. THE FRONT OF THE FIREPLACE WAS CREATED WITH A BEAUTIFUL SANDSTONE SURROUND.



"Meg and Matt wanted to keep their home feeling light and playful while leaning into clean, modern lines."

ASHLEY USED A DEEPER JEWEL-TONE PAINT COLOR WITH ACCENTS OF BLUSH AND MUTED ORANGE IN THE ACCESSORIES FOR A RICH, WARM AND SERENE AMBIENCE.

(OPPOSITE, BOTTOM): THE FREE-STANDING RESIN BATHTUB FROM SIGNATURE HARDWARE REQUIRED SIX WORKERS TO CARRY IT UP THE STAIRS, BUT ASHLEY SAYS IT WAS WELL WORTH THE EFFORT. THE HOME'S ORIGINAL TERRAZZO WINDOWSILLS ARE SHOWN HERE AS WELL.



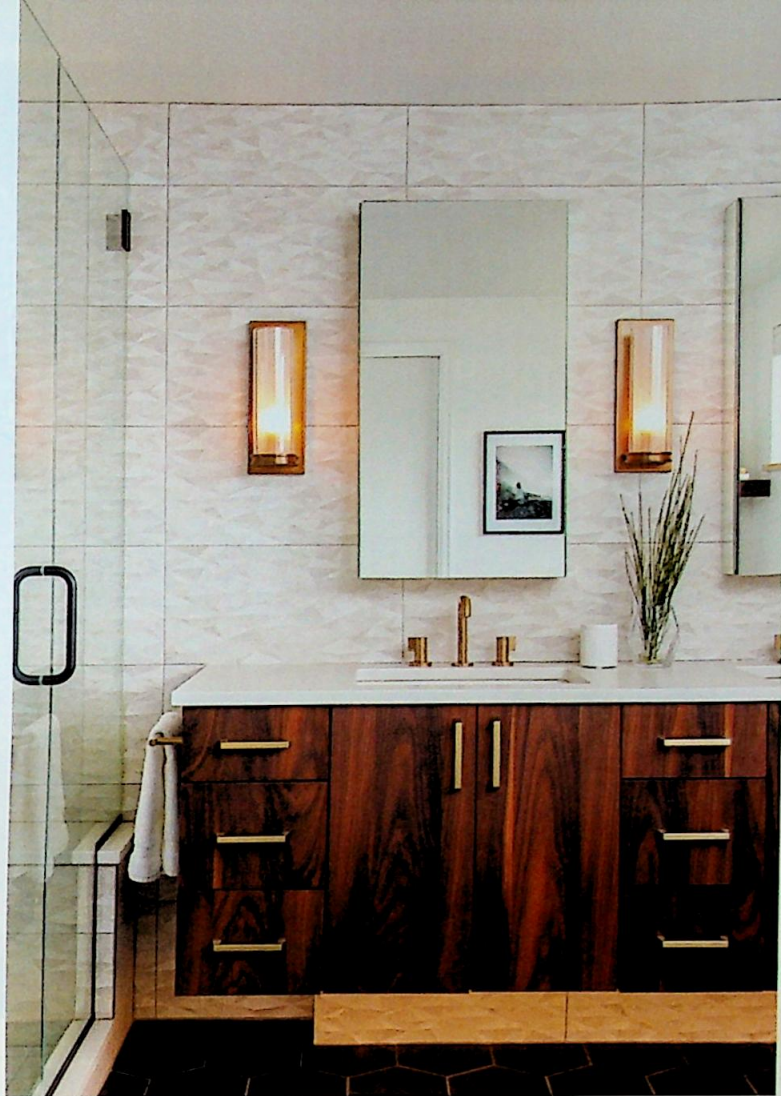
(TOP, LEFT) MEG'S HOME OFFICE WAS STYLED TO KEEP THE EXISTING BUILT-INS IN THEIR ORIGINAL FINISH, BUT ASHLEY ADDED A POP OF COLOR WITH AN ACCENT WALL IN A STRIKING AQUA COLOR.

(TOP, RIGHT) ASHLEY DESIGNED THE MAIN BATHROOM TO CREATE A CALMING SPACE, INFUSING IT WITH TEXTURE, SUCH AS THE THREE-DIMENSIONAL WALL TILE AND THE WALNUT GRAIN IN THE VANITY.

The main bathroom showcases Ashley's creative approach to mid century styling. "This space was originally a bedroom, but we reimagined it to create a primary suite with a walk-in closet and five-piece bath," she says. "This is the only space where we didn't incorporate color—we wanted it to be a calmer sanctuary—but we still love an opportunity to have contrast so we installed a black hex tile on the floor to let the dimensional wall tile pop. The floating walnut vanity cabinets bring in the mid mod vibes and work beautifully with the natural tones on the wall tile. And who doesn't love an opportunity for a touch of brass?"

Ashley observed that the success of the project hinged on finding the right balance for each room. "I live for the little moments in design: those perfect pairings that seem to exist together so naturally," she says. "This home is such a fun balance of warm and cool tones that feel effortless—although I assure you there was a lot of effort—and I think that's what makes it so inviting." ❁

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 128.



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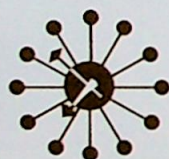
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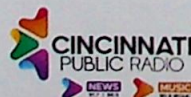
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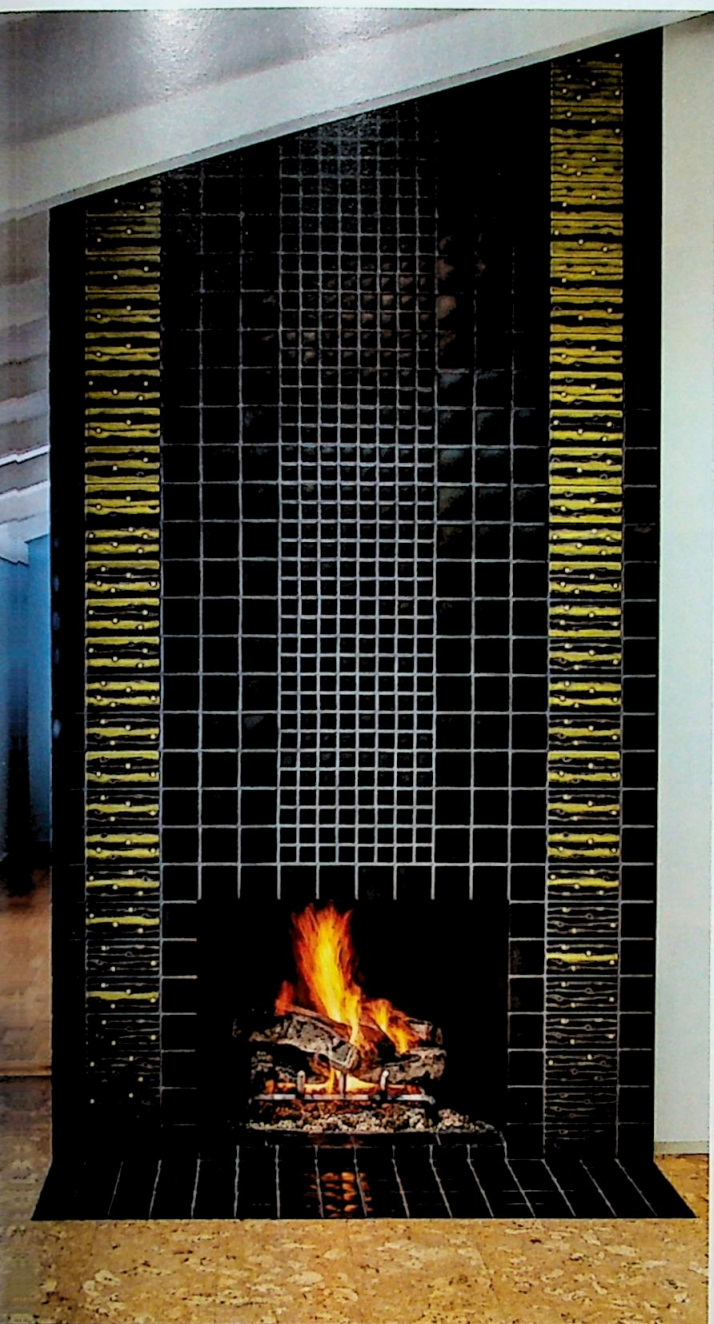
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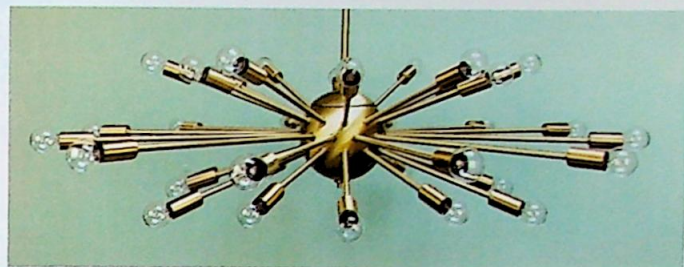


