

# atomic

MID CENTURY MARVELS

# ranch



Simply Scandi – 3 Architects You Should Know

Holiday Hosting Ideas With Mid-Century Flair

Designers' Tips for Mixing Vintage and New MCM Décor



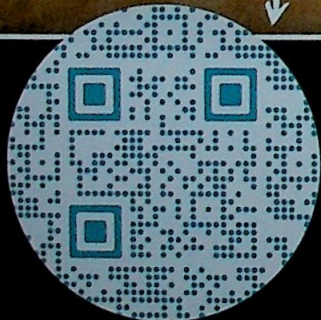


# mid-century homes

By Anthology



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# editor's letter

## CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

Written by Ian McMaster

AFTER A YEAR OF RENOVATING AND REMODELING OUR MID CENTURY MODERN HOMES, winter provides us with time to slow down and truly enjoy our spaces. Trusted contractors are replaced by loving family; floor plans make way for recipe books; paint brushes are put down; and glasses are held up. The projects don't stop, and the fun is just beginning.

Decorating and furnishing come to the forefront during the holiday season as we start to nestle in and open our doors to loved ones. From mornings in the kitchen to nights around the fireplace, the mid-mod home should be ready for any and all occasions.

The homes in this issue remind us that there's more than one way to celebrate a mid-mod home. From an Eichler owner whose dedication to natural materials defines their space to a colorful, new build in Michigan that brings its homeowners' dreams to life, our tours give us all a reason to celebrate Mid Century Modern design. We also learn how to find vintage holiday decor items, decorate any tree and make a home shiny and bright.

By the time this magazine hits the shelves, the *Atomic Ranch* family will be having its own celebrations: Our executive editor, Laura Shimko, who has brought this Winter issue to life, will be welcoming her firstborn into the world. Her work over the last three issues has kept *Atomic Ranch* as inspiring as ever, and we are forever grateful. Jackie Torres, our brand leader, will be back—bringing you the same stellar Mid Century Modern magazine she's delivered for years. She's been sorely missed, and we will be so happy to have her around for guidance once more as we enter the new year.

As you look forward to your own celebrations at this time of the year, we hope you'll find a quiet moment or two to peruse the pages of this colorful issue and find in it the inspiration and joy of the season. We're honored to share these beautiful homes and stories with our passionate, knowledgeable and loyal *Atomic Ranch* readers.

Cheers!

Get connected!

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### EDITORIAL

Content Director and Brand Leader: Jackie Torres  
Executive Editor: Laura Shimko  
Managing Editor: Amy Maclean  
Associate Editor: Ian McMaster  
Web Editor: Jolene Nolte

### DESIGN

Design Director: Gabby Oh

### CONTRIBUTORS

Lauren Hofer, Lindsay Jarvis, Autumn Krause, Iva Kravitz,  
Michelle Mastro, Robert Maurer, Meryl Schoenbaum,  
Charles Winkler

### CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Alison Corona Photography, Rhonda Barrymore, JC Buck,  
Sheshawn Foltz, Bret Gum, J Fuerst Photography, Michael Alan  
Kaskel, Robert Maurer

### ADVERTISING

Kris Christensen: Director of Digital Client Strategy  
Suzy Bailey: Account Representative  
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Leslie Huddleston: Account Representative  
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### OPERATIONS

Manish Kumar Mishra: Subscriptions Manager  
Surajpal Singh Bishl: Prepress Manager  
Chandan Pandey: Production & Newsletter Circulation Manager

### EDITORIAL, PRODUCTION & SALES OFFICE

2222 Sedwick Road, Durham, NC 27713  
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Founders  
Howard Hawkes & Kevin Kemper



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A vibrant palette, bold wallpaper patterns and classic MCM features create an exuberant atmosphere in this new build designed for a couple longing to recapture the nostalgia of their childhoods.

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Unique original features and a mix of vintage and new décor make this 1958 home sparkle for the holidays—and beyond.

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## cover

Cover photograph by Diana Paulson

Cover design by Gabby Oh





## Keep Tabs on Us!

Curl up with more winter MCM inspiration here:

**atomic-ranch.com**



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDITHWIKIMEDIA COMMONS/CC-BY 2.0



### Copenhagen's SAS Royal Hotel: The Original Home of the Swan Chair

The SAS Royal Hotel, Copenhagen's first skyscraper, was thoroughly designed by the renowned Arne Jacobsen, and some of its interiors are still preserved.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHASE DANIEL

### Scandinavian Modern Inspiration

Project House Austin designer Christine Turknett's relationship with Scandinavian Modern started with Ikea and became the inspiration for her design philosophy.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DESIGNBYMERRIMENT/ETSY



### Mid-Century Christmas Wrapping Paper

Get ready for the season with gift wrap. Generic paper just won't do, so we've rounded up eight mid-century Christmas wrapping paper picks to ensure your gifts have a stylish presentation.



PHOTO COURTESY OF APOSTOLOFF/GNU GENERAL PUBLIC LICENSE

### Falling in Love with Fallingwater

A student of two architectural eras, Frank Lloyd Wright crafted unique structures before and during the mid-century—none more famous than Fallingwater, the waterfall house. Learn more about this iconic home.



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# coolstuff

## Dining Room Essentials

Our picks for the best dining furniture to help you celebrate year-round

By Ian McMaster



George Nelson swag-leg, rectangular-top table, \$2,092.50; [store.moma.org](http://store.moma.org)



Comma dining side chair; For pricing, visit [dwr.com](http://dwr.com).



Enrico sideboard (four doors), \$2,199; [kasala.com](http://kasala.com)



Draco dining chair, set of two, \$589; [h3khome.com](http://h3khome.com)



Muller Van Severen round, two-color table, \$995; [dwr.com](http://dwr.com)



George Nelson swag-leg, round-top dining table, \$2,210; [store.moma.org](http://store.moma.org)



Midj Joe dining chair in olive, \$499; [kasala.com](http://kasala.com)

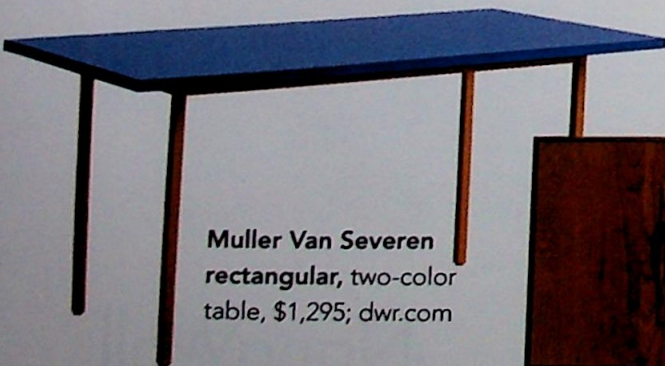
Eames upholstered, molded-plastic side chair, \$595; [store.hermanmiller.com](http://store.hermanmiller.com)



Audrey buffet in cherry; For pricing, visit [copelandfurniture.com](http://copelandfurniture.com).



Muller Van Severen rectangular, two-color table, \$1,295; [dwr.com](http://dwr.com)







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# periodpicks



## Deck the Mid-Mod Halls

Check out these retro holiday picks to complete your mid-century Christmas décor.

By Laura Shimko

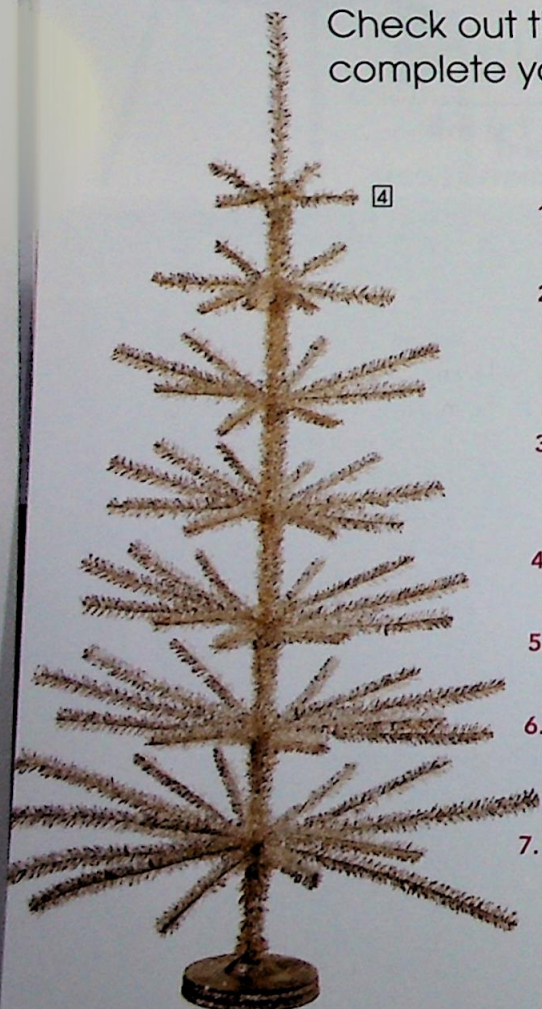
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1. Mid-century house ornaments, \$15; [chelseamakes.com](http://chelseamakes.com)

2. Franciscan Diamond Star Burst Mid Century Modern Tree Skirt, \$49.99; [Etsy.com](http://Etsy.com) (Midcenturymoderngal)

3. 3D Mid Century Modern "Holiday" Door Sign, \$130; [atomicavocadodesigns.com](http://atomicavocadodesigns.com)

4. Silver tinsel tree, 36 inches, \$97.95; [theholidaybarn.com](http://theholidaybarn.com)

5. Wooden Christmas tree, \$488.60; [onetwotree.com.au](http://onetwotree.com.au)

6. Retro vintage Christmas stocking, \$40; [Etsy.com](http://Etsy.com) (Zoomiehandmade)

7. Three wooden Christmas trees, \$55; [Etsy.com](http://Etsy.com) (WolfingtonHomeGarden)

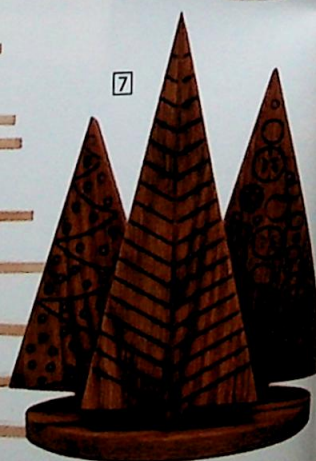
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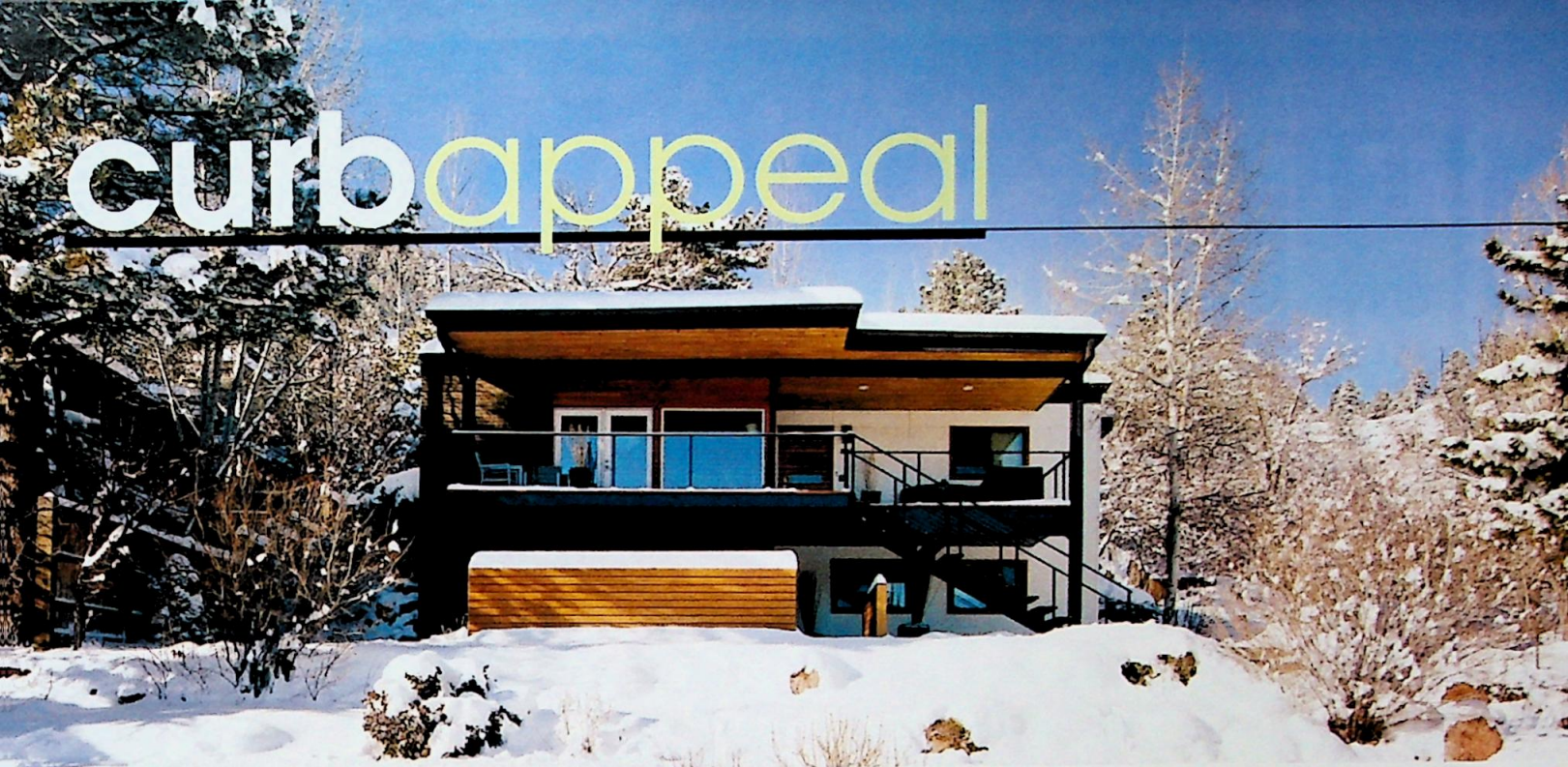


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# curbappeal



A clean-lined Boulder, Colorado, Mid Century Modern lets brightness in via an exterior refresh of cement, steel, glass and reclaimed "beetle kill pine."

Written by Charles Winkler

Photographed by JC Buck

Architect for renovation project: Angelo Marasco, Cadence Design Studio

## Architectural Terms You Should Know

**Floating staircase:** A floating staircase is a type of straight staircase that's self-supported and designed to minimize or hide the staircase's supporting structure. Because of the self-supported design, a floating staircase requires no extra support between the underside of the staircase and the floor below or a wall.

**Hardie board:** Hardie board is a special siding material that uses cement fibers to create a more durable product. Cement is combined with sand, water and cellulose wood fibers to create a material particularly suited to protect home exteriors. Siding manufacturing company James Hardie pioneered its development in the 1980s.

## Shine a Light

**WHEN A MID CENTURY MODERN** house speaks, you listen.

Boulder, Colorado, couple Don and Kristina Bergal spent two years transforming their 1967 home into a steel, glass and cement modern minimalist marvel. Don Bergal credits his wife's design, creativity and determination.

"The house just spoke to her," Bergal said.

Boulder architect Kyle Lorenzen, who designed the house for himself, had tucked the home into a hillside high above the street. Over time, the original exterior, marked by a massive wooden staircase and heavy upstairs decking, had grown dilapidated and outdated.

"Think of a big, clunky motel where all the rooms are off the hallway, and that's what it looked like," Bergal said.

Nevertheless, the couple, intrigued by the big deck and windows, had a vision to open up the home to more light and space. They engaged Denver architect Angelo Marasco of Cadence Design Studio to bring their idea to life.

Decking was replaced with "beetle kill

pine" salvaged from dead trees, which are killed when beetles bore into pine wood, lay their eggs and introduce a fungus that gives the wood a distinctive blue tint.

Steel siding and 8x4-foot Hardie board replaced the worn wooden clapboard siding. Updated, big, modern windows were installed. Heavy deck railing was replaced by nearly transparent steel wire. Finally, the massive stairs were replaced by a graceful floating staircase with open risers and supported by a steel beam from top to bottom.

Bergal said the home's bones and original concept are intact, while the new steel, glass, wire and wood exterior effectively double the living size. Now, sunlight flows all the way through the home.

"There's so much light in the front and the back living areas, and the indoors and the outdoors blend together," Bergal said. "Our friends and family, as well as other people, are just amazed. They stop, look up at the deck and wave, saying, 'We love what you've done with the place!'"



# modernmakers



Written by **Michelle Mastro**

Furniture photographed by **Sheshawn Foltzer**

Headshot by **Rhonda Barrymore**

**LEFT:** A RARE PIECE, THIS MID-MOD CREDENZA WAS MADE BY LANE. "A LOT OF MCM FURNITURE WAS IN HIGH PRODUCTION, AND IT WAS IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE FINISH ON THESE PIECES LOOKING CONSISTENT. TO DO THAT, THESE PIECES WERE TYPICALLY 'TONED' WITH A SEMI-TRANSPARENT STAIN TO MAKE THE WOOD GRAIN LOOK UNIFORM," SHESHAWN EXPLAINS. "I CAREFULLY STRIPPED AND REMOVED THE OLD FINISH TO UNCOVER THIS GLORIOUS ROSEWOOD INLAY WORK. IT WAS SO SPECTACULAR THAT I COULDN'T BEAR TONING IT AGAIN. SO, AFTER SANDING IT, I APPLIED A LIGHT OIL STAIN TO KEEP THE WARMTH OF THE WOOD THAT WOULD STILL ALLOW THE INLAYS TO POP. I THEN SEALED IT WITH A SATIN LACQUER TO GIVE IT A NATURAL FINISH."

