

# atomic

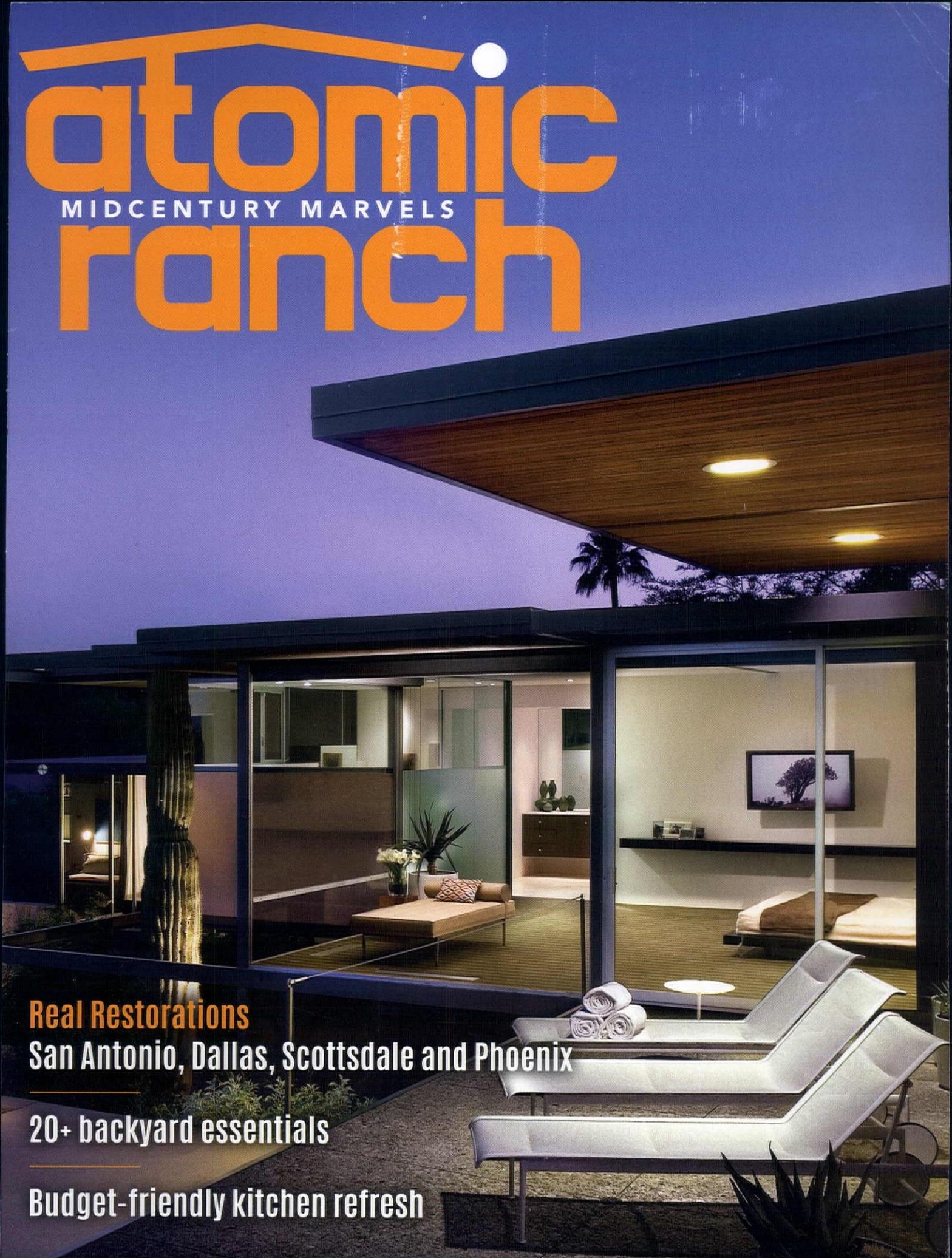
MIDCENTURY MARVELS

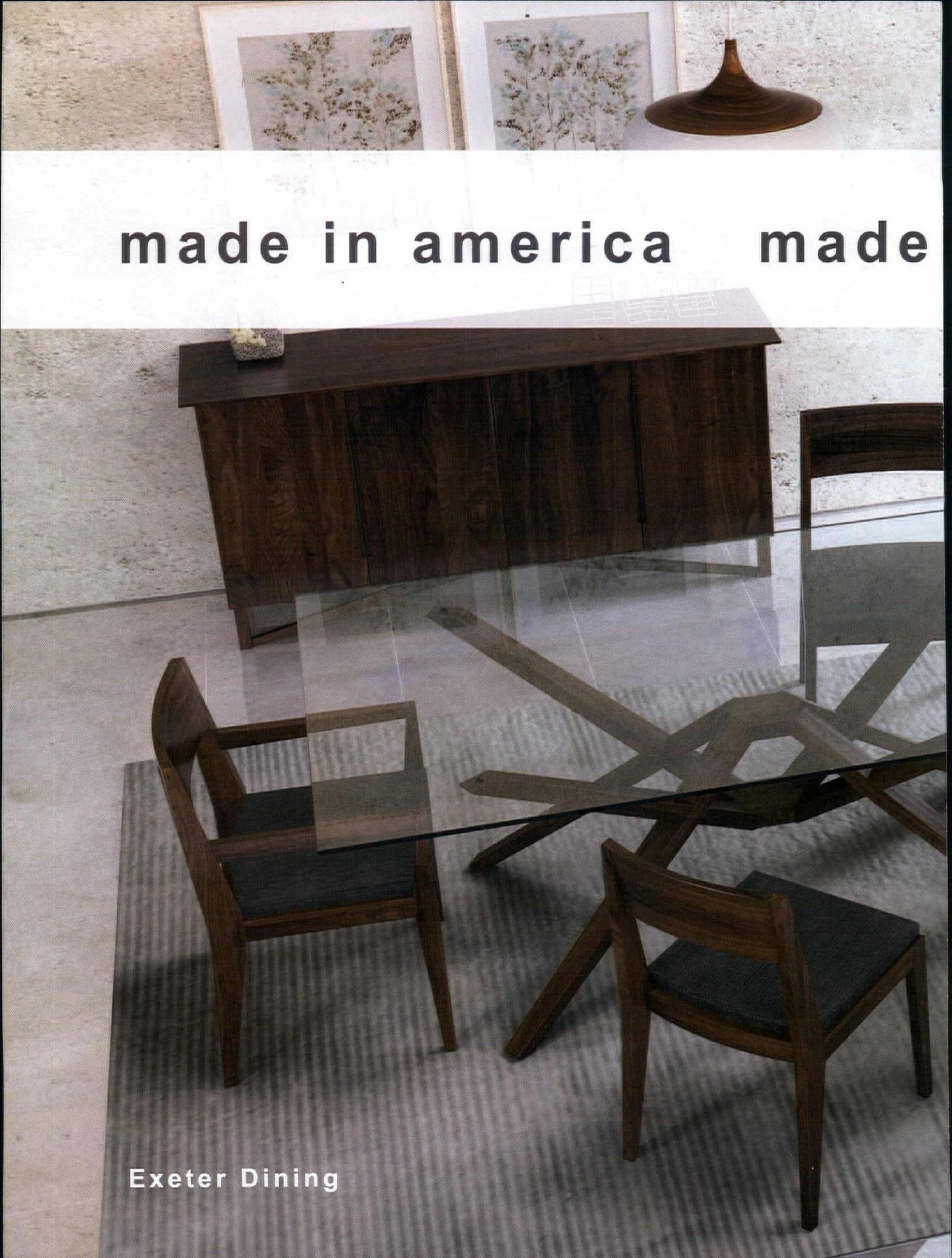
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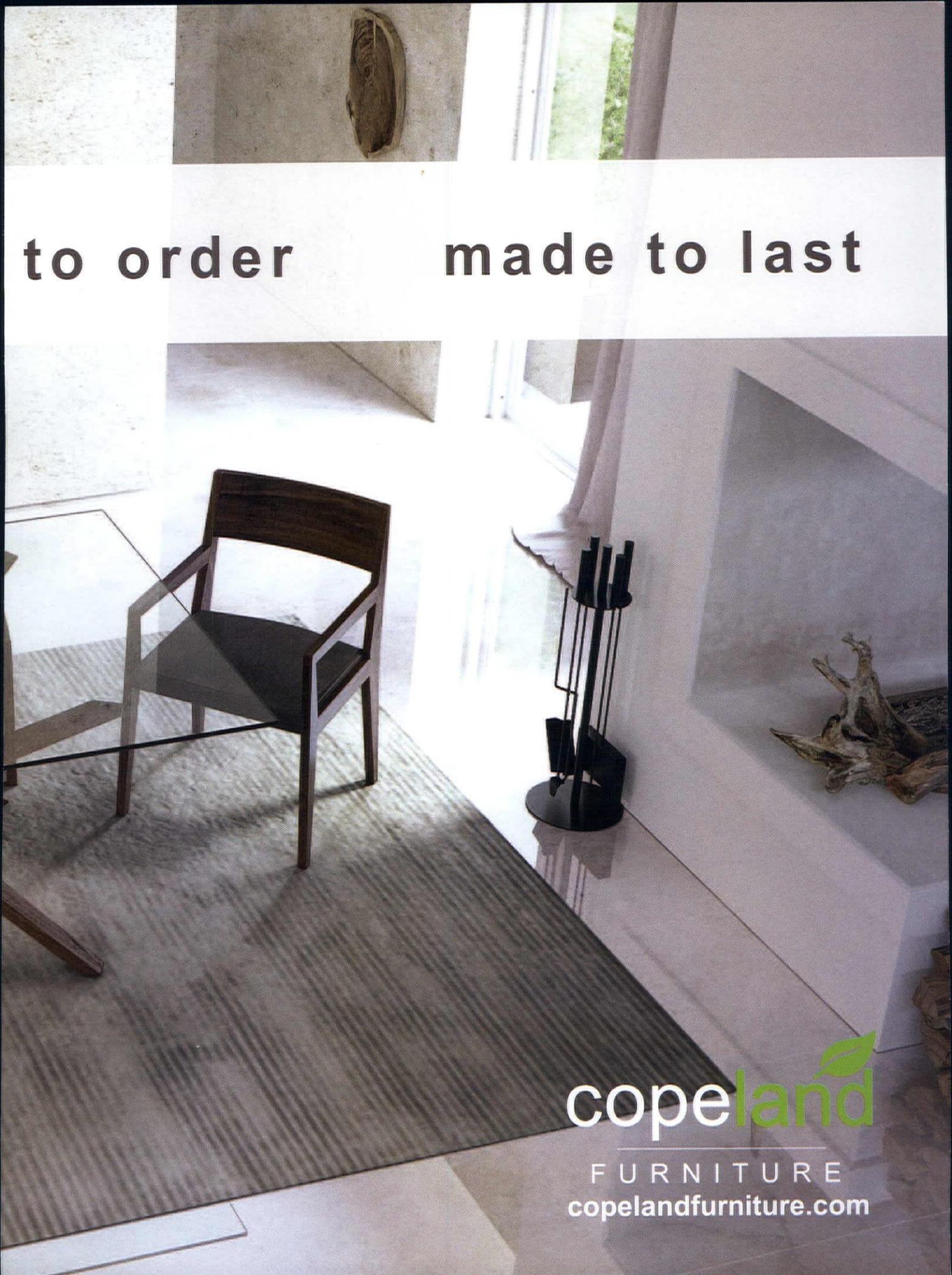
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# editor's letter



## Curate & Collect

Summertime is upon us, and for those who love to collect, the season comes with an exciting partner in crime—the flea market. When the weather warms and the sun shines, up pop canopies in parking lots under which countless treasures spread.

It was at a flea market where I first fell in love with vintage handmade ceramics. I saw an incredibly unique bud vase—brown with bits of blue and a skinny neck—and immediately knew it would be taking a center-stage spot on my open bookshelf. With no signature and a simple “'62” drawn into the rough, unfinished base, I like to think of it as originally having been someone’s high school art project.

Since that fateful morning, many handmade ceramic pieces have found their way into my heart—each one a little more quirky and fun than the last, and each without a big name attached. There’s a blue and white vase signed by Dave on my mantle, a purple and grey bowl on my desk where flash drives live, a sugar bowl with an adorable walnut lid, a tiny cup that hosts stamps and envelope seals, plus so many more. I try to give each piece a home that shows off its beauty as well as its perfect imperfections.

Whether you enjoy the experience of scouring through flea markets or not, the joy of bringing home a new-to-you midcentury treasure is shared here. These collectables are part of what make real homes our dream homes—and that is exactly what the summer issue is all about. From Emil Milan birds (page 22) to Scandinavian and Italian home goods (pages 52 and 56), we’re taking a close look at the beauty of midcentury collectables. Our homes, all of which find themselves amid the Southwest, range from Space Race loving (page 28) to incredibly lucky renters (page 40) and even a jaw-dropping case study (page 48).

This summer, I hope that you find your favorite collectable. Whether you discover exactly what it is you want to curate, or finally track down that dream piece you’ve been looking for—may this summer be filled with the joy of collecting little pieces of the midcentury era.

Sarah Jane Stone

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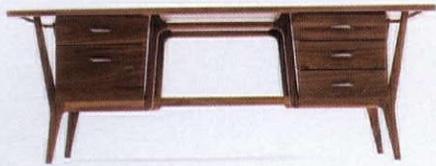


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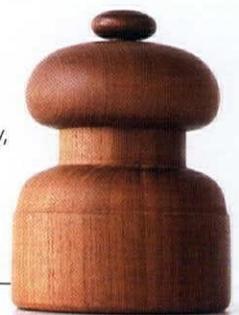
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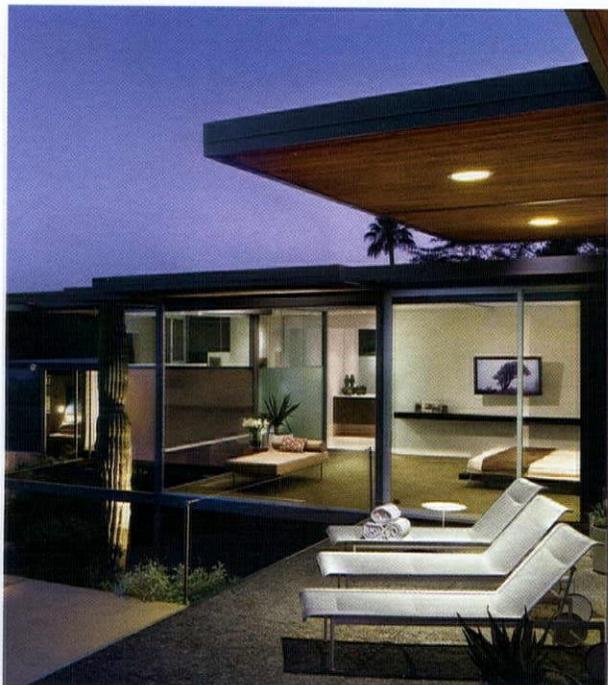
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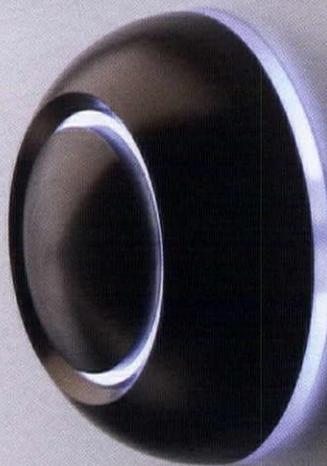


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# webnews

## What's new on the web?

Stay up to date with *Atomic Ranch* by following us online—where even more great houses and content await.