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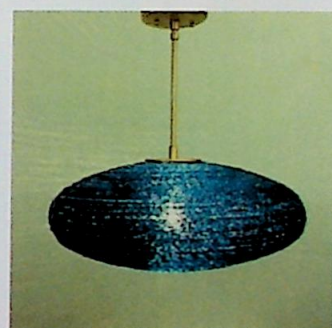
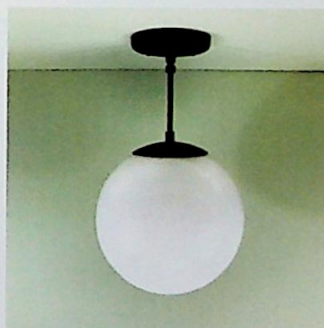
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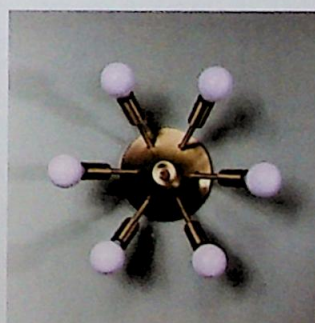
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BUILDING **THE BAR**

Celebrate the vintage home bar with fun collectibles and recipes to make the most of hosting at home.

Written and photographed
by **Robert Maurer**

THIS 1956 VIRTUE BROTHERS OF CALIFORNIA BAR DESIGNED BY ROBERT KJER JAKOBSEN IS AN EXCELLENT BLEND OF PRACTICAL STORAGE AND SWANKY DISPLAY. I RECONDITIONED THE WEATHERED BAR WITH A GLOSSY BLACK INTERIOR, UPHOLSTERED DOORS, GLASS SHELVES AND LED LIGHTING TO GIVE IT A LUXURIOUS, VINTAGE FEEL.

WHO'S READY FOR AN ESCAPE? As 2021 comes to a close, I think it's safe to say we could all use a tasty drink in a beautiful space. In this special Design Issue of "The Vibe," I've put together a collection of styling tips to enhance your home bar. I've also included some tasty recipes and a fun DIY craft that's sure to impress your guests, and perhaps even you. Here's to a fresh, design-forward start to the New Year!

When styling a bar, I recommend a balance of playfulness and functionality. While a cocktail station can certainly be a place to go a little wild with design, it should also be a surface that allows for easy drink-making. Follow these guidelines to style your own bar, and create a charming space where the cocktails flow freely.

ELEGANCE: Transfer spirits, mixers, juices and syrups to decanters and pitchers. Display them in a prominent place, and use a tray to keep groupings organized.

NATURAL BEAUTY: Bring color and softness to your bar with a fresh floral arrangement or a few sprigs of greenery. This is an excellent opportunity to put a vintage vase or pottery to use.

ACCESSIBILITY: Keep bar essentials such as an ice bucket, a shaker, a jigger and coasters on display and within reach. Store vintage glassware in a caddy for guests to easily access.

DISPLAY: The top of your bar is a great spot to feature a collection. Select just a few pieces to showcase, for a look that feels edited and intentional.

Tip: Keep your styling fresh by swapping out collections and colors as the seasons change.

CURATED COLLECTION

As mid century enthusiasts, many of us have collections. One of mine is tiki mugs, which I've acquired from a variety of antiques shops, online auctions and artist galleries. I've been collecting these pieces for about six years, and it's been a fun way to support some of my favorite small businesses and artists. My collection of mugs ranges from new and mass-produced to vintage, rare and one-of-a-kind.

For me, one of the most enjoyable aspects of collecting tiki mugs is the sense of community between artists and collectors. As I grow my collection, I'm continually connecting with lively and interesting people who share the same passion for creativity and cocktail culture. I'm discovering more as I dive deeper into tiki culture and having a blast with every indulgence.

A FEW TIKI MUGS FROM MY COLLECTION INCLUDE DESIGNS BY WHITTLE WOODSHOP, GECKO'Z SOUTH SEA ARTS, KEVIN KIDNEY AND SHAG.

SIP & DIP

Now that you have your bar looking first-rate, it's time to reward yourself with a tasty snack and artful cocktail. Arrange colorful vegetables on your favorite vintage tray, and serve them with this delicious, addictive dip. Wash it all down with this fruit-forward cocktail inspired by a classic Trader Vic's recipe from the late 1960s.

HERB VEGGIE DIP

Yield: 2 cups

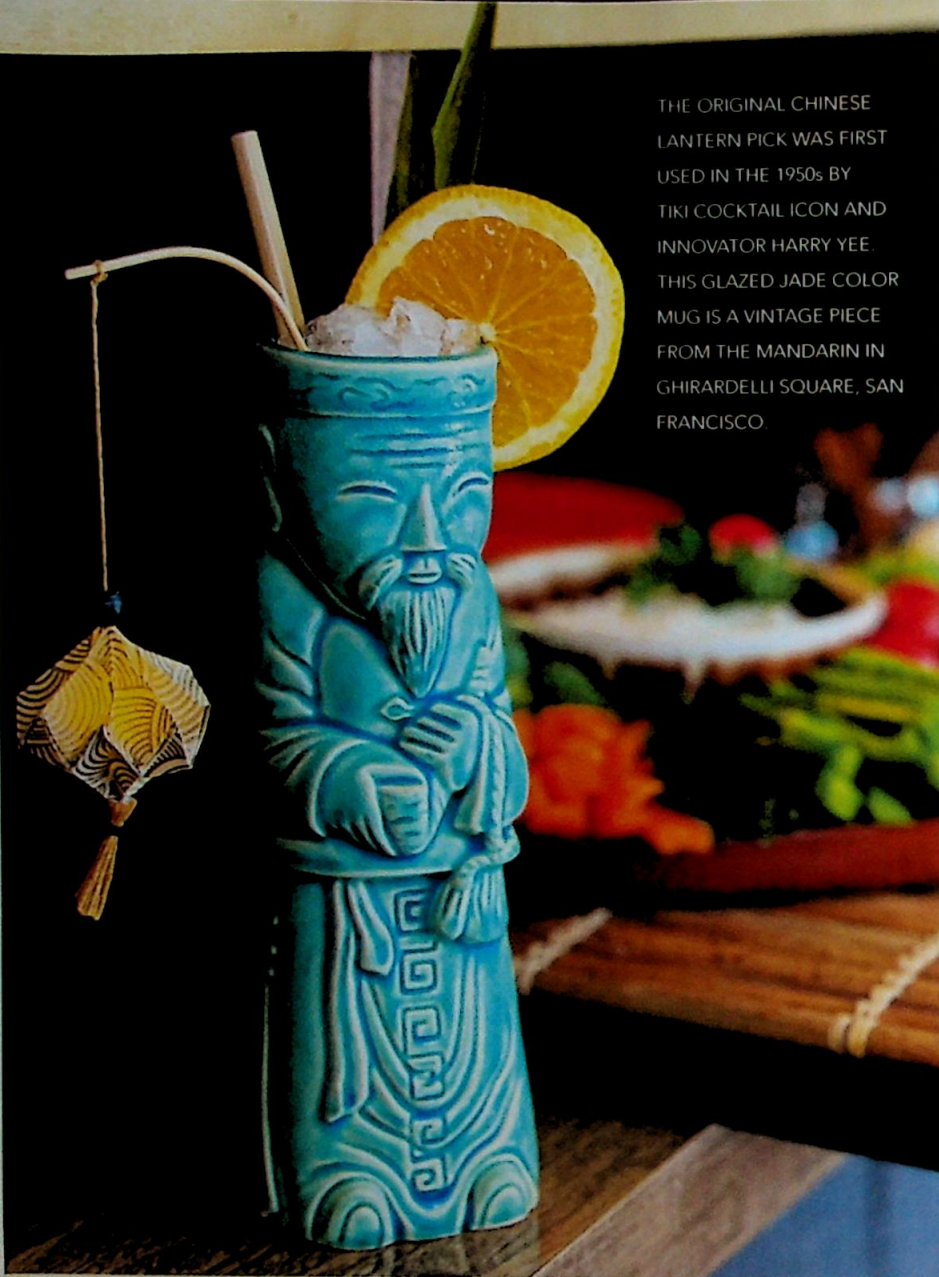
INGREDIENTS:

1 cup mayonnaise
1 cup sour cream
1 Tablespoon dried dill weed
1 Tablespoon dried minced onion
1 Tablespoon fresh minced parsley
1 Tablespoon Beau Monde seasoning

DIRECTIONS:

Stir together all ingredients in a medium-sized bowl. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Stir just before serving. Note: For a vegan-friendly version, use plant-based mayo and dairy-free sour cream.





THE ORIGINAL CHINESE LANTERN PICK WAS FIRST USED IN THE 1950s BY TIKI COCKTAIL ICON AND INNOVATOR HARRY YEE. THIS GLAZED JADE COLOR MUG IS A VINTAGE PIECE FROM THE MANDARIN IN GHIRARDELLI SQUARE, SAN FRANCISCO.

POG GROG

Yield: One 5-ounce drink

INGREDIENTS:

2 ounces dark rum
1 ounce pineapple juice
1 ounce passion-orange-guava juice
1 ounce fresh lemon juice
Dash of tiki bitters

DIRECTIONS:

Shake all ingredients over ice. Pour into your desired mug filled with crushed ice. Garnish with a fresh orange slice, pineapple spears and a lantern pick.

ARTFUL ACCOUTREMENTS

Give your favorite drink a handcrafted touch by making your own lantern cocktail pick.

YOU WILL NEED:

8-inch bamboo skewer
Pan of water
Plastic cup
2 binder clips
Origami paper
Upholstery thread (24-inch and 10-inch lengths)
Twist tie
Small wooden bead
Scissors
Sewing needle

DIRECTIONS:

1. Place the bamboo skewer in a pan of water with a lid. Bring the water to a low boil, and remove from the heat. Carefully remove the skewer.
2. Wrap the skewer around the top edge of the plastic cup, and secure it with binder clips to create a curved pole. Allow it to dry completely.
3. Make an origami paper lantern. Search online tutorials to create your own unique shape.
4. Fold the 24" thread into halves, repeating until the thread is 2" long. Trim both top and bottom for a 1" bundle. Align the 10" thread to the bottom of the bundle. Secure the twist tie around the top $\frac{1}{3}$ of the bundle. Trim the excess tie.
5. Thread the end of the 10" strand onto the needle. Pierce the base of the lantern, and continue through the top of the lantern. Slide the bead onto the needle. Tie the string onto the curved end of the skewer. Trim the excess thread.
6. **Optional:** Cut a small slit in the lantern, and place a mini LED ball inside for a glowing effect.

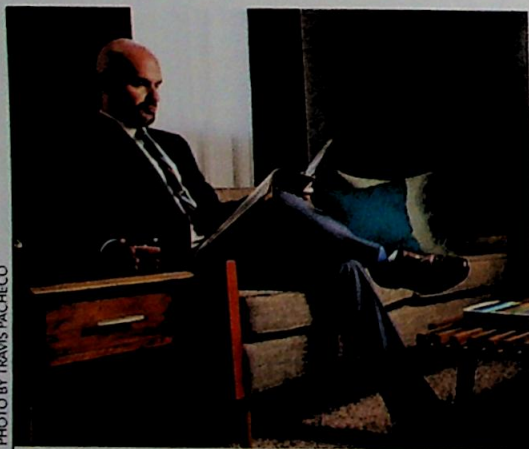


PHOTO BY TRAVIS PACHECO

ROBERT MAURER IS THE CREATIVE DIRECTOR AND RESIDENTIAL DESIGNER AT COMMUTER INDUSTRIES. AS AN EXTENSION OF HIS BLOG, MIDCENTURYMAURER.COM, WE'VE PARTNERED TO GIVE YOU "THE VIBE." IN THIS RECURRING COLUMN HE'LL BE SHARING HIGHLIGHTS FROM HIS HOME, GEARED TOWARD DESIGN, ENTERTAINING, RESTORATIONS, HOME IMPROVEMENTS, RECIPES, DÉCOR AND MORE. WE HOPE YOU WILL FIND INSPIRATION IN THESE FEATURES THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN MID CENTURY HOME AND WAY OF LIFE.

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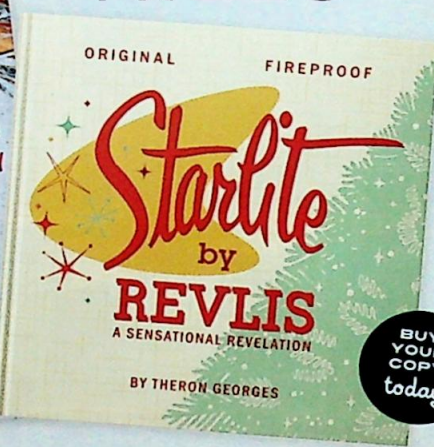
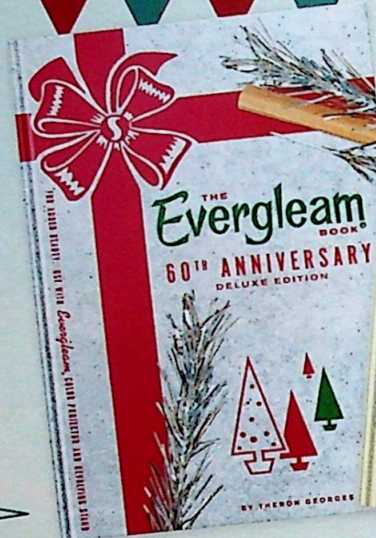


