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# Contents winter 2016



## FEATURES

### 26 Carolina Blue

An abandoned home in Charlotte ended a year-long search for the perfect midcentury home, leading to a rejuvenation process with jazzy and thoroughly stunning results.

### 38 A New Day

Discovering local Midcentury Modern homes leads one family to forge an unlikely friendship, find and authentically renovate their current hilltop home.

### 50 Curb Appeal

An architect and designer couple renovate a Denver MCM home. From the moment the house comes into view, the large windows and slat siding warmly proclaims the home's midcentury roots.

### 56 Modern Love

Peek into interiors from *Living Retro* and discover your mid mod personality.

### 60 Seasonal Warm Up

Get cozy the mid mod way and learn about the iconic Malm fireplace.

### 64 Sam Maloof

His enduring wood furniture takes an organic and sculptural approach for which he is famous. Trace his journey from the woodshop to the Smithsonian.

### 68 Woof Ranch

An architecturally trained couple applies mid mod principles to create pitch perfect post and beam dog houses you may just drool over along with your pooch.

### 75 The Cat's Meow

An artist incorporates midcentury furnishing and sensibilities into her whimsical retro scenes which feature one lucky black cat.



## DEPARTMENTS

- 10 Editor's Letter
- 14 Homepage
- 16 Cool Stuff
- 19 Period Picks
- 20 Digging Modern
- 22 Atomic Kitchens
- 78 Resources
- 79 Advertisers
- 82 Last Look



### cover

Cover photo by JC Buck  
Cover design by Gabby Oh







## Favorite Stories

**T**here is one piece of midcentury furniture in my home that stands out as an unbeatable favorite: my nightstand.

My husband and I found the nightstand while wandering the furniture section at a local thrift store. As he eyed a record player cabinet and worked to open the lid, I wandered—spotting a three-drawer wonder that I knew we wouldn't be leaving without.

The drawers were hanging open, having been shoved into the wrong slots and damaging the wood tracks. It was scratched, dirty, in desperate need of love and had a \$12 price tag. I pulled the top drawer out a little further to spot dovetailing and a stamp—American by Martinsville. I announced, "I just found the perfect little nightstand."

Perfection waned when we got my walnut treasure out to the car. As we began pulling the jammed drawers out to safely carry it home, bugs scattered everywhere. We danced in the parking lot—stomping on them as they ran every which direction, pouring seemingly endlessly out of my beloved little nightstand. Once we had controlled the infestation, I darted inside the store to get black trash bags. We wrapped it up, I scrubbed away the itchy feeling, and left its restoration to my husband.

Not long after, he presented it to me once again—clean, lovely and without evidence of a single bug. Even with a few scratches, it sits by the bed looking lovely, and to be honest, I like them.


The scratches remind me that this piece has history. It sat in someone else's home, hosting other cups of coffee, conveying someone else's style. As I put together this issue, I thought about those stories, the ones we can't know about our favorite furnishings' past as well as the ones that we can share since they've come into our lives.

The winter issue is much the same. These stories are a favorite to someone, somewhere. These homes contain their owners' favorite things. Inside, you'll find great products that are likely to become favorites (pages 16 and 19), read the tale of how our favorite collector, Chad Baker, amassed an unusual pool of art (page 20) as well as peek into three retro-loving homes (pages 26, 38 and 50).

The only thing missing here is you. So tell me, what is your favorite midcentury find? Email me, tag me in an Instagram post or share it on our Facebook page. I want to hear your story.

Sarah Jane Stone

### Get connected!

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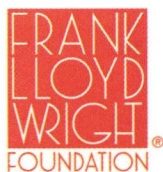
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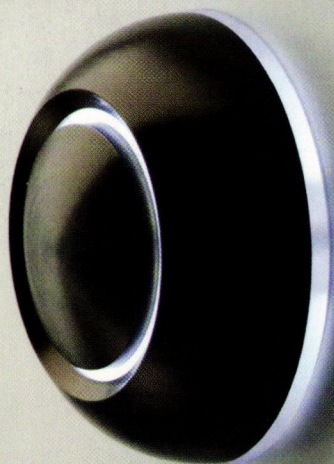
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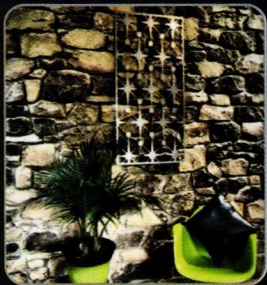
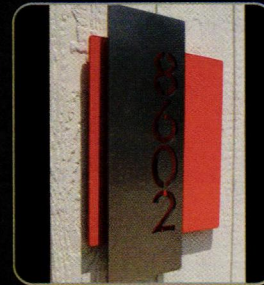
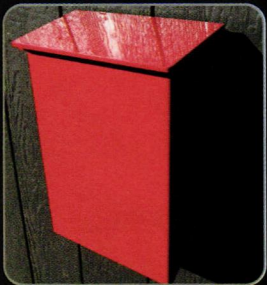


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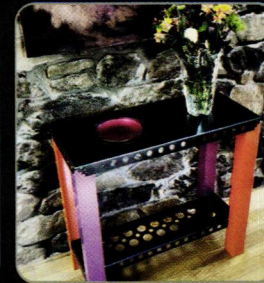


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# homepage

By Jolene Nolte

When our readers send us photos of their atomic ranches, we can't help but want to put them on our refrigerator.

## Harvey Park in Denver, Colorado

Welcome to this atomic neighborhood of the Mile High City featuring midcentury Cliff May and Franklin Burns homes. The neighborhood sprang up in the '50s, and today it enjoys a diverse, mid mod-loving community. We happened to stumble upon two amazing readers living here in 1955 homes.

## Danielle + Cole in a Harvey Park Cliff May

Danielle and Cole St. Peter live in a 1955 Cliff May. "We are proud to be the third homeowners," Danielle says. "We recently completed a loving restoration of our home and are having fun outfitting it with midcentury furnishings."

Danielle says they've enjoyed the hunt, including "at neighborhood estate sales (from original homeowners from the '50s). It feels great that we can give their treasures a new life with us, while keeping them close to home."

## Erin Bird in a Harvey Park Franklin Burns

Meanwhile, just three blocks away, Erin Bird and her husband live in a Franklin Burns model Erin explains that while Cliff May is more well-known, Burns models

deserve appreciation just as much: "[Burns] created his take on May's post and beam ranch after working closely with the architect. So while we don't have the celebrity name, our home was built with the same attention to detail, outdoor/indoor bridge and optimization of functional space while keeping a small footprint."

Their home includes mostly midcentury originals from around the country. A couple exceptions still fit the MCM vernacular, such as a CB2 chair and Room & Board couch. Erin explains the living room also shows

that "since moving to Denver from the Midwest, we have embraced southwest décor aesthetics and are incorporating earthy rusts, oranges and pinks, along with plenty of cacti, vintage ceramics, wood and geometrics."

## Reseda, California

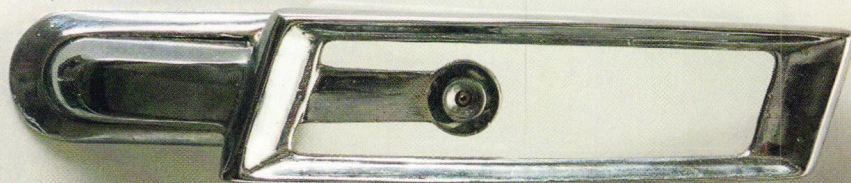
Daniel Feldman and Kaley Venable "finally get to invest in classic midcentury pieces we've loved from afar for so long," Daniel says. The living room stars period appropriate furniture from floor to ceiling, including a Shag Rug by CB2 and fiberglass Eames rocking chair.



ST. PETER HOME IN DENVER, COLORADO



BIRD HOME IN DENVER, COLORADO



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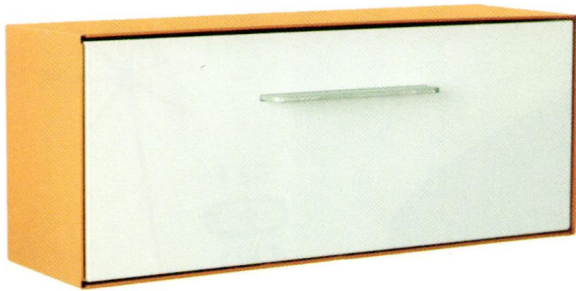
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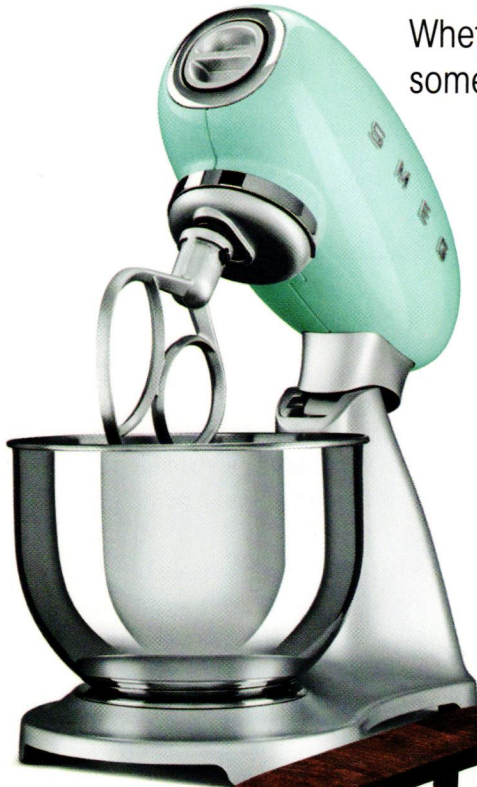




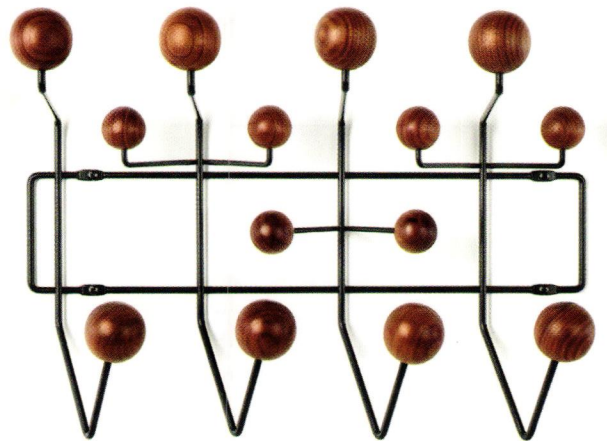
# coolstuff

## Retro Done Right

Whether you're shopping for a true retronaut or are looking to add a little something new to your home, these are our favorite finds of the season.



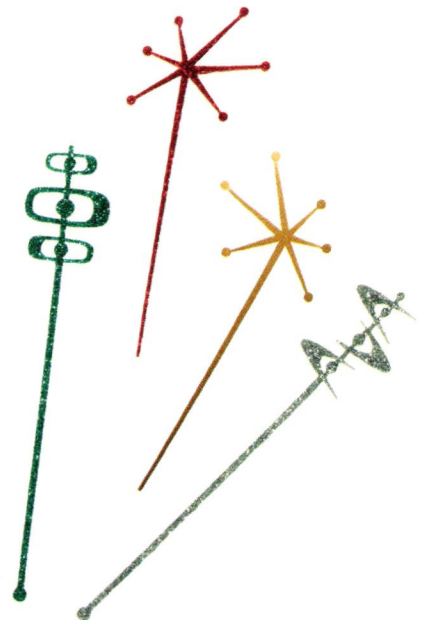
It looks straight out of the '50s, but this 10-speed mixer has modern features. SMEG pastel green stand mixer, \$459.99. Visit [williams-sonoma.com](http://williams-sonoma.com).



This classic simply needs a spot in an entryway near you. Eames hang-it-all with black frame and walnut spheres, \$199. (866) 663-4483 or [hivemodern.com](http://hivemodern.com).



A table that can stash your favorite reading and your drink? Sign us up. Mid century modern side table with magazine rack, \$119. (888) 850-3348 or [woodwaves.com](http://woodwaves.com).



Jazz up your next party with these laser cut acrylic cocktail stirrers. Orb, starburst or boomerang in solid gold, silver, turquoise and red glitter, 5" or 6". Visit [etsy.com/shop/californialustre](http://etsy.com/shop/californialustre).





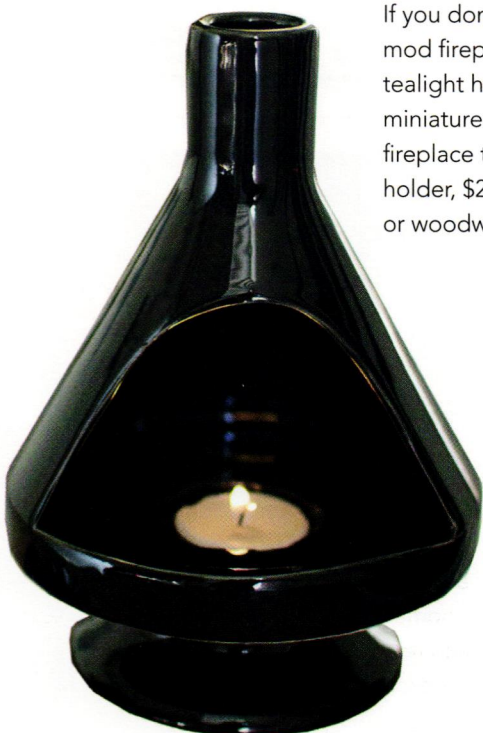
Available in mahogany, zebrawood and blackened oak, this sleek magazine rack is both beautiful and functional. Limited edition Aspen magazine rack, \$120. Visit [ciseal.com](http://ciseal.com).