**BELOW:** ORIGINALLY A "WORN AND SAD" BEIGE-BROWN COLOR, THIS ICONIC HANS WEGNER "PAPA BEAR" CHAIR AND OTTOMAN WERE REUPHOLSTERED WITH A BEAUTIFUL MINT-GREEN FABRIC. IT TURNS OUT THAT SHESHAWN'S GREAT-GRANDPARENTS WERE WORLD TRAVELERS AND WOULD SEND BACK FINDS. "THIS CHAIR WAS SENT BACK FROM A TRIP TO COPENHAGEN," SHESHAWN POINTS OUT. SHE DIDN'T KNOW THE CHAIR WAS STILL IN THE FAMILY, AND WHEN HER MOTHER SENT HER A PHOTO OF A LAMP SHE HOPED SHESHAWN WOULD RESTORE, THE CHAIR WAS WHAT REALLY CAUGHT SHESHAWN'S ATTENTION. "IF MY MOM HADN'T SEND ME A PHOTO OF THAT LAMP, THE CHAIR WOULD HAVE ENDED UP ON THE CURB SOMEWHERE."

## Every Day Brings Something New

This maker in Atlanta brings MCM furniture back to life—sometimes with a contemporary twist.

**Sheshawn Foltzer of She & Co** ([sheandco.com](http://sheandco.com)) loves bringing mid-mod furniture back to life and has been doing so for quite a while. She got her start when she was in the fifth grade, cutting her teeth on MCM when she took on a project with her stepfather.

"We had an old, outdated dresser, and we went through the whole process of stripping it and refinishing it," she says. "By the end, we had this piece of furniture that looked just great, and I felt this enormous sense of pride."

Today, Sheshawn works with all kinds of pieces in all states of disrepair. Every item offers its own set of challenges, but that's what Sheshawn loves about her work: Every day brings something new.

"Some of these projects are beyond repair," she says. "In fact, other restorers might have turned these projects down."

But that doesn't deter Sheshawn.

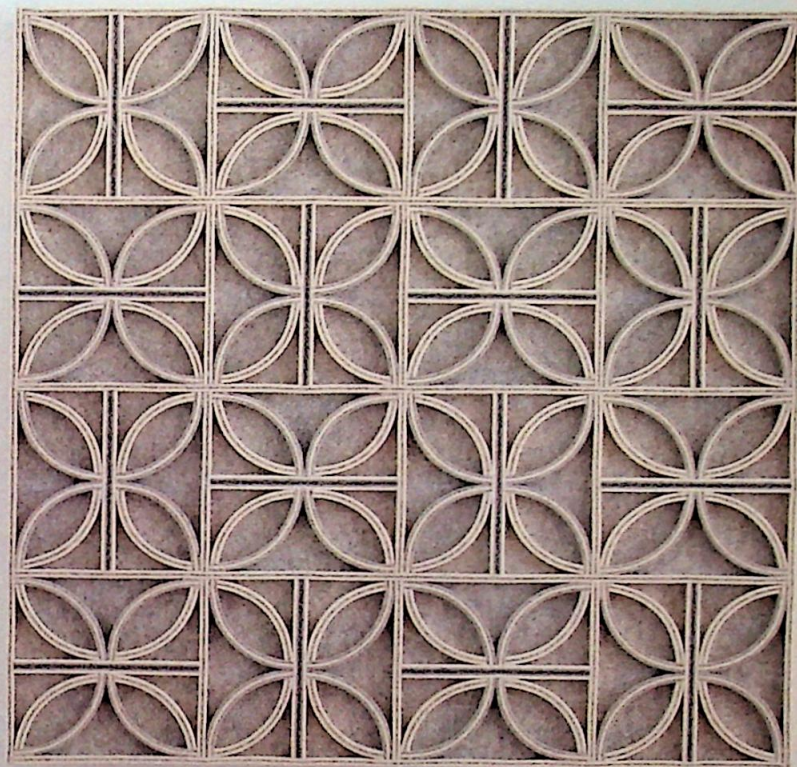
"If I know this item means something to someone because it's a family heirloom, I'll take it on almost every time."

While she mostly restores items to their former glory in rich walnut or teak refinishing, some items that can't be restored are made new again.

"In these cases, I'll do something with it to make it fun and bright. 'Contemporary Modern' can really go well with MCM, so I'll give the piece some flair or character to make it a standout statement piece."





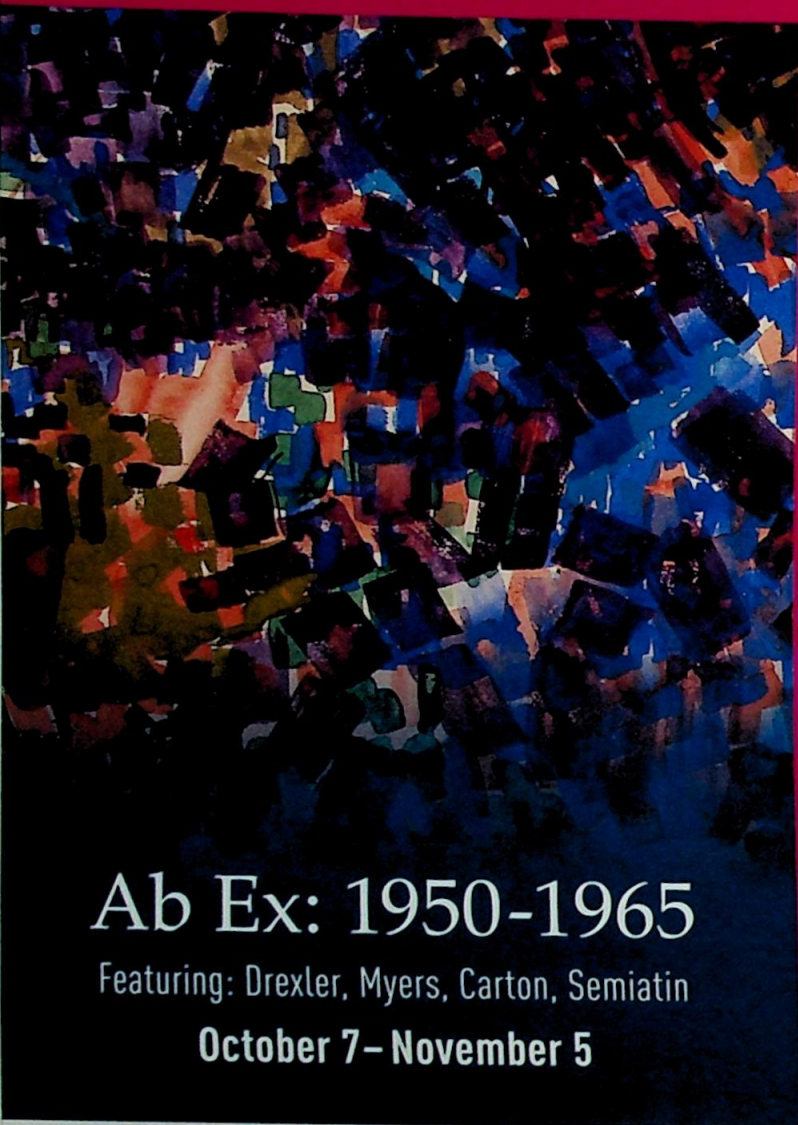


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# atomickitchens



Written by Laura Shimko | Photographed by J Fuerst Photography | Builder Eric Kottke | Interior Design by Julie Lunn

## Mid-Mod Meets Scandi

This Midwest mid-century kitchen gets a facelift that brings in contemporary elements while restoring and honoring key original features.

**IT OFTEN TAKES LOOKING BELOW THE SURFACE TO** see the true potential of a home. When husband-and-wife design team Eric Kottke and Julie Lunn of Constructive Builders first saw this Minnesota 1958 build, they knew that with a bit of work, they could restore the most charming features of the original mid-century design while bringing in some modern updates.

"We immediately fell in love with the windows with lower awnings, the wood ceilings, the birch trees in the front yard and the view of the woods/pond in the backyard," Julie says.

While the home's architect is unknown, Eric says they drew inspiration from the original design.

"I really appreciate the cleaner lines and the concept of bringing nature indoors with Mid Century Modern design," he explains. "I also appreciate the use of natural materials in simple or geometric applications."

### REWORKING THE PLAN

The original layout of the kitchen was a small "U" shape, with worn-down cabinetry and Formica counters needing repair.

"There was very little counter space, and some of the upper cabinetry separated the kitchen from the rest of the main level in an unappealing way," Julie says. "We didn't feel there was anything we could salvage from the kitchen—other than keeping the kitchen sink placement looking out over the backyard—and, of course, the beautiful ceilings."

The transformation began with the team stripping out everything in the kitchen.

"Filling in some spaces in the original wood ceilings was a challenge to get both the stain and wood style to match," Julie points out.

The team opted to leave out the upper cabinets between the kitchen and dining area to best serve both style and function.

THE COLOR PALETTE REFLECTS THE LOCATION OF THE HOME, AS WELL AS THE CLIMATE. "WE CHOSE A CHEERFUL GREEN COLOR FOR THE ISLAND TO HELP ADD POSITIVITY DURING THE HARSH MINNESOTA WINTERS," JULIE NOTES. "USING LOTS OF WHITE ELSEWHERE HELPED KEEP IT BRIGHT FOR THOSE LOW-SUNLIGHT DAYS."





"We created an island instead," Julie says. "This allowed for better flow to all areas and more natural light and sight lines throughout the main level."

## SCANDINAVIAN VIBES

While the home retains many hallmark MCM features, the team drew heavily from Scandinavian design to create a lighter, more open feel to the space rather than a more traditional, moody, segmented mid-mod style.

"We selected flat cabinetry and went with white to complement all the natural wood," Julie says. "Countertops were a very subtle white versus the trending veining, because we felt that was truer to mid-century style."

The color palette also reflects Scandi influence without sacrificing the mid-century feel: "We balanced the moody wood with lots of white paint and some black trim, along with black in the hardware and staircase metal," Julie notes.

The muted aqua of the painted cabinets adds a bright and cheery feel—a welcome feature during the long, cold Minnesota winters.

"Rather than create a 'time capsule,' we wanted to combine the original style with Scandinavian and warm contemporary elements to hopefully last another 70 years," Julie says. ✨

TOP, LEFT: SOMETIMES, RENOVATIONS REQUIRE CREATIVITY WHEN PRESERVING ORIGINAL FEATURES. INSTEAD OF REPLACING ALL THE FLOORING, THE TEAM INSTEAD OPTED TO LACE IN NEW TO MATCH THE OLD. "THERE WAS EXISTING RED OAK FLOORING IN THE HOME THAT WE BELIEVE IS ORIGINAL, BUT IT DIDN'T EXTEND INTO THE KITCHEN OR INTO THE MAIN THOROUGHFARE OF THE HOME," JULIE EXPLAINS. "WE MATCHED IN NEW RED OAK FLOORING SO THAT THE ENTIRE MAIN LEVEL (OUTSIDE OF ENTRIES AND BATHS) USES ALL THE SAME MATERIAL. IT'S AMAZING HOW WELL THEY BLENDED ONCE WE REFINISHED IT ALL. IN ADDITION, IT FELT GREAT TO NOT HAVE TO TEAR OUT GOOD, IF OLD, HARDWOOD."

TOP, RIGHT: REMOVING THE UPPER CABINETS AND REWORKING THE LAYOUT OF THE KITCHEN ALLOWED FOR BETTER FLOW AND CONNECTION AMONG THE LIVING AND DINING SPACES, AS WELL AS CREATING A BETTER OPPORTUNITY FOR NATURAL LIGHT TO STREAM IN THROUGH THE UPDATED WINDOWS.

LEFT: THE PRESERVED ORIGINAL BRICK FIREPLACE LIMITED THE DESIGN FROM FURTHER EXTENDING THE ISLAND, BUT JULIE AND ERIC FOUND OTHER WAYS TO SERVE STYLE AND FUNCTION IN THE RENOVATION. "WE ADDED A PANTRY CABINET AND COUNTERTOP SPACE ADJACENT TO THE KITCHEN—BACKING THE STAIRS—IN WHAT USED TO BE A LARGE CLOSET," JULIE SAYS. "THIS CREATED BETTER STORAGE AND ALSO VISUALLY EXPANDED THE KITCHEN SPACE."

## / MIX IT UP /

Designer Julie Lunn shares her tips on how to introduce Scandinavian design elements into your MCM home for a lighter, brighter feel.

- **CREATE CONTRAST.** At times, traditional mid-mod design, with its rich, deep wood tones and bold primary colors, can make a space feel a bit dark. This is especially true if your home lacks an abundance of natural light sources or if your home's location means fewer sunny days throughout the year. "We like combining the richer wood tones with bright whites for a deep contrast and the best of both worlds," Julie says.
- **TONED-DOWN TILES.** While we all love a great bold tile with a sleek geometric design, Julie suggests opting for white for a subtle, neutral Scandi feel. "In several of the bathrooms, we used white tiles in simple geometric grid patterns," she points out. "This tile treatment is both Mid Century Modern and Scandinavian, but we did choose to eschew more of the colored and square tiles common in original mid-century design."
- **PERFECT PAIRING.** Combining multiple wood tones in the same space can feel daunting, but Julie assures it's possible to do so successfully. "As long as the two wood tones have enough contrast and aren't clashing in undertone, we feel it works well and allows for keeping the richness of wood without it feeling overly dark," she says.





# MODERN PERFORMANCE AND UNMISTAKABLE STYLING

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# D LIVING C COLOR

A vibrant palette, bold wallpaper patterns and classic MCM features create an exuberant atmosphere in this new build designed for a couple longing to recapture the nostalgia of their childhoods.

Written by Autumn Krause

Photographed by Diana Paulson

Designed by Elin Walters, Exactly Designs

A VIBRANT SET OF VINTAGE  
DINING CHAIRS DESIGNED BY  
EERO SAARINEN WAS PART OF THE  
CLIENTS' COLLECTION, AND ELIN  
DESIGNED THE ROOM AROUND THE  
CHAIRS' HAPPY HUE.









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BOTH THE WALLPAPER AND RUG HAVE THEIR OWN STATEMENT PRINTS, BUT THEY STILL WORK WELL TOGETHER. "THE COLORS MAKE THIS PAIRING COHESIVE, ALONG WITH THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE GEOMETRIC PATTERNS," ELIN EXPLAINS. "SOMETIMES, YOU JUST INSTINCTUALLY KNOW WHEN THEY'LL WORK—AND I CAN'T EVEN EXPLAIN WHY."

**FOR MANY**, Mid Century Modern style has an inviting aura.

Such is the case for Andrea and Mark Brimmer, a couple that longed for a custom dream build that reminded them of their childhood homes.

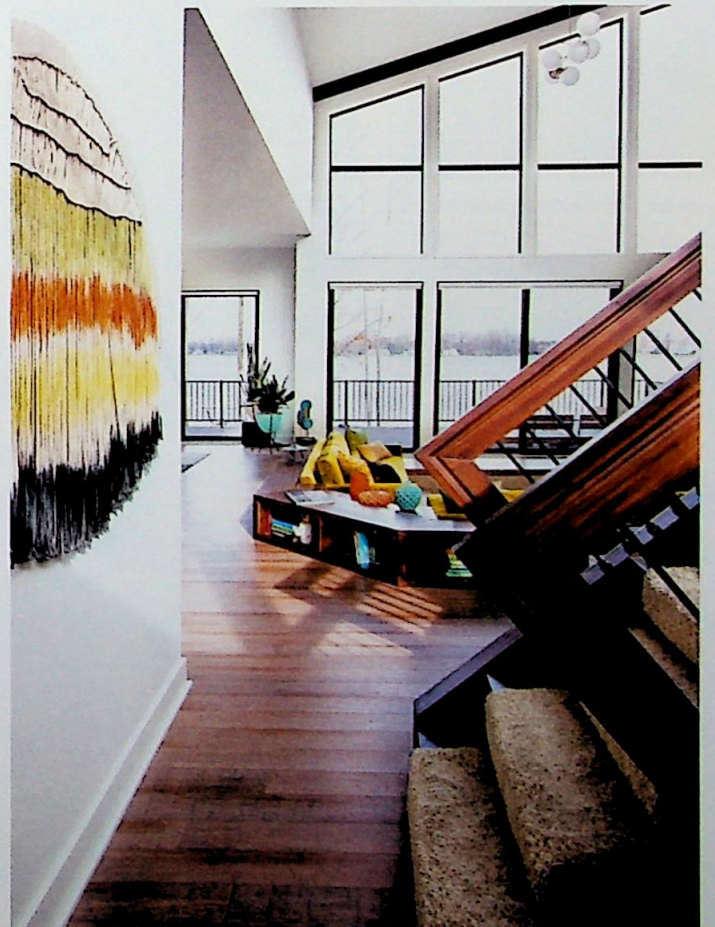
"They both grew up in places with a heavy Mid Century Modern influence," says Elin Walters, owner and principal designer of Exactly Designs. "The aesthetic takes them back to their childhood and makes them feel warm and happy."

For the new construction, the couple chose an idyllic spot that boasts 200 feet of frontage and 2 acres on Lake Ponemah in Fenton, Michigan. Renowned architect Karl Jasinski had recently retired, but when asked to design the home, he agreed, making it the culminating project of a storied career.

Elin was also brought on immediately.

"I was most excited about being involved in the project from day one," she explains. "Architectural plans had been drawn, and then I was called in to help pick out all the finishes, inside and out. Having this much influence on the entire home was very exciting!"





ABOVE, RIGHT: YELLOW FLOOR TILES WERE CHOSEN AS AN INTRODUCTION TO YELLOW FOR THIS BACK ENTRY, WHILE THE BUILT-IN WAS DESIGNED TO BE PRACTICAL—BUT FUN. “POPS OF COLOR IN THE OPEN COMPARTMENTS SUGGEST A PALM SPRINGS VIBE TO MIRROR THE ART ON THE WALL,” ELIN SAYS. “THE COLORFUL, WALNUT-BACKED HOOKS PICK UP THE COLORS IN THE BUILT-IN.”

RIGHT: ELIN LET THE VIEW OF NEARBY LAKE PONEMAH BE THE ART, SO HER DESIGN INTENT WAS TO AVOID OBSTRUCTING OR DETRACTING FROM IT. “GREENS AND BLUES IN THE DESIGN REFLECT THE COLORS OF THE TREES AND THE WATER,” SHE SAYS.