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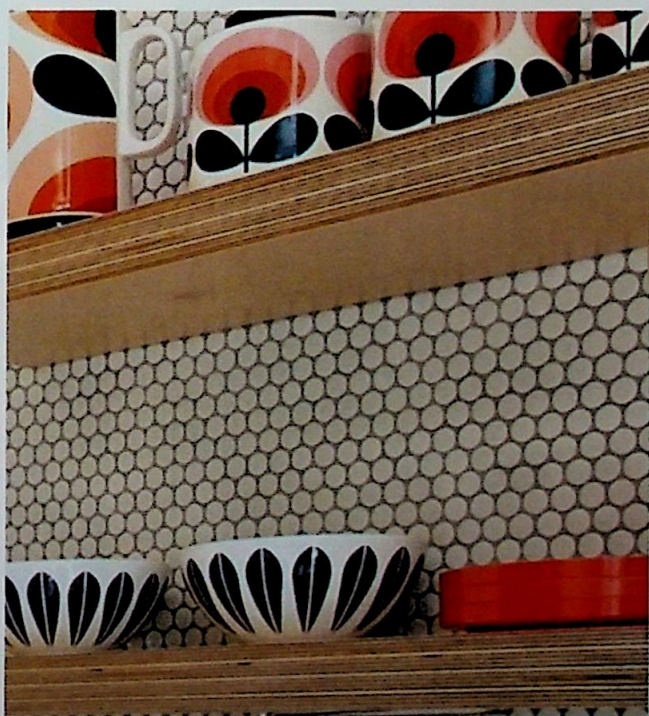
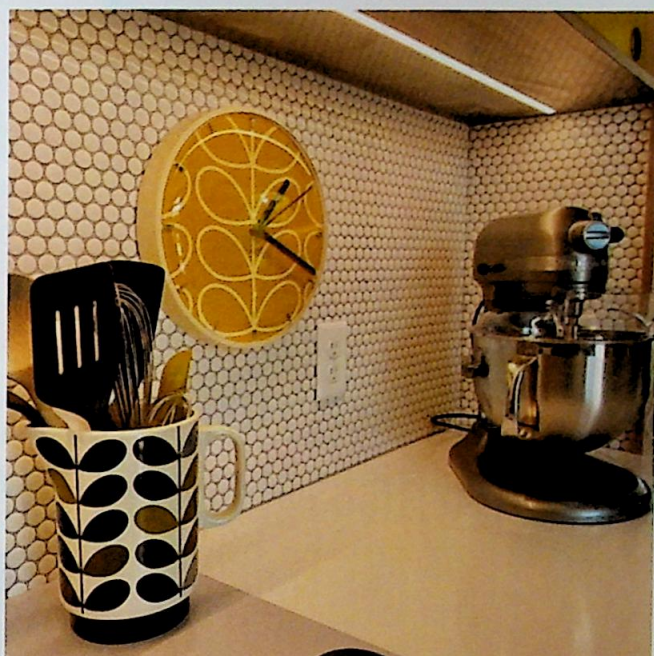
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Modern Makers

By Autumn Krause

THESE INNOVATIVE ARTISANS ARE KEEPING THE TRADITIONS OF MID CENTURY MODERN DESIGN ALIVE AND THRIVING.



PHOTO BY POLEYO

You might think that during this intense year and a half of the pandemic the creative energy of makers and enthusiasts has been on the back burner. However, as home has become a place for both work and living, beautiful spaces that feed your soul have never been more important. Makers from all over have found their inspiration burning brightly and have risen to fill the need with MCM pieces that carry the optimism of the past into the future—just when we need it the most.

PHOTO BY EDLOE FINCH



PHOTO BY EDLOE FINCH



PHOTO BY EDLOE FINCH



PHOTO BY CASARA MODERN



PHOTO BY CASARA MODERN



Photos courtesy of
Poketo

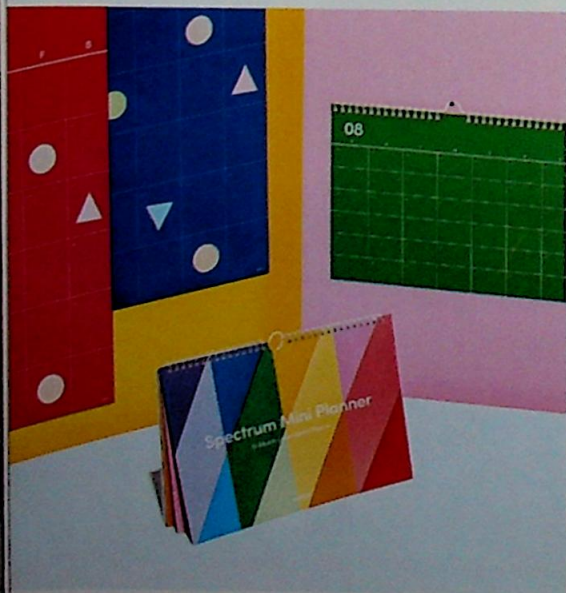
Poketo

An entrepreneurial couple stumble into a thriving lifestyle brand full of Mid Century Modern design principles.

SOMETIMES ACCIDENTS CAN LEAD you just where you need to be. That's the case with Poketo, a thriving lifestyle brand that enables customers to add art and design into their everyday lives with eye-catching wares. Husband-and-wife team Ted Vadakan and



Angie Myung never intended to start a business but, quite unintentionally, discovered a secret sauce for success. "This venture began as a side hobby," Angie, co-founder and chief creative officer, says. "We wanted to make functional goods featuring our friends' artwork—and kept selling out!" They expanded into a variety of categories, including stationery, apparel, accessories and more, and now have a thriving online destination and two storefronts. The styles speak to aesthetically driven souls and lovers of Mid Century Modern intentionality. Their items accompany their customers into their





daily routines, which brings Angie great pleasure. "I love making tangible items that people can enjoy and live with," she says.

Poketo's story is interwoven with Ted and Angie's love story. "Within six months of dating, we started living together and working on this little side project called Poketo," Angie says. "It's been 19 years together and 18

years of Poketo this year." They each fulfill a unique function at the company. Angie handles all of the product creation and curation, and Ted oversees management and financials. "It's been great to have a constant partner in life and business," she says. "We celebrate our small victories and put our heads together to figure out the difficult problems we encounter."

The company truly has a unique spirit, and a stunning collection of paper goods. Angie grew up in Korea for the formative part of her life and was obsessed with stationery. "Korea has a long tradition of making the most beautiful stationery with great paper quality and binding," she says. "Their craftsmanship is also the best in the world, so we manufacture all of our paper products in Korea with boutique printers and binderies

that have been in business for decades." In addition to Angie's heritage, MCM principles inspire Poketo's sensibilities. The offerings are informed by uncluttered organic and geometric forms. Unnecessary ornamentation is eschewed and form follows function. "These are the basis for our design ethos," Angie says. One of their favorite collections from a few years ago celebrated the 100-year anniversary of Bauhaus, a huge influence on Mid Century Modern designers, artists and architects. "We designed a whole collection based on the aesthetics of Bauhaus and created a lookbook," Angie says. "The inspiration was from Bauhaus but with our own Poketo twist."

Poketo weaves the MCM aesthetic into everyday life, providing customers a sense of beauty and intentionality, no matter where they are.

Mid Century Modern style has a big impact on Poketo's aesthetic and is incorporated in a variety of ways. "Its influence can be felt immediately when I look at our aesthetics," Angie says.

- Angie finds inspiration in the works of Charles and Ray Eames, Isamu Noguchi, Ellsworth Kelly, Eero Saarinen, Joseph Eichler, John Lautner, Richard Neutra and more. "I was introduced to the icons of Mid Century Modern art and design due to my art school," she says.
- Architecture is one of Angie's muses and she has no shortage of it. "We live in LA where mid century design and architecture abounds," she says. "On our daily walks in the neighborhood, we see numerous mid century houses."
- Poketo doesn't chase after the new trends in typography and graphic design, turning instead to the hallmarks of MCM design. "We've maintained our aesthetics of simplicity, clean lines, our love and usage of colors, and functionality in everything that we make and how we showcase our items," Angie says.



Edloe Finch & Albany Park

Photos courtesy of
Edloe Finch and
Albany Park



PHOTO BY MELISSA FITZGERALD

A former NFL player and his custom-home builder wife traveled the world for inspiration before starting an innovative furniture company.

PASSIONS OFTEN FIND YOU AGAIN, right when you need them. Exhibit A is Darryl and Jessica Sharpton. Darryl was a line-backer for the Houston Texans for five years and Jessica was an oil and gas consultant turned custom-home designer. When Darryl took off his helmet for the final time, he decided to return to an old love, furniture. Excited by the prospect, Jessica joined him in the venture—and Edloe Finch and Albany Park were born.