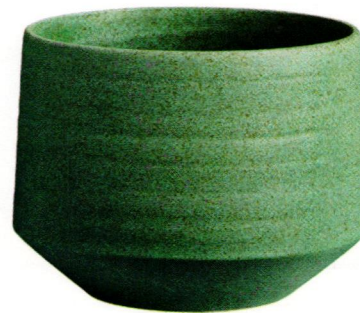
Light up a room with an eye-catching sputnik fixture. Kichler Armstrong 10 light chandelier in brass, \$579.50. (800) 440-5121 or [shopcandelabra.com](http://shopcandelabra.com).



Impeccably retro, this is the perfect host for rings. Jacks silver ring holder, \$7.95. (800) 606-6252 or [cb2.com](http://cb2.com).



If you don't have a mid mod fireplace yet, this tealight holder can be your miniature version. Retro fireplace tealight candle holder, \$20. (888) 850-3348 or [woodwaves.com](http://woodwaves.com).



Teal earthenware is begging to hold a houseplant atop your credenza. Helena planter, \$19.95. (800) 606-6252 or [cb2.com](http://cb2.com).



Hand carved out of golden maple by artist Bruce Yager, this 9" x 25" sculpture is the perfect addition to any retro home. Mid-century Modern fish sculpture, \$175. Visit [etsy.com/shop/jetsetretrodesign](http://etsy.com/shop/jetsetretrodesign).



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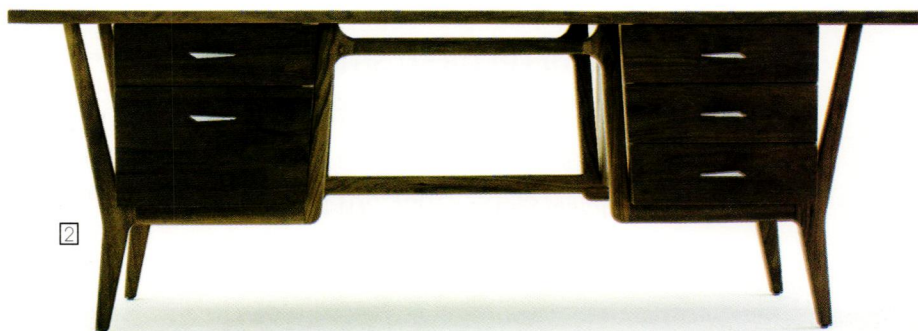
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# periodpicks

## A Study in Style

These desks are more than places to pay the bills and send off emails—these mod masterpieces both old and new truly showcase midcentury style.



1. Inspired by the 1950s and '60s, this petite piece of furniture comfortably hosts a laptop and is excellent for squeezing a home office space into a smaller room. Midcentury mini secretary, \$399. Visit [westelm.com](http://westelm.com).

2. With ample storage, plenty of surface area and undeniable retro styling, this desk might make you do a double take to guess its age. Xavier desk in walnut, \$2,499. (888) 282-0842 or [joybird.com](http://joybird.com).

3. This Danish modern teak desk by Arne Vodder is finished on both sides—offering added storage and a beautiful 360 view. Teak executive desk by Arne Vodder, \$2,750. (267) 282-1105 or [midmod-decor.com](http://midmod-decor.com).

4. Another Danish teak desk made out of teak, this three-legged design boasts a lockable rounded cabinet as well as a bookshelf and dropdown cabinet on the back. Danish teak free standing desk, \$1,195. (678) 373-7967 or [retropassion21.com](http://retropassion21.com).



# diggingmodern

## Truly **Atomic** Auction

The story of bringing home one-of-a-kind art from Alyce Rothlein Simon.

Written and photographed by **Chad Baker**

Imagine landing upon the estate auction of an artist whose work in the 1960s, '70s and '80s was created with the help of an atom smasher, also known as a particle accelerator. This very thing happened when the estate auction of the late Alyce Rothlein Simon (1925-2011) was held in Mocksville, North Carolina in the spring of 2012.

### AT FIRST GLANCE

A close friend called one afternoon to tell me about an upcoming estate auction that had interesting and diverse pieces of art. When I viewed the online auction I was intrigued by acrylic shapes filled with intricate designs as well as incredible pieces of art that consisted of oil on canvas, water color, paintings, and drawings—all created by Alyce Rothlein Simon. I quickly showed the listings to my wife, Tina, and she too was in awe. Since we love unique items, this sale and its merchandise were right up our alley.





After the short trip on a dreary and chilly Saturday morning, we arrived at the sale. While walking up to the 1980s contemporary house, I quickly spotted a huge yin and yang sculpture approximately 12 feet long by 5 feet wide made out of wood near the garage. The sculpture wasn't photographed for the auction listing online, so I was pleasantly surprised. As we continued to walk through the sale and scan the items, we were on sensory overload. Tina and I quickly realized that the sale was going to be one of the most amazing we'd experienced.

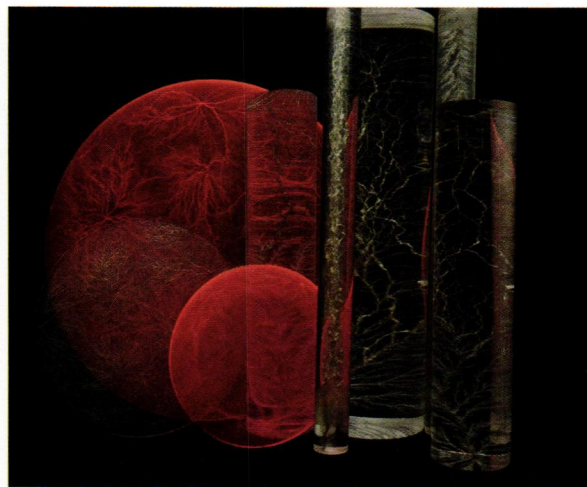
Items ranged from Simon's personal jewelry and collectibles to art she created, as well as huge sculptures she designed. Then we saw the array of incredible acrylic sculptures that Simon blasted using the particle accelerator. Ranging in size, the clear and colored pieces of acrylic had been meticulously blasted with nuclear energy to create amazing forms and designs within the acrylic.

## STARTING A COLLECTION

Each piece was incredible and intriguing—the thought of an individual designing art with atomic energy settled the matter—we had to own several pieces. Before arriving, Tina and I didn't have a plan as to what we were going to buy, except for an oil on canvas painting that was

featured in the auction listing online. To our disappointment, the piece had gone missing the night before, but we quickly found several other items, including an oil on board painting, that were all just as incredible.

As the sale began, we had to quickly decide what items we were going to bid on. Fortunately, the sale started off with jewelry, the items most of the dealers had come to purchase. This gave us time to gather our thoughts and forge a plan.



A few acrylic sculptures started to hit the auction block, and suddenly our collection began! Due to the quantity of items at the sale, the auctioneer deemed it necessary to run two auctions, one in the front of the house and one in the back. Tina and I split up, with her at the front of the house to buy the paintings and drawings while I followed the second auctioneer around back to the box lots of acrylic.

After acquiring several large boxes of acrylic sculptures, a toolbox Simon stored her extra pieces of atomic jewelry in, an extensive video collection of her works, and several other items, I headed back to rejoin Tina. As I circled around the front, the auctioneer was selling off the huge yin and yang sculpture, so I quickly joined in and won the massive piece. When the sale was over, Tina and I realized we had amassed more than our van could carry.

## NEWFOUND LOVE

The trips we made back to the estate sale were well worth it, and digging through our treasures at home was as exhilarating as the sale itself. Every piece we purchased was amazing. While it is hard to say what our favorite piece is, the acrylic sculptures blasted with the atom smasher are remarkable. They produce truly amazing forms that are breathtaking at any angle.

As a result of the auction, we have researched more about Simon and truly appreciate the eclectic and unique style she introduced to the art world. Today several of the atomic acrylic pieces, paintings as well as the drawing are displayed in our midcentury home. We are currently looking for the perfect location to display our yin and yang sculpture. ☸

---

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



# atomickitchens

WARM AND COOL COLORS PLAY NICELY TOGETHER AS THE WHITE COUNTERTOPS AND WALLS BLEND WITH THE SURROUNDING WOODS AND GRAYS. OCTOPUS ARTWORK NODS TO THE NAUTICAL UNDERTONES OF THE BEACHSIDE HOME, WHILE THE NO-NONSENSE ALUMINUM BACKSPLASH CONTINUES THE SIMPLE, SLEEK FEEL OF THE KITCHEN.





# Open to Ocean

An enterprising homeowner discovers that his small Seattle gem shines best in the light.

By **Hannah Roberts** • Photography by **Cindy Apple**

**T**HE ALKI BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, IS—as the name implies—situated just next to the Pacific Ocean. In addition to celebrating his 1951 ranch’s historic character, midcentury-loving homeowner Paul Huggett thought it only right to find a way to play up the home’s proximity to the water. With the help of Joey Fentress of Proform Construction, the home’s kitchen has now become a shining example of Midcentury Modern-style coastal living.

When it comes to effectively executing a home facelift like this one, Paul cannot overstate the importance of hiring a good contractor. “Everything went fairly smooth,” he says. “We had a good idea of what we wanted the end product to look like, and Joey helped us achieve our vision.”

“For me, the most important aspect of design is **BALANCE.**”

## REAL HOME 101

**TYPE OF HOME:** 1951 Midcentury Modern ranch

**ARCHITECT:** Unknown

**BACKGROUND:** Joey Fentress of Proform Construction worked with the homeowners to open up the home’s floor plan and give it more of an indoor-outdoor feel.

**DECORATING COLOR SCHEME:** Largely neutral to showcase bright accessories and retro furniture pieces.

**INNOVATIVE IDEA:** The addition of a cantina window opening to an outdoor bar area offers an up-close and personal connection to the beachy area outside, rain or shine.





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## DESIGN MUST-HAVES:

- Built-in bar area
- Floating shelves
- Simple white countertops
- Natural wood cabinets

A GEORGE NELSON BUBBLE LAMP PRESIDES OVER A SLEEK, DARK-WOOD TABLE AND COMPLEMENTARY CHAIRS. AN EYE-CATCHING, CHROME-COLORED CENTERPIECE SUBTLY MATCHES THE KITCHEN FIXTURES AS WELL AS THE ACCESSORIES IN THE READY-TO-SERVE BAR STATION. AN ALMOST SCULPTURAL PLANT ADDS AN ARTISTIC TOUCH WHILE ALSO CEMENTING THE ROOM'S CONNECTION TO THE OUTDOORS.



For this project, the “vision” focused on expanding the small space through a more open-concept floor plan, along with adding a pivot window and cantina windows to let in more of the ocean view. A light, neutral color scheme adds to the beachy feel and allows for fun vintage accents, such as bright bar stools and selective greenery, to pop in the space.

“The first thing we tackle on a project is a client’s budget and [desired] design—sometimes they can drive each other,” Joey explains. “For this project we had a moderate budget to work with, so we tried to keep things relatively similar to the original locations. This saved some money on plumbing, electrical, etc. so that we could put that money into more exciting things like the cabinets, counters and appliances.”

“Exciting” certainly describes the results of the team’s budget reallocations. The dazzling, pristine white countertops reflect the other glorious pieces of the kitchen’s midcentury makeover—in particular the modular floating shelves, which turn the overhead space from gawky to gallery. Cool metal and warm wood elements are equally at home in this kitchen, thanks to the naturalizing factor of the white walls, countertops and window frames. Plus, the resulting room has become the perfect space for strategic, understated art pieces—such as the octopus painting and the centerpiece sculpture in the dining room—to have a commanding presence without visually shouting.

“For me, the most important aspect of design is balance. Balance in space and color, keeping things not too overdone but not too empty or stark feeling,” Joey says. “I like to let the natural materials stand out and the details in the craftsmanship shine.”

## WHAT MAKES IT **MCM**?

This kitchen’s minimal, open look and overall muted color scheme make it a perfect place for modernist meals.

- Floating shelves for minimalist storage
- Sleek, simple stainless-steel hardware
- Midcentury-inspired furniture and lighting
- Clean-line, natural wood cabinets
- Large windows that connect the space to the outdoors



VIBRANT POPS OF COLOR BRING LIFE TO THE CONVERSATION ROOM, WHERE GUESTS CAN ENJOY CLASSIC COCKTAILS WHILE RELAXING ON A GONDOLA STYLE STRIPED SOFA.





By Leslie J. Thompson  
Photography by Bret Gum

# Carolina Blue

A year-long search for the perfect midcentury house led to a forgotten gem in the heart of Charlotte, North Carolina.







CREATING A SEAMLESS CONNECTION BETWEEN INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPACES IS A HALLMARK OF MIDCENTURY HOME DESIGN. REMOVING INTERIOR WALLS SEPARATING THE LIVING AND DINING AREAS AND INSTALLING NEW FRAMING AROUND THE WINDOWS ACHIEVED THIS GOAL AND CREATED AN OPEN AREA FOR ENTERTAINING.



**YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN EXPERT ON MIDCENTURY DESIGN TO FALL IN LOVE.** Holly Schoolmeester admits she knew little about mid mod style before she and her husband Ken embarked on their search for a house they could style to their liking. But, when the couple went on the "Mad About Modern" tour, a biennial event hosted by the Charlotte Museum of History that offers a peek inside local Midcentury Modern homes, they discovered a shared passion for the architecture and furnishings of the post-WWII era.

### MID MOD LOVE

The year-long search that followed led to a run-down estate with an overgrown yard in the city's South Park neighborhood. "The house had been abandoned for several years and needed a tremendous amount of work, but it had great bones and was on a great piece of property," Holly says. Built in 1960, the 3,400-square-foot residence sits on a 1.3-acre corner lot,



“The house had been abandoned for several years and **needed a tremendous amount of work**, but it had **GREAT BONES** and was on a **GREAT PIECE OF PROPERTY.**”







a rare find in the heart of the city. The couple purchased the home in 2013 and retained its original U-shaped footprint as they spent a year on interior renovations before taking on exterior upgrades.

"I went to *Atomic Ranch*, Pinterest and Houzz and started saving things" to create vision boards, says Holly, who was a fan of the magazine before she ever dreamed of owning a home from a bygone era.