WOOD PANELS STAINED IN A WALNUT FINISH AND SET IN A GRID PATTERN WITH PAINTED BLACK "CHANNELS" ADD DIMENSION TO THE MAIN LIVING ROOM. "MY CLIENTS KNEW THAT THEY WANTED WOOD-PANELED ROOMS IN THEIR HOUSE BECAUSE THEY HAVE A LOVE FOR MID CENTURY MODERN HOMES; IN ADDITION, THIS FEATURE IS COMMON," ELIN NOTES.

OPPOSITE, TOP: LOCATION, FORM AND FUNCTION ALL INTERSECT IN THE KITCHEN. BECAUSE THE HOUSE SITS ON A LAKE, ELIN ANGLED THE KITCHEN ISLAND, AS WELL AS THE PERIMETER CABINETS, SO BOTH THE LAKE AND THE LIVING ROOM ARE VISIBLE. "THE KITCHEN HAS ALL THE THINGS A KITCHEN NEEDS. HOWEVER, BY COMBINING LOTS OF COLOR WITH THE WARMTH OF THE WOOD, THE SPACE IS MUCH MORE THAN SIMPLY FUNCTIONAL," SHE SAYS.







BELOW, LEFT: THE GUEST BATHROOM SERVICES ALL THREE BEDROOMS IN THIS WING OF THE HOUSE. BECAUSE HER CLIENTS LOVED THIS GREEN TILE, ELIN BUILT THE ROOM AROUND IT AND DESIGNED FOR A STRIPE OF THE TILE TO RUN DOWN THE WHITE TILE. IT'S AN EYE-CATCHING WAY TO SHOWCASE THE VIBRANT HUE AND IS ALSO BUDGET-FRIENDLY. "THE TILE IS QUITE PRICY PER SQUARE FOOT, SO THIS IS A WAY TO USE IT DYNAMICALLY WITHOUT BREAKING THE BANK," ELIN POINTS OUT.

BELOW, RIGHT: IT'S ALWAYS IMPORTANT TO BE AWARE OF WATER EXPOSURE IN BATHROOMS—PARTICULARLY WHEN IT COMES TO WALLPAPER. LUCKILY, ELIN IS AN EXPERT AND KNOWS EXACTLY HOW TO NAVIGATE WALLPAPER IN A BATHROOM SETTING. "THIS WALLPAPER IS SMOOTH, REMOVABLE PAPER WITH A SLIGHT SHEEN, MAKING IT EASY TO WIPE DOWN. AND, BECAUSE THE WALL ISN'T IN THE SHOWER AREA, THERE'S NO CONCERN FOR MOISTURE HARMING IT," SHE SAYS.







HOMEOWNER ANDREA LOVES THIS YELLOW STOVE, AND SO ELIN USED IT AS THE INITIAL BUILDING BLOCK IN DESIGNING THE KITCHEN. "I CHOSE TURQUOISE TILE TO CONTRAST WITH THE YELLOW AND DECIDED TO MAKE THIS WALL THE FOCAL POINT OF THE KITCHEN BY CREATING AN ENTIRE WALL OF COLOR," ELIN SAYS.



**BELOW:** IN THE CORNER OF THE MASTER BEDROOM, A FLOOR PLANT, VINTAGE-STYLE RADIO AND VARIOUS ACCESSORIES CREATE AN INVITING FEEL. "THE SHOES WERE PULLED FROM MY CLIENTS' AMAZING CLOSET ON THE DAY OF THE SHOOT," ELIN SAYS. "I LOVE THE CONTRAST IN COLOR THAT IT BROUGHT JUST FOR THE MOMENT."



**ABOVE:** BEAMS EXTEND THROUGH ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MASTER BEDROOM'S WALL, FORMING THE CEILING TO THE MAIN LIVING ROOM. "BOTH ROOMS HAVE LARGE, WALNUT PANEL WALLS, AND THE BEAMS HELP 'LOWER' THE CEILING, WHICH CREATES WARMTH AND INTEREST," ELIN EXPLAINS.

## EYE TO THE PAST

Similar to Andrea and Mark, Elin also had a childhood imbued with Mid Century Modern design.

"My parents, who were antiques collectors and dealers, introduced me to the genre," she says. "There is much to love about it. I personally love that Mid Century Modern design is clean, simple, geometric and full of natural light and warmth through the use of wood."

Elin had free rein to design as she wished—with excited buy-in from the owners: "We collaborated as we went. They had some things they knew they wanted to incorporate, but they honestly were so excited with all my choices. Such a dream for me!" she says.







ABOVE, LEFT: THE SIDE TABLE WAS ALREADY PART OF THE CLIENTS' COLLECTION, AND ELIN CHOSE TO PLACE IT IN THIS ROOM, BECAUSE THE TRIANGULAR BRASS LEGS COMPLEMENT THE GOLD STARBURSTS IN THE WALLPAPER DESIGN. ECHOING THE STARBURST DESIGN, THE TABLE LAMPS BRING THEM TO LIFE THREE DIMENSIONALLY, COMPLETING THE ROOM'S SUBTLE "GALAXY" THEME.

ABOVE, RIGHT: ELIN ENJOYS THE CONTRAST OF THE WARM WOOD DRESSER WITH THE COOLER METAL FINISHES ON THE DÉCOR PIECE. "AS WITH THE COMBINATION OF THE WALNUT BED AND THE STARBURST WALLPAPER, THIS PAIRING CREATES COHESION IN THE ROOM," SHE SAYS.

LEFT: THE HOMEOWNERS HAD PURCHASED THIS VINTAGE DRESSER AND KNEW THEY WANTED TO TURN IT INTO A VANITY. THEY ALSO OWNED THE MIRRORS AS WELL. "BY FIRST PUTTING THESE TWO ELEMENTS TOGETHER, I WAS ABLE TO SLOT IN FIXTURES AND TILES THAT I THOUGHT WORKED WITH THE LINES," ELIN NOTES. "AND, I FELT THAT TUCKING THE WALL-MOUNTED FAUCET INTO THE ARC AT THE BOTTOM OF THE MIRROR WAS A NATURAL PLACEMENT." THE ROUND SINKS AND GLOBE LIGHTS SOFTEN THE LINEAR QUALITY OF THE HEXAGONAL FLOOR AND WALL TILES. WALNUT AND WHITE TOGETHER PROVIDE A NEUTRAL BACKDROP FOR THE STAR OF THE SHOW—THE FLOOR TILE.



# VIBRANT VIBES

Patterns added so much personality to this project; and, when they are as outsized, graphic and colorful as the ones Elin selected, they show an ebullient side to Mid Century Modern design.

However, the thought of implementing them in your own home can be overwhelming. Here, Elin shares her top tips for doing it right:

- **Stay focused.** Keep the focus simple. "Too many patterns at one time can be distracting to the eye," Elin says. Stick to one or two for a single space.
- **Cohesive colors.** Coordinate colors so that there's flow within the room. By making sure all the colors match and relate to each other, your spaces will automatically feel cohesive.
- **Starting point.** Build the overall design of a room using one item as your starting place. "This can be the pattern in a wallpaper or the pattern in a rug or pillow," Elin says. Create your design around your inspiration item's colors, shapes or style.
- **Be bold.** Don't be afraid to be bold. Elin says, "Have confidence, create a cohesive space, and the bold will work."
- **Go geometric.** "'Geometric' is a good search word," Elin notes. "Search for products under this descriptor for compelling patterns."



ANOTHER GUEST BEDROOM IS DESIGNATED FOR ONE OF THE COUPLE'S SONS WHEN HE VISITS. "MOST ROOMS IN THE HOUSE HAVE VERY HIGH CEILINGS BECAUSE THE HOUSE IS BUILT WITH A SERIES OF ANGLED ROOFS," ELIN SAYS. "THE BOLD WALLPAPER WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE OF ITS MORE 'MANLY' FEEL. THE BLACK-AND-WHITE COLOR PALETTE PROVIDES A NEUTRAL BACKGROUND FROM WHICH THE YELLOW POPS."



## WALLS OF COLOR

The owners' wish list included high ceilings, expansive living areas and lots of square footage to host family and friends. Traditionally, Mid Century Modern homes are not quite as grand in scale, so Elin chose materials that were period-appropriate nods to the era. She also brought a historically sensitive creativity to the project and filled the home with unexpected uses of color and wall treatments.

"Color is 'my thing,' hence the reason this place is so alive!" she says. "And when I have an audience who appreciates it, I run with it."

The colors are prisms through a variety of wall treatments, such as bodacious wallpapers and textured tiles.

"To me, wallpaper is equivalent to art on the wall. It brings color, pattern and energy to a room in an all-consuming way," Elin shares.

---

THIS BEDROOM IS FOR GUESTS BUT IS USED BY THE COUPLE'S DAUGHTER WHEN SHE'S HOME FROM COLLEGE. SHE REQUESTED PINK, AND ELIN DECIDED TO PAIR IT WITH A SOFT CHARTREUSE AS A CONTRASTING COLOR. "GREENS ARE USED THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE, SO THE CHARTREUSE CHOICE HELPED TIE IN THIS ROOM WITH THE OVERALL HOUSE DESIGN," SHE NOTES.







**ABOVE RIGHT:** WALNUT IS USED FOR THE VANITIES AND DOORS IN THE BATHROOM, AND A BOLD GREEN IS IMPLEMENTED VIA THE WALLPAPER AND THE BACKSLASH TILES. "HERE, YOU GET TO ENJOY THE JUXTAPOSITION OF THE BOLD GREEN WITH THE DEPTH OF THE WOOD," ELIN SAYS.

**RIGHT:** "AS MY CLIENT REMARKED WHEN THE POWDER ROOM WAS FULLY FINISHED, 'THIS IS THE "BOUGIE-IST" POWDER ROOM I'VE EVER SEEN!'" ELIN SAYS. THE WALLPAPER WAS THE FIRST MATERIAL CHOSEN FOR THE POWDER ROOM, AND EVERYTHING ELSE WAS DESIGNED AROUND THOSE COLORS AND SHAPES. "I THOUGHT THE TILE NOT ONLY PULLED OUT THE GREENS OF THE WALLPAPER BUT ALSO ECHOED THE SHAPE IN THE WALLPAPER PATTERN. THE PATTERN ALSO MATCHES THE SCALLOPS IN THE VINTAGE BROYHILL 'BRASILIA' DRESSER-TURNED-VANITY."

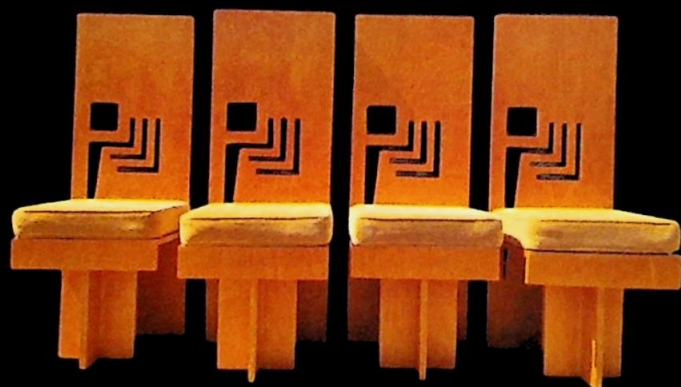
The common theme of the wallpapers in this home is geometry; they provide a simple, balanced, mid-mod feel to the contemporary layout.

Elin's design is a remarkable addition to the Mid Century Modern canon. With its colors, wall treatments, warm use of wood and spacious layout, the home is a bold step into the future while honoring the past and Mid Century Modern style. For Andrea and Mark, the home has the nostalgia of their childhoods, along with a distinct, fashionable sensibility that's all their own. ✨





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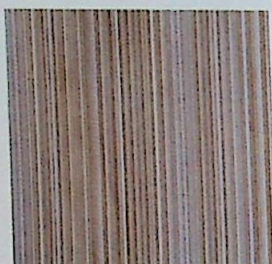
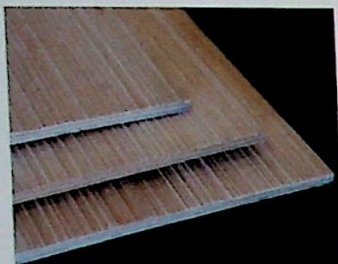




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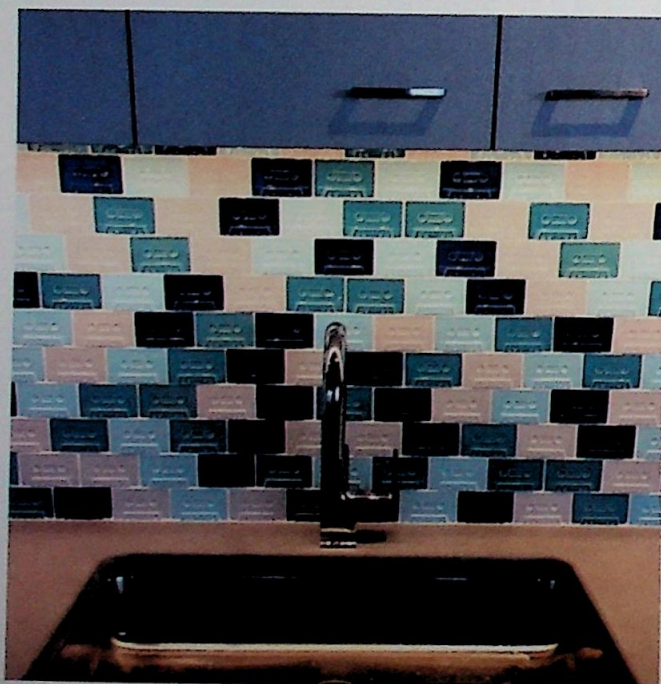
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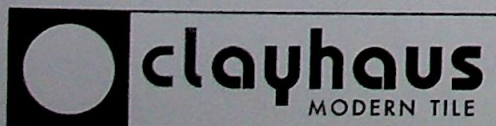
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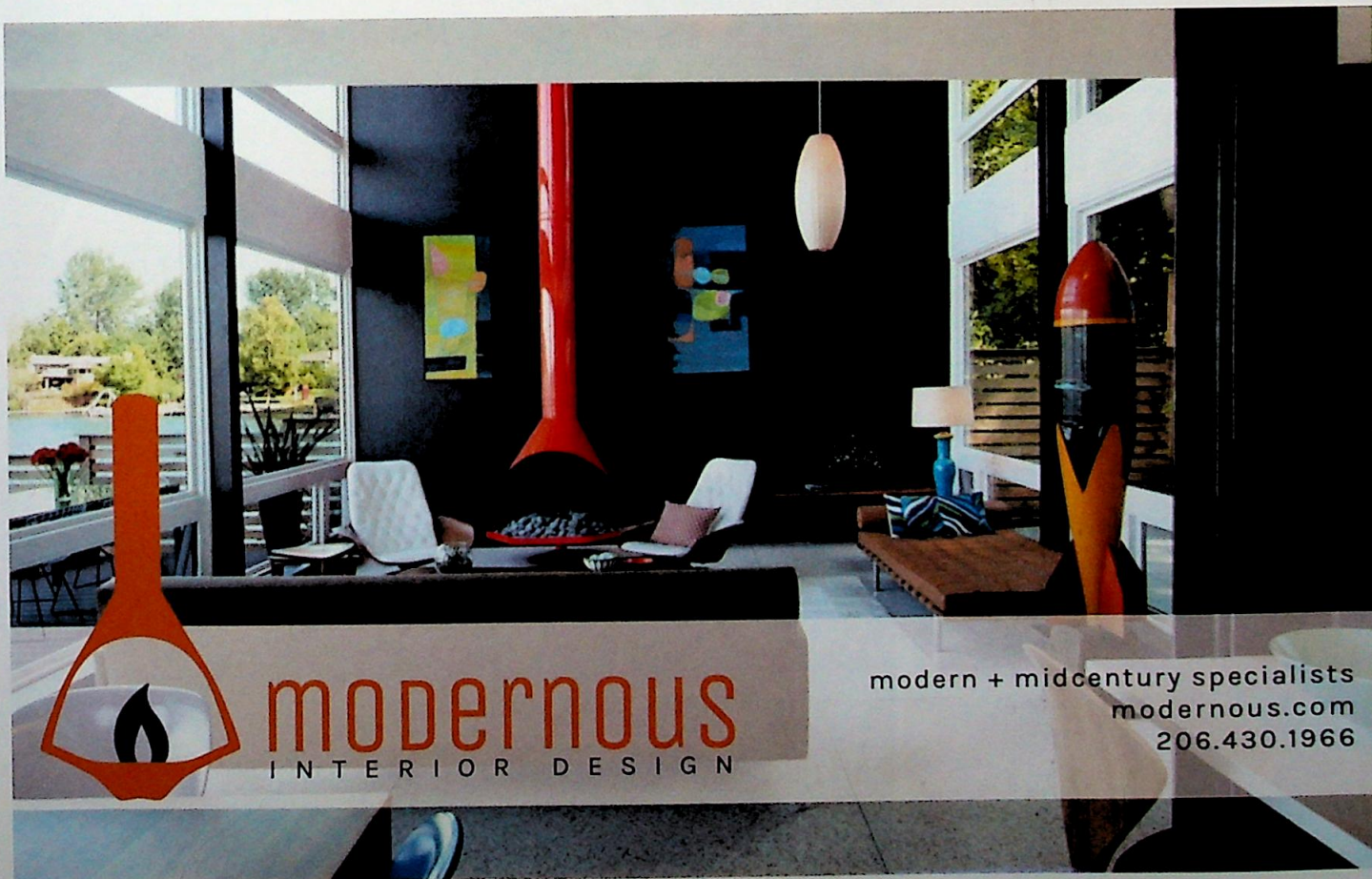
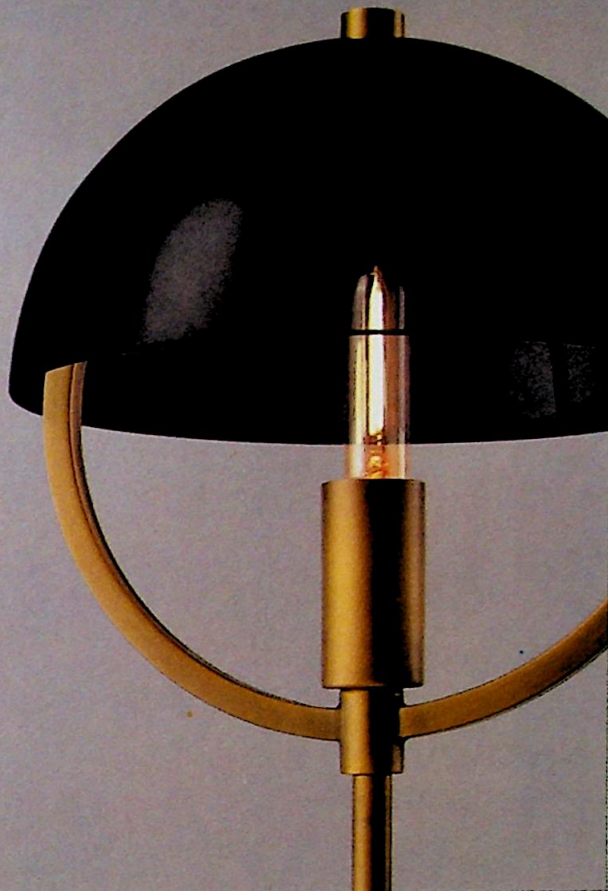
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# Walk the Line

A design firm helped the new owners of this Wisconsin home navigate the tension between staying true to the house's roots and bringing it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Written by **Lauren Hofer**

Photographed by **Michael Kaskel**

Built by **Refined Renovations**

Architect: **Racinowski Design Studio**



"THE KITCHEN IS KIND OF ORIENTED POINTING NORTH, SO IT DOESN'T GET A LOT OF NATURAL SUNLIGHT. OUR NEW PLANS CALLED FOR LARGER WINDOWS FACING THIS NICE, BUILT-IN POOL AREA," MATTHEW JAHNS, OWNER OF REFINED RENOVATIONS, SAYS. HIS CRAFTSMEN WERE ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY INSTALL LARGER WINDOWS WITHOUT GREATLY AFFECTING THE LOOK AND FEEL OF THE EXTERIOR BRICK. THE EXPANDED WINDOWS FLOOD THE KITCHEN WITH NATURAL LIGHT, CREATING A BRIGHTNESS THAT WASN'T THERE BEFORE.