They are two parallel branches of one vision: Mid Century Modern-inspired furniture for the contemporary home. "I love being able to create furniture that's functional and sexy," Darryl says. "I want to help people get away from clunky, ugly furniture, so they can create a space that is both cozy and aesthetically pleasing." Jessica adds, "Mid Century Modern is such a timeless style. It's amazing to me how some of the designs have come back into style over the past few years, while others have consistently been 'on-trend' since the '50s." Edloe Finch and Albany Park are just the resources for those who also dream of timeless environments full of beautiful shapes and cozy spots for conversation and connection.

Darryl first got into furniture as a means to an end. He needed extra money in college and began selling





sofas out of his college apartment. "I quickly fell in love with the product, and it became more than a hustle," he says. "I learned that a sofa was a bare necessity to start any home, but at the same time a sofa was much more than that. A sofa is a statement piece that creates feng shui and harmonizes a home." Football took Darryl away from the furniture industry, and he spent the next five years on the field. But after his fifth season, he rekindled the furniture flame that had never completely died, and he and Jessica embarked on a grand tour, visiting countless furniture fairs to study trends and furniture construction. They even traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark, to visit the Design Museum and other furniture landmarks. Full of inspiration, they launched Edloe Finch Furniture Company in the summer of 2017 and then their flagship brand, Albany Park, in 2019. They also infuse their designs with their culture. For example, they offer a West African Ankara print that's native to Darryl's ancestral Nigerian home.

All their offerings are accessible for young families, first-time homeowners and apartment dwellers. No matter who you are, if you desire a beautiful piece of MCM furniture for your home, you can find it at Edloe Finch or Albany Park.



After traveling to famous Mid Century Modern and design destinations, Darryl and Jessica's minds are full of inspiration that they pour into their company.

- Hans Wegner's chair designs are an absolute favorite of Jessica's. "They are simple yet so beautiful," she says.
- The Wegner Kennedy chair is particularly appealing to her. She says, "It shows that you don't always need to add something flashy to be a showstopper."
- Uniquely, Darryl and Jessica also look for ways to create products no one has ever seen and find inspiration in their heritage. "We strive to fill holes in the market that other designers haven't thought of," Darryl says. "For example, our West African-inspired Ekààbò collection with West African Ankara prints upholstered on our pieces."

Casara Modern Furniture

After searching yard sales and thrift shops for Mid Century Modern finds to resell, a Californian creates a furniture company for his clamoring customer base. Photos courtesy of Casara Modern



CASARA MODERN BEGAN WITH a daughter-and-father duo scouring yard sales and estate sales for Mid Century Modern pieces. "Originally, we were hunting for pieces to furnish our own house," says Henry Jara, the founder of the California-based furniture company. "Both of us love the style." However, some of their acquisitions needed a little TLC. Since Henry has a woodworking background (he ran a business in the early '90s making garden furniture and decorations), he was up to the task. "Using my prior experience and some experimenting, I found what products worked best to bring back that luster into some of the less-loved pieces that we found," he says. History came back to life as he and Alexandra restored their finds.

Eventually Henry and Alexandra noticed the design trends leaning back toward Mid Century Modern style—along with a huge demographic clamoring for era-accurate furniture. "We saw the increase in interest, so we started hunting down more furniture and were even waiting overnight at some of the prime estate sales," Henry says. Together, they refinished and sold the vintage pieces at local flea markets and consignment stores around Orange County and Los Angeles. When the demand outpaced their



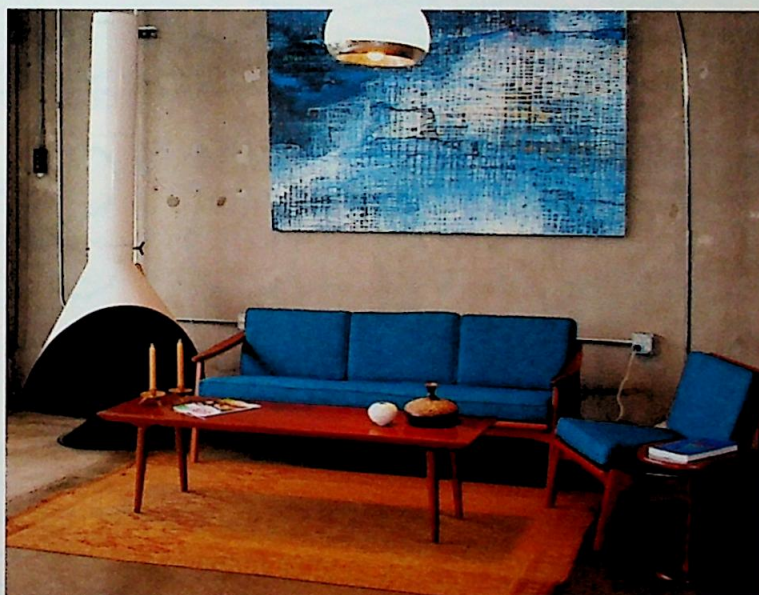


inventory, Henry decided to pivot. "I started looking at some of my favorite designers for inspiration and started making my own furniture," he says. "Everything took off from there, and now we are shipping furniture orders all over the country."

Casara Modern's designs capture everything Henry—and MCM aficionados—love about the category: sleek clean lines and shapes that do not consume the whole room, which is a departure from the furniture you find at big-box stores. "While being a focal point, our furniture also makes the room feel more open and spacious," Henry says. "The look is timeless, and I draw from that era in everything that I make."

Just like his Mid Century Modern predecessors, Henry uses solid wood to make strong furniture that lasts a lifetime. The designs are very modular, and you can rearrange them into a different layout if you want to change things around or redesign your living space. He says, "One thing that I take into consideration is using multiple pieces together in different layouts. I have customers come back and order more pieces to add to their layout later as well."

With their quality and beauty, Casara Modern pieces are heirlooms in the making and Henry takes pride in knowing he's adding to the proud lineage of Mid Century Modern style. ✿



The past is a guiding voice in Henry's designs, and he finds inspiration in a range of MCM icons.

- "Quality is one of the cornerstones of the Mid Century Modern philosophy," Henry says. "You can't find our level of craftsmanship at a big-box store."
- Hans Wegner, George Nakashima, Milo Baughman and Finn Juhl innovatively used wood in their designs, and Henry finds inspiration in many of their uses, from joinery, to bringing fabric and wood together, to displaying the beauty of wood grains in the designs.
- Combining wood and metal is something Henry is currently developing, and he finds inspiration in Paul McCobb, who did this to create simple, elegant designs.



THE TITLE OF THIS
PIECE IS "STAGGER."
SEE YOUR ARTWORK
NOT JUST AS DÉCOR,
BUT AS CENTRAL
TO YOUR OVERALL
DESIGN.



How to Style Modern Art

Artist Cody Willins of The Modern Art Shop shares some tips for displaying Mid Century Modern artwork in your home.

By LAURA SHIMKO

Photography by HANH BANNISTER, KATARZYNA BIALASIEWICZ & CODY WILLINS

Finding a great décor piece is one thing—figuring out how to incorporate it into your home is another. For the Mid Century Modern enthusiast, including unique and vibrant artwork in your design is a great way to evoke the spirit of modernism in any space. "When compared to other artistic movements in history, especially in 20th-century American history, the

Mid Century Modern movement is unique because it casts a wide net that you see throughout the culture," Cody Willins says. "It's not just painting, sculpture, or lithography. It's everything!" His online shop, dedicated to MCM-inspired canvas art prints, features several pieces intended to bring a bit of that spirit into the home.



(ABOVE) THIS PIECE IS CALLED "PALM SPRINGS." IT INCLUDES FAMOUS ATOMIC-AGE IMAGES AS AN HOMAGE TO THE ERA.

(BOTTOM) THIS PIECE IS ENTITLED "SYNCHRONIZED SWATCHES." CODY'S TEAM WORKED WITH EICHLER HOMEOWNER HANH BANNISTER TO CREATE A CUSTOMIZED VERSION OF THE PIECE. "ONCE THE ART WAS IN PLACE, SHE SET ABOUT COLLECTING AND STYLING THE ROOM IN A VERY FUN AND CLASSY MID MOD APPROACH TO A LIVING SPACE," HE SAYS.