### Inside Scoop!



Love our Dallas home? Check in to see even more of this truly atomic home.

### Jazz Up Your Curb Appeal



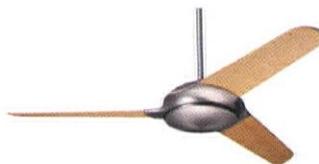
A little color, a fresh take on landscaping, and a few surprise twists will make your house the spiffiest on the block.

### Cool Stuff

Light up your next soiree with outdoor lighting that features mod sensibilities. Plus, beat the heat with stylish fans.



Konial 5 LED outdoor wall light, \$216. Visit [yilighting.com](http://yilighting.com).



Flow fan with bamboo blades and matte nickel finish, visit [modernfan.com](http://modernfan.com).



Saturn Path Light, \$150. Visit [yilighting.com](http://yilighting.com).

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# homepage

By Jolene Nolte

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

## Kauffman Home | Prairie Village, KS

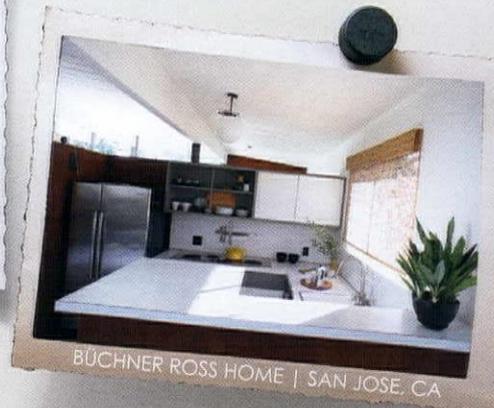
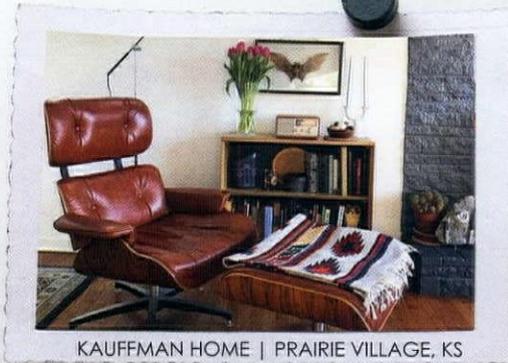
Rachel Kauffman knew her 1955 ranch was "the one." Since it became her home in 2011, Rachel says, she has layered furniture and décor: "Our décor reflects our appreciation of midcentury design, but we've also incorporated pieces from other time periods and cultures. Almost all of our furniture and décor came from thrift stores, estate sales, or family members. It's taken time and patience to turn our house into a home, but we wouldn't have it any other way."

## James House | San Luis Obispo, CA

Jenny James let us in on her favorite spot in her atomic ranch: "We were sold on our house, a 1961 ranch, as soon as we caught sight of the huge rock fireplace in the sunken living room. It's no surprise that this is our favorite seat in the house! My husband refinished this vintage rocking chair, found years ago at a garage sale, and the bullet planter was an eBay find."

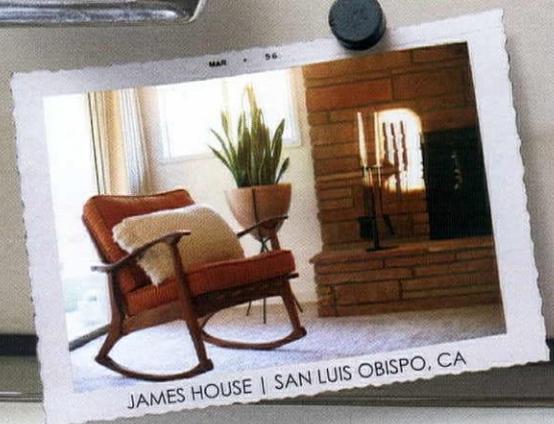
## Büchner Ross home | San Jose, CA

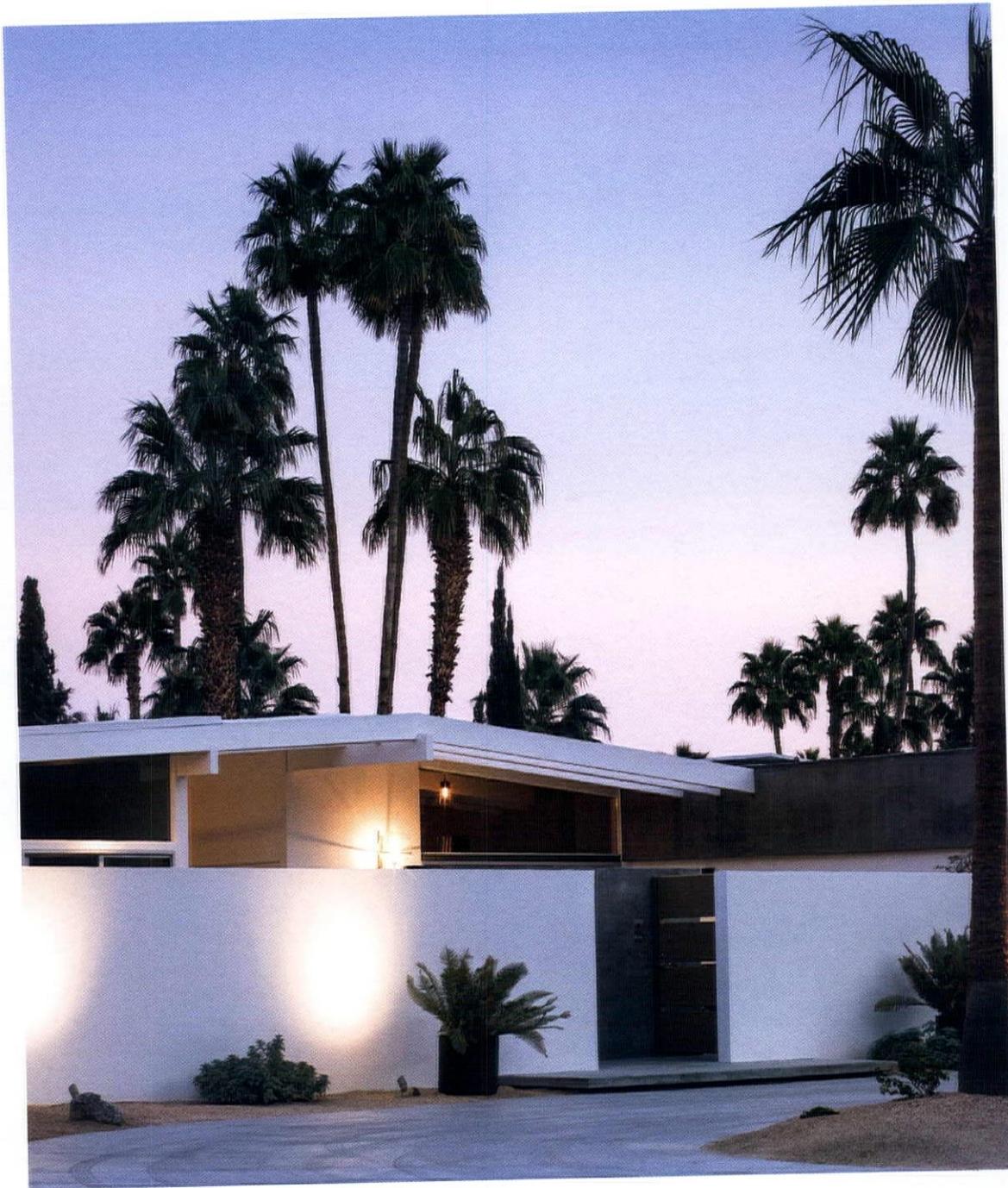
Karolina Büchner and her husband undertook a labor of love in their home's kitchen. "The kitchen of our 1960 Eichler (architects Jones & Emmons)," Karolina explains, had suffered "a coat of taupe paint that didn't highlight the cabinetry, and caused the sliding doors to stick." They stripped off the paint from the home's original cabinets and sliding doors and selected new colors "to mimic the Eichler-spec gray Zolatone and white combination."



P H

Want your home to be featured? Send sharp photos and a couple of sentences about your ranch to [editor@atomic-ranch.com](mailto:editor@atomic-ranch.com), or share with us on Instagram using #ARhomepage.





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# coolstuff

## Mod Patio

Deck out the backyard with midcentury-inspired finds fit for that perfect summer barbeque.



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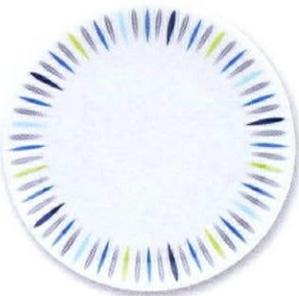
A little tiki goes a long way! Easter Island tiki statue, 20-inches with burnt finish, \$119. (877) 677-4440 or [tikimaster.com](http://tikimaster.com).



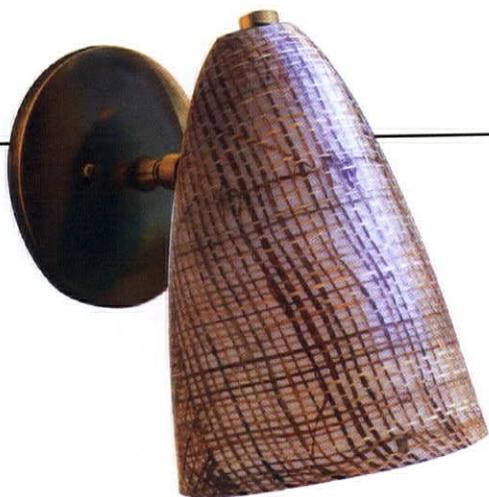
Bring a little mod-inspired pattern to your patio table. Embroidered waves blue and green pillow, \$35. (817) 252-6300 or [pier1.com](http://pier1.com).



Mojitos will be even more refreshing in these tropical glasses. Aloha cocktail glass, \$16.95. Visit [crateandbarrel.com](http://crateandbarrel.com).



Fun dinnerware? Check. Dansk® The Burbs decal blue 4-piece party plate set, \$29.99. Available online at [bedbathandbeyond.com](http://bedbathandbeyond.com).



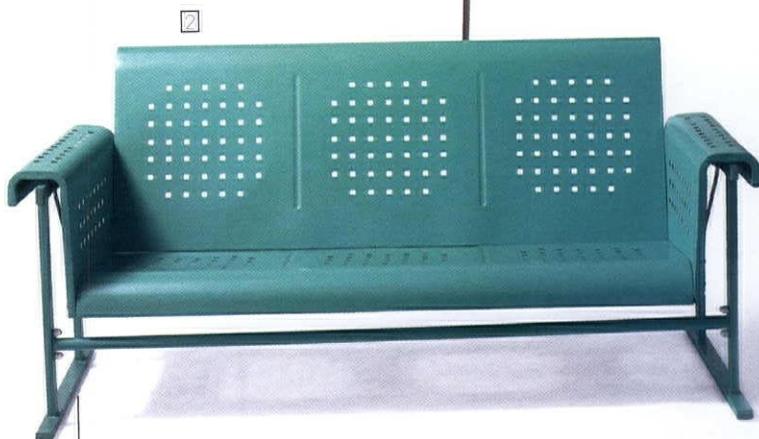
Light up the night with a fun, textured shade. Retro Bullet Lighting Collection single bullet sconce with rattan shade, \$175. (512) 462-4755 or [hiphaven.com](http://hiphaven.com).



This mod cooler is perfect for hosting cold drinks at a backyard soiree or stylishly toting a picnic. Red picnic cooler, \$69.95. Visit [crateandbarrel.com](http://crateandbarrel.com).



Drink up with glasses that look straight out of the 1950s. Green and turquoise old fashioned cocktail glasses, set of 4, \$49. Visit [shagstore.bigcartel.com](http://shagstore.bigcartel.com).



## Sit Pretty

Set up a party-ready patio with colorful outdoor furniture.

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2. Retro squares glider sofa in aquatic, \$649. (866) 668-5962 or [grandinroad.com](http://grandinroad.com).
3. Retro side table in pear green, \$99. (866) 668-5962 or [grandinroad.com](http://grandinroad.com).
4. Retro squares spring chair in red, \$199. (866) 668-5962 or [grandinroad.com](http://grandinroad.com).



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2. Pair of black midcentury bar stools, \$175. Visit [loveseat.com](http://loveseat.com).
3. Midcentury white vinyl accent chair, \$110. Visit [chairish.com](http://chairish.com).