She also discovered Mid Century Salvage, a local retailer specializing in furniture and home accessories from the 1950s and '60s. Holly credits owners Scott Whitaker and Darra Privett for helping her and Ken find authentic pieces with minimalist lines, sleek curves





**ABOVE:** SHINY WHITE LACQUER AND WALNUT PANELING CONNECT A THOROUGHLY MODERN KITCHEN TO THE MIDCENTURY DÉCOR OF THE ADJOINING LIVING AND DINING ROOMS. DESIGNED BY TONY BATTAH FROM HANS KRUG FINE EUROPEAN CABINETRY, THE SPACE RECEIVED AN HONORABLE MENTION IN THE K+BB 2015 DESIGN AWARDS.

**ABOVE LEFT:** A CONTEMPORARY MEURICE RECTANGLE CHANDELIER BY JONATHAN ADLER ILLUMINATES A SQUARE TABLE MADE OF THICK MARBLE AND EIGHT VINTAGE BROYHILL BRASILIA CHAIRS TO CREATE AN INVITING DINING AREA.





**ABOVE:** TWO WOOD FRAME ATOMIC CHAIRS FROM MID CENTURY SALVAGE CREATE A COZY NOOK IN THE MASTER BEDROOM. STOREOWNER SCOTT WHITAKER LINED THE CADO WALL UNIT WITH SILK TO CONVERT IT INTO A MAJESTIC JEWELRY BOX.

**LEFT:** THE SCHOOLMEESTERS DESIGNED THE BRIGHT GREEN VANITY IN THE GUEST BATH TO MIRROR THEIR HOME'S MIDCENTURY AESTHETIC. A PAIR OF JONATHAN ADLER "HAVANA" WALL SCONCES COMPLETE THE LOOK.

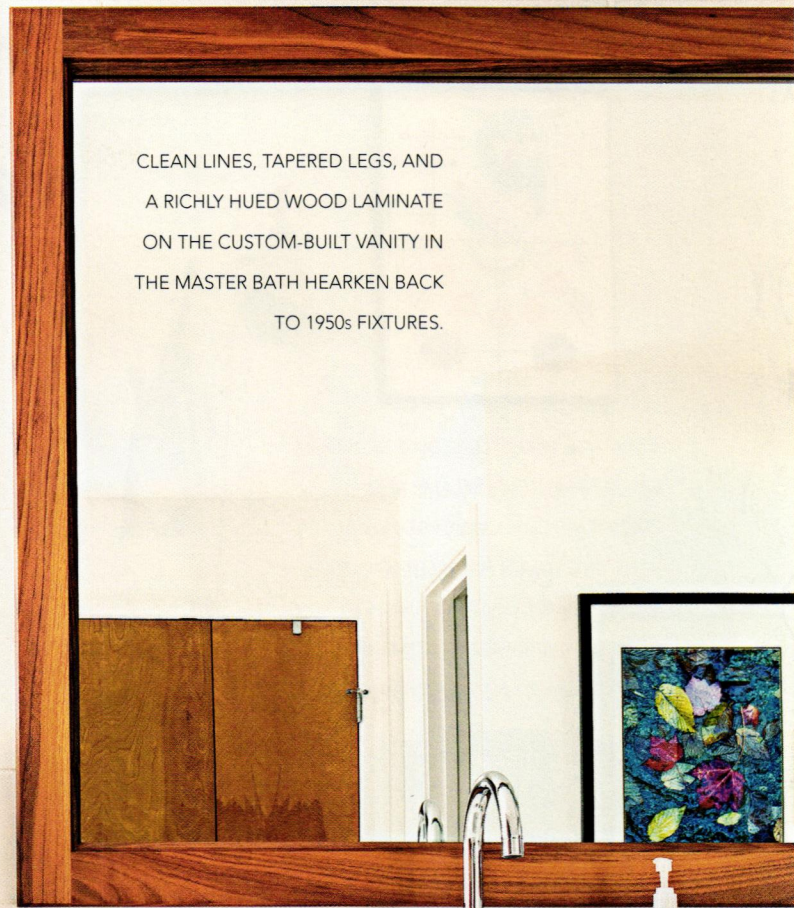


and punches of color to maintain the integrity of the original home design. The homeowners purchased items one by one during the renovations, keeping their prized finds in storage with the retailer until the house was ready for the finishing touches.

## RENOVATING & PERSONALIZING

After the floors, electrical and plumbing all were replaced, Dennis Pumneo of Pumneo Builders oversaw the structural modifications to the interior. The biggest undertaking was removing walls that separated the original gallery kitchen and den from the living rooms to create an airy space for entertaining flooded with natural light. The new, open concept kitchen, dining area and gathering room is the heart of the home for the Schoolmeesters, who love to entertain.





CLEAN LINES, TAPERED LEGS, AND  
A RICHLY HUED WOOD LAMINATE  
ON THE CUSTOM-BUILT VANITY IN  
THE MASTER BATH HEARKEN BACK  
TO 1950s FIXTURES.



Holly gleaned ideas for  
the home's renovation  
and **styling from**  
**ATOMIC RANCH** as  
well as online resources  
like **PINTEREST**  
and **HOUZZ**.



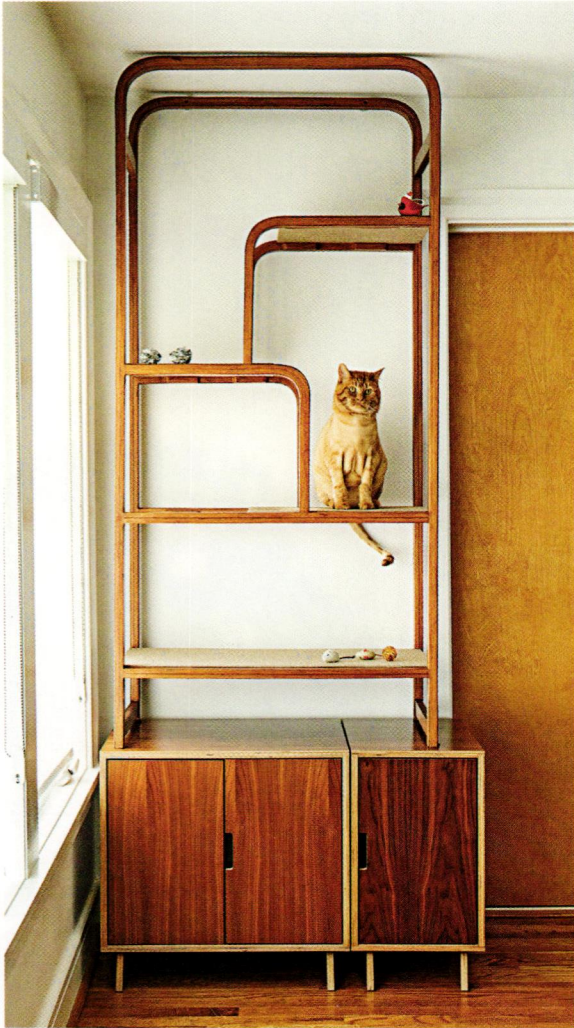
Every room features **EXQUISITE MID MOD FURNISHINGS SET** against bright, crisp walls and accented with poppy oranges and blues.



A VINTAGE THREE-PIECE DIXIE BEDROOM SET, PEARSALL FLOOR LAMP AND TURQUOISE CLUB CHAIR PROVIDE A WELCOME HAVEN FOR VISITING GUESTS. THE COLORFUL OWL PAINTING IS BY CONTEMPORARY ARTIST DOMENIC BOURBEAU AND WAS PURCHASED ON ETSY.







The countertops on dual oversized kitchen islands are covered in a seven-layer white glossy lacquer in keeping with the home's unfettered aesthetic, while wood laminate on the walls and base of both islands complement a nearby Quistgaard teak credenza.

#### DESIGN SPECIFIC

The adjoining dining area features an oversized square table made of thick marble, one of the few non-vintage pieces in the house, surrounded by eight Broyhill Brasilia chairs. A striking Jonathan Adler chandelier hangs overhead, and an original painting by Shag picked up in Palm Springs, Calif. contributes to the retro feel.



In the main living room, chrome accents on the squared sofas and side chairs tie in neatly with a George Kovacs chrome lamp and offer textural contrast to the walnut guitar pick side table and coffee table.

Both the gathering room and dining area step down into a sunken living room, called the conversation room, replete with atomic-era finds. Among the eye-catching pieces are a five-piece Brasilia room divider that dominates one wall, an Adrian Pearsall walnut Jacks coffee table with kidney-shaped glass top, and

“We’ll be working out in the yard, and people will be jogging by and tell us they **LOVE** what we’ve done with the house,” Holly says. **“It’s AMAZING HOW DIFFERENT OUR LIVES ARE NOW.”**



THE SCHOOLMEESTERS SPENT NEARLY TWO YEARS RENOVATING THE ABANDONED MIDCENTURY MODERN HOME THEY PURCHASED IN 2013, RESTORING IT TO ITS FORMER GLORY INSIDE AND OUT.



a turquoise Plycraft lounge and ottoman. A contemporary Sputnik chandelier illuminates the already bright space, which looks out onto the shimmering swimming pool and old growth trees, creating a smooth transition to the natural surroundings. Outside, the original brick was painted a cool blue, a soothing contrast to the vibrant orange front door and white, Palm Springs-inspired concrete wall around the back patio.

Three years after purchasing the property, the Schoolmeesters' fully renovated abode recently was featured on the same "Mad About Modern" tour of midcentury homes in Charlotte that led them to first fall in love with the style. Now, their handiwork elicits a similar awestruck response from neighbors and visitors. "We'll be working out in the yard, and people will be jogging by and tell us they love what we've done with the house," Holly says, proudly. "It's amazing how different our lives are now." 🌀





AMID THEIR RESTORATION WORK,  
THE YOUNGS INSTALLED TWO WHOLE  
HOUSE FANS—WHICH HAVE PROVEN  
TO BE A WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT AS  
THE FAMILY USES THEM NIGHTLY, EXCEPT  
DURING THE WINTER.





By Sarah Jane Stone  
Photography by Darren Bradley

# A NEW Day

Restored with the help of the original architect, this home is a stunning capsule of midcentury beauty.





**N**ESTLED HALFWAY BETWEEN LOS ANGELES AND PALM SPRINGS IS REDLANDS, CALIF.—a town known for orange groves and Victorian homes. However, Tim Young, a pediatric emergency physician and his wife Amber, a part-time health educator, and their two children call a fully restored, custom-built, midcentury beauty “home” thanks to the help of the original architect.

Now 96 years old, architect Clare Henry Day met the Youngs in 2009, and the rest is history.

### HOME WITH HISTORY

In 1954, Clare built the home for James Gillespie, an internal medicine doctor, his wife and their three daughters. This was no tract home—it was entirely customized to suit the needs and lifestyle of the Gillespie family. “Clare said that they loved to entertain guests, and this played into the design, with the indoor-outdoor connection and the large internal spaces,” says now-homeowner Tim.





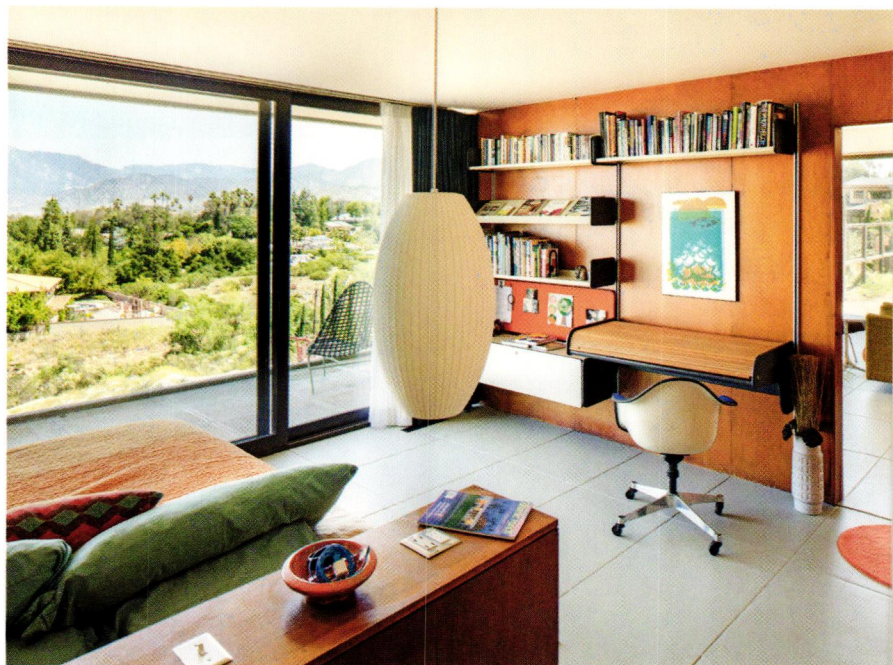
"SYDNEY (OUR DAUGHTER) SAYS THAT HER FAVORITE PARTS OF THE HOUSE ARE THE VIEW OF THE ENTIRE VALLEY THAT ALLOW HER TO WATCH PLANES AND FIREWORKS SHOWS ON THE 4TH OF JULY, AND HER BEDROOM," TIM SAYS. "OUR PROPERTY IS 1.86 ACRES, MUCH OF WHICH IS A HILLSIDE BEHIND THE HOUSE THAT GIVES US AN UNOBSTRUCTED 180 DEGREE VIEW OF THE VALLEY BELOW THE SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS."



CLARE DESCRIBES THE EXPERIENCE OF REVISITING THE GILLESPIE PROJECT WITH THE YOUNG FAMILY AS "ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTFUL."