ANOTHER ORIGINAL FEATURE IS THIS STUNNING BRICK FIREPLACE. DURING THE RENOVATION, MATTHEW AND HIS TEAM LEFT IT MOSTLY UNTOUCHED. "WE WERE ABLE TO RESPECT THIS ORIGINAL FEATURE, LARGELY LEAVE IT ALONE, AND THEN BLEND IN THE CABINETRY JUST TO THE RIGHT," HE SAYS.

**AFTER LOOKING FOR A MID-CENTURY HOME FOR YEARS**, the owners knew they'd found something special when they purchased this 1950s Wisconsin house with the intent to respectfully renovate it.

"They were one step short of purists," says Matthew Jahns, owner of Refined Renovations, the firm that oversaw the project.

From the beginning, all parties involved wanted the necessary updates to maintain the original look and feel of the home.

While the name of the original architect is not known, the clean lines, exposed beams, wood paneling and brick fireplace all speak to the classic mid-century features in the design.

Matthew knew from the start that renovating the house would mean maintaining a careful balance between preservation and updates as he made decisions with the homeowners.

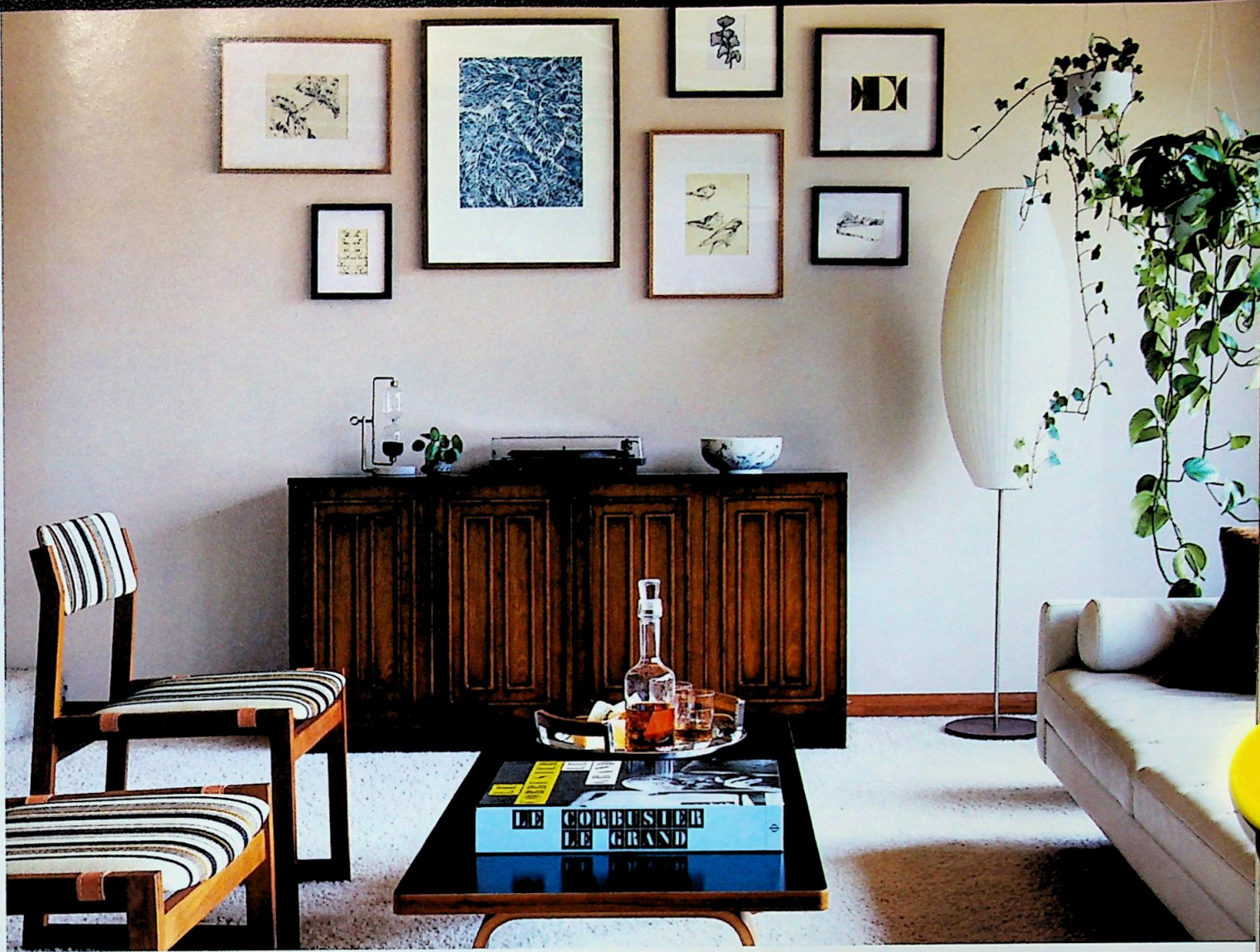
"We introduced them to that 'line' and walked it successfully," Matthew says. "We wanted to approach it very carefully."

## REWORKING THE FOOTPRINT

The biggest update involved changing the layout of the kitchen to meet the homeowners' desire for more space.

"There was no way they were going to get what they were hoping for by just staying inside the footprint of the original kitchen, so we carefully introduced some new ideas to them," Matthew notes.





BELOW, LEFT: A CLASSIC MCM PALETTE GIVES THE HOME A DISTINCT RETRO VIBE WHILE ALSO MAINTAINING A COOL, CONTEMPORARY FEEL.

BELOW, RIGHT: THE FLOOR THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE IS AN LVP FLOOR FROM INTERFACE. "THE OWNERS WANTED SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE FUNCTIONAL AND COST-FRIENDLY, SO THAT WORKED OUT REALLY WELL; AND, IT'S SUBTLE," MATTHEW SAYS.







THE STUNNING WHITE COUCH IS ONE OF MANY FURNITURE PIECES THE HOMEOWNERS HAD PURCHASED PRIOR TO MOVING INTO THE HOME. "THEY HAD A GREAT EYE; THAT'S WHY THEY PURCHASED THIS HOUSE," MATTHEW SAYS. ELEVATING THAT FOCAL FEATURE, THE REST OF THE DESIGN FOCUSES ON HIGHLIGHTING THE NATURAL ELEMENTS AND TEXTURES IN THE ROOM.

OPPOSITE: THE HOMEOWNERS HAD INTERVIEWED SOME ARCHITECTS WHO SUGGESTED OPENING UP THE ENTIRE HOUSE, BUT MATTHEW AND HIS TEAM HAD OTHER IDEAS. "WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE WE KEPT THOSE ROOMS LARGELY AS IS—A SEPARATE LIVING SPACE, AS OPPOSED TO KEEP BLOWING IT OPEN," HE SAYS. "THAT WOULD HAVE AFFECTED THE UNIQUE NATURE OF THOSE ROOMS." OTHER THAN FRESH PAINT AND NEW CARPET, THE SPACE MAINTAINS MUCH OF ITS ORIGINAL DESIGN.





In the end, they decided to remove an interior partition between the kitchen and the current TV/game room and enlarge the north-facing kitchen windows.

The work required Matthew's craftsmen to blend the kitchen cabinets into the existing fireplace where the wall was removed.

"They appreciated the fact that we were able to keep the fireplace intact and then blend in the cabinetry almost as if it were original," Matthew points out.

They used the wood paneling from the removed wall between the TV room and kitchen to replace some of the water-damaged paneling and electrical outlets in the TV room.





Matthew and his team also worked on the project with architect Justin Racinowski of Racinowski Design Studio.

"Justin was locked in on the fact that the cabinets had to be designed using a clean, simple approach, with natural materials," Matthew says. "The seamless panel blends beautifully into the Mid Century Modern aesthetic and allows the wood to really speak for itself."

The room's luxury vinyl floors and white countertops all contribute to a fresh take on the classic lines of the space.

## BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

Once the structural changes were complete, the team worked on the details.

"We completely revamped the lighting, along with the dramatic function and form of the kitchen; and, changing it demanded that we look at the lighting anew," Matthew says.

Refined Renovations also worked collaboratively with the homeowners on the interior design.



OPPOSITE THE WOOD PANELING IN THIS TV/GAME ROOM IS ORIGINAL TO THE HOUSE. "THERE WERE A LOT OF ELECTRICAL OUTLETS AND SOME WATER DAMAGE," MATTHEW NOTES. "WE CAREFULLY SAVED THOSE SECTIONS, AND THEN WE APPLIED THEM SO THAT ONLY THE BEST WERE SHOWING."

THE BIGGEST CHANGE INVOLVED REMOVING A PARTITION BETWEEN THE KITCHEN AND GAME ROOM IN ORDER TO EXPAND THE SPACE. "THAT'S PROBABLY ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE CHANGED THAT WAS A LITTLE MORE CONTEMPORARY. WE WANTED THE ABILITY TO HAVE A NICE, EAT-IN KITCHEN," MATTHEW SAYS. "THE OWNERS FOUND THE TABLE. THE CHAIRS WERE RECLAIMED, AND WE REUPHOLSTERED THE SEATS."







## MAINTAINING INTEGRITY

It's often a challenge to find the right balance between past and present when renovating a Mid Century Modern home.

Matthew Jahns of Refined Renovations offers the top three things to consider when attempting to bring together current updates and classic MCM design:

- 1. BASICS.** It's likely that the functions of the home, such as old plumbing and electrical, will need to be updated. Matthew recommends taking this into consideration first, because those updates elevate the safety of your home.
- 2. LAYOUT.** Mid Century Modern homes were often more closed off, with separation between the kitchen and other living spaces. Consider how you can stay as close to the original floor plan as possible while achieving your goals. In this case, Matthew and his team removed one wall to accomplish the feel they wanted in the space.
- 3. MATERIALS.** Consider the details and how they play into the overall story. In this home, Matthew selected a beautiful LVP floor that was cost effective and visually pleasing. "It mimics a terrazzo really effectively," he says, "and it respects the palettes we were trying to achieve."

CONTRASTED WITH THE CAESARSTONE COUNTERTOPS, THE BOLD KALLISTA FAUCET MAKES A STUNNING VISUAL STATEMENT ON THE KITCHEN ISLAND. "THE PLUMBING FIXTURE IS PROBABLY THE 'LOUDEST,' BUT IT SCREAMS 'FUNCTION.' SO, AGAIN, IT'S IN LINE WITH THE ORIGINAL ARCHITECT'S INTENT," MATTHEW SAYS.

"Some of these pieces they brought to us; other pieces we brought to them," Matthew says.

The massive couch in the main living space and kitchen table were finds that the homeowners brought with them. In the kitchen, four Design Within Reach stools grace the bar area.

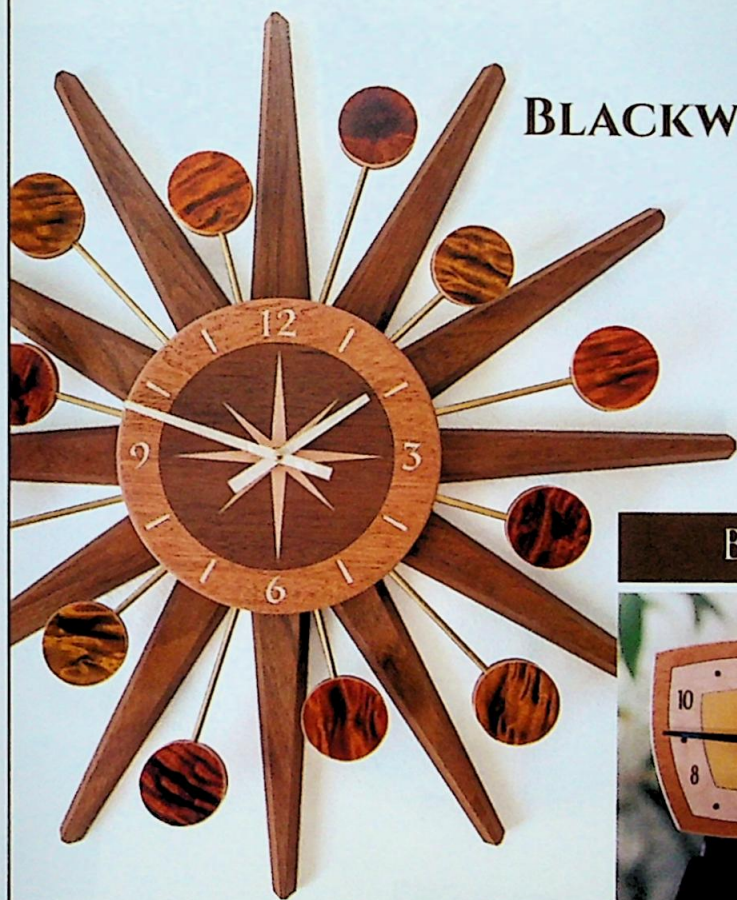
"We worked really hard to find the right stools," Matthew says. "We wanted something natural but still flexible and cleanable."

The leather-wrapped stools with wooden legs add an organic warmth and a touch of MCM sophistication.

While making the decisions for this project took some time, Matthew and his team soon found an easy rhythm with the homeowners—because they all looked to accomplish the same goal.

"Surprisingly, the house had been really well maintained for the past 70 years," Matthew says. "We wanted to make sure the original architect would have been proud of what we accomplished." 