# periodpicks



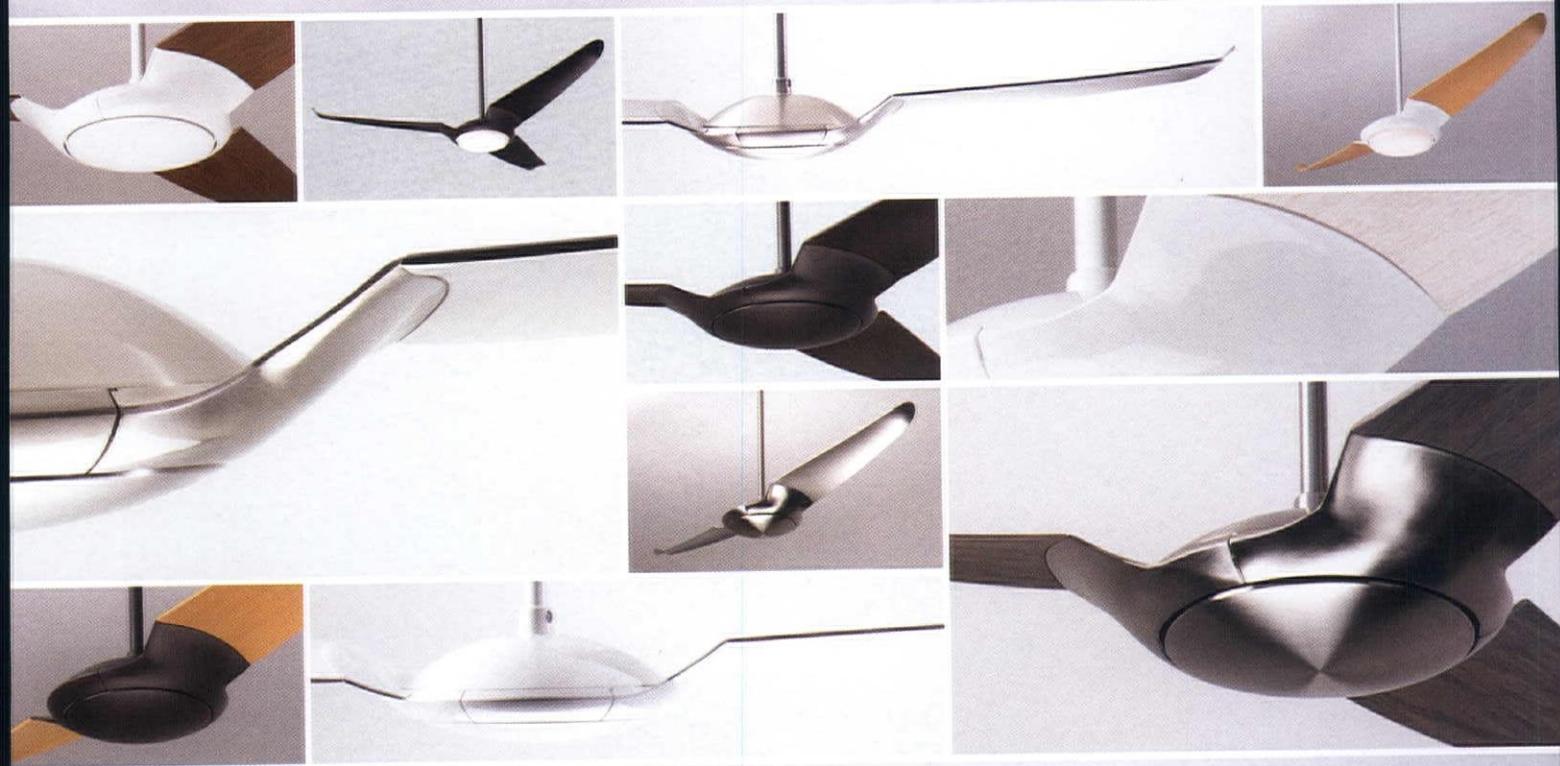
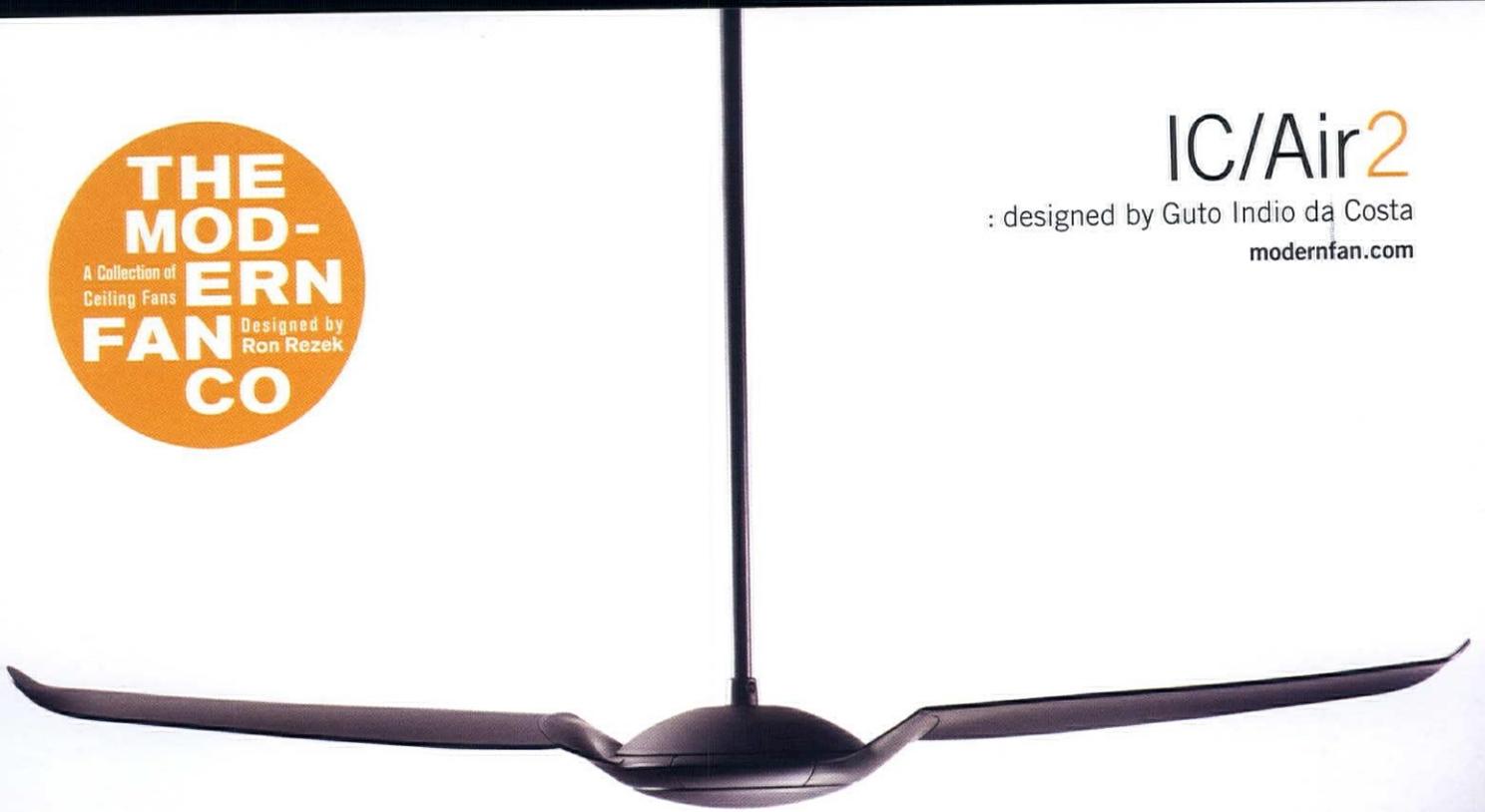
- 4. Erik upholstered wing chair in chili, \$699. Visit [westelm.com](http://westelm.com).
- 5. Midcentury modern metal vanity stool, \$75. Visit [loveseat.com](http://loveseat.com).
- 6. Pair of vintage wicker lounge chairs, \$975. Visit [chairish.com](http://chairish.com).
- 7. Hans Wegner CH24 Wishbone chair, \$229. (877) 224-6663 or [inmod.com](http://inmod.com).



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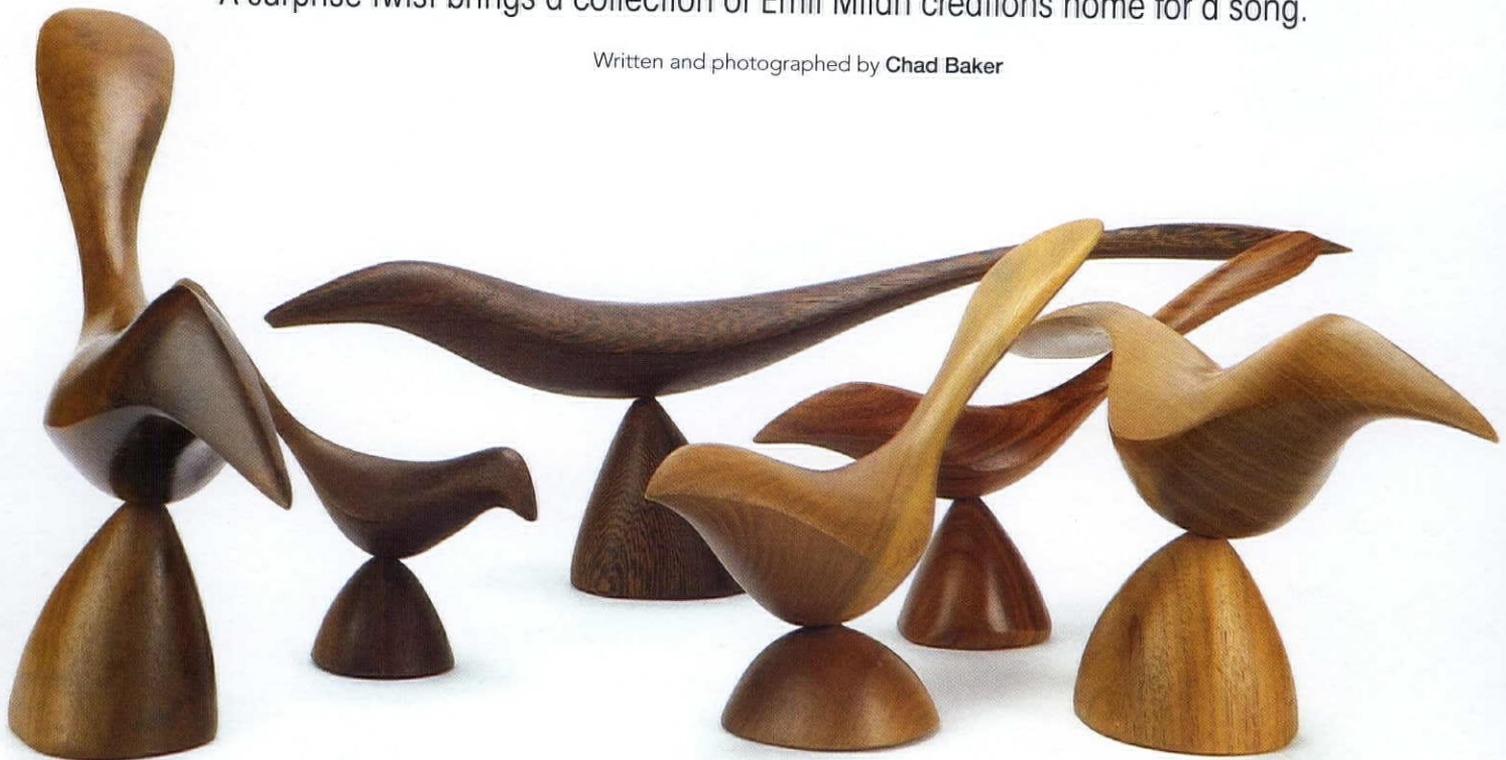
Early in my exposure to Midcentury Modern accessories and accent pieces, I stumbled upon an artist who created incredible wooden birds sculpted from unique wood species. The artist behind these little birds, Emil Milan, crafted silhouettes showcasing refined, smooth, flowing, and clean lines—perfect compliments to midcentury architecture. Long after realizing my desire to one day own some of these masterfully crafted, life-like wooden birds, they finally became a reality for our home.

## Birds

### Without Feathers Flock Together

A surprise twist brings a collection of Emil Milan creations home for a song.

Written and photographed by Chad Baker





## Knowing my purchase **saved a collection as a whole unit** for the future is most rewarding and satisfying.

Eight years ago while studying photos from an estate auction in Pennsylvania, I was elated to discover a large collection of these wonderful wooden birds by Emil Milan. Every piece was described over the phone by the auction house as in perfect condition, signed, and identifying the unique species of wood such as Palo Rosa, Bissilon, Imbuia, Wenge, Cucumber Magnolia, and Walnut. The quantity of birds, their shapes,

sizes and species of wood, made this a rare, amazing find that I simply couldn't miss.

Having purchased from this auction house previously was a definite benefit. I inquired how the birds would be sold and was told "by the lot"; meaning that the entire collection would remain together. I trusted the information they had provided about the condition and they trusted me with my very generous bid. Now all I could do was wait anxiously for the phone call, which I received the following day.

To my great surprise, I was awarded the lot of wooden birds for a mere \$20—this was truly a great find and my dream to own some of these amazing, handcrafted creations came true.

However, the auction house seemed to be intrigued by the decision behind the perceived large bid.

Consequently, their research revealed artist Emil Milan as a close friend of their father (whose estate was being auctioned). Occasionally on Emil's visits, he would present their father with a newly sculptured wooden bird, which would find a resting place on their father's shelf. Knowing my purchase saved a collection as a whole unit for the future is most rewarding and satisfying.

You never know where the next amazing find will appear, but the element of surprise and excitement of discovering a treasure will remain a fond memory—and hopefully become a collection all its own. ☸



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

# atomickitchens

## Form meets Function

When the originals just don't make the grade, modern materials with midcentury sensibilities save the day.

By Sarah Jane Stone • Photography by Whit Preston



LOCATED IN AUSTIN, TEXAS, THIS 1957 HOME STILL HAD ITS ORIGINAL KITCHEN—but the functionality of the space was long gone.

Originally built for a home builder who did a number of houses in the neighborhood, the home went on to see its fair share of owners. Current homeowners Sloan and Peggy Houser actually started out as renters, but their love for the home was such that they convinced their landlord to sell them the property.

In 2013, architects Rick and Cindy Black were called in to help renovate the kitchen, dining and living areas. Their partnership on the project was no accident, as the couples know one another through mutual friends as well as through Sloan's plastering business, Sloan Montgomery.

## NITTY GRITTY

The Housers love to cook, but the original kitchen just wasn't making the cut. Rick and Cindy describe the previous space as being cramped and with countertops in short supply. "Cabinets were also really hard to access, so they wanted a big improvement to storage and hardware quality," Cindy says.

According to Rick and Cindy, the structural layout of the house was their guiding principle, and their aim was to use this grid to lay out a rational system of walls and cabinetry. "At the same time, we opened up some of the corners, which created a dynamic relationship between living and kitchen—which was previously very disconnected," Cindy says.

Despite needing a new, better functioning, kitchen, the Housers didn't want to lose all of the space's mid mod charm. Rick and Cindy put a priority on



RICK AND CINDY MADE A FEW KEY CHANGES TO THE KITCHEN'S LAYOUT—GIVING THE SPACE A SMARTER, MORE FUNCTIONAL DESIGN AND OPENING IT UP TO THE MAIN LIVING AREAS.