Over the course of four years, Tim and Amber worked on the house in phases—**BEING CAREFUL TO STAY TRUE TO CLARE'S DESIGN.**







THE YOUNGS COMPLETED THEIR LANDSCAPING IN TWO PHASES. IN THE FIRST PHASE, THEY PARTNERED WITH LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT ANNA ALISSI AND HER LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR HUSBAND, JIM LYNCH. THEY HAD OVERGROWN FOLIAGE RIPPED OUT AND PROPER DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION INSTALLED AS WELL AS SOME PLANTS. INTERESTED IN NATIVE, LOW-WATER PLANTINGS, THE YOUNGS TURNED TO AMERICAN MEADOW GARDEN AUTHOR AND NURSERY OWNER JOHN GREENLEE. "HE DESIGNED AND INSTALLED THE REST OF THE LANDSCAPING, WHICH INCLUDES A MEADOW GARDEN ON THE FRONT HILLSIDE, A BUFFALO-GRASS LAWN AND HYDROSCAPING ON THE BACK AND SIDE. WE LOVE IT," TIM SAYS.

With four bedrooms, two bathrooms and ringing in at 3,045 square feet, the home was laid out with the master bedroom downstairs and the three bedrooms originally designed for the Gillespie daughters upstairs. These bedrooms are identical to one another, and, despite the large square footage of the home, they run a tad small—each measuring 9x10 feet.

"I asked Clare about this once, and he feels kids should not be in their rooms all day—that small bedrooms with larger shared family spaces encourage the kids to be outside of their rooms and interacting with the family more," Tim says. "We liked that explanation and have found it to be true with our kids."

## SHARED BOND

In 2009, Tim and Amber Young were living in their first home—a 1960s ranch. "When we bought that house, we weren't specifically looking for a midcentury house, but found it and loved it," Tim says. The home inspired them to dig deeper, so Tim turned to the permit shop at city hall to research who was behind their home's design.

"I was told that I could do that for any house in Redlands, so I used the opportunity to drive around town and jot down the addresses of a few of my favorites," he says. It turned out that the Young's house was designed and built by an owner-builder, but a person named Clare Henry Day designed all the other





AS WITH THE BATHROOMS, THE KITCHEN WAS MERELY REFRESHED IN KEEPING WITH THE ORIGINAL DESIGN OF THE HOUSE. HOWEVER, TIM AND AMBER DID ADD MODERN KITCHEN APPLIANCES—including a sub-zero fridge and a Miele dishwasher.

**OPPOSITE:** CLARE'S PHOTOS OF THE HOME WHEN IT WAS NEWLY BUILT.

homes he looked up. "I naturally became curious about who this person could be, so I Googled the name, and to my surprise, I found a phone number for an architect who seemed to still be active here in Redlands."

Tim called, Clare answered, and they started chatting. After a while, Clare asked if Tim wanted to come pick him up and take a driving tour of his houses. "About an hour later, I was driving through Redlands with Clare Henry Day, stopping every few minutes at another house that he designed. He told me stories about who he had designed them for, and remembering details about the families—it was unbelievable," Tim says.

They became friends instantly, and Clare gave Tim and Amber advice about work they were doing on their ranch. "We would visit each other from time to time and talk about architecture and life, and about a year later, my sister called me at work to tell me that she thought one of his houses was

for sale," Tim says. After work, Tim rushed to see that one of the houses that he and Clare visited on their original driving tour was for sale.

"We called the agent, toured the house, and fell in love," he says.

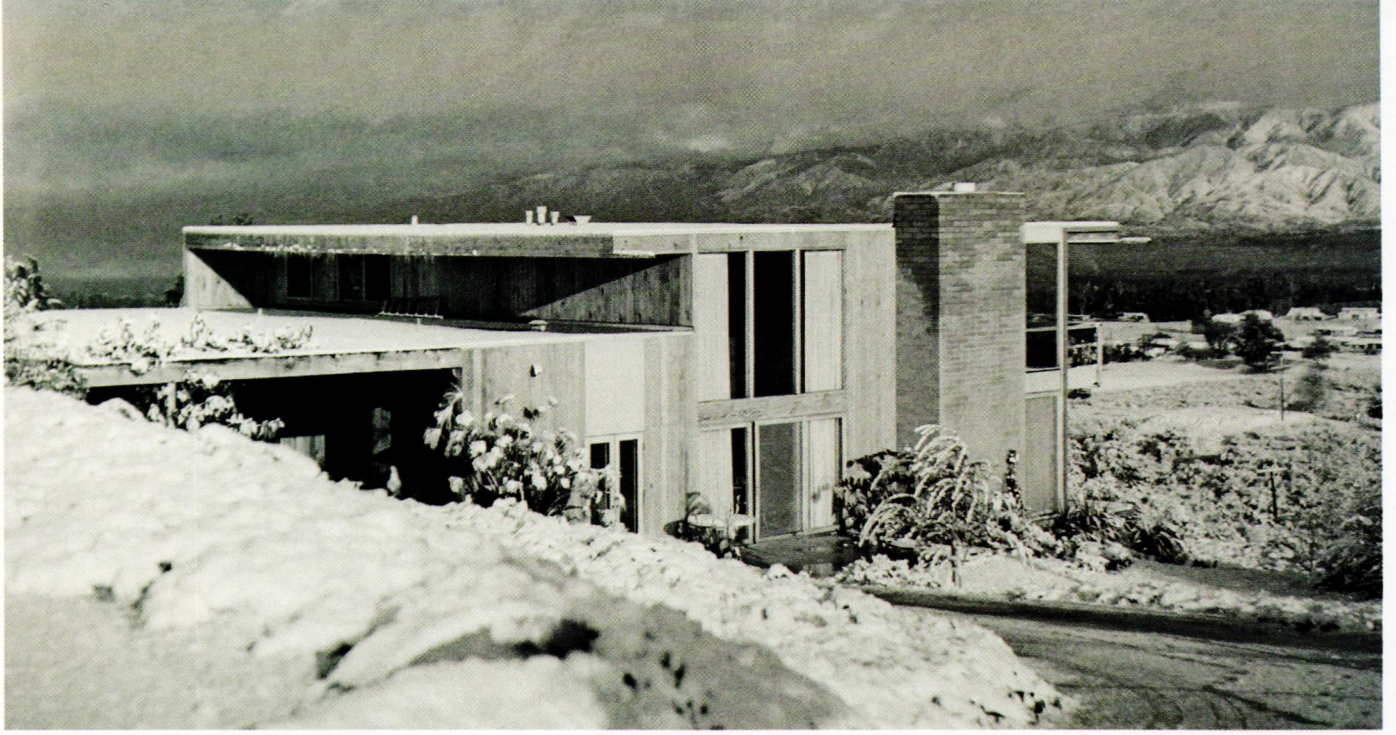
In 2010, the Youngs bought the home from the Gillespie daughters and became the second owners.

"Clare was happy to have friends in one of his houses—and gave us original photos and plans for the house, as well as helped guide our restoration." Over the course of four years, Tim and Amber worked on the house in phases—being careful to stay true to Clare's design.

## REDLANDS REVIVAL

According to Tim, Clare designs all of his homes on a geometric grid—with theirs being set on a 2x3 foot rectangle. Every wall and every major feature of the home sits on a gridline.





“Of course, I think it’s delightful that the spaces [I’ve designed] have enduring merit and that other people find them a pleasure and a delight,” Clare says. **“I’M DELIGHTED THAT SOMEONE CARED TO RESTORE THE HOUSE—that’s the great joy that I’ve had.”**



"MOST OF THE EXTERIOR DOORS ARE CUSTOM MADE SLIDERS, INCLUDING THE FRONT DOOR, WHICH IS AT THE BOTTOM OF A SET OF CONCRETE STEPS THAT DESCEND FROM THE DRIVEWAY," TIM SAYS.



"Clare told me that the Gillespies loved carpet but couldn't fit it into their original budget," Tim says. To finish the home without carpet, Clare put his gridlines in the concrete slab in both the living room and the master bedroom. Eventually the entire house was carpeted, covering up Clare's gridlines.

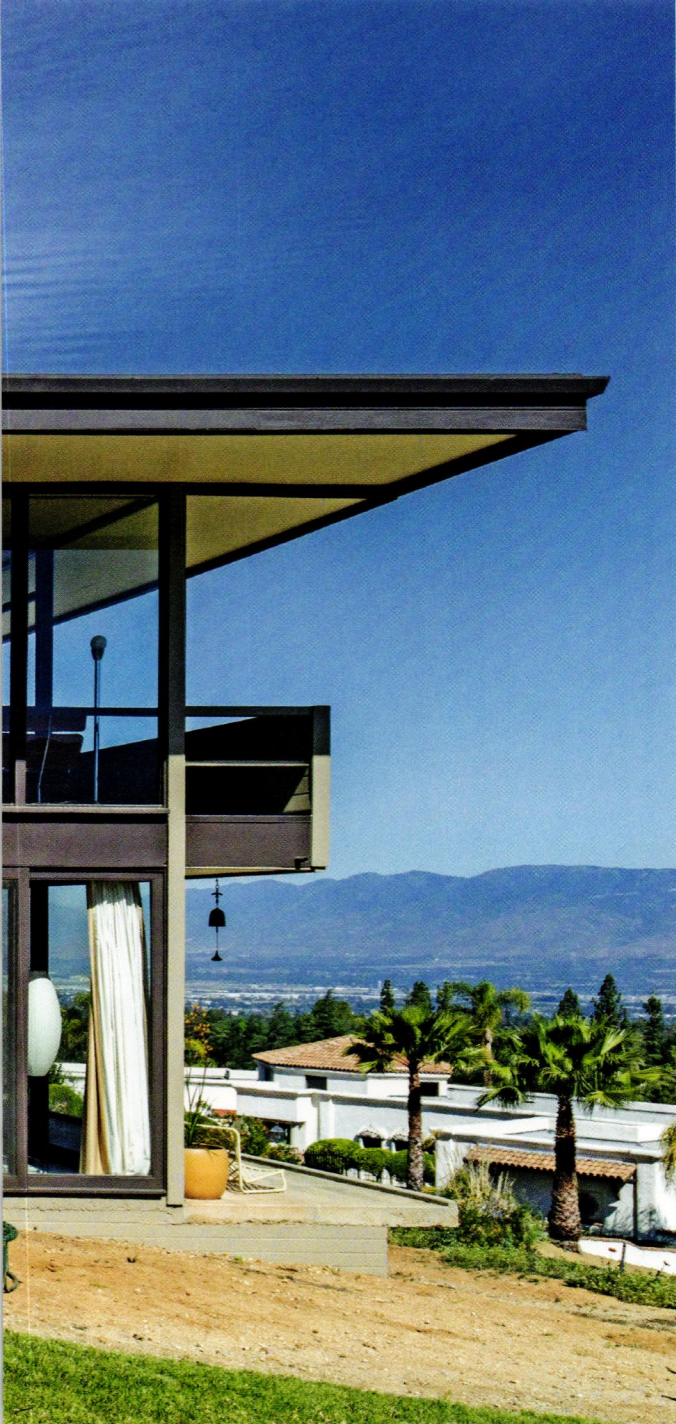
Tim and Amber ripped up all the carpeting, restored the concrete and, over the course of four years, replaced the floorings—installing VCT tile in the dining room, kitchen, bathrooms, multipurpose room downstairs as well as the upstairs playroom, and replacing carpet in the upstairs bedrooms and office.

With copious amounts of windows—designed to take

advantage of the views of the local mountains—high quality windows and period-friendly window coverings were an important element of the Young's restoration process. They put custom dual pane glass on all the west-facing windows and replaced the traverse curtains with similar ones from JCPenney.

Outside, Tim and Amber replaced the redwood siding on three sides and painted the house. Clare had originally designed a circular pool for the house, but it was never installed; instead, the previous homeowners added a pool in a different shape. For the safety of their young children, the Youngs had the pool filled in and asked Clare to help design a transparent fence in the backyard that follows



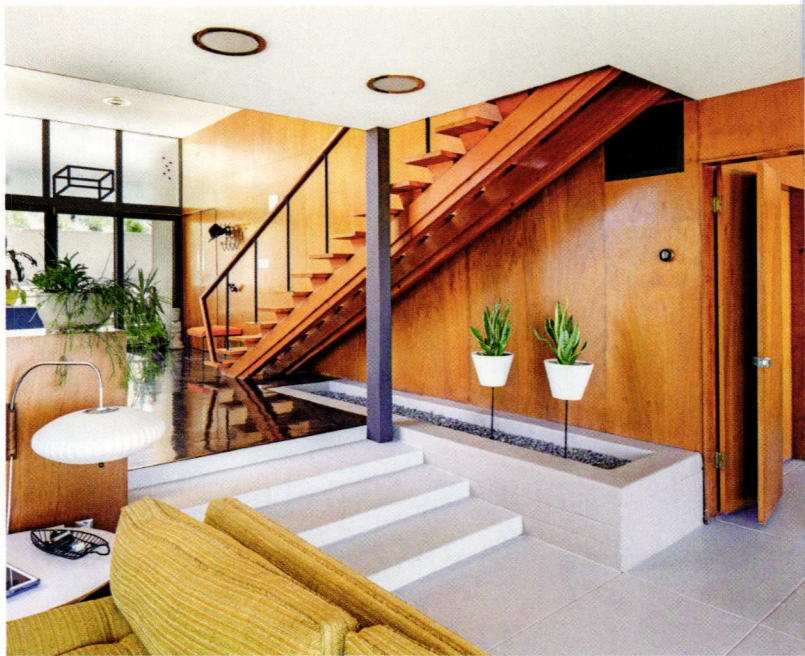


the house's grid. "I thought about regrading the yard, but Clare likes to design around the grade, which is why the fence does not move with the grade, but instead hovers over it," Tim says.

## MODERN LIFE

Tim and Amber collected much of their art and furniture through Craigslist, eBay and estate sales—including one from another home Clare built. "I refined the collection by making trades, several of which were with a favorite local dealer, Post-War Modern in Redlands."