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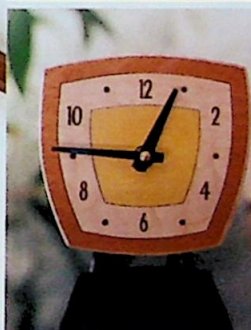


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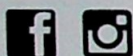




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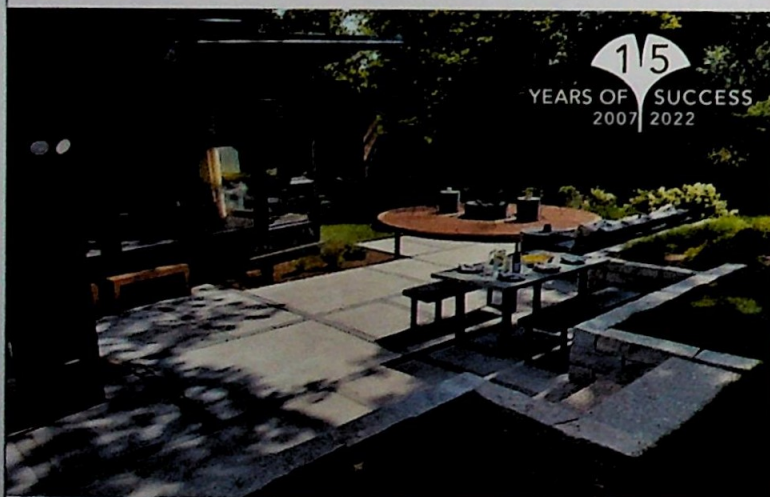
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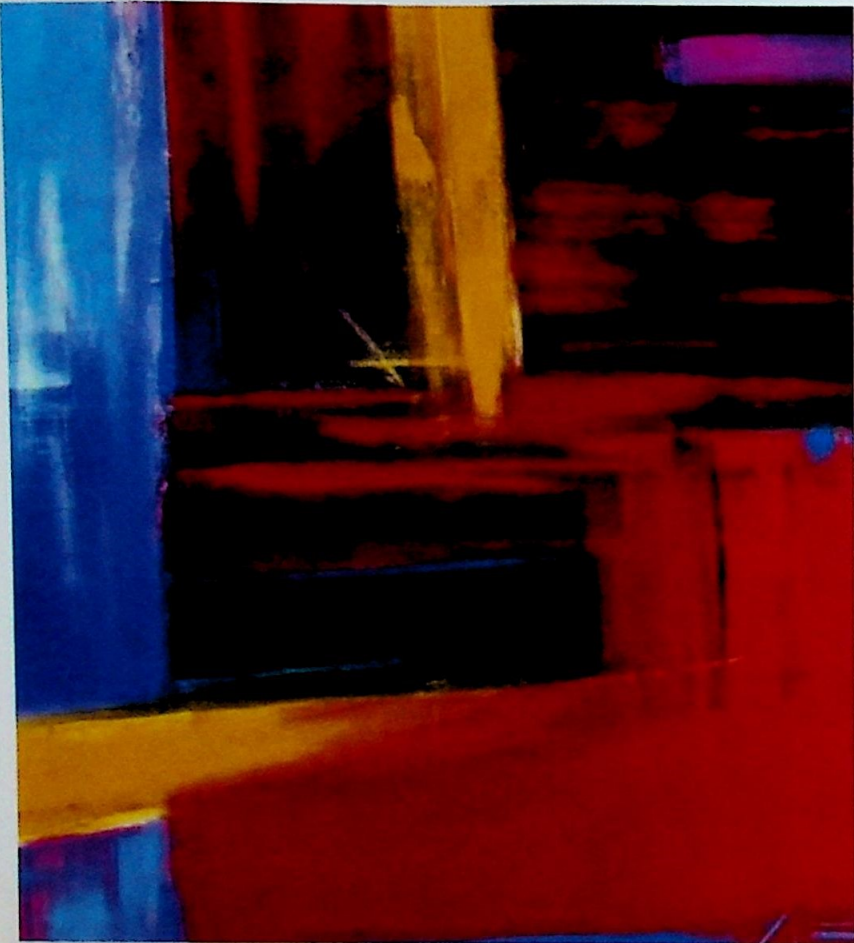
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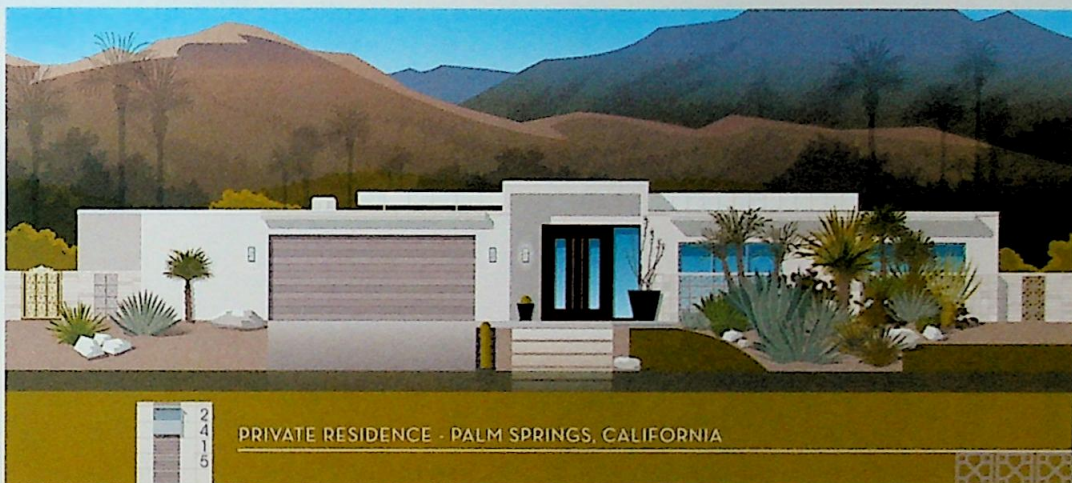
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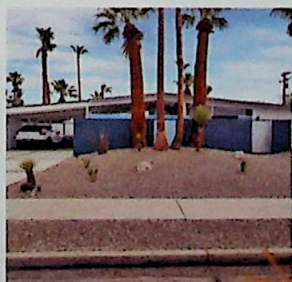
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# BLENDED, **BALANCED** AND **BOLD**

An Eichler home owner decorates his home in  
harmony with nature, design, music and art.

Written by Meryl Schoenbaum

Photographed by Bret Gum

Styled by Charles Danek



THE FRONT EXTERIOR OF THE EICHLER HOME SPORTS A MID-CENTURY AUTOMOBILE. "THE CAR IS A

1965 PORSCHE 912 I BOUGHT YEARS BEFORE I MET MY EICHLER HOME





**A VISIT TO CHARLES DANEK'S MID-CENTURY HOME** is a delight, not only for the eyes, but for the ears as well. Music has always been an important part of Charles's life, and he knew that displaying musical instruments in his home would be an essential element in its décor. The instruments add a distinctive quality, turning the house into a home.

"My daughter, Iris, and I are both musicians, so these musical instruments displayed throughout our house get played often," Charles explains. "I like what they contribute to the ambiance of our home. A celebration of natural materials is a defining trait of Mid Century Modern design, but the same trait also describes musical instruments throughout time."

Charles came to Los Angeles in the mid-1990s with aspirations of becoming a singer-songwriter. His professional experience in photography production with the likes of rock-music photographer Christopher Wray-McCann morphed into his current role: location scout.

"As a location scout, I get to explore many of the most fantastic houses in Los Angeles. I think this perspective is what first spurred me to recognize how a house could go beyond being a functional domicile to become a vehicle for creative expression. Through scouting, I've gained a firsthand education in architecture and interior design."

Charles was not planning to move at the time this Eichler presented itself, but the couple he had bought his first home from informed him they were moving from their home in the Balboa Highlands Eichler tract of Granada Hills, California.

"Our house was designed by Claude Oakland for Joseph Eichler and was built in 1964. It's an example of post-and-beam California Modernism, and it has many defining Eichler attributes, including a flat roofline, floor-to-ceiling glass, mahogany paneling, an open kitchen/family room (currently used as an informal dining area) and, most quintessentially, an atrium courtyard in the center of the house."





**ABOVE** THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON THE SUNLIGHT IN THE FORMAL LIVING ROOM. "THROUGHOUT THE DAY, SUNLIGHT STREAMS THROUGH THE WINDOWS OF OUR LIVING ROOM IN BOLD ARCS THAT TRAVEL ALONG THE WALLS, SO I WANTED TO FIGURE OUT ART THAT WOULD COMPLEMENT THIS DRAMATIC SHOW, NOT CONFUSE IT," CHARLES EXPLAINS. "I CREATED THE LARGE, DARK PAINTING AS A SITE-SPECIFIC, EVER-CHANGING COMPOSITION THAT ONLY COMES ALIVE WITH THE DAILY LIGHT PLAY."



**ABOVE** "THE HAMMER DRAWING IS A RELIC FROM MY ART SCHOOL DAYS. I USED THE SAME HAMMER IN THE DRAWING TO POUND IN THE NAILS THE DRAWING NOW HANGS ON."



**LEFT** "THE ORIGINAL OWNER OF THE HOUSE NEXT TO OURS WAS AN ARCHITECT WHO STILL LIVED THERE WHEN WE MOVED IN," CHARLES SAYS. "WHEN HE LEFT, I BOUGHT A FEW OF HIS FURNISHINGS, INCLUDING THIS ORIGINAL FLORENCE KNOLL OFFICE CHAIR."



"OUR EVERYDAY DINING SET WAS MADE BY BURKE, A COMPANY OUT OF TEXAS. IT PAIRED NICELY WITH THE EAMES SHELL-CHAIR CONCEPT WITH SAARINEN-INSPIRED MOTIFS, ALONG WITH A STAR BASE THAT I BELIEVE WAS THEIR OWN IDEA. I'VE FOUND THAT SOMETIMES, PERIOD 'KNOCKOFFS' CAN BE AFFORDABLE ALTERNATIVES TO VINTAGE ORIGINALS, AS WELL AS A FUN DEPARTURE FROM THE MORE UBIQUITOUS DESIGNS THEY HONOR."







**ABOVE:** CLASSIC MID-CENTURY ELEMENTS ARE MIXED WITH FAMILY AND PERSONAL PIECES IN THE FORMAL LIVING AND DINING AREAS. "THE HANS WEGNER-STYLE DINING SET, SPUTNIK CHANDELIER AND 1962 ALCOA CHESS SET ARE EACH DESIGN CLASSICS," CHARLES SAYS. "THE HUTCH, WICKER-BACK CHAIRS AND IVY WALL HANGING BELONGED TO MY GRANDPARENTS, WHILE I CREATED THE BLUE PAINTING AND METAL, STONE AND WOOD SCULPTURE UNDER GLASS."

**RIGHT:** "IN SOME WAYS, I THINK CALIFORNIA MODERNISM SHARES SOME OF THE SAME IDEALS WITH THE AMERICAN OLD WEST'S FREE SPIRIT, SO MY IDEA FOR MY OFFICE WAS TO TRY TO MASH IT UP WITH ACTUAL WESTERN ELEMENTS. IN THE PRESENCE OF LIVE CACTUSES, I THINK BERTOIA STOOLS START TO RESEMBLE CACTUSES THEMSELVES. THE TABLE LAMP CAME FROM MY GREAT-GRANDPARENTS' FARM. THE BUILT-INS FROM IKEA ARE, COINCIDENTALLY, PERFECT-FITTING, AND THE BAR IS JUST AN IKEA SHELF HELD UP BY AN IKEA TABLE LEG. AT NIGHT, THE BAR LIGHTS UP, AND THE CACTUSES AND SCULPTURES ABOVE AND BELOW IT ARE ALL BACKLIT WITH ORANGE, SO IT TRULY FEELS LIKE A DESERT SUNSET."

It was originally designed with five bedrooms, but it's currently configured as a three-bedroom-plus-office with a double-room master suite, Charles explains.

"Joseph Eichler's whole concept was to use enlightened architecture and creatively planned streets to create 'utopia' in the suburbs, and that's essentially what we found in the Balboa Highlands Eichler tract of Granada Hills," Charles says.





**OPPOSITE TOP:** "I BELIEVE OUR KITCHEN BEST PERSONIFIES THE PREVIOUS OWNERS' COMMITMENT TO OUR EICHLER'S REVIVAL, FOR ALTHOUGH IT'S AN ENTIRELY NEW BUILD, IT'S BLUE-PRINTED TO THE ORIGINAL—BUT SLIGHTLY CHANGED TO BETTER ACCOMMODATE MODERN APPLIANCES, ALLOW FOR MORE STORAGE AND CREATE A MORE PRACTICAL COOKING-DECK HEIGHT," CHARLES SAYS. "MY FAVORITE DETAIL IS HOW A ROUTER BIT WAS CUSTOM MADE TO AUTHENTICALLY RECREATE THE EICHLER DRAWER PULL CHANNELS."

**BELOW:** STORAGE IS STYLISH, AS WELL AS PRACTICAL, IN THE INFORMAL DINING AREA. "THE TALL, 2-BY-3-FOOT, BUILT-IN CABINETS ON THE RIGHT ARE ORIGINAL TO THE HOUSE, BUT THE MATCHING, HORIZONTAL, 2-BY-1-FOOT SECTION AND ADDITIONAL SHELVES WERE ADDED BY THE PREVIOUS OWNERS," CHARLES SAYS.

"It was a real revelation to discover how these unique houses had attracted a community of unique enthusiasts. In our neighborhood, we have artists, musicians, actors, producers, architects, animators, editors and 'imagineers' who are all drawn together by our shared passion for these special houses."

Luckily, when Charles moved in, the home had already been meticulously restored to its architectural roots.







"The credit for our home's remodeling is owed to its previous owners; they had the vision to buy a heavily altered Eichler and chose restoration over renovation," Charles notes. "As when returning a classic car to its factory-original condition, they researched correct replacement materials and fixtures and recreated the house as correctly as possible. For the 13 years we've been stewards of this house, it's been our goal to not give up any ground the previous owners fought to gain back toward keeping our house as original as possible. A constant has been that the most 'social' room in the house, just as Joseph Eichler astutely understood, has always been—and will likely always be—the kitchen."

## BALANCING ACT

The home's décor strikes a balance between mid-century and personal treasured pieces.

"I would describe my approach to interior design as balancing mid-century icons that make a bold first impression with family history furnishings and personal artwork that lend unique character and warmth ... along with a smattering of Ikea to help glue things together as necessitated by function and budget," Charles says. "I was always captivated by antiques, and I curated old objects I found in our basement. These objects are now on display in every room of my house. Some of them, such as my blender and record player, are still doing the job they were built for more than 50 years ago. An especially satisfying aspect of Eichler ownership is providing a natural setting for all these pieces of family history I've saved and being able to engage them in my daily life."

## COLOR STORY

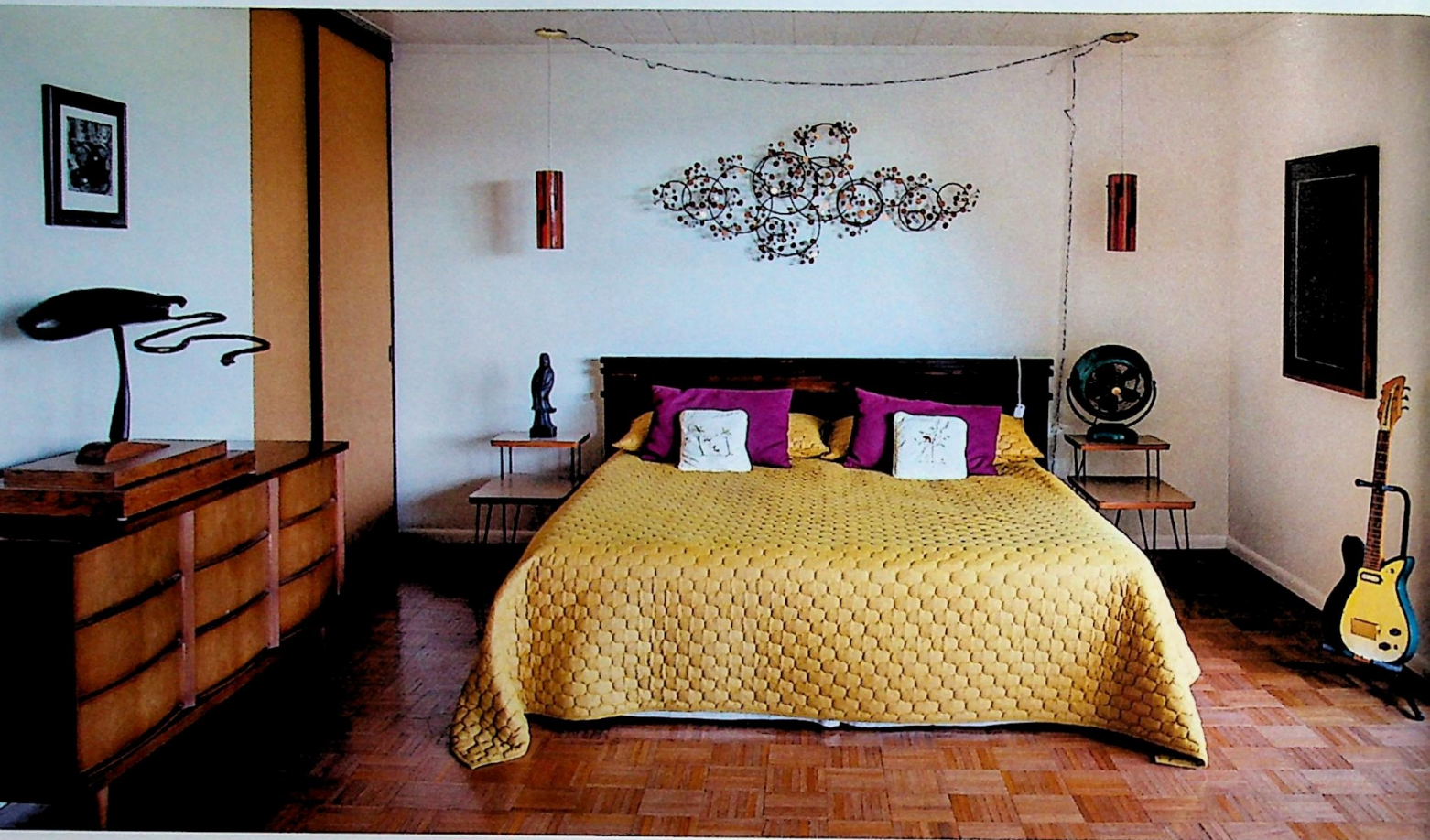
Charles found that the home's existing paint colors suited his taste as well.

"Eichler houses typically have muted exteriors that are contrasted with a bright front door. We loved the colors the previous owners chose so much that we kept them," Charles points out. "In the kitchen/family room, they went with yellow linoleum tiles similar to what was there originally. However, for the rest of the house, they went with parquet wood—except in the living room, where they used travertine. Although these are not original Eichler options, they are at least period-appropriate."

Color also played a pivotal role in Charles's decorating choices.

"When it came to furnishing the house, colors were sometimes dictated by what I happened to find," he explains. "For example, the four Burke shell chairs in our dining set all happened to be different colors when I found it on Craigslist. In other instances, I was able to just sort of listen to what the house was asking for. My master bedroom told me it wanted ochres and earth tones. The large painting in the formal living room wanted dark grays and black-purples to contrast with the sunlight that streams across it every day." 🌿





**ABOVE:** THE HANGING WALL SCULPTURE IN THE MASTER BEDROOM IS A SIGNED ORIGINAL WORK BY CURTIS JERE, AND IT HAS AN INTERESTING STORY ATTACHED TO IT: "IT'S FUNNY, BECAUSE CURTIS JERE ISN'T A REAL PERSON!" CHARLES SAYS. "CURTIS JERE WAS THE NAME OF THE COMPANY THAT MADE THESE TYPES OF DECORATIVE PIECES. HOWEVER, TO SATISFY CUSTOMER DEMAND, THE COMPANY SOMETIMES HAD ITS EMPLOYEES SIGN THEM AS 'CURTIS JERE.' THE GUITAR IS A VINTAGE 1956 RICKENBACKER COMBO 400 IN 'CLOVERFIELD GREEN.' IT'S SAID THAT AFTER SEEING BELGIAN JAZZ MUSICIAN JEAN 'TOOTS' THIELEMANS PLAY A NEARLY IDENTICAL RICKENBACKER COMBO 400 THAT WAS ALSO IN THAT COLOR, A VERY YOUNG JOHN LENNON SOUGHT OUT A RICKENBACKER GUITAR FOR HIMSELF ... WHICH WORKED OUT RATHER WELL FOR HIM!"

**OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT:** THE MASTER BEDROOM FEATURES A CHERISHED FAMILY HEIRLOOM THAT CHARLES DISPLAYS FRONT AND CENTER. "THE GARRARD TURNTABLE AT THE CENTER OF THIS IMAGE WAS PURCHASED BY MY GRANDMOTHER IN THE 1950S," CHARLES SAYS. "IN THE 1980S, SHE WAS READY TO JUNK IT, BUT I INSISTED ON KEEPING IT AND HAVE BEEN PLAYING RECORDS ON IT EVER SINCE."

**OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** "THE BENCH IS AN ORIGINAL KNOLL; AND, ACCORDING TO LORE RELAYED TO ME BY ITS PREVIOUS OWNER, IT HAD LIVED MOST OF ITS LIFE AT JPL (PASADENA'S JET PROPULSION LABORATORY). I LOVE THINKING ABOUT HOW MERCURY AND GEMINI ASTRONAUTS MIGHT ACTUALLY HAVE SAT ON IT BACK IN THE DAY. I MADE THE TABLE MYSELF; THE CLARO WALNUT I USED IS AN HOMAGE TO GEORGE NAKASHIMA, BUT THE LEGS AND ACCENTS ARE 'OSAGE ORANGE,' WHICH IS A NOD TO MY OWN MIDWEST HERITAGE. THESE ARE MY TWO FAVORITE FURNISHINGS."

**OPPOSITE, BOTTOM:** AN ICONIC EICHLER DESIGN—THE COURTYARD ATRIUM—INSPIRED CHARLES TO PONDER THE CONTINUED POPULARITY OF MID CENTURY MODERN ARCHITECTURE. "MY THEORY ABOUT WHY THE MCM AESTHETIC ENDURES STEMS FROM HOW, FOR MOST OF CIVILIZATION, ART WAS ALWAYS TETHERED TO THE NATURAL WORLD ... UNTIL A 'TECTONIC SHIFT' OCCURRED, WHEN POP ART REALIGNED ITSELF WITH POPULAR CULTURE," HE SAYS. "AS I SEE IT, THE MID-CENTURY ERA REPRESENTS THE ABSOLUTE PINNACLE OF HUMAN CREATIVITY THAT STILL SEEKS HARMONY WITH NATURE. THIS IS TRUE OF SO MANY ART FORMS DURING THESE YEARS—ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM, COOL JAZZ, MODERN DANCE—AND TRULY, THERE COULD BE NO BETTER ARCHITECTURAL EMBODIMENT OF THIS PHILOSOPHY THAN THE EICHLER ATRIUM, WHERE NATURE FROM OUTSIDE IS LITERALLY BROUGHT INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE HOME."





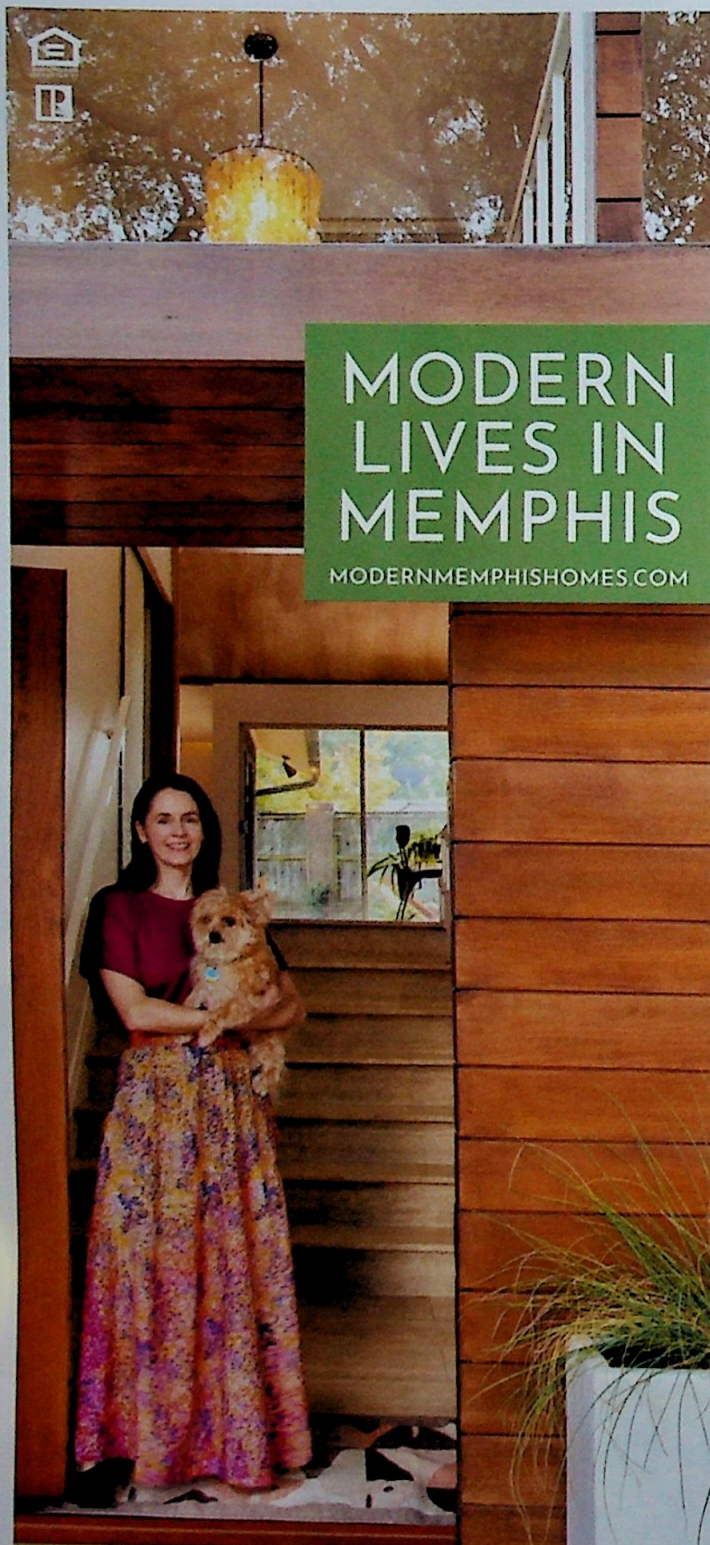
## SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Renovations should be respectful of a home's present and future, as well as its past. Homeowner Charles Danek was fortunate that conserving energy was a priority when the previous owners restored its roof.

- **STYLE AND FUNCTION.** Mid-century design need not be sacrificed when selecting an eco-friendly roof. "When the previous owners restored our home, they chose a foam roof, which disappears perfectly into the house's 1964 aesthetic," Charles says.
- **GOING GREEN.** "A foam roof does a much better job of regulating temperatures inside than the original tar roof would have done, which conserves a lot of energy," Charles explains.
- **MINDFUL MATERIALS.** Other efficient ways of restoring a mid-century home include using locally sourced natural materials for porches and decks, along with opting for bamboo or reclaimed wood for interior beams, flooring and countertops, and replacing light bulbs and appliances with energy-efficient models.







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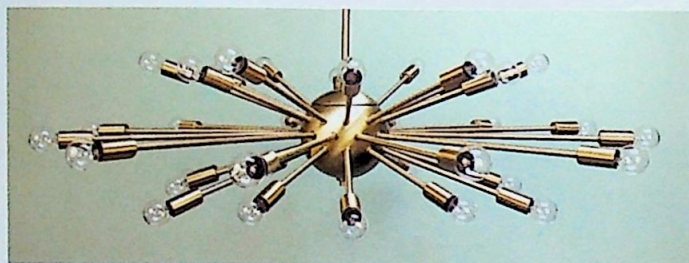
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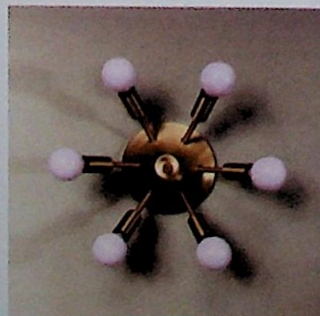
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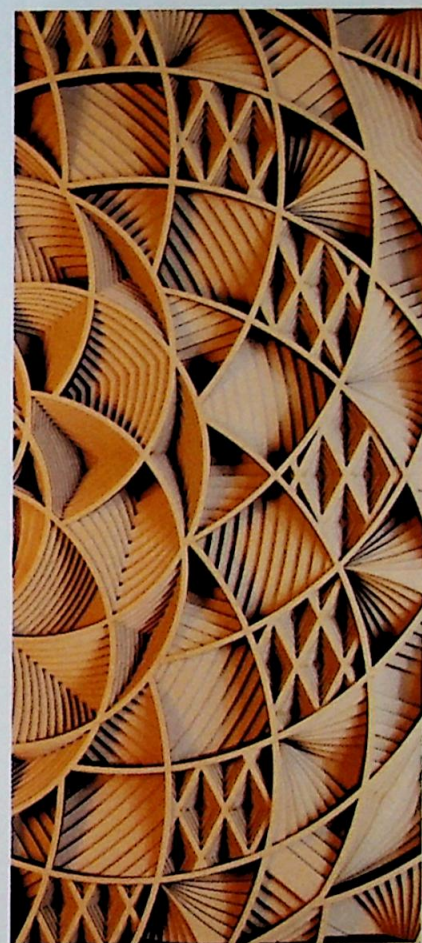
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Written and photographed by Robert Maurer and Glen Warren

# On Christmas

Celebrating  
a wonderful  
holiday season

# Island



**AS THE DAYS BEGIN TO FEEL SHORTER** and the weather cools, we're reminded to take pause from our busy lives and home renovations.

Winter is here, and it's time to celebrate the season by making our homes a cozy sanctuary for the months ahead.

In this issue, we explore holiday decorating and crafts with a refined tropical twist. We'll also share some tips for adding seasonal flair to displayed collections, as well as a new line of vintage-inspired gift wrap with "aloha" in mind.

I'm also excited to share with you my collaboration with My Favorite Neighbor, a wine producer and collective based in Paso Robles, California. Together, we've created a wine and hors d'oeuvre pairing that's ripe with flavor and vibrant color for delightful holiday entertaining. (And, when you're ready to get into the holiday spirit, queue up my curated holiday playlist that's anything but typical.)

From my home to yours, let the palm trees (and pine trees) sway as you're whisked away to a wonderful season of fantasy and fun.

## REFINED ISLAND STYLE

I like to keep holiday decorating fresh and innovative each year by introducing a new theme or creating a few additions.

This year, the motif is "refined island style" through the use of lush palm fronds, air plants, monstera leaves, natural fibers, wood and stone ornaments, and colorful glass fishing floats. Whether you intend to create a tropical feel or take a different route, try applying these tips to your holiday tree decorating:

**Develop a color plan.** Select one or two colors as your primary scheme. Use these colors as accents surrounded by natural greens and neutrals.





LEFT: ADD COLORFUL ISLAND STYLE TO YOUR GIFTS WITH VINTAGE-INSPIRED ALOHA SHIRT WRAPPING PAPERS AND GIFT BAGS DESIGNED BY COMMUTER INDUSTRIES ([HTTPS://SHOP.COMMUTER.INDUSTRIES](https://shop.commuter.industries)).

## ALOHA ATTIRE

The holiday scene wouldn't be complete without beautifully wrapped gifts.

This year, we've drawn inspiration from vintage "aloha wear" of the 1950s, '60s and '70s. Bold colors, shapes and patterns blend with fabric-look prints for a gift that's fitting for any occasion.

Try pairing these unique designs with a simple burlap ribbon or tightly wound strands of colorful raffia.

For those tough-to-wrap items (such as wine), we have gift bags too! See the full line of custom designed products at <https://shop.commuter.industries>.

**Tip:** Attach a tropical leaf wired with seasonal greenery or berries for a lush holiday look.

**Craft a series of picks.** Decorating a tree with holiday picks is a fast and easy way to make your tree feel fuller and more design-forward. Gather a few branches of greenery, florals and decorative stems. Wire them together and insert them throughout the tree as if they are growing from the trunk.

**Create motion.** If you're working with an artificial tree, shape the branches into a slightly upward position. As you add holiday picks, bend and shape them to match the sweep of the tree branches, with more extreme upward motion toward the top of the tree. Nestling lights, ornaments and garland deeper into the tree adds visual interest and movement too.

**Think in layers.** As you begin to decorate, think about the order in which items will go onto the tree. I like to start with the tree-topper and then work from top to bottom by adding additional accent lights, floral picks, garland and finally, ornaments. Working in this sequence can help keep your tree decorating undisturbed as you add to the design.

**Use a variety of ornament sizes.** Try incorporating a few oversized ornaments into your tree design for a full

and nested look. Attach wire to these decorations and securely fasten them to branches. Space them intermittently throughout the tree, top to bottom. Fill areas between the largest ornaments with small to medium pieces.

**Keep it imaginative.** The holidays are a time of magic and wonder, so why not depart from the traditional with a few bold enhancements to your tree? Instead of a star, angel or bow, go bold with something unconventional that creates a statement. For this island-style tree, I'm using a vintage pufferfish lamp for festivity that's sure to spark conversation.

## CALMING CLAY

Making your own ornaments can be an enjoyable way to include family and friends in holiday decorating. Try working with a few basic tools to create this minimalist "moai," a symbol of peace and protection:

### Supplies:

- Modeling compound, such as air-dry clay or Model Magic (white)
- Twine
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Craft knife
- Stone-texture spray paint (gray)

BELOW: A VINTAGE PUFFERFISH LAMP INTRODUCES AN ELEMENT OF QUIRKY CONVERSATION THAT INTERSECTS TRADITIONAL AND UNCONVENTIONAL STYLES.



AN ENGRAVED WOODEN INCENSE HOLDER IS TRANSFORMED INTO AN ORNAMENT BY DRILLING A HOLE AND ADDING A TWINE HANGER.



THIS HANDMADE STONE-LOOK "MOAI" (A SYMBOL OF PEACE AND PROTECTION) ORNAMENT BRINGS ORGANIC ISLAND STYLE TO A TROPICALLY THEMED TREE.



### Directions:

Shape the clay into a rectangle of approximately 1.5x6x5 inches. Pinch the clay about 1.5 inches from the top of the rectangle to create a raised brow. Shape a new piece of clay into a triangle about 2 inches long and gently press it into the rectangle just beneath the brow. Use a craft knife to cut a horizontal line partially through the clay about 2 inches from the bottom of the rectangle. Gently pinch and shape above and below the line to create a mouth.

Lightly press any hard edges into smoother transitions. Use a pencil and the craft knife to create indentations, scratches and imperfections in the figure. Pierce a hole with the pencil at the top quarter inch of the rectangle.

Allow the clay to dry fully, according to the instructions. Spray-paint the back and sides of the figure and allow it to dry. Spray the front and sides of the figure and allow it to dry again.

Cut the twine to a 6-inch length and tie it into a loop. Insert the loop through the pierced hole, with the knot at back of figure. Trim any excess twine. Display the moai on a tree branch or attach it to a vibrant, island-themed gift.

### COHESIVE COLLECTIONS

For those of us who collect vintage items, displaying them is half the fun.

My own "miscellany" varies from bottles and vases to mugs and figures. Throughout the year, they're displayed in different areas around the house. However, for this season, I'm bringing a few unlikely "friends" together for a holiday gathering.

Try these tips to create a display area that feels connected to the surrounding holiday décor:

**Group by color.** Using one or two colors from your tree scheme, gather items from around your home to display on a cabinet, shelf or surface. Regardless of the subject, color can be the common bond that ties the display and the room together.

THIS VINTAGE BROYHILL BRASILIA ROOM DIVIDER OFFERS AMPLE DISPLAY SPACE FOR A HOST OF OBJECTS GROUPED BY COLOR TO COORDINATE WITH HOLIDAY DÉCOR.







## TROPICAL SHRIMP CEVICHE

**Yield:** Serves 6 to 8

**Time:** 40 minutes preparation (plus overnight chilling)

### INGREDIENTS

1 lb. cooked shrimp (thawed, tail removed and cut into ½-inch dice)  
 1½ cups lime juice (one dozen limes)  
 1 tsp. minced garlic  
 2 Tbsp. MFN Blanc Chardonnay  
 2 Tbsp. cilantro  
 1 tsp. Alaea sea salt  
 1 mango (cut into ½-inch dice)  
 1 jalapeño (cut into ½-inch dice)  
 ½ red bell pepper (cut into ½-inch dice)  
 ½ sweet vidalia onion  
 ¼ fresh pineapple (cored and cut into ½-inch dice)  
 1 tsp. toasted sesame seeds  
 1 tsp. sesame oil  
 Baguette or taro chips for serving  
 2 Tbsp. mayonnaise (optional)

### DIRECTIONS

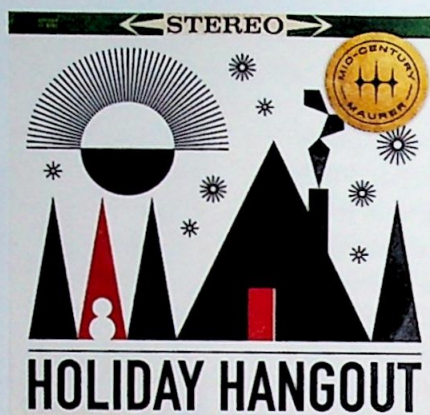
Place the shrimp, lime juice and garlic in a large bowl with a lid. Make sure the shrimp is covered in lime juice for proper marinating. Refrigerate overnight.