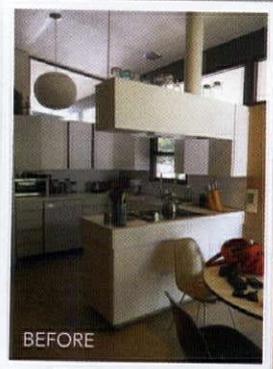
## REAL HOME 101

**TYPE OF HOME:** 1957 midcentury

**ARCHITECTS:** Barton D. Riley and Emil Niggli

**BACKGROUND:** The children of the second owner sold the home to the neighbor who purchased with the intention of tearing it down to extend his driveway. Changing his mind, he rented the property out and eventually Peggy and Sloan moved in and purchased the house in 2012.

**INNOVATIVE IDEA:** Rick and Cindy added the shelving across the window as a way to add a bit more glassware storage to the kitchen layout.



## DESIGN MUST-HAVES:

- Rick and Cindy added a window to the space—creating a view to the front of the house as well as plenty of natural light.
- The island is a workhorse. Aside from desperately needed counter space, it hosts both the oven and microwave.
- Small space? Turn to a slimmer refrigerator, like this sleek, low-key, stainless option from Liebherr.

## WHAT MAKES IT MCM?

- Rick and Cindy chose to mix open shelving with small upper cabinets to create a horizontal line to follow along the clerestory windows.
- Thanks Fireclay Tile's Debris series tile in Daffodil, the backsplash packs a major punch of midcentury style.
- "Vivid and earthy" are the words Rick and Cindy use to describe their finished work.

preserving the existing clerestory windows as well as the trim ledge. They also preserved the terrazzo floors, beams, the cabinet facing the living room, as well as the masonry fireplace. Keeping with a concept from the original design, Rick and Cindy incorporated teak paneling in the space as well.

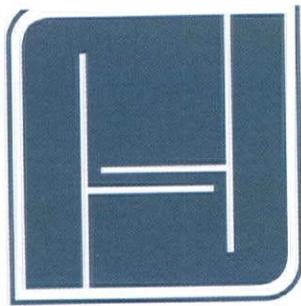
## PERSONAL TOUCHES

After three months of planning their design and four months of construction, the Housers finally had their dream kitchen. Complete with stainless steel counters chosen for their practicality, modern appeal and the integral sink, the kitchen is a stunning blend of form and function.

The kitchen features custom cabinets that have veneered teak fronts with full overlay doors and full-extension drawer glides. Along the pantry wall, touch-latch hardware makes the added storage easily accessible without compromising on streamlined style. It also helps the space blend seamlessly with the wood paneled walls in the adjacent living areas.

Also, in keeping with the mod appeal of clean lines is the stove, rather than compromising the clean lines of the clerestory windows above with an unsightly range hood, the gas cooktop has a pop-up vent that vents to the crawlspace down below.

As a master plasterer, Sloan took a unique approach to his home's renovation. He refinished all the drywall surfaces to a smooth, fine plaster—with the interior walls and fireplace refinished with a French plaster mix called Stuc Pierre. The island countertop as well as the open shelving was milled from a felled American Elm from Sloan's workshop site. The end result is a kitchen that honors its midcentury dwelling while beautifully meeting the modern needs of the homeowners. 

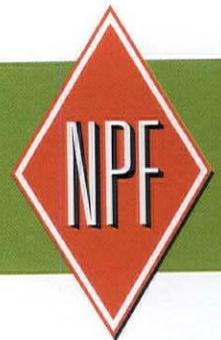


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# Lost in Space

By Leslie J. Thompson  
Photography by Guadalupe Garza/  
Twin Shoot Photography

First owned by a design engineer who worked with NASA, this 1958 Dallas home pays homage to the Sputnik era.



"We like to **mix original furniture** with **some of the newer stuff**, because you can get great quality now, and **all these MIDCENTURY LINES have come out.**"



**n the late 1950s, working men across America would come home in the early evening and kick back with a cocktail before dinner.**

Sitting in high-back chairs and sipping on bourbon, they listened to recordings by Frank Sinatra, Etta James and Ella Fitzgerald as the cares of the day melted away.

Homeowners David Haggard II and his partner Tommy Sawyers carry on this tradition, relaxing most evenings in the hi-fi lounge of their 1958 Dallas, Texas home surrounded by the creature comforts of a bygone era.

"We've always been crazy about Midcentury Modern and collected midcentury furniture," says David, who 10 years ago moved with his partner from Kentucky to the Lone Star state to further

A 1960S BRASS STIFFEL POLE LAMP FROM LULA B'S IN DALLAS, TEXAS AND MIDCENTURY SETTEE IN THE ORIGINAL ORANGE FABRIC PROVIDE A COZY NOOK BY THE FIRE.



their careers in healthcare. After building a custom home on the lake in Fort Worth, the couple received a purchase offer they couldn't refuse just 10 weeks after moving in, and soon began their quest for a house that fit their retro style.

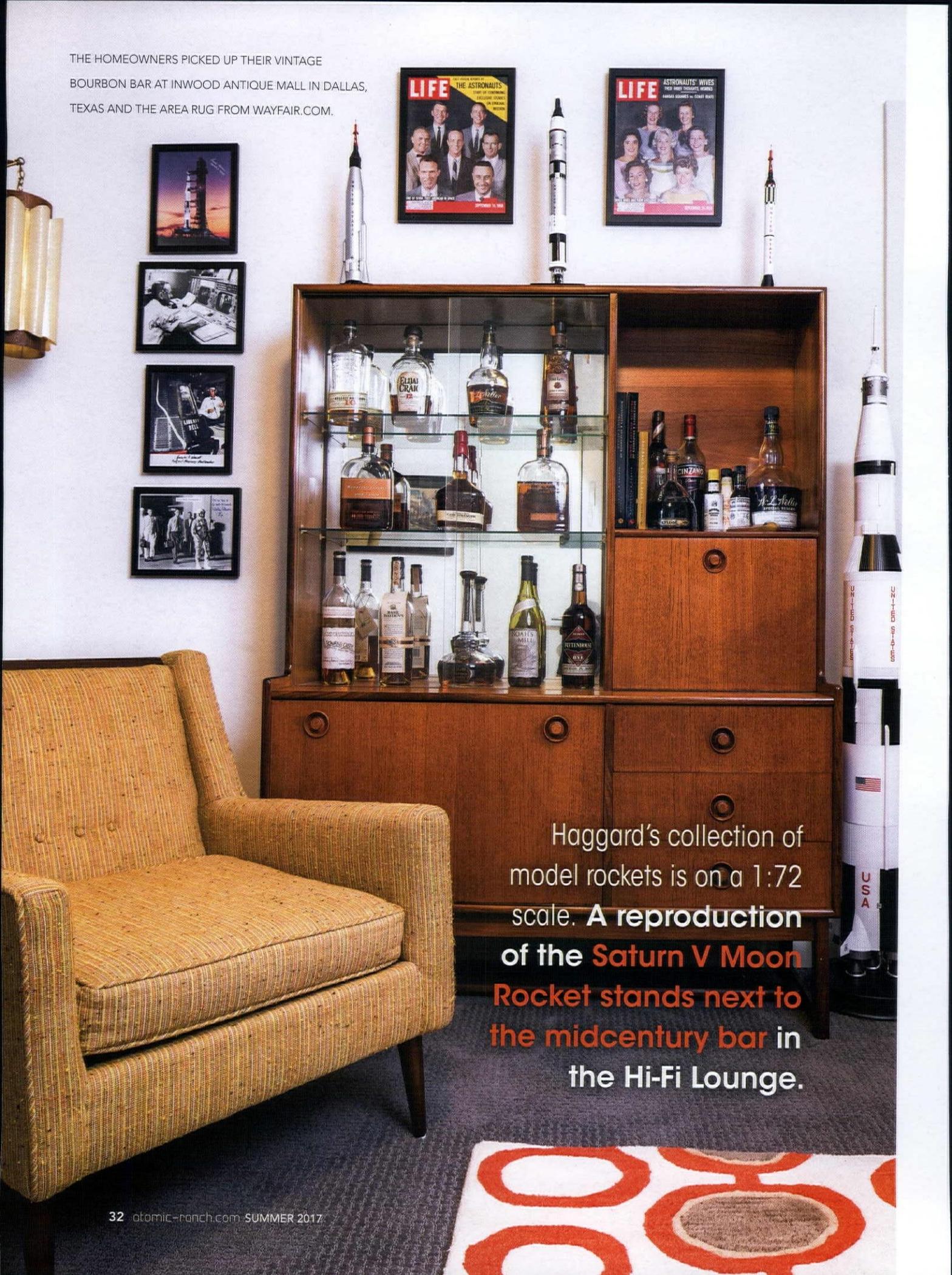
David kept returning to Sparkman Club Estates, a cozy neighborhood in northwest Dallas with dozens of picturesque, ranch homes built in the late 1950s. Although well maintained, few have the classic midcentury style of David's residence, which was designed by Arch Swank, Jr., an innovative figure of Texas architecture.

"The house was featured in the 1958 Parade of Homes," David says proudly, adding that the publication highlighted its design conducive to "indoor/outdoor living for the modern family."



THE MIDCENTURY TABLE LAMP FROM  
RETRO REVIVAL, FORT WORTH, TEXAS,  
AND FRAMED ART PRINT BY SLIM AARONS  
ACCENTS A CONTEMPORARY LEATHER  
SOFA SET FROM HAVERTY'S, AS DOES AN  
AREA RUG FROM WAYFAIR.COM.

THE HOMEOWNERS PICKED UP THEIR VINTAGE BOURBON BAR AT INWOOD ANTIQUE MALL IN DALLAS, TEXAS AND THE AREA RUG FROM WAYFAIR.COM.



Haggard's collection of model rockets is on a 1:72 scale. **A reproduction of the Saturn V Moon Rocket stands next to the midcentury bar in the Hi-Fi Lounge.**

A 1950s MAJESTIC Z TABLE LAMP SITS ATOP AN ORIGINAL G PLAN TEAK CREDENZA IN THE DINING ROOM. THE ORANGE BULLET PLANTER IS FROM HIP HAVEN IN AUSTIN, TEXAS.

## A RARE FIND

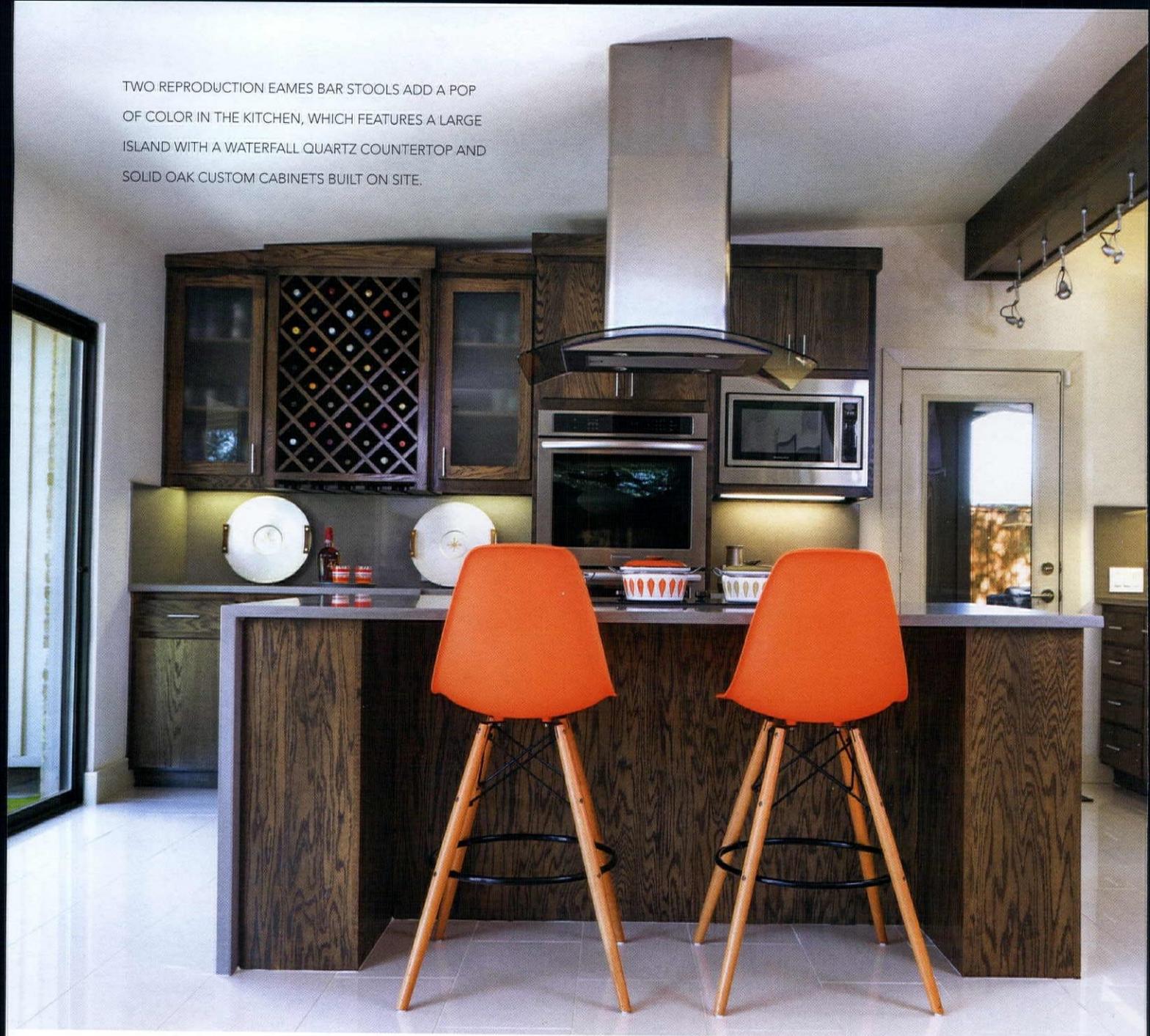
The property was one of only a handful of residences designed by Swank, who is better known for his commercial projects, including the Preston Center branch of Neiman Marcus (1952), the semiconductor complex for Texas Instruments in Richardson, Texas (1958), and the Great Southwest Corporation's industrial park in the neighboring city of Arlington (1958). Drawings for the Sparkman Club house are on file amid Swank's works at the University of Texas–Austin Library, and David has a copy of the original blueprint.

To learn more about the home's history, David tracked down the original residents, two of whom still live in the area. Marianne Edwards Montoya was only 18 months old when she and her family moved into the property. Her father designed cockpits and



IN THE GUEST ROOM,  
VINTAGE 1960s TABLE  
LAMPS ILLUMINATE  
THE VIBRANT  
ORANGE SLEEPER  
SOFA AND WHITE  
SHAG AREA RUG,  
BOTH FROM IKEA.