Their collection started when they lived in the midcentury ranch, but moving into the Gillespie house



"THE UPSTAIRS BATHROOM WAS DESIGNED FOR SMALL CHILDREN, WITH A SLIGHTLY LOWER COUNTERTOP AND A SMALLER TOILET. THE TOILET WAS MEANT TO BE REPLACED OVER TIME AS THE GILLESPIE GIRLS GREW UP, BUT NEVER WAS," TIM SAYS. "IT HAS WORKED PERFECTLY FOR OUR KIDS."

**FROM CLARE'S ORIGINAL NOTES ON THE HOME:** "This hillside residence overlooks the San Bernardino Valley and mountain range. Using wood post and gir construction with concrete foundations and slabs, the home has multiple level floors in order to take advantage of this excellent view to the north and east in a maximum number of areas. It is spaciouly planned to accommodate the frequent and informal group entertaining activities that the family enjoys in addition to reading, painting and music."



When asked what draws him to Midcentury Modern style, Clare replied, "Nothing draws me to it, BECAUSE I'M IT."







THE SECOND BATHROOM, LOCATED DOWNSTAIRS, SUFFERED A 1980s REMODEL THAT COST THE SPACE ITS ORIGINAL DETAILS—SO TIM AND AMBER RESTORED IT TO A MORE PERIOD-APPROPRIATE STYLE. "I HAD A LAMINATE COUNTERTOP MADE, AND I WAS ABLE TO FIND THE ORIGINAL CRANE FAUCET AND SINK FROM A LOCAL HABITAT FOR HUMANITY STORE," HE SAYS. TIM EVEN HAD GEORGE NELSON-STYLE PULLS MADE FOR THE VANITY.



refocused their collection. "I had collected mostly Danish furniture when we lived in our ranch, but found that the American pieces fit better with geometry of our new house and offered more contrast to the mahogany wood paneling," Tim says. "I did dedicate one room in the new house to my favorite Danish pieces, by Hans Wegner, Ib Kofod-Larsen and a particularly awesome Arne Vodder credenza found in Palm Springs."

The Youngs are currently partnering with Clare on a custom designed home where they hope to retire to in the future. 🌀





THE SET OF 175 MIDCENTURY HOMES IN DENVER COMES FROM ARCHITECT H.B. WOLFF, WHO WORKED ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD FROM 1954-1957. HE TOOK HIS INSPIRATION FROM THE DESIGNS EICHLER WAS IMPLEMENTING IN CALIFORNIA AT THE TIME. AS ANGELO AND NANCY MARASCO REMODELED THEIR HOME, THEY KEPT WOLFF'S AESTHETICS IN MIND. "WE WORKED VERY HARD TO MAKE ANY ADDITION WORK WITH THE ORIGINAL," ANGELO SAYS.



# Curb

By Victoria Van Vlear  
Photography by JC Buck

# Appeal

An architect/designer duo turns around a fixer upper in Denver, Colorado, to reflect its midcentury roots.





## LIVING LARGE

When Angelo and Nancy Marasco started renovating their midcentury home, one of their goals was to create a more open floor plan. "We wanted to open up the house and be able to see front to back," Angelo says. They removed walls that hindered the open feel and made sure the kitchen was connected to the living area.

In addition to an unencumbered space, large windows in the front and back of the home helped bring in more light. The couple supplemented with additional lighting on the ceilings. "We spent a lot of time on the lighting," Angelo says. "You can't recess lighting into the ceiling, so we looked at wall mounted lighting instead of ceiling mounted." Because they had to put a new roof on the house, they were able to mount the electrical directly into the roof.



W

HEN YOU WANT TO BUY A MIDCENTURY HOME, do you look for a fixer upper or a remodeled plan? Angelo and Nancy Marasco of Cadence Design Studio knew they wanted to invest in a midcentury neighborhood in Denver, Colorado. But as an architect and design team, they also wanted to update the home to fit their needs. "The houses either had been ruined with Home Depot type materials or they were original with dark mahogany walls and cabinetry," Nancy says. "As a preservationist, I like more bright whites, so we wanted to buy something that needed a lot of work and redo it ourselves."

The original floor plan of the home they purchased was 1,200 square feet, and a previous remodel had enlarged the home to 1,600. After living in the space to get the lay of the land, they got to work and added another addition to bring the home up to 2,000 square feet.





## RETURNING TO THE ROOTS

One of the challenges for the Marascos was to fit furniture into the smaller scale of a midcentury home. "The spaces are quite small, so we spent a lot of time figuring out how to make furniture fit," Angelo says. They focused on function and walking space, choosing pieces that could stay along the perimeters of the rooms and not undo any of the work they'd done with opening up the architecture.

On the fireplace, they had to redo the finish because of a bad previous remodel. "Someone had glued white bricks onto the fireplace, which were not original to the house," Angelo says. They ripped the fake bricks off and replaced them with three shades of tile that worked better with the aesthetic of the home.





## MIDCENTURY WINDOWS

One of the couple's main concerns was the exterior. "The house had no windows—or rather, it did, but they were very small slot windows," Angelo says. "We couldn't let our kids out there because we couldn't see them, so we added glass to the front and back," Nancy adds.

Though large windows weren't part of the original design, Angelo and Nancy kept their renovations in line with midcentury style. "We picked up on the trapezoidal windows that are prevalent on these homes," Angelo says. "We kept the general lines of the windows but added more glass."

## SERIOUS SIDING

The couple wanted the home to shout out its midcentury roots, and the key to curb appeal was slat siding. "We wanted to do something unique on the front of the house but be in keeping with the architecture,"

Nancy says. The original siding was redwood, but that exact material is no longer in production, so the couple improvised, commissioning cedar siding. "Most of the originals were stained redwood, so it looks similar," Angelo says. To add their own twist on the look, the couple hung the siding horizontally instead of its original vertical lines. "It still has the same texture," Angelo says.

## SEASONAL SENSATION

When updating the home, the Marascos kept in mind the ebb and flow of seasons in Colorado. The house had deep, three-foot overhangs already, which helps keep off the summer heat. "On the west side of the house, we went even deeper with the overhangs and a partially covered patio to filter some of the light," Angelo says. They also added much-needed insulation that's not original to many midcentury homes. "There's a comfort level now," Nancy says. "You don't feel the variation in temperature." ☼





The couple wanted the home to shout out its **MIDCENTURY ROOTS**, and the key to curb appeal was **SLAT SIDING.**

## EVERYTHING AND THE KITCHEN SINK

The kitchen cabinets were a source of debate between Angelo and Nancy: Should they install traditional midcentury sliding doors or stick with the more contemporary hinged doors? "A lot of the midcentury cabinets originally had darker wood, but we wanted to go lighter with the wood grain," Angelo says. Since they were modifying the traditional color, they decided not to order the custom sliding doors.

This cost-saving measure also allowed the couple to reallocate their budget elsewhere—specifically to the countertops. Angelo and Nancy went with Neolith countertops, which are a composite of compacted materials that create a durable surface and can be imprinted with any design finish. "We did those counters in another house and have loved them ever since," Nancy says.

"Being in the design field, we knew our tastes were more expensive than we had a budget for," Nancy says. "We prioritized," Angelo adds. "For the rest of the house, we found ways to do things more affordably."



# Modern

By Devlin Smith

Photography by Andrew Wood, courtesy of Ryland Peters & Small

For those looking to give their homes cutting-edge style, there's no better place to find inspiration than in 20th-century modern design.

# LOVE

THESE PURIST HOMEOWNERS' FAVORITE PIECES IN THE HOUSE—THE KNOLL SAARINEN TULIP TABLE AND CHAIRS—ENJOY PRIDE OF PLACE ON THE RAISED DINING AREA.





**RIGHT:** A GLAZED WALL SEPARATES THE STAIRCASE LANDING FROM THE MAIN LIVING ROOM IN THIS COLLECTOR'S HOME. THE OLIVE-GREEN EAMES LOUNGER IS OF EUROPEAN PRODUCTION AND AN UNUSUAL COLOR CHOICE. THE STORAGE SYSTEM BEHIND IS LADEN WITH RETRO PIECES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE, WHILE THE 1956 FLOOR LAMP IS BY JOHN AND SYLVIA REID FOR ROTAFLEX.

**RIGHT BELOW:** IN THIS PURIST FAMILY ROOM, A CUSTOM-MADE CONTEMPORARY SOFA IN ORANGE ULTRASUEDE SITS ALONGSIDE A VINTAGE END TABLE THAT'S HOME TO A TABLE LAMP AND WOODEN CAT SCULPTURE, EXEMPLIFYING THE HOMEOWNERS' SIGNATURE STYLE. THE BOLD DESIGN ON THE SCREEN-PRINTED PILLOWS COMPLEMENTS THE PATTERN ON THE LAMP BASE.



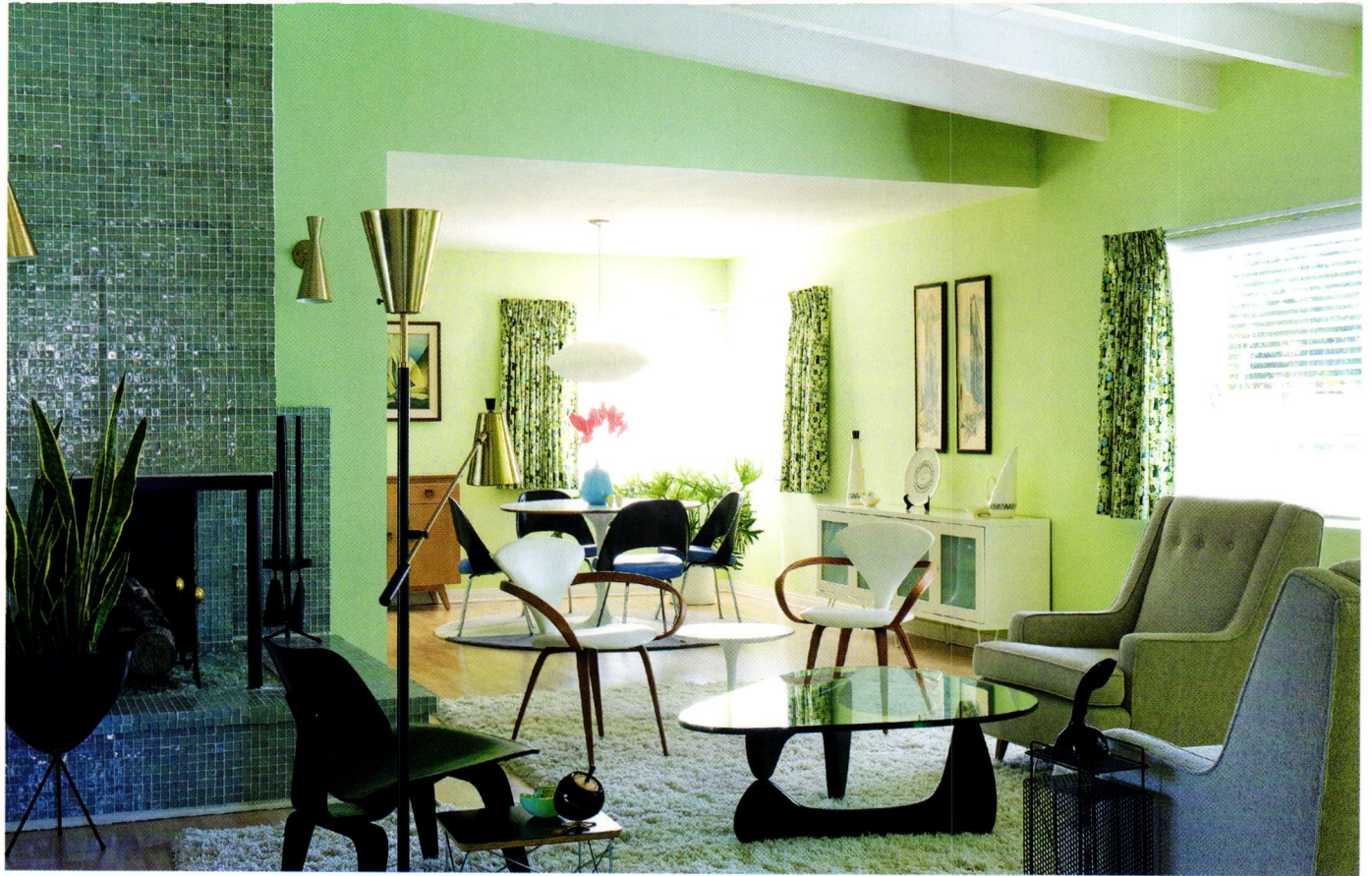
**R**ELECTIVE OF A FAST-CHANGING POST-WAR WORLD, modern design has continued to inspire and intrigue for more than six decades. Designer Andrew Weaving explores the long-standing love affair many homeowners and aficionados have with modern design in the book *Living Retro*.

"It's a conundrum: Now we are well and truly into the 21st century, why do we still look back to find inspiration for a truly modern way of living?" Andrew writes in the book's introduction. "It's ironic that we look to the past to create interiors that are in the vanguard of fashion. But, without a doubt, retro style still has enormous appeal."

## PERSONAL TAKES

Andrew illustrates this through tours of 17 homes from around the world, each decorated with its homeowners' take on mid mod styling, whether that of a purist, doyenne of a signature style or of a collector (see sidebar for more on these design categories).





THE PALE GREEN, OPEN PLAN LIVING ROOM INCLUDES A DOUBLE-SIDED TILED FIREPLACE THAT IS A REAL FOCAL POINT. THE FURNITURE INCLUDES THIS PURIST HOMEOWNER'S FAVORITE THINGS IN THE HOUSE: A PAIR OF CHERNER CHAIRS DESIGNED BY PAUL GOLDMAN. THERE ARE ALSO PIECES BY EAMES AND ISAMU NOGUCHI. THE FLOOR LAMP IN THE FOREGROUND IS PROBABLY BY LIGHTOLIER. AT THE WINDOWS, VINTAGE-STYLE FABRICS CONTINUE THE RETRO THEME.

## PERSONALITY TEST

Discover the design style that best fits your retro perspective.