Stir together the chardonnay, cilantro and salt in a separate large bowl. Drain the shrimp and reserve ¼ cup of lime juice. Gently fold together the shrimp and lime juice with the chardonnay mixture. Season with salt. Add the mango, jalapeño, bell pepper, onion, pineapple and sesame seeds to the mixture. Stir together to distribute all the ingredients evenly. Cover and return to the refrigerator for one hour or more.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees (F). Cut a baguette into ¼-inch-thick slices. Lightly spread both sides of the bread with mayonnaise. Place on a baking sheet lined with parchment and bake for 10 minutes on each side or until lightly golden. Remove the baguette from the oven and let it cool completely. Set aside.

Spoon approximately 1 tablespoon of the mixture onto prepared toasts. Lightly dash with sesame oil and serve on a platter. (For a less-formal approach, try serving ceviche in a bowl with taro chips for scooping.)

**Tip:** For a vegetarian option, substitute the shrimp with peeled, diced cucumber. For those with a distaste for cilantro, replace it with flat-leaf Italian parsley.



FEEL THE HOLIDAY VIBES ON SPOTIFY. SEARCH "MIDCENTURYMAURER" FOR A LIBRARY OF VINTAGE TUNES, INCLUDING A NOT-SO-TYPICAL HOLIDAY HANGOUT PLAYLIST.

**LEFT:** THE SWEET, SALTY AND ACIDIC FLAVORS IN THIS TROPICAL SHRIMP CEVICHE PAIR PERFECTLY WITH A BOTTLE OF MY FAVORITE NEIGHBOR BLANC.

**Incorporate variety.** Gather a diverse range of sizes, shapes and subjects into the display for visual interest and a curated look.

**Enhance with light.** A warm, dim light creates a cozy winter mood that focuses on your collection, making it feel intentional to the space. Install a cabinet light, or incorporate a small spot lamp to invoke a seasonal atmosphere.

**Add holiday flair.** Create a connection between your tree and your display by incorporating a few sprigs of greenery and color. Place evergreen stems in a vessel, or lay larger branches on a surface. A handful of ornaments in a clear glass container will easily complement seasonal décor. The key is to add just a few touches of holiday elegance so that the focus remains on the collection of items and how they relate to the tree color scheme.

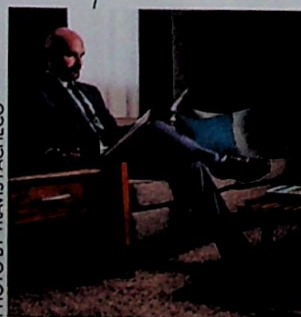
### PAIRINGS IN PARADISE

Treat your guests to a scintillating holiday party with exclusive wines from My Favorite Neighbor, along with this vibrant, flavorful appetizer—tropical shrimp ceviche.

The 2020 MFN Blanc is the star of the show in this pairing, because it's served chilled in the glass and is also incorporated into the delicious ceviche marinade.

Explore the rich aromas and flavors of stone fruit and brioche in this 100 percent chardonnay, which is paired with hints of fresh mango, lime, crisp, sweet onion and jalapeño in the ceviche. Your tastebuds are about to embark on a delightful tropical escape. Cheers! 🍷

PHOTO BY TRAVIS PACHECO



Robert Maurer is the creative director and residential designer at Commuter Industries. In this column, he shares highlights from his home that are geared toward design, entertaining, restorations, home improvements, recipes, décor and more. We hope you'll find inspiration in these features that you can apply to your own mid-century home and way of life. Find more project inspiration at [midcenturymaurer.com](http://midcenturymaurer.com).



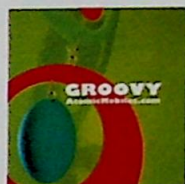
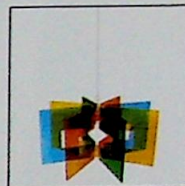
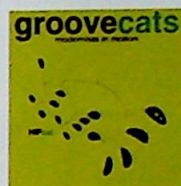
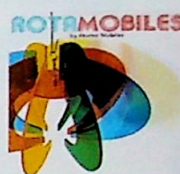
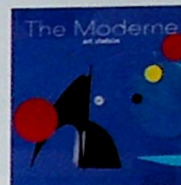
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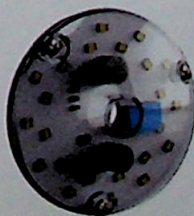


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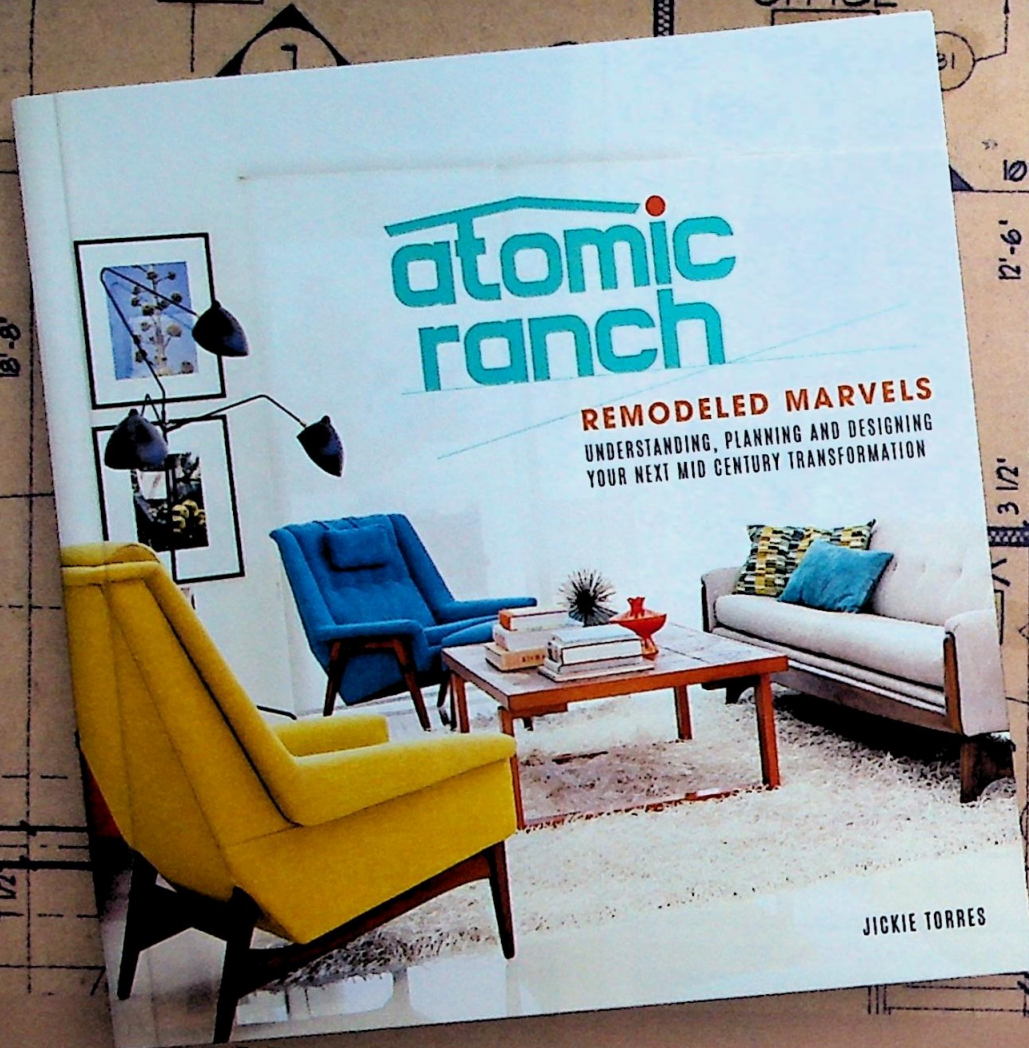


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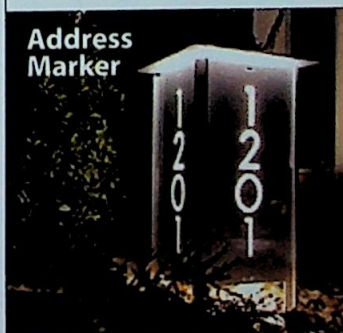
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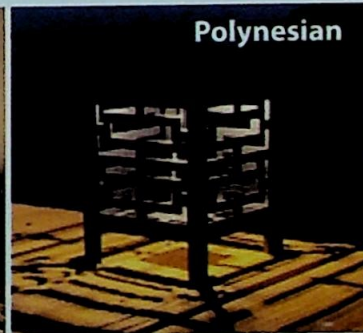


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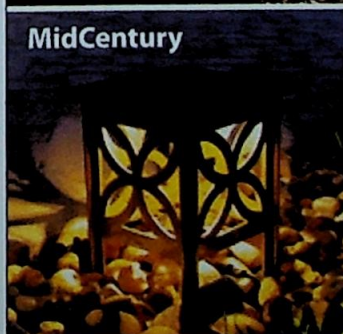
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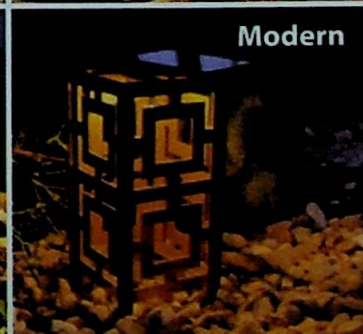
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Modern



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JESSICA AND SAM'S HOUSE WAS PART OF A "PRESERVATION IDAHO HERITAGE HOME TOUR" IN 2017. A FEW DAYS AFTER THE TOUR, A WOMAN KNOCKED AT THE LUQUES' DOOR TO GIVE THEM THE DREXEL SURFBOARD COFFEE TABLETOP THAT'S NOW SITTING NEXT TO THE PINK TREE. "[SHE] HANDED ME THE TOP, SAYING, 'THIS BELONGS IN YOUR HOME.' IT DIDN'T HAVE THE ORIGINAL BASE, SO WE IMPROVISED, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD LOVE TO EVENTUALLY SOURCE THE ORIGINAL BASE," JESSICA NOTES.



Written by Lindsay Jarvis  
Photographed by Allison Corona  
Styled by Jessica Luque

# Shiny —and— *Bright*

Unique original features and a mix of vintage and new décor make this 1958 home sparkle for the holidays—and beyond.

**IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE IN THIS 1958 HOME**, situated in the Randolph-Robertson subdivision of Boise, Idaho.

The neighborhood was created during the post-World War II/ Korean War "boom" and was named after the men who developed the area: W. Orth Randolph and the Robertson brothers.







ABOVE, LEFT: THE VINTAGE DOOR WAS PAINTED ORANGE AND IS ADORNED HERE WITH A HOLIDAY WREATH TO GREET VISITORS. JESSICA AND SAM SOURCED LOCALLY QUARRIED OAKLEY FLAGSTONE FOR THE ENTRYWAY FLOORING; IT'S A STONE COMMONLY USED IN OTHER MID-CENTURY HOMES IN THE AREA. "IT'S NOT PERFECT, BUT MOST PEOPLE THINK IT WAS ORIGINALLY HERE, SO I GUESS WE DID OKAY," JESSICA SAYS. ABOVE, RIGHT: "THE TINSEL SILVER TREE ISN'T VINTAGE, BUT WE HAVE HAD IT FOR YEARS, AND IT WAS MY FIRST ATTEMPT TO GET THE COVETED 'ALUMINUM TREE' LOOK," JESSICA SHARES. THE CHAIR WAS AN ESTATE SALE FIND, AND JESSICA MADE THE PILLOW OUT OF VINTAGE 1970S FABRIC.



After walking through this mid-century gem in 2012, Jessica Luque, interior designer and owner of Stussi Luque Design, along with her husband, Sam, knew it would be their "forever home."

"We immediately fell in love with all the original features throughout the home; and, because I'm an interior designer, I had a vision for what we could keep and what we could improve," says Jessica.

Filling the home wasn't an issue for Jessica and Sam, who had been collecting mid-century furniture and décor for years before buying the house.

"We never had a huge budget or super-fancy, famous pieces, but we did collect affordable pieces we loved," says Jessica. "We spent a lot of time shopping at thrift stores and estates—that is, when you could still find mid-century treasures no one else wanted. Our friends joke that we finally bought the house to fit our collection of mid-century décor!"

## A LOVING HISTORY

The home was built by Al Smart, along with the original (and only previous) homeowner, Bill Stith. Bill and his wife, Roberta, lived in the home with their three children until they passed away. Many unique, original features shine on in the home, including the kitchen, dining room banquette bar, living room cabinetry and sandstone fireplace.

"All our surrounding neighbors knew the family well and have shared stories with us about the Stiths," Jessica shares.





RIGHT: WHEN JESSICA'S COLLECTION OF VINTAGE PYREX AND SERVING DISHES AREN'T BEING USED FOR A HOLIDAY PARTY, THEY'RE SHOWCASED IN THE DINING ROOM HUTCH—ORIGINAL TO THE HOME AND STILL BOASTING ITS COPPER "BOOMERANG" HARDWARE. A MID-CENTURY CANDLESTICK HOLDER MAKES A CHEERFUL CENTERPIECE FOR THE VINTAGE DINING TABLE AND EAMES SHELL CHAIRS (ALL FROM BOISE VINTAGE).

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: JESSICA HAS BEEN COLLECTING BOTTLE-BRUSH TREES FOR YEARS, AND THEY ARE DISPLAYED HERE AS PART OF A NORWEGIAN VILLAGE HOLIDAY SCENE. THE FIREPLACE, BUILT-IN CLOCK AND WOOD PANELING ARE ALL ORIGINAL TO THE HOME.







ABOVE, LEFT: EVERYONE IN THE FAMILY GETS ONE OF JESSICA'S HANDMADE STOCKINGS. THE EMBELLISHED CROCHET STARS AND PASTEL FELT COLORS ADD A BIT OF RETRO STYLE. THE SANDSTONE FIREPLACE IS ORIGINAL TO THE

## HOW TO FIND VINTAGE MCM HOLIDAY DÉCOR ITEMS

Here are some tips for sourcing vintage seasonal treasures:

- Whenever possible, sourcing your vintage finds locally saves on both packaging and costly shipping, and it's also environmentally friendly. Try searching for nearby pieces on Craigslist or local Facebook groups, and make sure to keep checking year-round. You never know when someone might need to off-load a whole collection of vintage treasures.
- As with finding any vintage treasures, consistent hunting is key: Enjoy the search, and search often! Visit your favorite antique malls, swap meets, flea markets, etc. right after the holidays to catch sales.
- Are you looking for something specific? Try searching on Etsy or eBay, but be sure to thoroughly read the description, shipping information and seller reviews before purchasing. Don't be afraid to ask the seller questions.
- Think outside the Christmas "box" (er, "present"?), and remember that certain colors can read "holiday" if styled correctly. Greens, reds, golds, whites and silver hues already in your home can be a part of the holiday display.



HOME, AS IS THE CHECKERBOARD MAHOGANY WALL PANELING, BUILT-IN BRASS CLOCK AND DIRECTIONAL COPPER CAN LIGHTS. THE PLYCRAFT SIDE CHAIR WAS A BOISE VINTAGE FIND AND IS SAM'S FAVORITE PLACE TO SIT.

ABOVE, RIGHT: A VINTAGE ALUMINUM TREE IS ADORNED WITH A MIX OF VINTAGE AND NEW ORNAMENTS. SAM PAINTED THE MURAL—WITH INSPIRATION FROM @BANYANBRIDGES (RACHAEL JACKSON) AND USING COLORS TO COMPLEMENT THE 1970S VIBE OF THE BAR. TO THE LEFT, A SUNKEN ENTERTAINMENT ROOM/BAR WAS ADDED IN 1975. THE PLANS FOR THE ADDITION WERE DRAWN BY BILL STITH, WHO WAS BOTH THE ORIGINAL HOMEOWNER AND BUILDER.

## ROCKIN' AROUND THE TINSEL TREE

When the holidays roll around, Jessica and Sam love to pull out their vintage ornaments and décor, sourced from antique shops, yard sales, and friends and family (including a whole set of pink glass globe ornaments from Sam's grandmother that he inherited after she passed away). In addition to having a real tree each year, "the pink-and-silver tinsel tree, as well as the aluminum trees, always come out. They feel very fitting to the 1950s vibe of the home," Jessica notes.

To keep the cheer going throughout the season, the Luque family loves to listen to records while cozying up by the fire or decorating their trees. Jessica keeps her collection of vintage Pyrex, along with serving trays and bakeware, in the original dining room hutch. She loves to use these for all to enjoy during Christmas parties at the home. 🍷





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# Midwinter Modern

Iva Kravitz of open digital archive USModernist highlights three prominent Scandinavian architects and their homes, which exemplify the best of the fusion of MCM and Scandi design.

Written by Iva Kravitz

**FOR MID CENTURY MODERN FANS**, perhaps nothing encapsulates a wintery vibe better than an infusion of Scandinavian design. The influence and interplay between the minimalist and organic elements of this style and mid-mod architecture and design cannot be overstated.

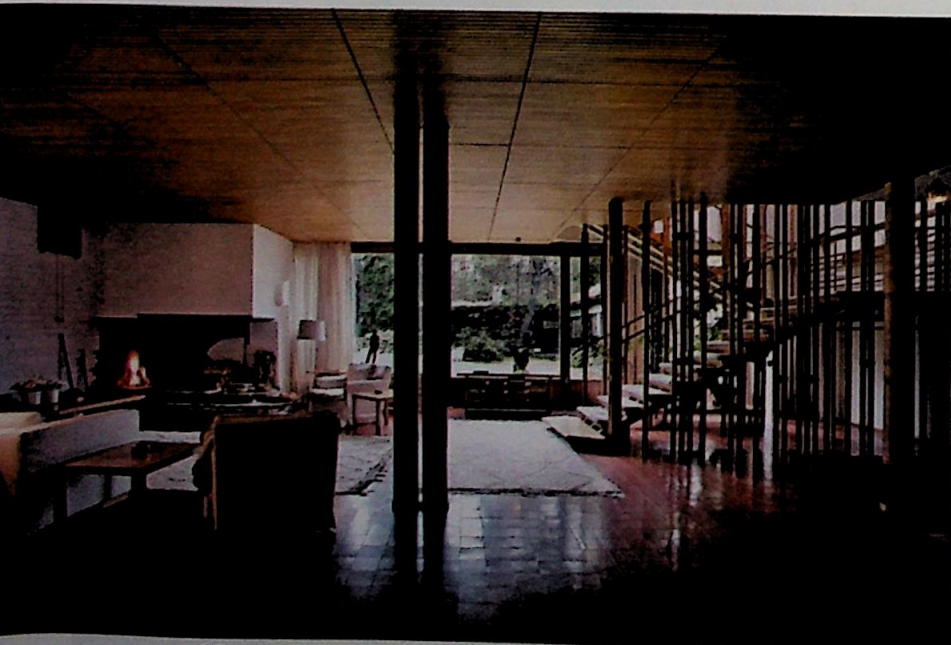
While there are several notable Scandinavian architects who contributed greatly to MCM design, we will briefly feature three: Alvar Aalto, Bjarke Ingels and Eero Saarinen. These architects' houses comprise a fascinating mix of transparency and warmth.