MAKE A STATEMENT. To capture the look and feel of mid mod style, Cody recommends seeing your selected piece as a focal point of the space. "A great modern canvas has to stand alone and make a strong visual statement," he says. Look for locations in your home where your piece can be best seen and admired.

GET COLORFUL. Color plays a central role in deciding how to display your artwork. "If color makes you a little uneasy, don't be afraid," Cody says. "It can be combined with neutral backgrounds, softer values, or used in a bold way to create a centerpiece." Coordinate the rest of your décor to highlight parts of your artwork's palette with accents like pillows or lamps.

CUSTOMIZE YOUR SPACE. Look for ways to play off the piece in the rest of your décor, whether echoing patterns, shapes or themes in other items you display. See it as an opportunity to refresh your space and create design cohesion. 🌿



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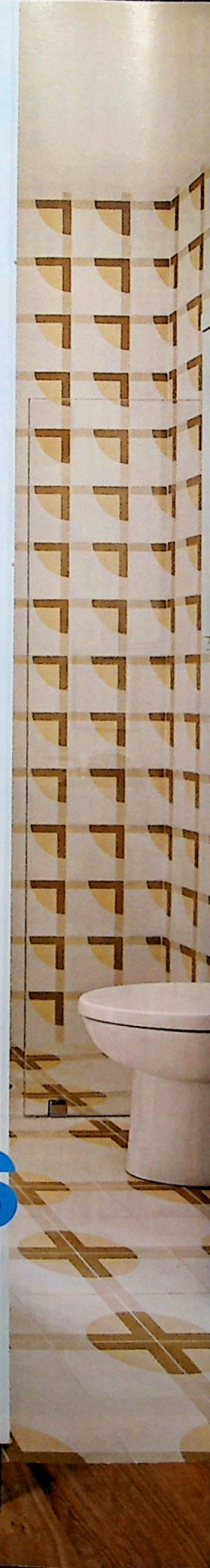
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/ PROJECT HOUSE PART 5 /

Big Design, Small Spaces

Tour the first main
house reveal for
Project House Austin.





By **Kristin Dowling**

Photography by **Chase Daniel**

Styling by **Whitney Smelser and Christine Turknett**

THE BUTLER'S PANTRY IS LOCATED RIGHT BEHIND THE KITCHEN. IT HAS A MULTIPLE FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING STORAGE, A DESK/STUDY AREA AND A BAR AREA. "I WANTED IT TO BE MOODY IN THERE, BUT IT'S A PRETTY BIG SPACE, SO I DIDN'T WANT IT TO BE ALL BLUE CABINETS," SAYS CHRISTINE. THE WHITE COUNTERTOPS FROM ARCHITECTURAL SURFACES BREAK UP THE BLUE FOR A NEUTRAL SURFACE TO WORK ON.



(ABOVE) TO BREAK UP THE MOODY BLUE CABINETS, CHRISTINE INCLUDED A RAW WOOD OPEN SHELF. "I WANTED TO GIVE DEPTH TO THE SPACE, AND I LIKE THE WARMTH THAT WOOD BRINGS," SHE SAYS. "IT MAKES IT LESS UTILITARIAN AND MORE STYLISH."

(OPPOSITE, TOP) THE BAUHAUS MOVEMENT INSPIRED SOME OF CHRISTINE'S PROJECT HOUSE DESIGN, INCLUDING THE BUTLER PANTRY BACKSPLASH CHOICE. "THE BAUHAUS MOVEMENT STRIVES TO BRING ART INTO EVERYDAY LIFE," SHE SAYS. "THESE TILES DO THAT. THEY MAKE YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT THEM BECAUSE THEY'RE DIFFERENT, AND THEY MAKE A STATEMENT." A SMALL BLACK SCONCE FROM LUMENS PROVIDES LIGHT FOR THE DESK AREA.

(OPPOSITE, BOTTOM) THE MUDROOM COMBINES MODERN DESIGN WITH FUNCTIONAL STORAGE. CHRISTINE COLOR BLOCKED THE BENCH AREA WITH THE SAME COLOR AS THE BUTLER'S PANTRY CABINETS AND BROUGHT IN EICHLER SIDING FOR A TOUCH OF WARMTH AND TEXTURE. THE LARGE MINT STORAGE CABINET LIGHTENS THE SPACE.

BOLD DESIGNS CAN BE ACHIEVED IN SMALL SPACES. Despite the size of these three rooms in Project House Austin, designer Christine Turknott of Breathe Design Studio didn't want to hold back. "This project is very bold," she says. "Every space has its own identity." Along with builder Michael Wray, owner and founder of MidCentury Custom Homes, LLC, Christine was able to infuse the newly built bathroom, butler's pantry and mudroom with Mid Century Modern style.

Modern Influences

While Christine has a passion for MCM style, she also loves to blend it with other influences. In the main house, the Bauhaus movement inspired some of her design choices. "Because it's not an old home, I asked myself how we are going to make mid century work with a new build," she says. "I wanted it to be conducive to a newer look, so I merged the two designs."

The Bauhaus movement had a profound impact on Mid Century Modern and Scandinavian design with its simple color scheme, geometric shapes and artistic proclivities. "I tried to give this project transnational context and tie it to broader global references," says Christine.

The geometric floor-to-ceiling tile in the bathroom and the artistic tile in the butler's pantry are two such examples of this style mixing. With iconic mid century color palettes and shapes, the design styles flow seamlessly to create a fresh look.

Innovative Ideas

Along with mixing styles, Christine enjoys pushing the boundaries of ordinary design. "I want every room to have its own experience," she says. "I want it to be provocative and graphic." In the bathroom, for example, not only is there tile from the floor to the ceiling, it's also all the same shape. "It's the same tile pattern with a different orientation," Christine says. The result is a bold and intriguing look that tests ordinary tile rules.

She also changed the way we use an iconic mid century material in the mudroom. "Eichler siding is usually associated with exteriors, but we wanted to use it like ship-lap," she says. Using this technique indoors pays homage to classic MCM designs while continuing to push its creative function.

Because utility is one of Christine's main priorities, she made sure to expand the function of the butler's pantry located off the kitchen. Rather than design a simple line of cabinets, she turned the storage unit into a pantry, desk and bar. This is a better use of the space, and it helps to break up the blue cabinets. Now the area presents three different uses, while continuing to provide ample storage.

With passion, a vision and the bravery to be bold, the team paid homage to Mid Century Modern style in three new-build spaces. ✨



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A Door To Style

We asked Woodgrain Distribution, which supplied many of the wood doors selected for Project House Austin, for their professional advice on how to upgrade your home's door style.

Modern Classic Doors

Router carved doors with simple minimal lines are trending and fit the mid mod style homeowners looking for a retro feel often seek. Single- and multi-paned glazed styles are great for adding interest and extra light. Woodgrain offers several custom glass styles including frosted, ribbed, narrow reed, cross reed and glue chip textures for a modern vintage style.

Woodgrain has been providing customers with high-quality millwork and home-building products for over 60 years, but the company has its finger on the pulse of today's top door trends while being responsible stewards for the environment.

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Woodgrain's designs combine beauty and durability, and are built using high-quality, century-old craftsmanship. With thousands of designs, styles and configurations to choose from, you're sure to find the perfect door to complement your unique style.