In his book *Living Retro*, Andrew Weaving tours homes that reflect their owners' contemporary spin on 20th-century design. Though there are as many styling variations as there are passionate fans of the modern aesthetic, Andrew focuses on homeowners who fall into one of three categories: purists, those with a signature style and collectors. Read on to see which group best represents you.

**PURISTS.** These homeowners go all in with their passion for modern design, seeking midcentury homes with intact original features that they will fill with authentic, period-correct furnishings and accessories. "This rigorous approach to living retro can be time-consuming, as you turn into a design detective and you find yourself hunting high and low for the perfect vintage fabric or reconditioned refrigerator, but ultimately these efforts are worthwhile, as it's the amazing attention to detail that make these homes work," Andrew writes.

**SIGNATURE STYLE.** While they adore modern design, these homeowners aren't sticklers and instead like expressing themselves through a mixture of eras. "Although the building blocks of these interiors are retro pieces and a retro sensibility, their owners have married together a combination of different elements and styles from different decades, creating eclectic and quirky effects," Andrew writes. "The provenance or production history of a piece does not matter if its aesthetics appeal."

**COLLECTORS.** The design aim for these homes is to show off lovingly amassed and carefully curated collections of modern pieces, from artwork to furnishings. "Collectors' homes afford a fascinating glimpse into their inhabitants' interests and enthusiasms," Andrew writes.

Though their methodologies differ, each of these homeowners has found inspiration in modern design, in all its variations.

"It's not a trend that can be summed up in a sentence or two, but an idiosyncratic style that's all about having the confidence to live with the things we love, and to put them together in a way that suits our own personal circumstances," he writes. "And at its heart is an abiding passion for vintage furniture and an understanding of the very best of 20th-century design."

For some homeowners, this means finding an original midcentury home, painstakingly restoring it, then decorating it only in furnishings and accessories reflective of the era. For one homeowner profiled, interior magazines and ads from the era were invaluable resources when it came to restoring his ranch home. Others are fortunate enough to have the original homeowner or designer available for consultation.

There are homeowners who instead favor peppering their homes with carefully selected modern and modern-style pieces that fit their overall design vision. For another set of homeowners, their midcentury home





**"IT'S IRONIC** THAT WE LOOK TO THE PAST TO CREATE INTERIORS THAT ARE IN THE VANGUARD OF FASHION. BUT, **WITHOUT A DOUBT, RETRO STYLE** STILL HAS **ENORMOUS APPEAL."**

had been extensively remodeled in the 1980s, so they felt the freedom to remodel the house in a way that worked best for their family but still reflected the style of the home's original era.

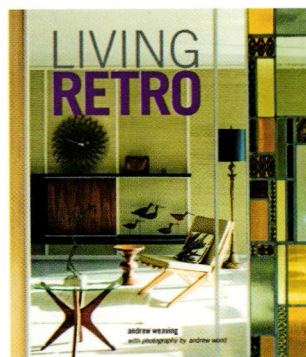
The final category of homeowner *Living Retro* features sees their homes as showplaces for treasured collections of modern furnishings, artwork and accessories. For the author, a spacious yet minimalist converted loft is the ideal setting for modern furnishings and sculptures he'd been collecting for years. For homeowners living in Manhattan, their rethought 19th-century home now wonderfully expresses the West Coast sensibility exemplified by their collection of Eames pieces and vintage travel posters.

## TAKE IT HOME

Regardless of how you show your passion for modern design in your home, what matters most is to enjoy the process of creating your ideal home and the end result, as the homeowners included in *Living Retro* have.

"Nowadays we are lucky—the easy availability of so many fabulous retro and retro-inspired items allows us to create our very own take on retro style, using the very best of what's on offer," Andrew writes. 🌀

THE GUEST BEDROOM CONTAINS SEVERAL PIECES THAT ARE ORIGINAL TO THE HOUSE ALONGSIDE ITEMS FROM LOCAL THRIFT STORES AND ESTATE SALES. THE KNOLL HARRY BERTOIA WIDE DIAMOND CHAIR DATES FROM 1956. AS THIS ROOM IS AT THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE, SLATTED WOODEN SCREENS OUTSIDE CREATES MORE PRIVACY. THE DESK AND CHAIR BY EDWARD WORMLEY DATE TO THE MID-1950s.



*Living Retro* by Andrew Weaving, photography by Andrew Wood, published by Ryland Peters & Small, ©2016; [rylandpeters.com](http://rylandpeters.com).



By Sarah Jane Stone

# Seasonal

For many, fireplaces are wintertime essentials—so why not opt for a colorful mid mod version?

# Warm Up

Photo by K. Holly Photography





Photo courtesy of Surfing Cowboys



Prior to installing a mid mod fireplace in your home, **check LOCAL BUILDING CODES** and **look for a PROFESSIONAL INSTALLER.**

M

**ID MOD FREESTANDING FIREPLACES ARE ICONIC.** Their bright hues are not nearly as eye catching as their funky shapes—conical, circular, floating and more—they are a symbol of innovative design.

The name most commonly associated with these retro beauties is Malm Fireplaces, Inc. In 1960 they began producing freestanding wood-burning fireplaces, as well as gas appliances, and they haven't stopped since. However, in the world of funky fireplaces, theirs isn't the only name that should come to mind.

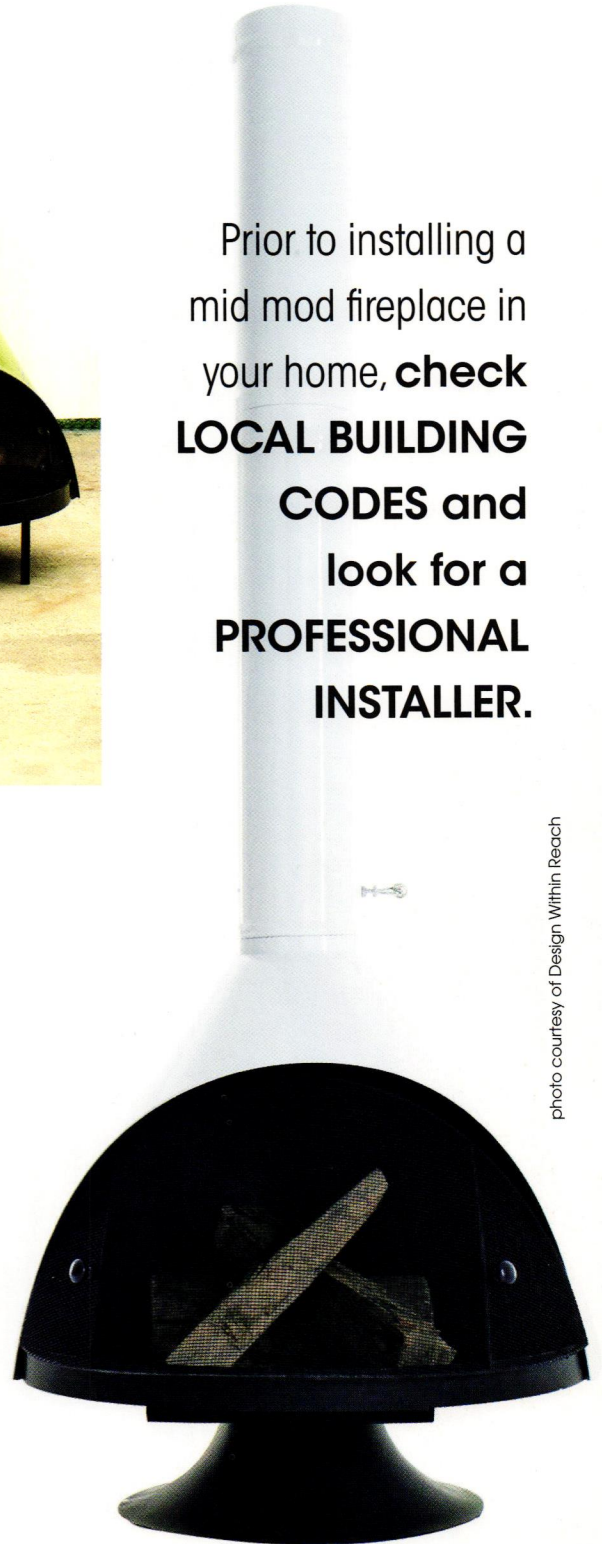


photo courtesy of Design Within Reach



## HOW DO THEY **WORK?**

Without a brick chimney to absorb heat, these freestanding fireplaces begin radiating heat much faster.

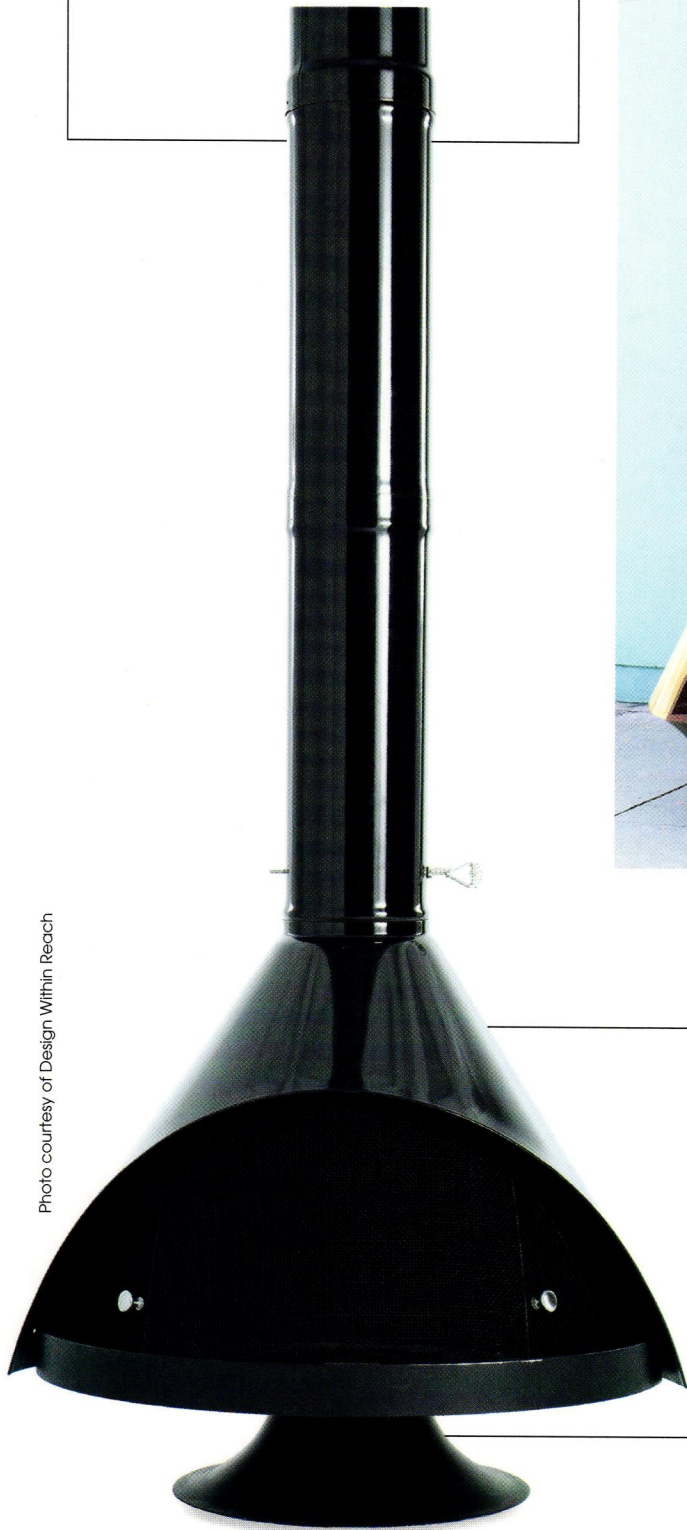


Photo courtesy of Design Within Reach



Photo courtesy of Surfing Cowboys

## CLEANING A MALM

**Straight from the manufacturer, these are the tips you need to read before starting up winter's first fire.**

- **Clear the area.** Keep a 4' clearance around your fireplace—this includes wood, kindling and furniture.
- **Check for leaks.** With a chimney system that involves multiple parts and connectors, it is important to check for damage, wear and loose connections. Repair immediately.
- **Remove creosote.** When tar, vapors and moisture combine, creosote is formed—which accumulates in the flue and can subsequently increase the heat of the next fire and risk a chimney fire. Use brushes, call a chimney sweep and add commercial cleaners to the fire to inhibit future buildup.

For more on Donna Gunther, visit [surfingcowboys.com](http://surfingcowboys.com).

For more of Aletha VanderMaas, visit [truehomerestorations.com](http://truehomerestorations.com).



Donna Gunther, the design consultant, co-owner and founder of Surfing Cowboys—a lifestyle and design company in Los Angeles that has an enviable collection of fireplaces, Hawaiiana, retro surf collectables and other midcentury treasures—says that the credit of the iconic silhouette and the first created mid mod fireplace belongs to Wendell Lovitt.

“His black metal fireplace merged the wrought iron stove traditionally used for heat with the open-hearth fireplace appreciated as a source of decoration, heat, entertainment, and a place for friends and family to gather,” she says.

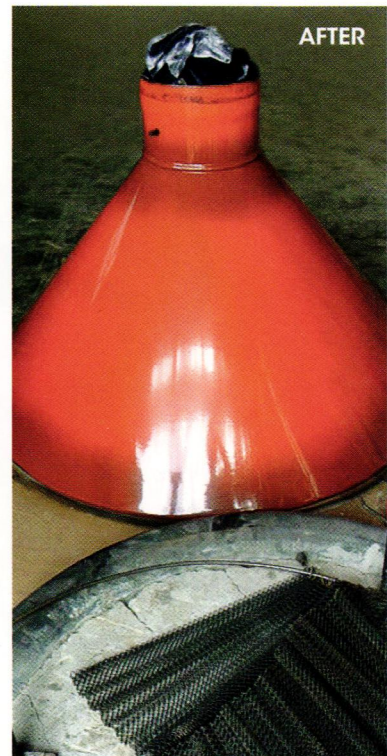
“The rise of these commercially produced fireplaces during the midcentury era coincided with both the construction of mass produced pre-fab housing and the heavily marketed design trend of indoor/outdoor living,” Donna explains. “As the enthusiasm for manufactured fireplaces grew, companies introduced color choices to complement the pop art vibrancy and interior décor color trends of the era.”