TWO REPRODUCTION EAMES BAR STOOLS ADD A POP OF COLOR IN THE KITCHEN, WHICH FEATURES A LARGE ISLAND WITH A WATERFALL QUARTZ COUNTERTOP AND SOLID OAK CUSTOM CABINETS BUILT ON SITE.



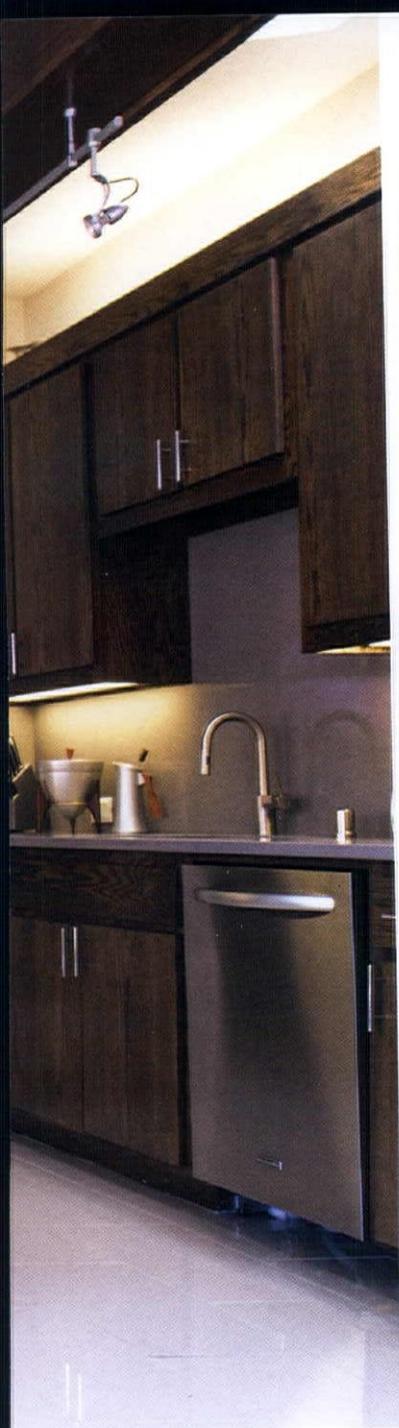
“The house was featured in the **1958 Parade of Homes for Dallas.**”

frequently traveled back and forth between Dallas and Houston for projects with NASA. He remarried after his first wife passed away, and in 1967, he built an addition as a piano studio for his new bride, which today is the master bedroom.

#### A COMPLETE OVERHAUL

The remainder of the house retains its original footprint, with skylights and floor-to-ceiling windows flooding the space with natural light. However, the interior has been twice remodeled, with the most recent owner taking it down to the studs to create a more open floor plan between the kitchen, dining and living spaces. “It’s like having a brand-new house with everything we like,” David says.

The things he likes includes a collection of Sputnik-era memorabilia, from framed prints of *LIFE* magazine featuring the first astronauts and their wives to model rockets that sit atop a tall midcentury bar. The rest of the home is meticulously decorated with vintage and reproduction furniture and home



ABOVE: THE PREVIOUS OWNER OPENED THE ORIGINAL GALLEY KITCHEN, DINING AREA AND LIVING ROOM INTO A BRIGHTLY LIT SPACE THAT LOOKS OUT ONTO THE BACK PATIO AND POOL.

A FLOATING DUAL VANITY IN THE MASTER BATH FEATURES LED LIGHTS THAT CHANGE COLOR.

A WALL UNIT FROM THE 1960s  
HOUSES BOOKS AND SPACE  
MEMORABILIA IN THE HI-FI LOUNGE.





ABOVE: EIGHT REPRODUCTION EAMES EIFFEL CHAIRS ENCIRCLE A WALNUT-FINISH DINING TABLE FROM THE WEST ELM MIDCENTURY LINE.

BELOW: TWO ORIGINAL AMES AIRE CHAISE LOUNGES PERCHED POOLSIDE BRING A TOUCH OF VINTAGE PALM SPRINGS TO THE BACKYARD.





"It's like having a  
**brand-new house** with  
**everything we like.**"

accessories, including loungers by Eames and Mulhauser, Majestic Z boomerang table lamps, rare 1950s Mirro Medallion candlesticks, and an original painting by Modernist artist Charlie Harper. On the back patio, a vintage Ames Aire patio set and chaise lounges provide a place for guests to relax by the pool.

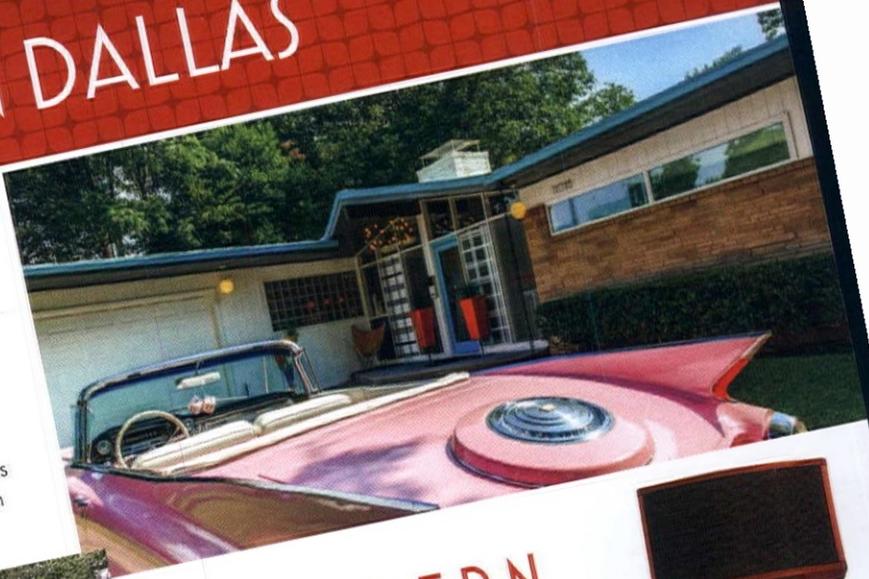
"We like to mix original furniture with some of the newer stuff, because you can get great quality now, and all these midcentury lines have come out," David says, admitting that his affinity for acquiring new finds borders on obsessive. He quips, "We keep waiting for it to not be popular, so we can actually buy the things we love." 

# MODERN DALLAS



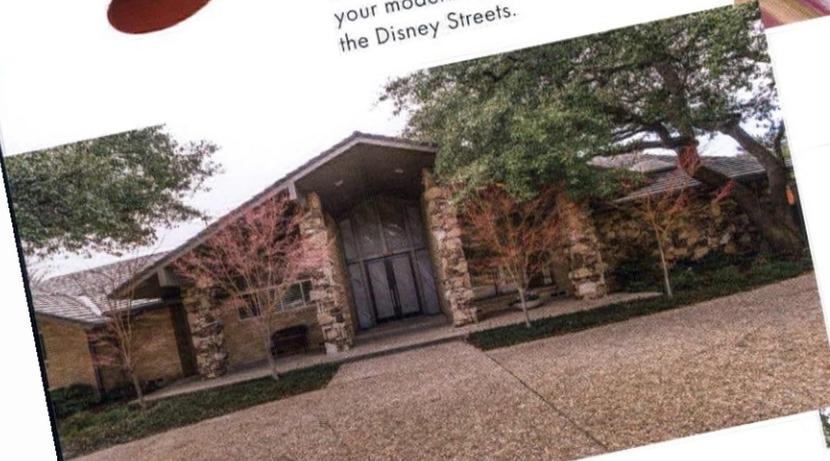
## MODERN EDGE

Does Mid-century design parallel your taste? Call me and we can help you find a home that matches your modern style like this gem in the Disney Streets.



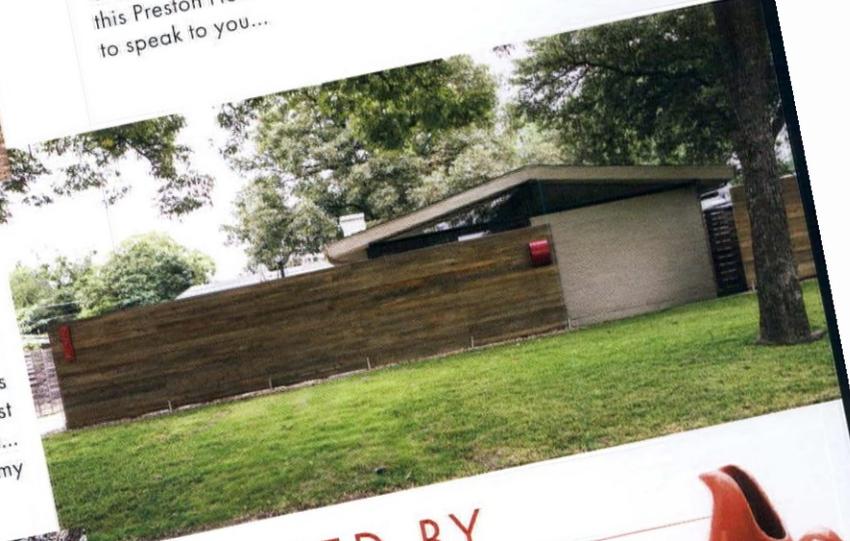
## MODERN SPEAKS TO ME

Great Mid-century Modern homes like this Preston Hollow beauty are waiting to speak to you...



## MODERN MATCHMAKER

Finding great new caretakers for some of Dallas' finest Mid-century Modern homes... like this **Cliff May** design is my passion.

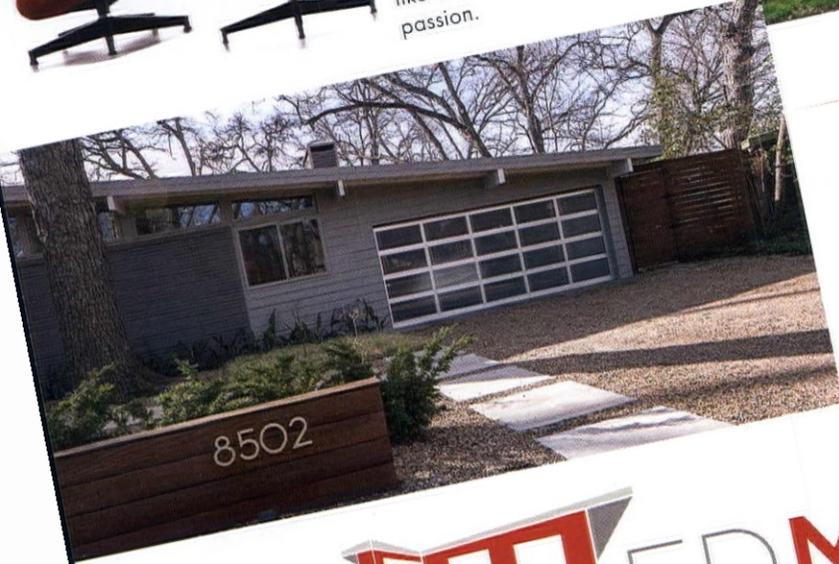


## SHAPED BY MODERN

Modern design influences everything I do. I am proud to sponsor Modern home tours focusing on some of the best neighborhoods for Mid-century Modern architecture.



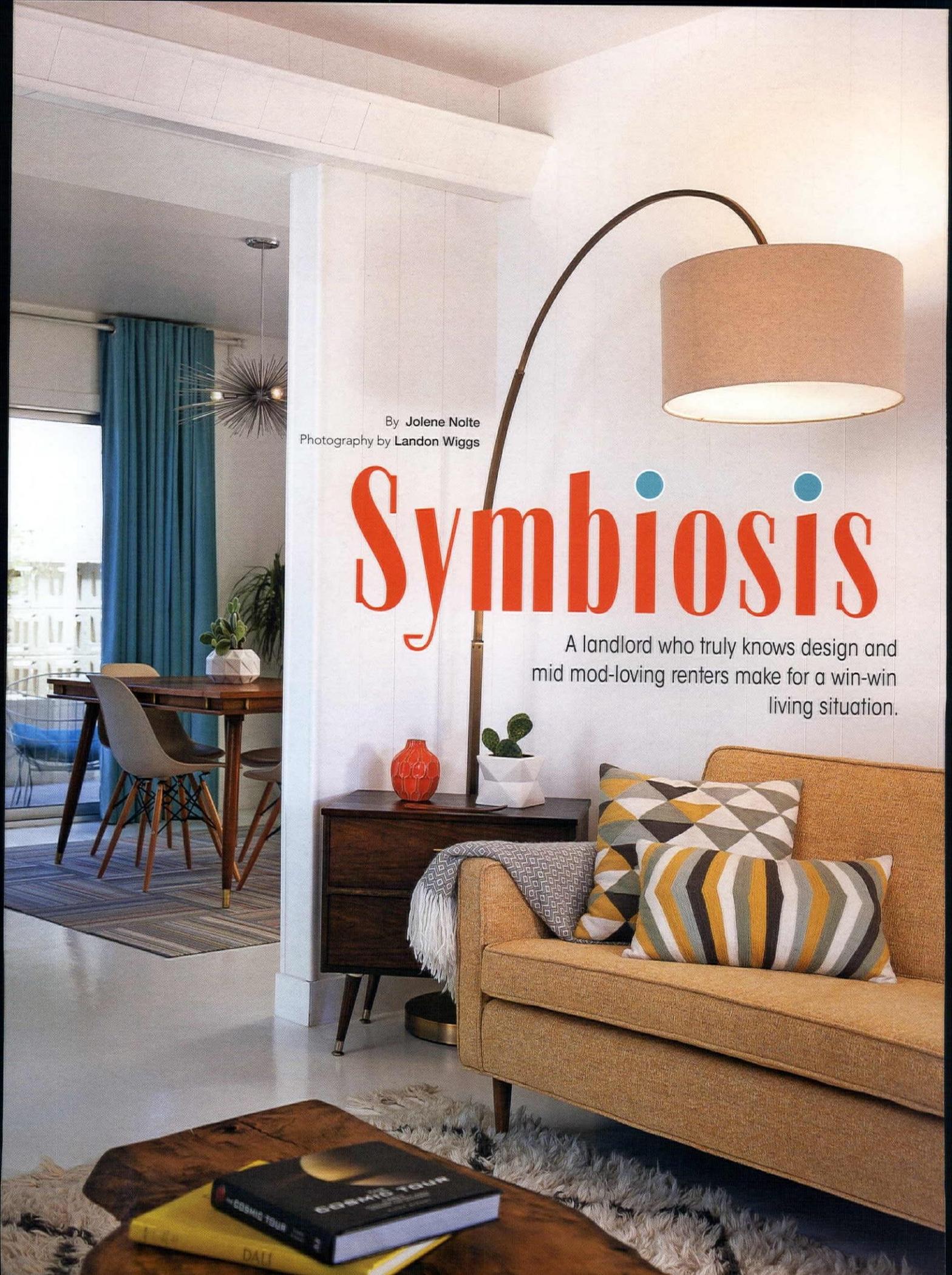
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By Jolene Nolte  
Photography by Landon Wiggs

# Symbiosis

A landlord who truly knows design and mid mod-loving renters make for a win-win living situation.