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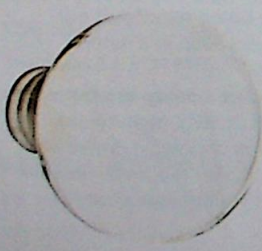
(ABOVE, LEFT) DECIDING ON A BOLD DESIGN, CHRISTINE COVERED THE BATHROOM WALLS AND FLOORING WITH BEIGE AND YELLOW TILE. THE TILE HAS THE SAME SHAPE, BUT IT WAS INSTALLED TO LOOK LIKE TWO DIFFERENT PATTERNS. "I LIKE TILE WITH A CLEAN PATTERN," THE MINT CABINET AND PINK VANITY ARE A NOD TO A POPULAR MID CENTURY COLOR PALETTE, WHILE THE WOODGRAIN DOOR IS WHITE TO LET THE BATHROOM SHINE.



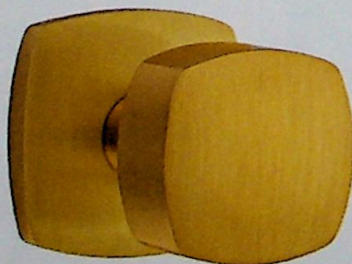
(ABOVE, RIGHT) ALONG WITH THE BEIGE AND YELLOW TILE, CHRISTINE WANTED TO INCORPORATE A POP OF PINK. "WE MADE THE VANITY THE PINK MOMENT IN THE ROOM," SHE SAYS. THE LUMENS LIGHT HAS A FUN, RETRO SHAPE WITH A PEACH TONE TO TIE IN WITH THE PINK VANITY. THE EMTEK DOORKNOB AND THE SINK FAUCET HAVE A SIMILAR FINISH.

Modern Doorknobs

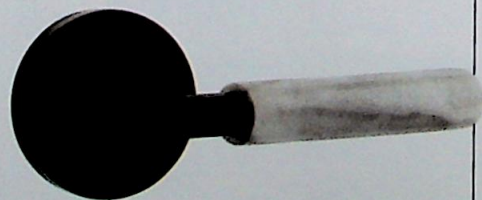
"Door hardware is the first interaction you have with a room. It's a handshake you have with a space as you enter," says Amy Switzer, marketing communications manager at Emtek. "It can be such a beautiful element when it's a design choice that considers the rest of the space as a whole." Here are three more doorknobs from our sponsor Emtek to elevate your space.



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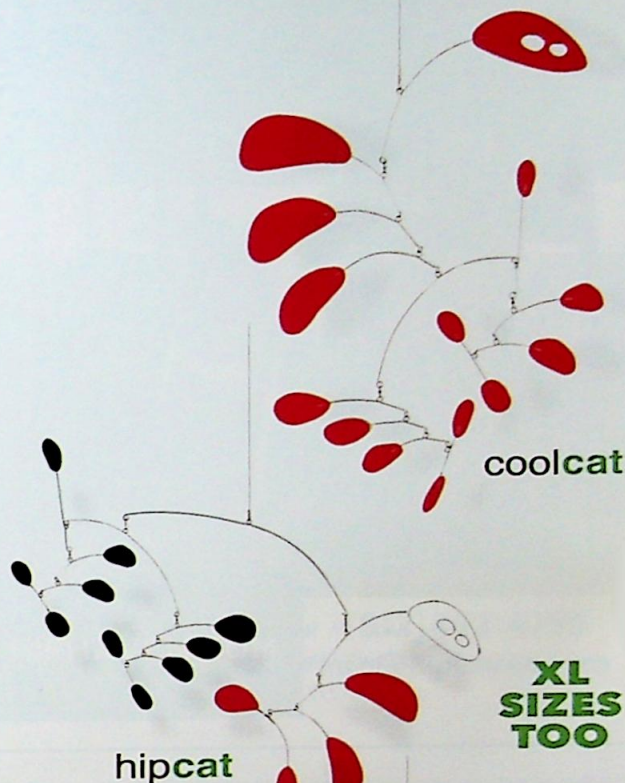
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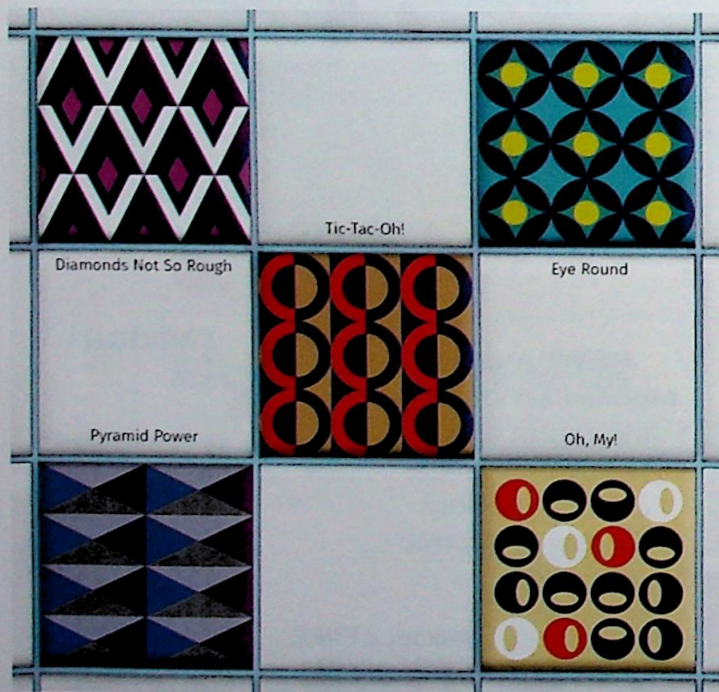


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/ RESOURCES /

ATOMIC KITCHENS

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For more on architect David Ferrin, visit arketypearchitects.com.

For more on designer Josh Ganzhorn, visit ableandbakerdesign.com.

Backsplash and flooring: Buena Tile and Stone. (805) 650-1252 or buenatile.com.

Barstools: L'eau stool by Connubia.

YLighting. (855) 324-4767 or ylighting.com.

Dining room chandelier: Akari Suspension Lamp designed by Isamu Noguchi.

Glass pendant balls: Premiere Luminaire. (877) 264-4277 or premiereltg.com.

MID CENTURY SPIRIT

Page 32

All built-ins and cabinetry: Custom designed by Studio 818; built by Ivan Nuñez of Elite Remodeling Concepts.

Home staging and furniture: CURATED Miami, Florida, thecurated.group.

FRONT EXTERIOR

Wood siding: Wood-look porcelain tiles, Coverlam, coverlambygrespania.com.

KITCHEN

Stools: Hay, hay.com.

Thin-line pendant over island: A Way of Light, SONNEMAN, sonnemanlight.com.

White shell bowl: Janie's own.

LIVING ROOM

Sofa: KMP Furniture, kmpfurniture.com.

Ottoman: Article, article.com.

Side chairs: Roberta Schilling, rscollection.com.

Armchair: Four Hands, fourhands.com.

Coffee table: Ethnicraft, ethnicraft.com.

Large white rug: West Elm, westelm.com.

DINING ROOM

Table and chairs: Ethnicraft, ethnicraft.com.

Light fixture: France and Son, franceandson.com.

OFFICE

Glass-topped desk: Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.com.

Wood sideboard: West Elm, westelm.com.

PRINCIPAL BEDROOM

Wood platform bed frame, dresser:

CB2, CB2.com.

Reading chair: Roberta Schilling, rscollection.com.

Tripod reading lamp: Article, article.com.

SECOND BEDROOM

Upholstered bed frame: Four Hands, fourhands.com.

Upholstered bench seat: West Elm, westelm.com.

BATHROOMS

Porcelain wall slabs: Classici Di Rex Calacatta for the Principal bath, Arebescato for the Hall Bath/Powder Room Shower, Florim, florim.com.

OUTDOORS

Acapulco chairs: Overstock, overstock.com.

Firepit: Wayfair, wayfair.com.

HILLSIDE HIDEAWAY

Page 54

LIVING ROOM

Couch: Camaleonda, B&B Italia, bebitalia.com.

Accent wall: Heath Ceramics, heathceramics.com.

Chair: Copenhagen Armchair, Kardiel, kardiel.com.

Artwork: Michael T. Noonan; *Blue Heron* by John James Audubon.