These colorful finishes are exactly what draws many modern collectors. For those on the hunt for a specific color, Donna suggests holding out for the perfect find rather than refinishing. While repainting is possible with specially formulated high-heat paint, it can be both pricey and difficult.

“The majority of vintage midcentury fireplaces on the market have a baked enamel finish that is not easily repainted or resurfaced,” she says. “When considering the purchase of an enamel-coated fireplace, I usually advise my customers to purchase a color that they are happy with.”

No matter the hue or maker, freestanding mid mod fireplaces are iconic—and if you’re lucky enough to have one, we’ve gathered up some helpful care and keeping tips. 🌀

**NO ROOM INSIDE?** Aletha set up her Malm carousel fireplace outside—making outdoor entertaining possible throughout more of the year and eliminating concerns about venting and fittings.



Photos by Aletha VanderMaas

## STRIPPED DOWN

For Aletha VanderMaas of True Home Restorations, orange is the new black.

After Aletha found a vintage Malm fireplace on Craigslist, she got to work reviving its long-hidden and colorful past. Prior to purchasing, the seller pointed out orange scratches on the black finish, and she knew something wonderful was waiting underneath what was obviously not the original hue. Aletha stripped away black paint to reveal the fireplace’s original vibrant orange finish.

“I used a generic can of paint thinner on a soft rag and literally just rubbed the thin coat of black paint away,” Aletha says. After just a couple of hours’ work, the black paint had disappeared.

Fortunately for Aletha, she did not have to do anything to restore the condition of the original color below. “The orange enamel was directly under the black paint and in amazing condition,” she says.



By Devlin Smith

Photography courtesy of the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts

# Sam

The woodworker's handcrafted furnishings exemplify the midcentury craftsman aesthetic.

# Malooof



ABOUT  
**75 PERCENT OF  
SAM'S DESIGNS WERE  
CRAFTED OUT OF  
walnut.**





A

**NEWLYWED IN NEED OF FURNISHINGS FOR HIS FAMILY HOME,** Sam Maloof began crafting wood pieces in his Southern California garage in the late 1940s while working as a graphic designer for artist Millard Sheets. His furniture soon gained the attention of local artists and designers, whose support helped his reputation grow nationally. An important early champion was industrial designer Henry Dreyfuss.

### GROWING POPULARITY

"[Dreyfuss] moved to California and built a house in South Pasadena ... and commissioned Sam to make the furniture for his own home and office" in the early 50s, says Jim Rawitsch, executive director of the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts. "I think that that embrace by a prominent American industrial designer gave some kind of cache and public awareness for his work, which fueled a lot of his later commissions."

Sam's linear furniture designs were commissioned for the Beverly Hills Hotel and the Case Study Homes. Magazines including *Better Homes & Gardens* and *House Beautiful* featured his work in stories about the new modern design aesthetic. *House Beautiful* even sold furniture patterns designed by Sam.

## Designer File

**LIFESPAN:** Jan. 24, 1916 - May 21, 2009

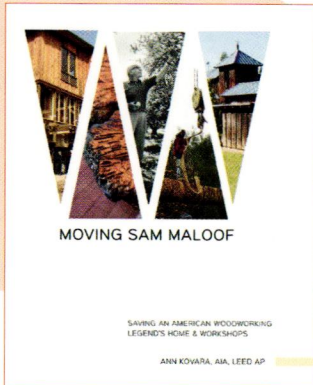
**KNOWN FOR:** Handcrafting linear and sculptural wood furniture pieces

**HONORS:** Include National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship Grant, John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, American Craft Council Gold Medal, Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from the Rhode Island School of Design, Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Aurora University, Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from California State University, San Bernardino

**ON DISPLAY:** Maloof furniture can be found in museum collections across the country including the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, DC, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, as well as at the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts in Alta Loma, California.

**FURTHER READING:** *Sam Maloof, Woodworker* by Sam Maloof and Jonathan Pollock, *The Furniture of Sam Maloof* by Jeremy Adamson, *Moving Sam Maloof: Saving an American Woodworking Legend's Home & Workshops* by Ann Kovara





## PRESERVING HISTORY

**A new book details what it took to save Sam Maloof's house from an interstate project.**

When Sam and Alfreda Maloof established their ranch home in Alta Loma, California, in the 1950s, the foothill community was populated with more orange groves and vineyards than people. As Sam expanded and upgraded the home over the next four decades, the community 40 miles east of Los Angeles became a booming suburb.

In the late 1990s, plans were made to extend the 210 freeway further east, and the Maloof house and workshop were located in the path of this proposed extension. Saving the home meant moving it 3 miles away, a process that project construction manager Ann Kovara details in the new book *Moving Sam Maloof: Saving an American Woodworking Legend's Home & Workshops*.

"Caltrans deemed the Maloof property eligible for the National Register of Historic Places," Kovara says. "The contributing factors to the property's historic designation were its 'association with a significant person of the past' and 'distinctive characteristics of the building by its architecture and construction including having great artistic value or being the work of a master.' Of course, the master was Sam."

Today, the five and a half acre property, which is operated by the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts, includes the family house, Sam's workshop, a gallery and sprawling gardens. Visitors may also enjoy docent-led tours of the home. The property is a Smithsonian Affiliate and a member of the Historic Artists' Homes and Studios program (HAHS) of the National Trust for Preservation.

"It is important to maintain enough of the historic fabric in the remaining Midcentury Modern homes to be able to understand the designer's original intentions regarding use of space, materials, color and light," Kovara says.



### UNIQUE FORM

"While that is thought of primarily as an era of concrete and glass and steel houses, you can imagine how Sam's use of sculpted wood in the context of concrete and steel and glass provides a humane and satisfying material for living in relation to these harder surfaces," Jim says. "[T]hat juxtaposition of Sam's design aesthetic in the context of new, often manufactured materials, the presence of furniture that had a human hand behind it and an artist's eye shaping it, I think all of these things made it especially appealing to the folks that were interested in midcentury architecture as an environment in which they chose to live their lives."

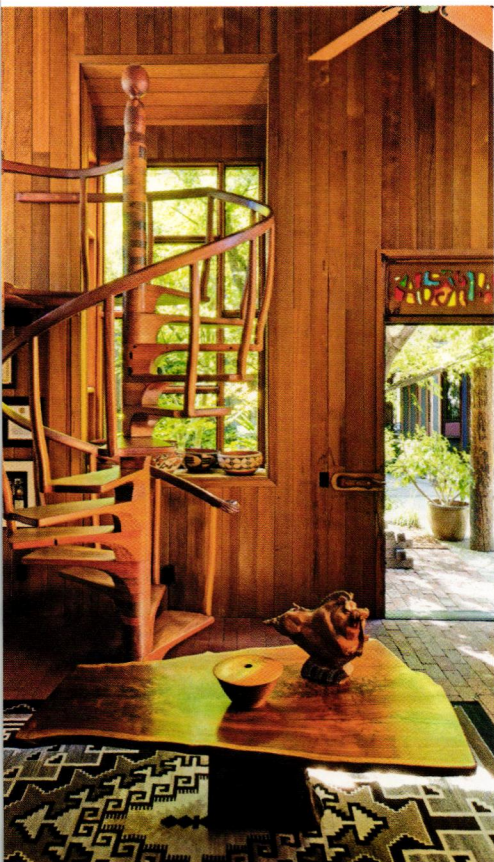
Over the course of his career, Sam's designs evolved from Scandinavian-influenced linear styles to more sculptural, organic pieces. He favored walnut (about 75 percent of the pieces he created were made from walnut, according to Mike Johnson, a craftsman

who worked with Sam and now operates Sam Maloof Woodworker Inc.), but also worked in maple, cherry, rosewood, ebony and other domestic and exotic woods. A legend persists that he didn't use nails, screws or other fasteners in his pieces, which is false; instead, he often used wood plugs to conceal the hardware.

### A TRUE ICON


Sam Maloof elevated woodworking to the highest of art forms, now recognized by museums around the world and by legions of admirers. The Smithsonian American Art Museum presented the first retrospective of Maloof's work in 2001, a watershed moment in the artist's career, one that eventually led to an affiliation between the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts and the Smithsonian Institution. Both organizations now work closely together to honor the legacy of Sam Maloof by inspiring new generations with





examples of his genius and artistry, says Harold A. Closter, Smithsonian Affiliations Director.

His Alta Loma, Calif. workshop continues to produce Sam's original designs, in addition to creating new pieces. Shortly after Sam's death in 2009, the shop introduced a line featuring midcentury designs, some of which were upholstered with vintage Jack Lenor Larsen fabric that Sam had collected. The shop still makes midcentury designs on commission and regularly repairs and restores original pieces.

"Sam had an extra design ability, and I think that's what has made his pieces—his designs—last, and I think that's what's made them special," Mike says. "I think without a doubt he is the most imitated contemporary wood craftsman, and it's truly amazing to see how many people out there are so enamored by what he did." 



## MAKER'S MARK

**On the hunt for a Maloof piece? Look for this brand to ensure you've found the real deal.**

Over the course of his career, Sam Maloof produced nearly 5,000 pieces of wood furniture that have become treasured family heirlooms by their original owners and sought-after finds for collectors, with pieces selling for tens of thousands of dollars at auction. Pieces are occasionally found for great prices at garage or estate sales, but because Sam's influential style is often imitated, you want to be sure to take extra care to ensure the piece you've discovered is authentic.

Early pieces were branded with a block M Maloof logo with the words "design made" above the M and "California" below it and the year the piece was made. Beginning in the 1970s, Sam used a burning script pen to hand-sign, date and number each piece. The inscription would include the initials for each member of the woodshop who worked for him at the time the piece was made. Pieces made in the shop today are marked in much the same way, but with the corporate name Sam Maloof Woodworker Inc. taking the place of Sam's signature.

For more, visit [maloofoundation.org](http://maloofoundation.org), [sammaloofwoodworker.com](http://sammaloofwoodworker.com) and [movingsammaloof.com](http://movingsammaloof.com)





"THE WOOF RANCH RECENTLY TOOK THE TOP PRIZE IN ITS DIVISION AT THE OC FAIR IN COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA," SAYS ALEJANDRO.



# Woof



By Sarah Jane Stone  
Photography by Willie Romero

# Ranch

Meet the company making dog houses so stylish they may rival your home.

**F**OR DOG OWNERS, A DESIGNATED SHELTER FOR THE FURRIEST FAMILY MEMBER IS A MUST-HAVE. With many dog houses leaving much to be desired stylistically, finding a suitable home for Fido that isn't a plastic igloo can be difficult.

This is where Alejandro and Sara Pijuan come to the rescue. The couple launched Pijuan Design Workshop (PDW) in 2012.

"I have always been fortunate enough to be around man's best friend," Alejandro says. "From my first dog Cookie, to my current dog Adilynn, I've always had a soft spot for our four legged-friends. What better way to show our appreciation for their happiness and never-ending tail wags when we get home than their very own house?"

## ARCHITECTURALLY SOUND

The Los Angeles couple offers more than an affection for dogs. Both received their Masters of Architecture from the University of Southern California, and their training ensures their dog house design is as accurate a representation of midcentury style as possible.

"Have a Midcentury Modern home and need a dog house? We will design your pup a home that **RIVAL**S YOUR VERY OWN."



"I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PURSUE THIS ENDEAVOR THAT IS PDW IF IT WASN'T FOR THE SUPPORT AND UNWAVERING DEDICATION OF MY PARTNER AND WIFE, SARA. SHE TRULY IS THE BACKBONE OF WHAT IT TAKES TO KEEP A BUSINESS MOVING, AND I CANNOT THANK HER ENOUGH," ALEJANDRO SAYS.



"We both come from a background in architecture in which we value the integrity of design. PDW aspires to blur the lines between form and function," he says. "As Mies van der Rohe once said, 'I don't want to be interesting. I want to be good.'"

"PDW takes its inspiration from our professional careers in architecture. I currently work for L.A. based architecture firm Johnson Fain, where I am an Associate Senior Designer." Alejandro says. "Working at Johnson Fain allows me to expand my knowledge of architecture while conversely, my designing of dog houses also gives me a different perspective in design."

## LOVE FOR MODERNISM

As small business owners, the Pijuans have learned that, for them, designing is the easy part. "We are constantly working hard on getting our name and design out to the masses, while still concentrating on bringing the best design to the table."

Both Alejandro and Sara are drawn to midcentury style for its clean lines, simple designs and the blurred line between indoor and outdoor living spaces. "In its simplest form, Midcentury Modern implores details that are structurally logical, such as exposed post and beam, which allows for more open, inviting spaces," he says.

The duo bases their designs on these elements—creating dog houses fit for the furriest mid mod fans. ☺

For more, visit [pdworkshop.com](http://pdworkshop.com).

## MINI MID MOD

**The nuts and bolts of creating a retro home for man's best friend.**

"When setting out to design a doghouse we start with two parameters, style and functionality," Alejandro says.

Size is the first functional element they take into consideration. Using standard crate sizes as the basis for the house's so-called living room, Alejandro and Sara are able to design for dogs of all sizes—from Chihuahuas to German Shepherds.

Then comes the fun part—adding in dog-friendly, functional amenities. "From accessible green roofs to partially covered sun decks to peek-a-boo windows and artificial turf, we design and integrate as much as we can," he says.

Fully customizable, Pijuan Design Workshop can tailor your pet's mid mod ranch to meet their needs as well as your style requests. Everything from their bowl placement to the house numbers and wood siding stain can be customized to suit man and man's best friend.