**IF YOU'RE AN OWNER, FINDING RENTERS WHO WILL NOT ONLY APPRECIATE** but also maintain and further improve your Midcentury Modern home is a challenge. If you're a renter, finding a mid mod gem to call home can be difficult. For Rachel Simmons and Kimberly Adams, they have found this exact symbiosis.

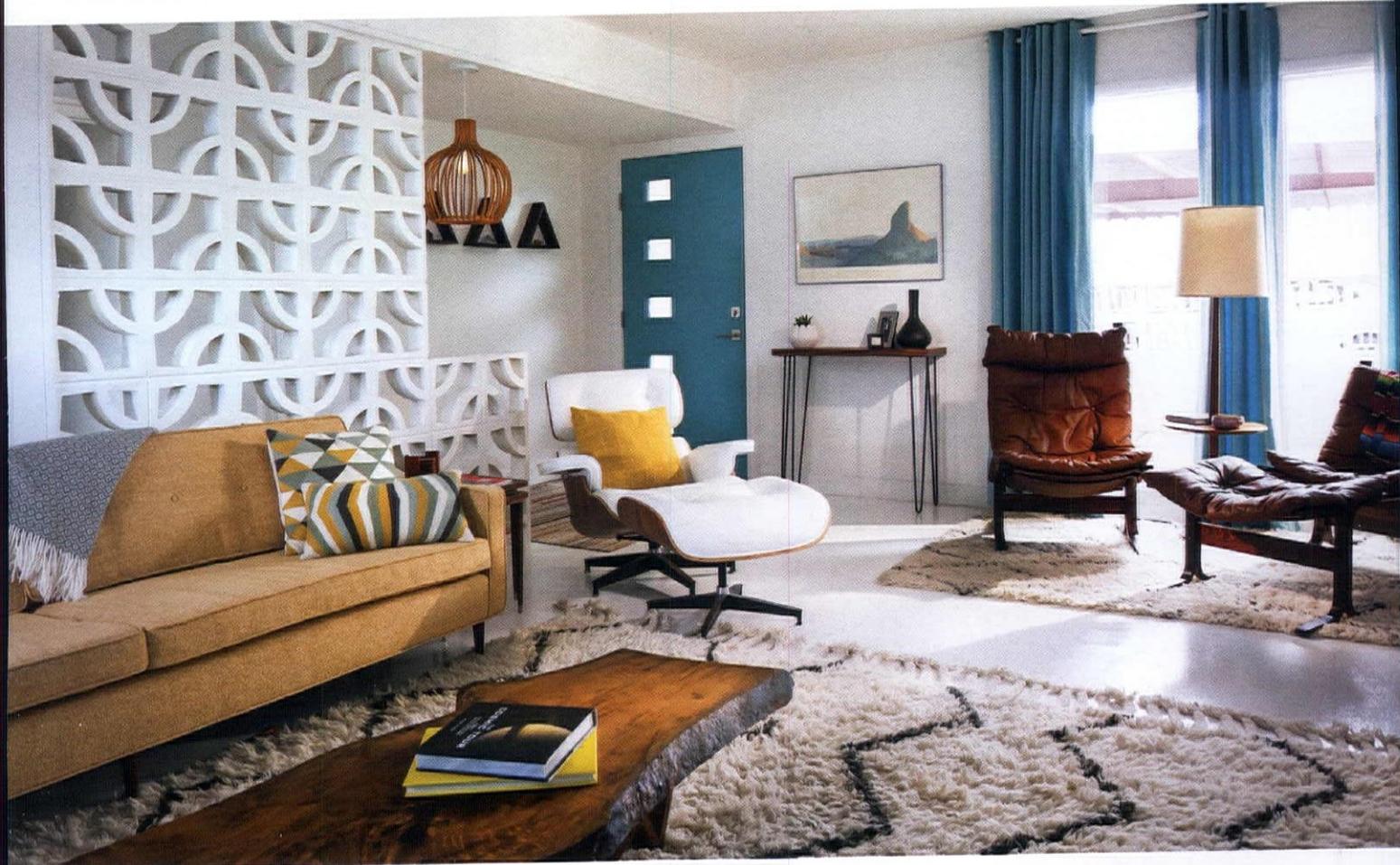
RACHEL, A DESIGN PROFESSOR, RESEARCHED AND SELECTED A 1964-APPROPRIATE SHADE FOR THE PANEL PAINT COLOR AND THE CURTAIN. KIMBERLY HAS LAYERED IN HER OWN RETRO TOUCHES LIKE THE VINTAGE BOSE SPEAKER ON A TULIP PEDESTAL.

"I immediately fell in love with the breezeblock wall in the living room and the white on [the] floors and walls." —Kimberly Adams

KIMBERLY FOUND A PAIR OF VINTAGE BOSE SPEAKERS ON A TULIP BASE IN GREAT CONDITION WHILE THRIFTING. WITH A RECORD PLAYER AND A VINYL COLLECTION, IT CERTAINLY LOOKS AND FEELS RIGHT AT HOME.



THE BREEZEBLOCK WALL IS ONE OF KIMBERLY'S FAVORITE FEATURES. THE NEUTRAL PALETTE IS A RESULT OF RACHEL'S DESIGN DIRECTION WITH WHITE WALLS AND CONCRETE FLOOR AND KIMBERLEY'S PREFERENCE FOR NEUTRAL FURNITURE. WITH HER KNOWLEDGE OF THE PERIOD'S COLOR CHOICES, RACHEL SELECTED A SHADE FOR THE DOOR AND CURTAINS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN AT HOME IN 1964.



## FINDING & REFINING

Rachel Simmons, an Interior Designer and Design Professor, and her husband Dimitris Katsiginis were in happy disbelief to find a Ralph Haver-designed 1964 Phoenix home on the market. "It was an apartment for 50 years," Rachel explains, "We are only the second owner. All the finishes (besides flooring) were original when we bought it. It is also one of the only fully detached units that were built."

They bought it and began a loving, two-year restoration process. "I preserve as much as possible," Rachel explains. "My research formalized a process for taking a three-part



THE DOOR ALONE IS INVITING WITH ITS RETRO SQUARE WINDOWS AND POOL-LIKE SHADE OF BLUE, AND THEN THE PLANTER WITH ITS SCULPTURAL, MINIMALIST FRAME ADDS EVEN MORE MIDCENTURY MODERN APPEAL. THIS IS A PERFECT ENCAPSULATION OF THE SYMBIOSIS BETWEEN A KNOWLEDGEABLE MIDCENTURY OWNER AND AN APPRECIATIVE RENTER WITH TALENT OF HER OWN.



RACHEL'S COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING THE ROUNDED KITCHEN LAYOUT PAID OFF. THE CURVED WALL IS EASY ON THE EYES AND BETRAYS NO SIGNS OF THE TROUBLE IT TOOK TO REPLACE THE CABINERY. NOW KIMBERLY CAN ENJOY ITS ICONIC RETRO SHAPE AND FUNCTIONAL EFFICIENCY.

approach to historic interiors: Preserve character-defining features, introduce contemporary technology, and focus on sustainability.”

To that end, they first removed the carpet and linoleum flooring, leaving just the concrete, which they then painted white. New baseboards, fresh paint throughout the entire interior and new electrical outlets and switches provided a base layer of freshening. The most unique and challenging feature of the renovation process was the curved kitchen. Maintaining this was a high priority for Rachel because of its authenticity to the era.

Working within the rounded layout and maintaining the original cabinetry design required a lot of researching and problem solving. “It took finding the right hinges, and the carpenter had to cut and fit all the doors on site,” Rachel says. Rachel brought a dose of freshness to what was originally a very dark wall. “The original paneling was very dark—I painted the wall in a gradual value change to enhance the curve,” she says.

Rachel employed her design expertise to bring period-authentic colors to new material so that the home expresses a refreshed yet markedly mid mod feel. “I used a color palette inspired by color research I did in grad school—based on popular colors from 1964,” Rachel



“My research formalized a process for taking a three-part approach to historic interiors: **Preserve character-defining features, introduce contemporary technology, and focus on sustainability.**” —Rachel Simmons





THE SUBTLE PATTERNS ON THE TILE ADD DEPTH AND VISUAL INTEREST SET OFF BY THE CONTRASTING COLORS OF THE COUNTERTOP AND SLIM MIRROR FRAMES. THE PENDANTS' GEOMETRIC SILHOUETTES CONTRIBUTE TO THE CLEAN BUT JAZZY FEEL, AND THE BUILT-IN SHELVES ARE SOME OF KIMBERLY'S FAVORITE ORIGINAL DETAILS.



“I’m definitely **IN LOVE WITH ALL THE OLD DETAILS** that were left in the home, like the curved kitchen wall and counter and built in vanity in the hall bath.” —Kimberly Adams

explains. “I also used tile sizes in the kitchen and bathroom that were the same as the original, and selected countertop materials that were new materials (quartz), but the same colors popular during the period.”

### ENTER RENTERS

Like Rachel and Dimitris, Kimberly Adams and Jose Caraveo (along with their dog BB) were happily surprised to find a local result when they searched for a Haver home for rent. “They don’t come up for rent that often,” Kimberly says, “and I immediately fell in love with the breezeblock wall in the living room and the white on [the] floors and walls.”

Kimberly, a jeweler, appreciates Rachel’s instinct for preservation. “I’m definitely in love with all the old details that were left in the home, like the curved kitchen wall and counter and built-in vanity in the hall bath,” she says. The kitchen’s unique shape is actually a great

functional space if it’s just her in the kitchen. Kimberly explains, “It’s super comfortable when I’m the only one cooking and the rounded counter turns into a nice assembly line for chopping, cooking and plating.”

Jose and Kimberly have integrated their own touches. Jose built a coffee table from white oak, and Kimberly created string art for the bedroom wall. They have layered in vintage finds such as a 1970s couch they found on Craigslist, which they recovered in Joybird’s Impact Ochre fabric. Kimberly’s favorite find, she says, is “definitely the pair of Bose 901 speakers on tulip bases that I thrifted. They were in almost perfect condition!”

With their own handiwork and thoughtful approach to midcentury style, Kimberly and Jose as well as Rachel and Dimitris have found a way to mutually benefit from their shared love of Midcentury Modern and this 1964 Haver home. 🌿

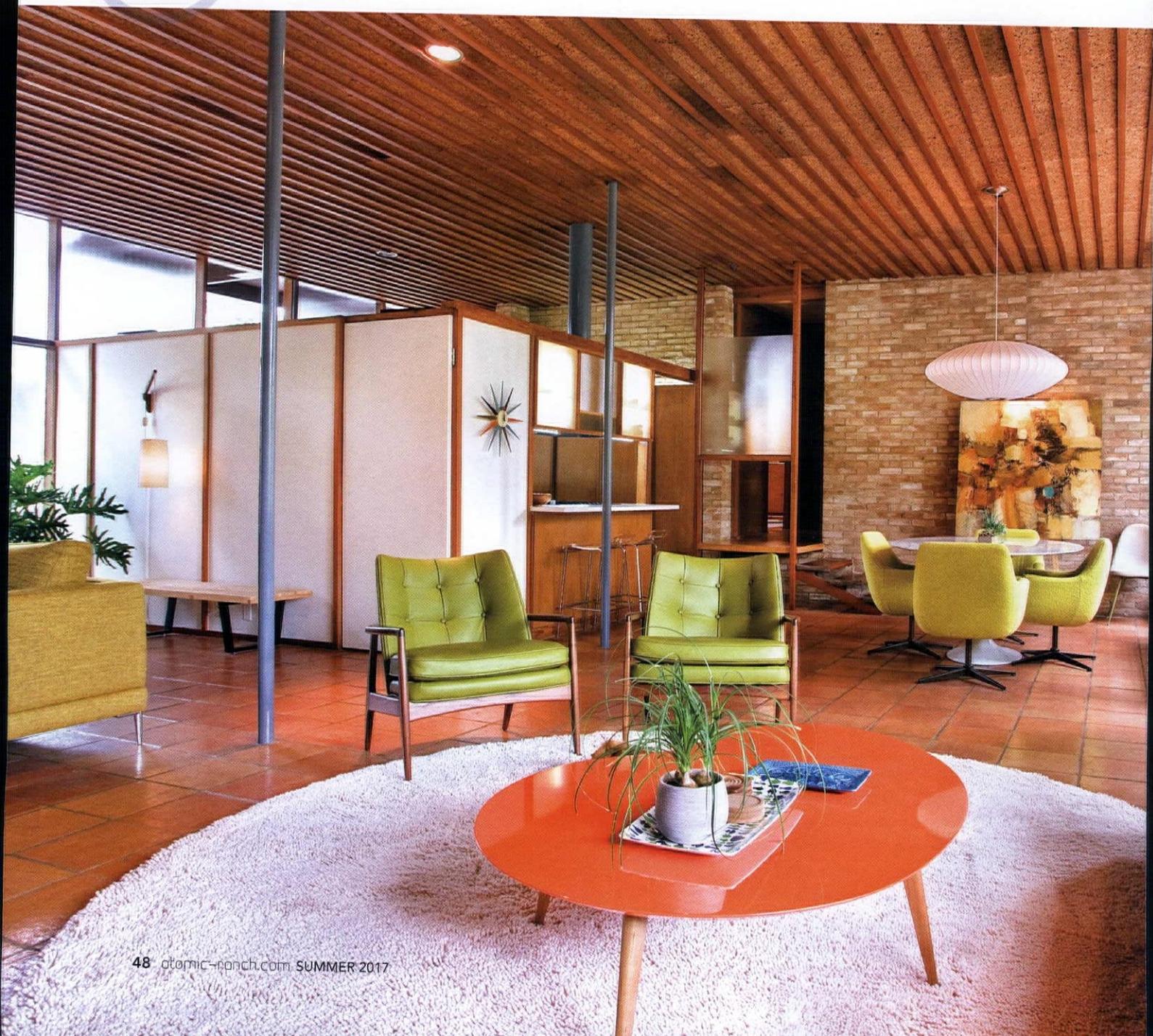
KIMBERLY’S TWO BROWN LEATHER INGMAR RELLING FOR WESTNOFA SIESTA CHAIRS FLANK THE HOME’S ORIGINAL WINDOWS. DURING THE RENOVATION PROCESS RACHEL OVERSAW, THEY WERE ABLE TO KEEP ALL ORIGINAL WINDOWS EXCEPT FOR THE TWO SLIDING PATIO DOORS.