## ALVAR AALTO: INTEGRATION

Finnish architect Alvar Aalto is known for his architecture, as well as a prodigious amount of furniture and product design. He is often regarded as the most influential architect of "Nordic Modernism," because his ethos was to design a total, entirely integrated work of art. Aalto and his wife, Aino Aalto, designed the building, its interior, furniture, lamps and accessories. In fact, the "Aalto Vase" is still in production.

Here, we showcase the Villa Mairea, which many consider Aalto's turning point from traditional to "International Modernist" and strong personal style. Designed for Maire and Harry Gullichsen—who, incidentally, founded Artek to sell lighting and furniture designed by the Aaltos—this 1939 home, located in Noormarkku, Finland, is an L-shaped plan that encloses a pool, along with gardens that extend into the forest. The interiors showcase the Gullichsens' extensive art collection and are beautiful compositions of wood, brick and stone. The Villa Mairea is open to public tours.



ABOVE, LEFT: THIS PHOTO SHOWS THE SIDE OF THE HOUSE. THE INTERIOR FORMS A COURTYARD ENCLOSING A PRIVATE GARDEN AND SWIMMING POOL. AALTO FOUND A FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN CURVED ARCHITECTURAL FORMS THAT CONTRASTED WITH THE RIGID, STRAIGHT LINES OF MACHINES AND INDUSTRY. (PHOTO: RAUNO TRÄSKELIN, COURTESY OF MAIREA FOUNDATION)

LEFT: ASTOUNDINGLY, EACH OF THE WOODEN COLUMNS ADJACENT TO THE LIVING ROOM OF THE VILLA MAIREA ARE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT IN THEIR FORMS AND SURFACES, THEREBY HIGHLIGHTING THE DESIGNERS' REFERENCE TO TREES AND NATURAL RHYTHMS. (PHOTO: RAUNO TRÄSKELIN, COURTESY OF MAIREA FOUNDATION)





TOP: THE DESIGNERS ENVISIONED HILL HOUSE AS A MODEL FOR AN ALMOST UNIVERSAL HOUSE: LOW COST AND EFFICIENT. A GREEN ROOF, PLANTED WITH SEDUM, IS BOTH EASY TO MAINTAIN AND INSULATING. (PHOTO: TIM WAHLFRIED BIG BJARKE INGELS GROUP)

## BJARKE INGELS: FUNCTIONALITY

Arguably the most famous architect practicing today, Bjarke Ingels grew up in Copenhagen, Denmark. However, his ideas are as expansive as the globe. His firm, Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG), is known for large-scale projects such as museums, apartment buildings and offices. Nevertheless, we found a house he designed in 2016 as a prototype of an efficient, high-functioning, low-energy home.

M-2, or Hill House, showcases sustainable design and construction. BIG describes it as using flexible materials and a structural system that can be built almost anywhere. The unusual contour of the home—set into the land—and the fact that the roof is covered in sedum causes the house to appear as a hill in the landscape. Huge glass sections on one side provide light and views from the living room and kitchen. The other façade is a wooden surface that encloses the bedrooms and bathrooms. The materials, planning and size of the Hill House design are very flexible.



ABOVE, RIGHT: THE GESTURE OF HILL HOUSE IS BASICALLY A SYMMETRICAL CURVE THAT RISES TWO STORIES UP FROM, AND DOWN TO, THE GROUND TO ENCLOSE A MODERN LIVING SPACE. FROM THE OUTSIDE, THE HOUSE APPEARS AS A HILL IN THE LANDSCAPE. (PHOTO: ULRİK REEH & BIG [BJARKE INGELS GROUP])

ABOVE, LEFT: ONE OF HILL HOUSE'S FAÇADES IS ENTIRELY GLASS, LETTING LIGHT INTO EVERY ROOM. THE HOME'S FLEXIBLE MATERIALS AND STRUCTURAL SYSTEM ENABLE IT TO BE DEPLOYED ALMOST ANYWHERE. (PHOTO: BIG [BJARKE INGELS GROUP])

## ABOUT USMODERNIST

In addition to its Masters Gallery of houses, nonprofit USModernist hosts a second archive of virtually every architecture magazine published in the United States in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and even goes back to 1893. Its 4 million pages of architecture and design include ads that have been a resource for millions of students, professors, researchers, writers, librarians, editors, architects, interior designers and real estate brokers who are interested in preserving modernist houses. Learn more at [usmodernist.org](http://usmodernist.org).





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TOP: A DECORATIVE GATE BY ALEXANDER GIRARD CONTRASTS WITH THE SIMPLE GEOMETRIES, A FLAT ROOF, GLASS FRONT AND STRAIGHTFORWARD MATERIALS THAT SIGNAL AN INTERNATIONAL MID CENTURY MODERN STYLE. (PHOTO: HADLEY FRUITS FOR LANDMARK COLUMBUS FOUNDATION)



## EERO SAARINEN: GRANDEUR

Eero Saarinen is also a native of Finland, although he immigrated to the United States in 1923. He grew up within the community of the Cranbrook Academy of Art, where his father taught and where he befriended exciting designers who would become icons of modernist design—fellow students Charles and Ray Eames and Florence Knoll. Besides architecture, Saarinen designed furniture. In fact, virtually every mid-mod enthusiast knows his “Tulip” set of chairs and tables.

Most of Saarinen’s work was commercial and large-scale, such as the TWA terminal at New York’s JFK Airport.

There are only five Saarinen houses on the USModernist website. One that’s easily visitable is the Miller House in Columbus, Ohio. Built in 1957, the home, with interiors designed by Alexander Girard and landscape designed by Dan Kiley, is admired for its simple geometries, open plan, glass walls and a notably celebrated conversation pit in the living room, which is decorated with lush fabrics designed by Girard. ☼

ABOVE, TOP LEFT: AFTER SHE INHERITED THE HOUSE, XENIA MILLER LEFT IT TO THE INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM OF ART, WHICH DID A FULL, \$2 MILLION RESTORATION OF THE ARCHITECTURE, INTERIORS AND GARDENS. THE MILLER HOUSE, NOW A DESIGNATED NATIONAL LANDMARK, IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH TOURS WITH THE LANDSCAPE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION FROM MARCH THROUGH DECEMBER EACH YEAR. (PHOTO: HADLEY FRUITS FOR LANDMARK COLUMBUS FOUNDATION)

ABOVE, TOP RIGHT: ANY FAN OF MODERNIST AMERICAN INTERIORS WILL IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZE THIS LIVING ROOM, WITH ITS ICONIC, SUNKEN CONVERSATION PIT THAT’S JOYOUSLY COVERED IN ALEXANDER GIRARD-PRINT PILLOWS. (PHOTO: HADLEY FRUITS FOR LANDMARK COLUMBUS FOUNDATION)



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# resources

## Living Color, Page 24

To see more of Elin's work, visit her on Instagram: @exactlydesigns.

### Guest Room/Daughter's Bedroom

**Pillow, wall art, decorative throw, teak handles:** Etsy; etsy.com  
**Carpet:** Home Depot; homedepot.com

### Bathroom

**Towels:** The Company Store; thecompanystore.com/official  
**Mirror:** Rejuvenation; rejuvenation.com  
**Atomic "starburst" wallpaper:** Spoonflower; spoonflower.com  
**Shower faucet:** AllModern; allmodern.com

### Living Room

**Table lamp:** Sazerac Stitches; sazeracstitches.com  
**Sheepskin throw blanket:** Etsy; etsy.com  
**Eames-style lounge chair:** Urban Finishing; urbanfinishing.net

### Guest Bedroom

**Pillow, pillow cover, art prints:** Etsy; etsy.com  
**Wallpaper:** Wallpaper Waris; wallpaperfromthe70s.com  
**Bed:** West Elm; westelm.com

### Kitchen

**Faucet, pot-filler:** Moen; moen.com  
**Bar stool:** AllModern; allmodern.com  
**Drawer pull:** Rejuvenation; rejuvenation.com  
**Pendant lights:** YLighting; ylighting.com  
**Tile:** Fireclay Tile; fireclaytile.com

### Powder Room

**Tealight holder:** Rouse Home; rousehome.com  
**Art print:** Society6; society6.com  
**Frame:** Project 62; target.com

### Master Bedroom

**Pillow, pillow cover:** Etsy; etsy.com  
**Bed:** Rove Concepts; roveconcepts.com  
**Dresser:** Decaso; chairish.com  
**Coverlet:** CB2; cb2.com  
**Firefly upholstery:** Knoll Textiles; knoll.com

## Walk the Line, Page 40

### Kitchen

**Faucet:** Kallista "Juxtapose"; www.kalista.com  
**Hideaway hood:** Zephyr "Pisa"; www.zephyronline.com  
**Countertop:** Caesarstone "Clamshell"; www.caesarstoneus.com  
**Backsplash tile:** Ann Sacks; www.annsacks.com  
**Hearth tile:** Fiandre "Brown Fjord"; www.granitifiandre.com  
**Paint:** Sherwin Williams "Origami White" (SW7636); www.sherwin-williams.com  
**Counter stool:** Design Within Reach "About a Stool"; www.dwr.com  
**Terrazzo LVP floor:** Interface "Walk the Aisle" in "Pumice"; www.interface.com

## Blended, Balanced and Bold, Page 54

To see more of Charles Danek's work, visit his website—[beautifulthing.net](http://beautifulthing.net)—or follow him on Instagram: @charlesdanek.

### Kitchen

**Counter stools:** Ikea (circa 2009); ikea.com  
**Pendant light with globe (replica of an original):** Love It Lighting; loveitlighting.com  
**Floating display case:** Eichler "Coffin" with glass sliders instead of original coated Masonite

**Blender:** Vintage Osterizer, purchased new by Charles's mother in 1968

**Splashboard-mounted soap dispenser:** Vintage NOS (new old stock) Boraxo; eBay; ebay.com

**Refrigerator:** Vintage 1947 General Electric; Facebook Marketplace

**Copper chicken Jello molds:** From Charles's grandmother

### Informal Dining Area

**Dining set:** Vintage Burke; Craigslist; craigslist.org

**Hanging light:** Ikea (circa 2014); ikea.com

**Ceramics:** From Charles's high-school art class (tall, white vase made by Charles's teacher, Jean Parsons; Charles made the other two)

**Wood shelf:** Ikea (circa 2009); ikea.com

**Owl prints:** By Kaoru Kawano. The one on the left was an eBay purchase; ebay.com. The one on the right was gifted by a friend.

**Farmhouse-style chair:** Vintage, unmarked thrift-store purchase

**Hanging wall clock:** Someone's craft project that incorporates a salvaged grandfather clock face; eBay; ebay.com

### Formal Living Room, Formal Dining Area

**Bench:** Vintage, unmarked John Keal-style collapsible slatted bench; thrift-store purchase

**Ivy wall hanging:** From Charles's grandmother  
**Bronze, marble and wood sculpture:** Made by Charles in college

**Corner hutch:** From Charles's grandparents

**Blue abstract painting:** Painted by Charles  
**Sputnik chandelier:** Modern reproduction; eBay; ebay.com

**Chess set:** 1962 Alcoa Aluminum; purchased from a Detroit pawn shop's website

**Dining set:** Vintage Hans Wegner-style; purchased from a furniture restoration shop

**Vintage wicker-back chair pair:** Vintage, unmarked; from Charles's grandmother

**Arco light:** Reproduction; eBay; ebay.com

**Piano:** Baldwin Acrosonic, Danish-Modern style; found in a piano store in Kansas City, Missouri

**Framed violin family-tree print:** Won in a charity auction

**Violin:** 1897 by Andrew Hyde, Boston, Massachusetts

**Ceramic cats:** Norcrest (Set #631); eBay; ebay.com

**Charcoal drawing:** "2 Hammers"; made by Charles  
**Receiver:** Vintage Philco set; thrift-store purchase

**Green shag rug:** Carpet remnant from film production (converted into an area rug by sewing a boarder along its edges)

**Wood low-back chair:** Purchased from a furniture restoration shop

**Eames celery-colored shell chair:** Reproduction; Modernica; modernica.net

**End table at right:** eBay; ebay.com

**End table lamp at right:** Gift from neighbor

**Black leather sofa:** Ikea (2014); ikea.com; bespoke legs from Etsy; etsy.com

**Fox pillow:** Target; target.com

**Painting:** Painted by Charles

**Coffee table:** Unmarked, wood spiral with glass top; on loan from a friend

**Wood rocking chair:** Purchased from furniture restoration shop

**End table at left:** From Charles's grandmother

**Table lamp at left:** Craigslist; craigslist.org

**Hanging pendant lamp:** eBay; ebay.com

**Fireplace poker set:** Vintage; unmarked garage sale purchase

**Three-head floor lamp:** Lamps Plus; lampsplus.com

**Outdoor patio set:** Vintage; unmarked Craigslist purchase; craigslist.org

**Umbrella:** Wayfair; wayfair.com

### Front Exterior

1964 Claude Oakland design for Joseph Eichler  
1965 Porsche 912

### Main Bedroom

**Dresser:** Vintage, unmarked; Craigslist; craigslist.org

**Bronze sculpture, intaglio print, charcoal self-portrait:** Made by Charles

**Nightstand pair:** Vintage, unmarked; Craigslist; craigslist.org

**Hanging acrylic light:** eBay; ebay.com

**Wall sculpture:** "Money" by Curtis Jere; eBay; ebay.com

**Wooden Buddha sculpture:** From Charles's grandmother

**Headboard:** Modified West Elm piece left behind

by a music video crew; westelm.com

**Bedsprad:** Crate & Barrel; crateandbarrel.com

**Purple pillows:** Ikea; ikea.com

**Small "jungle" crib pillows:** Baby shower gift

**Fan:** Vornado; Amazon; amazon.com

**Guitar:** Vintage 1956 Rickenbacker Combo 400 in "Cloverfield Green"

### Master Bedroom Sitting Area

**Bench:** Vintage Knoll; purchased from a friend

**Green pillows:** Ikea; ikea.com

**Rug:** Wool retro-pattern area rug; Wayfair; wayfair.com

**Table, intaglio prints:** Made by Charles

**Shelving:** Vintage Cadaverous, freestanding, three bays; eBay; ebay.com

**Record player:** Vintage Garrard from Charles's grandmother

**Lunch box radio:** Vintage loan from a friend

**Pillows:** Los Angeles Chinatown import; store purchase

### Eichler Courtyard Atrium

**Outdoor chairs:** Steel-and-canvas "Butterfly" chairs; Pier 1; pier1.com

**Interior bench:** Reproduction George Nelson bench; yard sale find

**Interior dresser:** Vintage Drexel; yard sale find

### Office

**Chair:** Vintage Florence Knoll; purchased directly from architect and original Eichler owner Roger Bown

**Desk:** Vintage, unmarked; Craigslist; craigslist.org

**Credenza:** Eames 1x2 Storage Unit by Modernica; Craigslist; craigslist.org

**Yellow floor lamp:** Vintage "eyeball" orb floor lamp in the style of Robert Sonneman; Craigslist; craigslist.org

**Lithograph:** Gift from artist Whitney Brooks Abbott

**Framed medals:** 2006 re-strikes of 1781 "Libertas Americana" from the Paris Mint

**Hanging lamp, built-ins:** Ikea (circa 2009); ikea.com

**High-back bar stools:** Reproduction Bertoia; eBay; ebay.com

**Bar stool seat covers:** Brown corduroy, generic fit; Amazon; amazon.com

**Bar:** Ikea metal shelf with single Ikea table leg (circa 2009); ikea.com

**Framed portrait:** Gift from photographer Christopher Wray-McCann

**Table lamp:** From Charles's great grandparents' farm (1920s)

**Radio:** Novelty radio (1990s)

**Humidor:** Antique; from Charles's great grandparents' farm

**Gold pan:** Supply shop; Charles used it once and liked how it rusted, so he clear-coated it.

**Scale:** Late-19th-/early-20th-century apothecary scale by Henry Troemner; gift



# lastlook

## Gifts That Keep on Giving

Alexander Calder's enormous steel monuments can be found around the globe.

Written by Ian McMaster

Photo by Michael Serraillier via Getty Images

**Alexander Calder will always be remembered** as a titan of Mid Century Modern art. His use of materials, shapes, bold colors and environment defined his work and has influenced sculptors, painters, interior designers and graphic artists to this day.

Calder's paintings, wire sculptures and mobiles can still be viewed in renowned exhibits internationally. However, it is his public monuments that are his true gifts to the world.

From Fresno, California, to Nagoya, Japan, Calder's massive steel monuments beautify public spaces around the globe.

"Flamingo," a striking, 53-foot-high, 50-ton steel monument, adorns the Federal Plaza in downtown Chicago and was the first work commissioned by the General Services Administration. In Sidney, Australia, "Crossed Blades" was erected in Australia Square at the request of Calder's friend, architect Harry Seidler. "Totem-Saché," located in the village of Saché, France, was a personal gift to the village by Calder after his 20-year stay.

In this photo, we see a bundled-up Alexander Calder proudly posing in front of his version of a Christmas tree, "Gallows and Lollipops," a monument gifted to Yale University by an anonymous donor.



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