KON  
ZUK



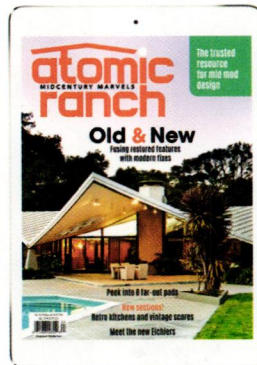
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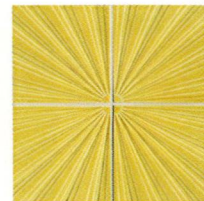
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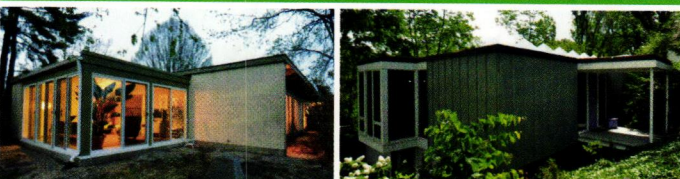
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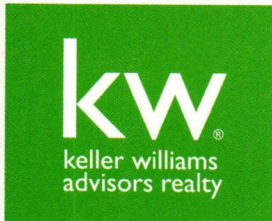
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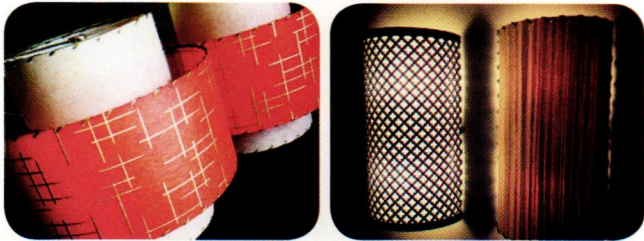
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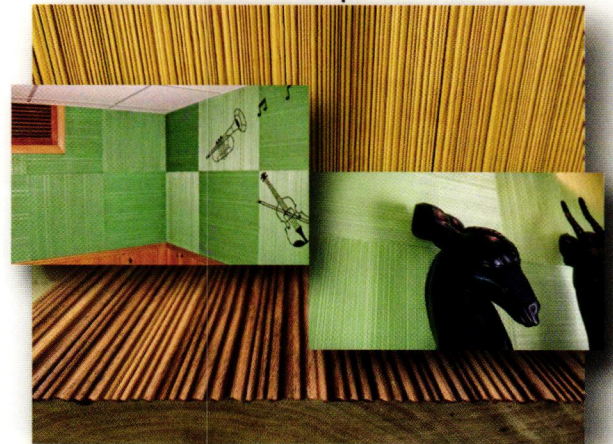
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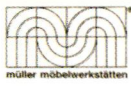
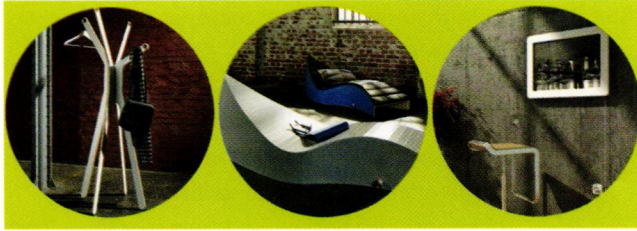
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# The *Cat's Meow*

Brighten your walls with midcentury inspired art that sets iconic furnishings in cheerful, home-like settings. By Sarah Jane Stone • Photo courtesy of Donna Mibus

Inspired by the midcentury's clean lines and Space Age designs, artist Donna Mibus sees a "happy optimism" in the style that keeps her just as enamored with it as she was in her childhood.

"When I was a child in the 1960s, I would spend hours with our family's Sears and Montgomery Ward catalogs, looking at the modern furniture and accessories. I never outgrew my love for it."

## A PASSION DISCOVERED

Donna discovered her love for painting when her passion for creating and learning new things inspired her to turn to the paints she had on hand from teaching her granddaughters art.

"At the same time I was playing around with a computer program, designing midcentury room scenes, and I got to wondering if I could recreate them using acrylic paint," she says. She simplified her design, and once she added in a little black retro-styled cat, she had finished her first painting.

## RETRO INSPIRATION

Donna's artwork features iconic pieces that are easily recognizable to fans of midcentury style. Egg, Ball and Tulip chairs, Bubble, Beehive and pole lights, and even Ball and Starburst clocks make up her retro setting depictions. When it comes to wall art she often includes gravel art, atomic shapes and tikis.

"I'm a bit of a minimalist, which is reflected in my designs. Instead of putting in a lot of 'stuff,' I choose to focus on just a few iconic décor elements," she says. "Every room or scene that I paint is one I would love to live in."

With her Etsy shop performing well, Donna's creativity has leapt from canvases and prints to fabric and even stencils. However, Donna's favorite design is her mid-mod-inspired black cat. "He not only gets to lounge in his favorite midcentury chairs or on a tabletop next to a Beehive lamp, but in my travel series he gets to visit some great places—including Paris, New York and Hawaii. He's a lucky cat!"

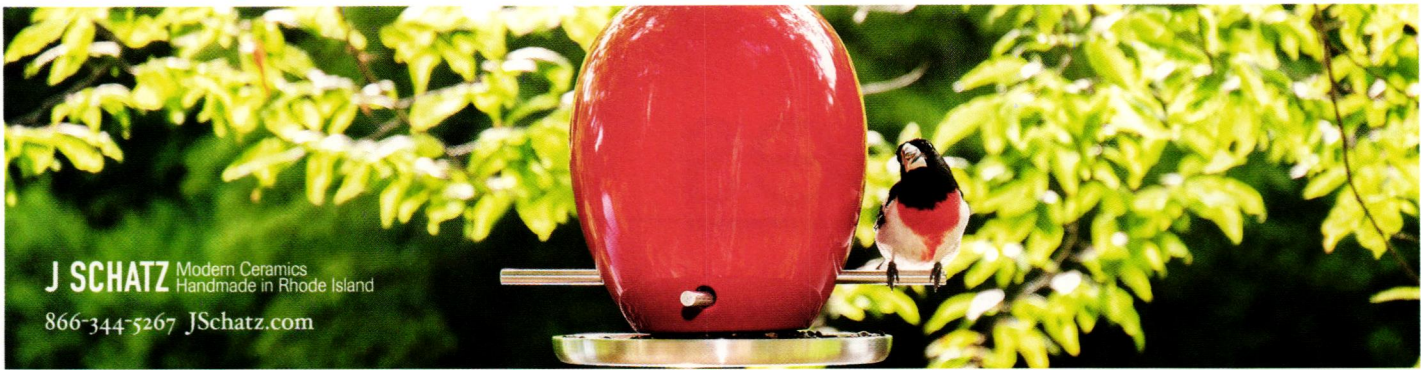
When asked how she makes midcentury style relevant to a modern-day audience, Donna replies: "By creating happy scenes. Happiness never goes out of style."



DONNA DESCRIBES HER EXPERIENCE SELLING THROUGH ETSY AS BEING BOTH POSITIVE AND OFTEN UNPREDICTABLE. SHE HAS RECEIVED SOME RATHER UNIQUE REQUESTS FROM BUYERS BUT LOVES THE CREATIVE CHALLENGES.

For more on Donna, visit [donnamibus.etsy.com](http://donnamibus.etsy.com).





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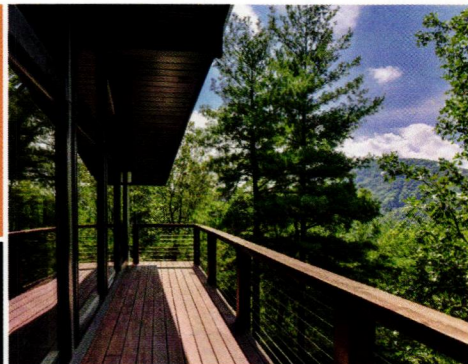
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# resources

## Carolina Blue, pp. 26-37

Mid Century Salvage, (704) 635-8744 or midcenturysalvage.com.

## A New Day, pp. 38-49

**Entry: Kitchen table and chairs:** Eames Segmented Base Table for Herman Miller.

**Low, orange, square upholstered bench:** Paul McCobb All 'Round Square bench for Winchendon, Craigslist.

**Orange, black and white cabinet:** George Nelson Steel Frame Cabinet for Herman Miller, eBay.

**Coat hanger:** Eames Hang-It-All for Herman Miller, Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

**Bedroom: Wall desk unit:** George Nelson Action Office wall unit for Herman Miller, bought from homeowner's hospital's surplus storage.

**Headboard:** Original Clare Henry Day design

**Rolling chair:** Eames DAT-1 rolling chair for Herman Miller, gift from a friend.

**Living Room: Yellow couches:** Unknown maker, original couches left behind in homeowner's previous home.

**Planters under the stairs:** Gainey Ceramics, bought from Gainey factory in La Verne (now closed).

**Bubble lamps:** George Nelson Bubble Lamps by Modernica, modernica.net.

**Office: Wall unit:** George Nelson for Herman Miller CSS wall unit, traded for with a friend.

**Credenza:** George Nelson Executive Office credenza, eBay.

**Sofa:** Eames Sofa for Herman Miller, Post-War Modern, (909) 748-6431 or postwarmodern.com.

**Office chair:** Eames Soft Pad office chair, government auction.

**Den: Side tables:** George Nelson Swag Leg side tables, Craigslist.

**Speakers:** JBL L-100 speakers, garage sale.

**Cabinet:** George Nelson Basic Cabinet for Herman Miller, eBay.

**Wall cabinet:** Florence Knoll wall hanging cabinet, eBay.

**Armchairs:** Eero Saarinen Executive Armchairs, traded for with a friend.

**Lounge chair:** Florence Knoll tubular lounge chair, eBay.

**Music room: Chair:** Hans Wegner Papa Bear chair, estate sale consigner

**Coffee table:** Hans Wegner coffee table for Andreas Tuck, Post-War Modern, (909) 748-6431 or postwarmodern.com.

**Daybed:** Hans Wegner Daybed for Getama, traded for with a friend.

**Credenza:** Arne Vodder Credenza for Sibast, Craigslist.

**Piano:** Baldwin Acrosonic piano, Craigslist.

**Other: Connected table and chairs:** Eames Tandem Bench for Herman Miller, Post-War Modern, (909) 748-6431 or postwarmodern.com.

**Patio furniture near lawn:** Brown Jordan Kailua patio set and Brown Jordan Lei Around lounge, Craigslist.

**Patio furniture:** John Caldwell for Brown Jordan Mai Tai lounge chairs, estate sale.

Brown Jordan Sand Chairs, estate sale.

## Curb Appeal, pp. 50-55

Cadence Design Studio (720) 314-8195 or cadence-studio.com.

**Coffee table:** Charleston Forge, (828) 264-0100 or charlestonforge.com.

**Callan chairs:** Room & Board, roomandboard.com.

**Contractor:** Concept Builders Colorado, (720) 278-9477.

**Kitchen cabinets:** Livia, (720) 476-5126 or myliviakitchen.com.

## Modern Love, pp. 56-59

*Living Retro* by Andrew Weaving, photography by Andrew Wood, published by Ryland Peters & Small, ©2016; rylandpeters.com.

## Seasonal Warm Up, pp. 60-63

Donna Gunther, visit surfingcowboys.com.

Aletha VanderMaas, visit truehomerestorations.com.

**White and black Malm fireplaces:** Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

## Sam Maloof, pp. 64-67

Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts, malooffoundation.org.

Sam Maloof Woodworker Inc., sammaloofwoodworker.com.

*Moving Sam Maloof: Saving an American Woodworking Legend's Home & Workshops* by Ann Kovara, AIA LEED AP, published by Schiffer Publishing, ©2016; schifferbooks.com or movingsammaloof.com.

## Woof Ranch, pp. 68-70

Pijuan Design Workshop, pdworkshop.com.

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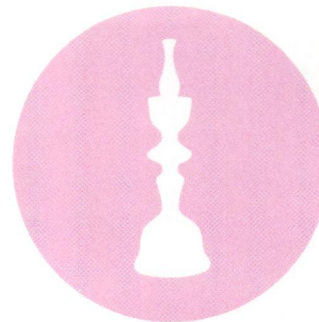
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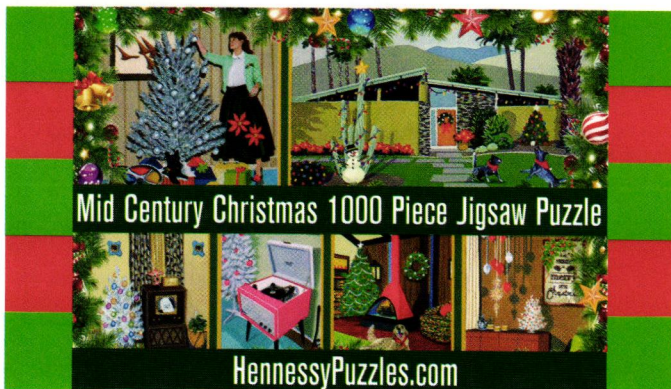
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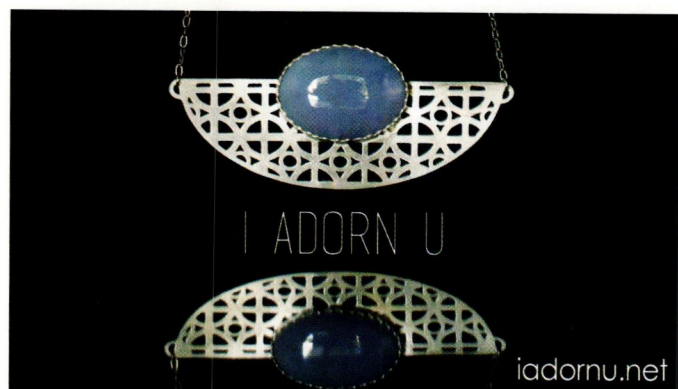


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