Rug: Custom from Endless Knot, endlessknotrugs.com.

Coffee table: Horseshoe Coffee Table.

Fan: Ball Fan from Modern Fan Co., modernfan.com.

DINING ROOM

Table: Burl Wood Dining Table.

Chairs: Lenox Upholstered Dining Chair in Shadow Velvet, West Elm, westelm.com.

Chandelier: Papillion by Forestier, forestier.fr.

DAUGHTER'S BEDROOM

Lumbar pillow: Agave Supply, agavesupply.com.

Lighting: Rejuvenation, rejuvenation.com; Schoolhouse Electric, schoolhouse.com; Blackhall Woodworks, blackhallwoodworks.com.

Fan: Kichler Volos, kichler.com.

Couch: Soma Sofa by Article, article.com.

MOO RESPECT

Page 64

Dining table: West Elm, westelm.com.

Cement tile: Concrete Collaborative, concrete-collaborative.com.

Hopscotch art piece: Danielle Bewer, daniellebewater.com.

Faux surfboard: Hati Home, hathome.com.

Teal rocker, entry pieces: House of Morrison, houseofmorrison.com.

Living room rug: Soho Design House, sohodh.com.

PERSONAL HISTORY

Page 76

Renovation Architects: Herron Horton Architects Inc., hh-architects.com.

KITCHEN

Appliances: Jenn Air, jennair.com.

Backsplash tile: Savoy Large Stack Mosaic (Lotus) by Ann Sacks, annsacks.com.

Faucet: Delta, deltafaucet.com.

Sink: Kohler, us.kohler.com/us/.

DINING ROOM

Table: Original vintage by Lane.

Chairs: Rove Concepts, roveconcepts.com.

Daybed: Original family piece.

BATHROOM

White Ceric lithocast bathtub, fixtures, sinks: Kohler Moderne, us.kohler.com/us/.

Floor tile: Daltile custom 1-inch hex navy speckle, daltile.com.

Pendants: West Elm, westelm.com.

Paint: Alabaster by Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com.

Cabinets and vanity: Custom flat-sawn walnut by Woodunique Fine Cabinetry and Custom Furniture.

LIVING ROOM

Couches: Article, article.com.

Orange shell chairs: Vintage.

PRINCIPAL BEDROOM

Bed: West Elm, westelm.com.

Ceiling fan: Schoolhouse Spitfire Matte White, schoolhouse.com.

Chair: Original Selig Z family piece.

Chest of drawers: Original Selig Z family piece.

BACK TO THE ATOMIC AGE

Page 90

For more on designer Ashley Christensen, email hello@tlvcreative.com or call (303) 242-3184. For more on Dave Lowrey, contractor at Homeland Remodeling Inc., email dtlowrey@gmail.com.

Windows: Andersen E-Series, andersenwindows.com.

Door hardware: Schlage Latitude Lever in Satin Brass, schlage.com.

Paint: Repose Grey 7015 by Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com.

KITCHEN

Cabinetry: Perimeter: Ultra Craft Apex in Arctic White, ultracraft.com.

Island: Custom Dress Blue 9176 by Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com.

Hardware: CB2 Hex Brushed Brass, cb2.com.

Quartz: Cambria Torquay, cambriausa.com.

Butcher-block countertop: Lumber Liquidators in American Walnut, llfloors.com.

Backsplash tile: Fireclay Tile Small Diamond in Fluorite and 2x8 in Sugar, fireclaytile.com.

Sink: Kraus, kraususa.com.

Faucet: Brizo Litze in Brilliance Stainless, brizo.com.

Pendant lights: Worley's Terra Pendant in walnut and brass, worleyslighting.com.

Appliances: Appliance Factory Fine Lines (GE), appliancefactory.com.

Range hood: Appliance Factory Fine Lines (Vent-A-Hood), appliancefactory.com.

DINING ROOM

Chandelier: Meurice Collection by Jonathan Adler, jonathanadler.com.

Accent wall paint: Endless Sea 9150 by Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com.

Handrail: Virginia T Coleman, virginiatcoleman.com.

LIVING ROOM

Cabinetry: Ultra Craft Apex in Arctic White, ultracraft.com.

Hardware: CB2 Hex Brushed Brass, cb2.com.

Quartz: Cambria Torquay, cambriausa.com.

Stone: Crossville Realstone Systems in Mocha Birch Honed, crossvilleinc.com.

Fireplace: KozyHeat Slayton 42", kozyheat.com.

PRINCIPAL BEDROOM

Ceiling lighting fixture: West Elm Sphere + Stem 3 Light, westelm.com.

Wall paint: Extra White 7006 by Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com.

Accent wall paint: Cape Verde 6482 by Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com.

PRINCIPAL BATHROOM

Vanity cabinets: Ultra Craft Metropolis Melamine in Silver Elm, ultracraft.com.

Hardware: Amerock Blackrock in Golden Champagne, amerock.com.

Quartz: Caesarstone Fresh Concrete, caesarstoneus.com.

Sinks: Miseno, miseno.com.

Faucets: Brizo Litze in Luxe Gold with lever handle, brizo.com.

Medicine cabinets: Fresca, frescabath.com.

BIG DESIGN, SMALL SPACES

Page 118

For more on Christine, visit breathedesigstudio.com or follow her on Instagram @breathedesign.

For more on Michael, visit midcenturycustomhomes.com or follow

him on Instagram

@midcenturycustomhomes.

Bathroom tile: Zia Tile. (310) 844-1170 or ziatile.com.

Butler's pantry backsplash: Ann Sacks. (949) 831-3333 or annsacks.com.

Countertops: Architectural Surfaces. Visit arcsurfaces.com.

Door: Woodgrain. Visit woodgrain.com.

Hardware, doorknob: Emtek. (800) 356-2741 or emtek.com.

Lighting: Lumens. (877) 770-0488 or lumens.com.

Mudroom plank wall: Eichler Siding. (415) 883-5300 or eichlersiding.com.

Mudroom wall hooks: West Elm. (888) 922-4119 or westelm.com.

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/ LAST LOOK /



DESIGNER SARAH STACEY PAID ATTENTION TO THE DETAILS IN THIS KITCHEN RENOVATION. "WE USED REPEATING ELEMENTS LIKE THE HORIZONTAL FINGER GROOVES AND THE COLOR PALETTE OF BLACK AND NATURAL WOOD," SHE SAYS. "I LOVE THE STYLE OF MINIMALISM IN MODERN DESIGN," AND SHE ADDS: "MODERN IS MINIMAL, BUT YOU CAN GO A STEP FURTHER IN MINIMALISM. EACH PIECE HAS A PURPOSE AND IS VERY IMPORTANT TO A DESIGN, AND I LOVE IT."

Striking the Right Tone

By JICKIE TORRES
Photo by MOLLY CULVER

WHEN INTERIOR DESIGNER SARAH STACEY TOOK on this remodel for a busy family of five in Northwest Austin, her key directive was to turn this '70s era space into a clean and modern respite that was filled with natural colors, lots of wood with black accents and absolutely no marble. Which was perfect because it's hard to compete with the magnificent limestone rock wall, which dominates the view right outside the kitchen.

With all of nature's glory surrounding, it was important to choose the perfect finish for the beautiful white-oak kitchen cabinets that the team settled on. "We wanted the wood to look as natural as possible. When a stain or sealer is applied to white oak, it turns it a little more yellow or orange. So we had to find a combo that would knock those colors out," Sarah exhaustively researched and tested their options. "We landed on a white wash with a small amount of purple to tone down the warmth," she says.

What advice does Sarah have for choosing the right wood tones to ensure a harmonious look? "Pay close attention to undertones. You can vary the value (lightness or darkness) of wood in a space, but the undertones must work with one another," she says. "For example, some woods have a gray undertone and some have orange undertones. You would pair wood with gray undertones with other woods with gray undertones, and the same goes for orange, yellow, etc." ❁



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