By Sarah Jane Stone • Photography by Photography courtesy of NEST Modern

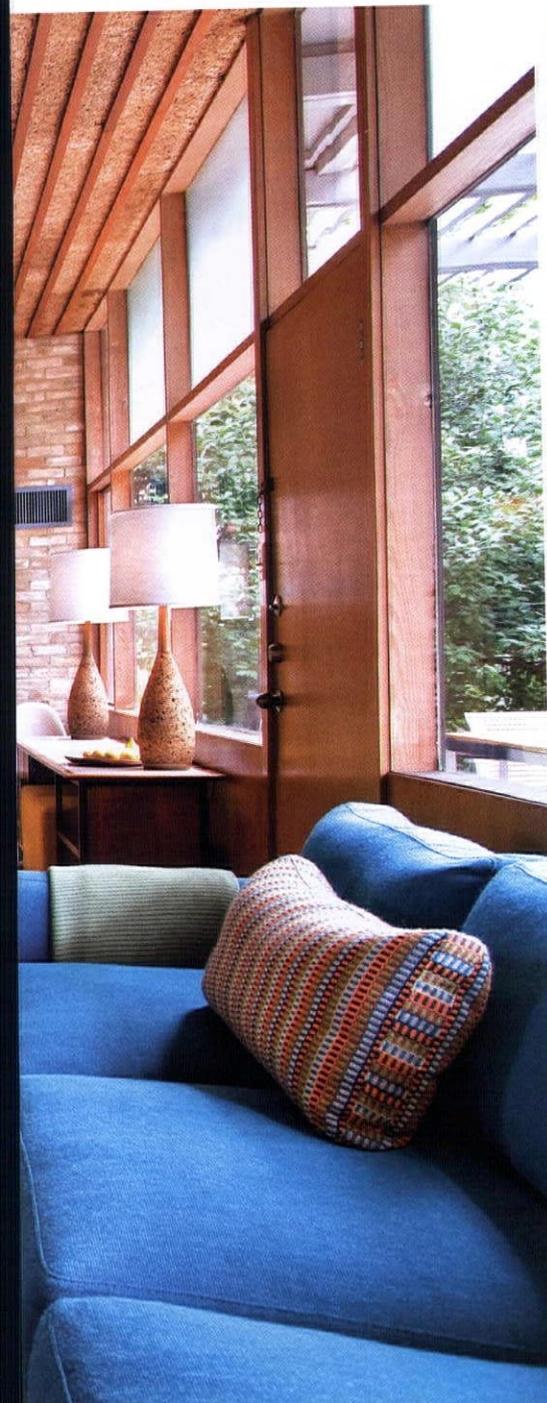
# Case Study in *Style*

As one might expect in the Lone Star state, this San Antonio, Texas home is larger than life—in the best way possible.

Originally built in 1956, this Terrell Hills neighborhood split level home has long been turning heads. Douglas Galloway, the co-owner of furnishings store NEST Modern, purchased the property five years ago and still experiences people slowing down to admire the modernist abode.



ONE OF THE MANY UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE HOME IS THE ORIGINAL CORK CEILINGS FOUND IN THE LIVING AREA. THE MATERIAL HELPS TO BUFFER SOUND AS WELL AS ACT AS INSULATION.



"I wasn't particularly looking for a house, but sometimes I think I willed this house into existence," Douglas says.

Having just opened the first NEST Modern store outside of Austin, Douglas and his business partner were considering renting something closer to the new San Antonio store to make traveling easier. One of their employees, whose mother is a relator, shared about an incredible listing and said that he simply had to see it. Douglas' business partner saw the house, confirmed it to be amazing, and Douglas sent in an offer without ever stepping foot on the property or seeing it in person. His was taken as a backup offer, but shortly thereafter Douglas was holding the keys to his new home.

## HOME WITH A HISTORY

After doing some digging, Douglas discovered that the original architect was Milton Ryan, whom Douglas describes as being a forward thinker. Despite moving from tract homes to modernist, innovative designs, Ryan's work in the San Antonio area has been largely overshadowed. Not wanting the architect's legacy to entirely disappear, Douglas, along with the help of neighbors and Docomomo (the international committee for documentation and conservation of buildings, sites and neighborhoods of the modern movement) have been able to unearth a little about the home's history as well as bring attention to Ryan's work.

According to Douglas, the first owner of the home only lived there for a year. After that short period of time, a family moved in and stayed in the home until Douglas purchased it. With so few owners, changes to the property were minimal and the house was in good shape overall.

Nevertheless, he has meticulously restored the house room by room—only just getting to the last of the bathrooms. Some of the work he did included adding insulation, updating wiring and roof fixes as well as removing hand rails added by the previous owner, taking down a greenhouse, rebuilding the pergola and adding a large deck.



**Original to the home,** the ceramic lanterns hanging off of the back patio were made by **local artisan Martha Mood.**



IN THE KITCHEN, DOUGLAS REMOVED SCREENS AND RESTORED THE KITCHEN DOORS TO SLIDERS. HE ALSO UPDATED THE TILE AND ADDED MODERN APPLIANCES.

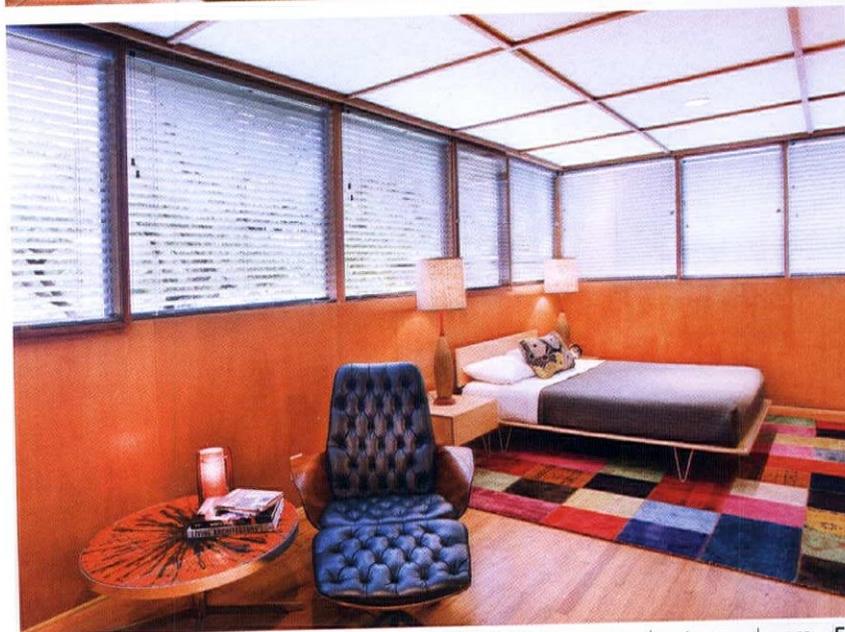
## RENOVATING TO REVIVE

Some of the many original features still intact are the Saltillo tile floors and many of the home's countless windows. Ryan's design incorporated a combination of both clear glass and textured glass—which Douglas likens to the texture found in school windows. The textured glass fills in all the lower windows, creating privacy in the main living areas. Some of these panes needed to be replaced due to age and damage, but luckily Douglas was able to source the same glass locally. At night, the combination of the many windows and the interior lights gives the home a warm glow from the street view.

"This house isn't just midcentury, it's different," he says. Douglas says that any time someone comes to work on the house, he warns them, "Just forget what you know." To ensure that the home's unique nature was protected, Douglas was hands on with every aspect of the renovation. One of the things that makes the house so different from its midcentury counterparts is that the framing of house is actually the window frames. "Milton Ryan just decided he was going to do everything differently," Douglas says. "There were only three original workers and they built everything—it's all custom."

Douglas has personalized the home by blending vintage and new furnishings—including Milo Baughman classics, a vintage wall mounted shelf unit, and pieces from NEST Modern. He's also had fun with the home's color story—keeping it consistent and cheerful throughout. Various pottery, most of which is displayed on the fireplace, and a collection of entirely midcentury artwork finish the home's journey. "This place always makes me smile when I walk in, and everyone else, too," he says. 🌀

THE BIGGEST CHANGE MADE BY A PREVIOUS OWNER WAS COMBINING TWO OF THE THREE BEDROOMS TO CREATE A LARGER MASTER SUITE.





THE GREEN SPONGE GLAZE ON THESE PIECES GIVES A SOFT, THREE-DIMENSIONAL TEXTURE REMINISCENT OF MOSS.

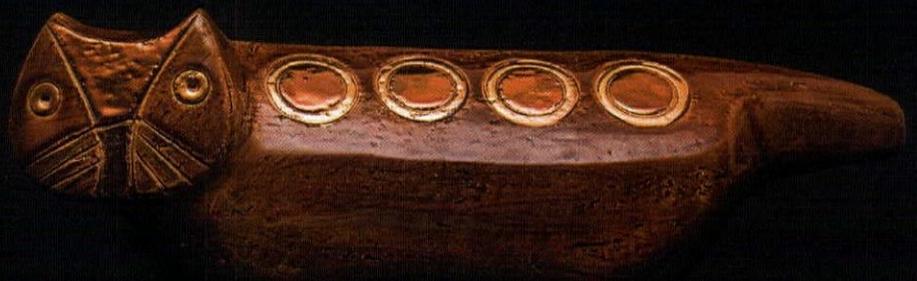
BOTTOM: THESE IKANO DÉCOR FIGURINES FEATURE THE SIGNATURE GOLDEN CIRCLES FOUND ON ALL CERAMICS WITHIN THIS STYLE.



Iconic artwork of the Midcentury Modern era.

# THE BITOSSI CRAZE

By Tori Youngbauer  
Photos provided by  
Max McDonald





The stylistic charm of these pieces continuously draws in new collectors and art enthusiasts.

● Italian-made ceramics have a rich and notable background, and—

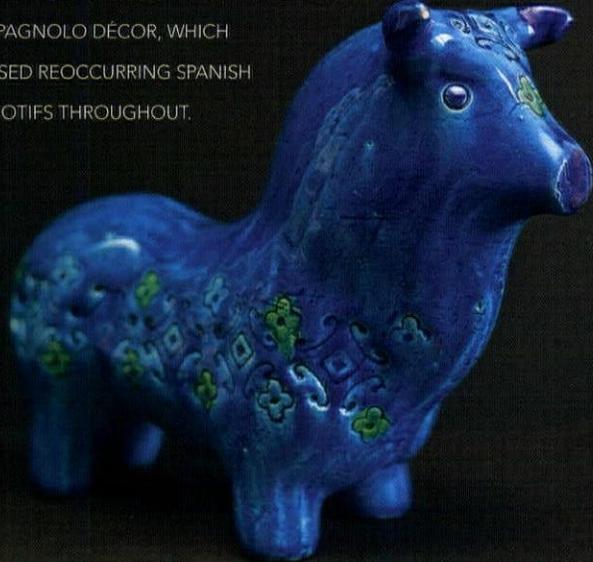
as any midcentury enthusiast or collector may know—some of the most notable work is that of the company Bitossi Ceramiche. Distinguished by brightly colored glazes and impeccable textures, these pieces are truly works of art sought out by collectors all around the world. One such collector, Max McDonald of Lubbock, Texas, shares his passion for Midcentury Modern pieces and for Bitossi ceramics.

● TOP: MAX'S COLLECTION CONTAINS A VARIETY OF ITALIAN CERAMICS INCLUDING SEVERAL BITOSSİ PIECES FROM THE RIEDIZIONI ARCHİVİO STORICO AND RİMİNİ BLUE COLLECTIONS.

RIGHT: BITOSSİ BULL FIGURINES WERE INCREDIBLY POPULAR IN THE 1950s AND '60s, COMING IN A VARIETY OF COLORS AND TEXTURES.



SPAGNOLO DÉCOR, WHICH  
USED REOCCURRING SPANISH  
MOTIFS THROUGHOUT.



## History and Charm

A brief look into Bitossi's beginnings.

Throughout the 20th century, Bitossi ceramics were incredibly popular and distinctively unique thanks to their bright colors and remarkable textures. But how did a small Italian ceramics company grow to become a major producer of midcentury collectibles?

### • START AT THE BEGINNING

Guido Bitossi founded Manifattura Cavaliere Bitossi e Figlia (Manufacturer Sir Bitossi and Sons) in 1921 in Montelupo Fiorentino, Italy. The family had been involved in making roof tiles for centuries, and the 1921 enterprise was geared to continue making these roof tiles plus floor tiles, everyday household ceramic items and some art pottery.

### • TRUE ARTISTRY

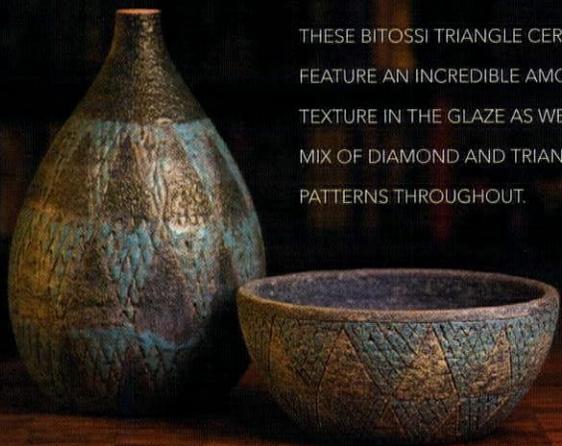
Traditional production was renewed thanks to the art direction of Aldo Londi, whose attention to detail and creativity led Bitossi into a golden age of sorts, producing some of the company's most notable collections—like the famous Rimini Blue. This collection of blue glazed animals is arguably the most iconic of Bitossi's work, and put the company on the map during the 1950s and '60s. The stylistic charm of these pieces continuously draws in new collectors and art enthusiasts.

The Bitossi collection is regularly a subject of research because of its **ARTISTIC VALUE** and **HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE**.

ABOVE: RIMINI BLUE IS THE MOST POPULAR STYLE OF BITOSSİ CERAMICS BECAUSE OF ITS STRIKING BLUE COLOR AND UNUSUAL USE OF TEXTURE. ARTIST ALDO LONDI MADE THIS STYLE OF GLAZING ICONIC.

BOTTOM: THESE CERAMICS ARE PART OF THE ETRUSCAN DÉCOR FEATURING AN ORANGE GLAZE. THE TERM ETRUSCAN IS USED TO DESCRIBE A STYLE DERIVED FROM EARLY CENTRAL ITALIAN CIVILIZATIONS THAT WERE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY GREEK ART.

THESE BITOSSİ TRIANGLE CERAMICS FEATURE AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF TEXTURE IN THE GLAZE AS WELL AS A MIX OF DIAMOND AND TRIANGULAR PATTERNS THROUGHOUT.





ABOVE: THESE PIECES INCLUDE THE SIGNATURE TEXTURES FOUND IN MOST BITOSSI PIECES WITH A BRIGHT YELLOW GLAZE.

LEFT: THIS BITOSSI STRIPED DÉCOR CAME IN TWO COLOR VARIATIONS. THIS PIECE USES THE COOLER COLOR COMBINATION CALLED "CAMBODIA DÉCOR," WHEREAS THE WARMER COLOR COMBINATION WAS CALLED 'THAILAND DÉCOR.'

## BEGINNING THE CRAZE

Max's love for collecting began with a general love for midcentury furniture and décor. "In wanting to research some pieces of furniture I had already found, I came across a Midcentury Modern Facebook group. I really give them a lot of credit, because it is a [very] comprehensive compilation of midcentury experts and enthusiasts," states Max.

"I had seen some postings about Italian ceramics, and it stuck with me when I found my first authentic Bitossi piece." It was through this community of people that Max discovered how special Bitossi ceramics are and found his passion for creating a collection of his own.

## RESEARCHING AND HUNTING

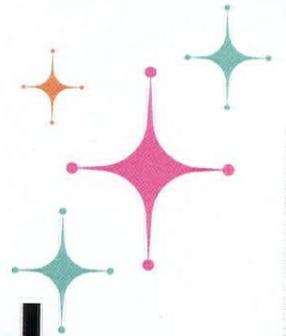
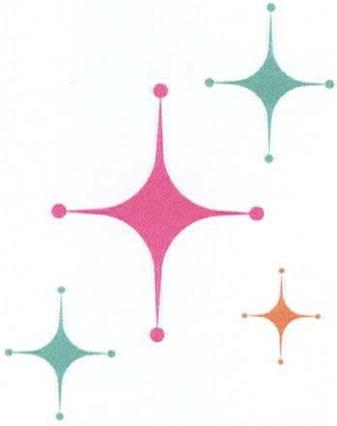
Over the past five years, Max developed an interest in various ceramic makers other than Bitossi, and dove into researching more about the entire genre of Italian ceramics. "Probably 90 percent of all of the pieces in my collection I have found online through research and checking

authenticity," Max explains. "Living where I do, I may come across four or five pieces every few years." He continuously adds new pieces to his collection and creates posts about his findings.

## ARTISTIC SPECIALTY

The journey of Max's collection began simply from his general interest in a specific time period and grew into a love for collecting artwork. "I learned a lot about Aldo Londi, the famous art director who worked at Bitossi during the height of the Midcentury Modern era, and truly admire his work," Max says. "As a photographer, I began appreciating the pieces more as an artist than just a collector."

The Bitossi collection is regularly a subject of research because of its artistic value and historical importance. The growing collaboration between collectors and aficionados of this style keeps the history alive and brings new enthusiasm to the beautiful artwork of the mid mod era. 🌀



# SCANDINAVIAN Home Goods

Aesthetics meet utility when a fresh influence hits the midcentury scene.

By Stephanie Agnes-Crockett



## QUIRKY QUISTGAARD

Skinny or stout, wide or wonky, Jens Quistgaard pepper mills come in a variety of shapes. In fact, when a collection stands together, they may look more like an army of chess pieces than a useful kitchen implement.

After seeing Danish sculptor Jens Quistgaard's Fjord cutlery on display at the Danish Museum of Art and Design, businessman Ted Nierenberg and his wife Martha sought him out—and so began the Dansk Company in 1954. As the chief designer of the American-based flatware and cookware company, Quistgaard's modern take on household items spread across the United States, Europe and Japan. People appreciated Quistgaard's work because kitchens were transitioning to more open layouts—which meant that utensils and cooking ware were more likely to be displayed as household treasures. Being a sculptor and an artisan, Quistgaard developed products that were both attractive and useful.

Quistgaard pepper mills were made from either bamboo or teak wood. Teak is a more expensive wood than most, but its durability and rot-resistant nature ensures longevity—a good sign for collectors. Today, Dansk has reissued the pepper mill with only a minor deviation from the original model. The new pepper mills are constructed from acacia, and can be purchased for \$40 to \$50 on Amazon.

You can also find vintage Quistgaard mills through antiquities auction sites as well as eBay and Etsy—with some starting as low as \$15 and prices ranging into the thousands, depending on the condition and size of the collection. Pieces like the Quistgaard mill are durable, and are becoming more valuable as they become more rare. Because of their stunning designs, these teak pepper mills assimilate into the modern dining room and the vintage kitchen alike. Whether you collect them for a personal trove, or just keep one or two on hand for grinding, Quistgaard pepper mills are a go-to midcentury collectible.



### Fast Facts

Here's a dash of information on midcentury mills.

**WHO DUNNIT:** We have Danish Designer Jens Quistgaard to thank for these marvelous mills. He and Ted Neirenberg then founded the Dansk Company.

**WHEN:** Quistgaard began working as a Dansk partner in 1954, and remained the chief designer until the 1980s.

**LEGACY:** Quistgaard lived to the age of 88, having won numerous awards for his work. During his youth and Denmark's occupation by Germany, he was a member of the Resistance movement.

**TRUTH BE TOLD:** As an adolescent, Quistgaard made toys by hand from the backyard scrap pile.



## Fast Facts

Read on for particulars on the plant holders.

**WHO DUNNIT:** J.W. and Nelson produced the stylish and functional vases that we still love today.

**WHEN:** The McCoy's began manufacturing the Scandia line in 1972.

**LEGACY:** J.W. McCoy started making pottery back in the mid-1800s, and his son Nelson took up the tradition. Nelson's pottery company operated 57 years, until it was sold in 1967 to the Mount Clemens Pottery Company. Even then, McCoy remained president.

**TRUTH BE TOLD:** In the 1990s, controversy developed over the use of the McCoy trademark, as individuals sought to trademark the McCoy name at the same time that the final owner of the company, Designer Accents, applied.

## STYLISH SCANDIA

If you're looking for the "real McCoy" of midcentury collectibles, look no further than McCoy Scandia vases, which amassed popularity in the 1970s. The Scandia vase is known for its perforated surface, dotted with small holes like inverted bubbles, or with pinwheel shapes.

The vase's creator, Nelson McCoy Sanitary and Stoneware Company, first got its start in 1910, as an offspring of the original McCoy Pottery Company from 1848. It was a father-son endeavor between J.W. and Nelson McCoy, and focused on mining and manufacturing stone. Unlike other products from the same company, Scandia vases took a modern turn, deviating from the traditional stoneware the company offered. The vases took their name "Scandia" and inspiration from an artistic movement after Scandinavian style, borrowing Danish design elements. These vases were produced in five colors, including the delectable "avocado green" and "bisque" shades.

In addition to functioning as modern art, the Scandia line features functional, utilitarian designs. So, you can leave them empty as a colorful exhibit, or freshen up those vintage holders with flower arrangements or potted plants.

To verify that your McCoy is the real deal, look for the maker's mark. For this line and era of the company's history, the mark will likely be one of the company's later stamps—a number, the company name, stacked LCC (for the Lancaster Colony Corporation, who purchased McCoy in 1974) and "USA." McCoy signatures are not incredibly consistent, so a simple number and "USA" are also likely. To further authenticate your piece, check out the dimensions of the vase in question and do your research to compare your measurements to the dimensions of previously verified McCoy's. If the numbers check out, so should your vase.

Purchase your own Scandia vase through the auction site at [mccoypottery.com](http://mccoypottery.com), with prices starting at \$90, or try looking on Etsy for an array of selections.

## CATCHY CATHRINEHOLM

Female Norwegian designer, Grete Prytz Kittelsen developed international acclaim at the 1954 Triennale exhibition in Milan, and proceeded to style enamelware items for Cathrineholm in Norway. When her designs met Arne Clausen's lotus leaf pattern in the early 1960's, the now iconic midcentury kitchenware was born.

Though founded in 1829, the company did not enjoy extravagant success until the 1960s, thanks largely to Kittelsen's contributions and the release of her designs with Clausen's colorful lotus pattern. Kittelsen's wares also featured a pleasant stripe pattern, but these did not garner nearly as much popularity. Initially manufactured as brightly colored kitchenware, Kittelsen's line gradually expanded to include more muted tones as the 1970s approached. Unfortunately, Cathrineholm closed in 1971, and half a century later, the products are collectibles.

"Enamelware" is a general term used to describe any kitchen item that has been glossed with enamel. Because Cathrineholm was a steel company, Cathrineholm products tend to be enamel-covered steel. Unglazed kitchen items are much more susceptible to breaking, but enamel keeps the dish intact. It may chip over time, but it's much heartier than ordinary kitchenware. This heartiness makes it relatively easy to find Cathrineholm pieces in good condition.

Aside from your local vintage shops, Cathrineholm kitchenware donning the colorful lotus leaf design can be purchased on eBay, Etsy, or 1stdibs.com, with an incredibly wide price range. If you are purchasing an entire set or if your cabinet space doesn't allow for collecting bowls, casserole dishes, pots and pans, a piece of artwork might be just the trick. Clausen's lotus design is so iconic that the kitchenware has become the subject of artwork and can be found in modern prints. 🌸



## Fast Facts

We're dishing out the trivia on Cathrineholm.

**WHO DUNNIT:** Grete Prytz Kittelsen designed the enamelware, while Arne Clausen created the popular lotus leaf design.

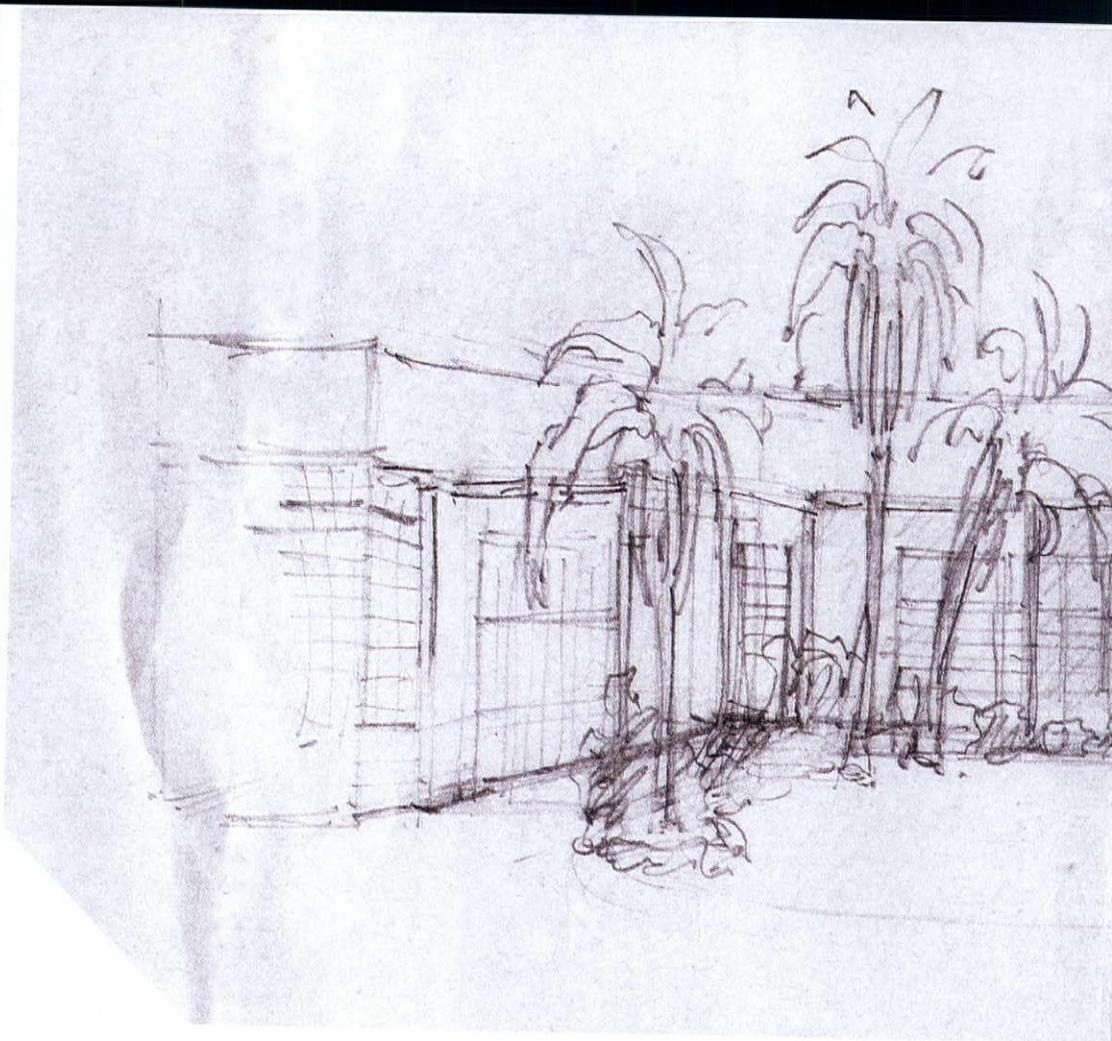
**WHEN:** Kittelsen teamed up with Cathrineholm in the 1960s and continued the partnership until the company's end in the early 1970s.

**LEGACY:** The short-lived success of Cathrineholm makes the lotus-adorned enamelware a truly nostalgic collectible.

**TRUTH BE TOLD:** Cathrineholm did not receive Kittelsen's consent to use the lotus leaf pattern on her design.



PENCIL SKETCH OF THE FINE ARTS BUILDING AT THE SOUTH PASADENA HIGH SCHOOL, 1936. THE PLANTING SCHEME RUTH SETTLED ON WAS THE BEGINNING OF HER EXPERIMENTATION WITH EVERGREENS AND SUGGESTS THE REGIONAL AESTHETIC SHE WOULD DEVELOP LATER IN HER CAREER.

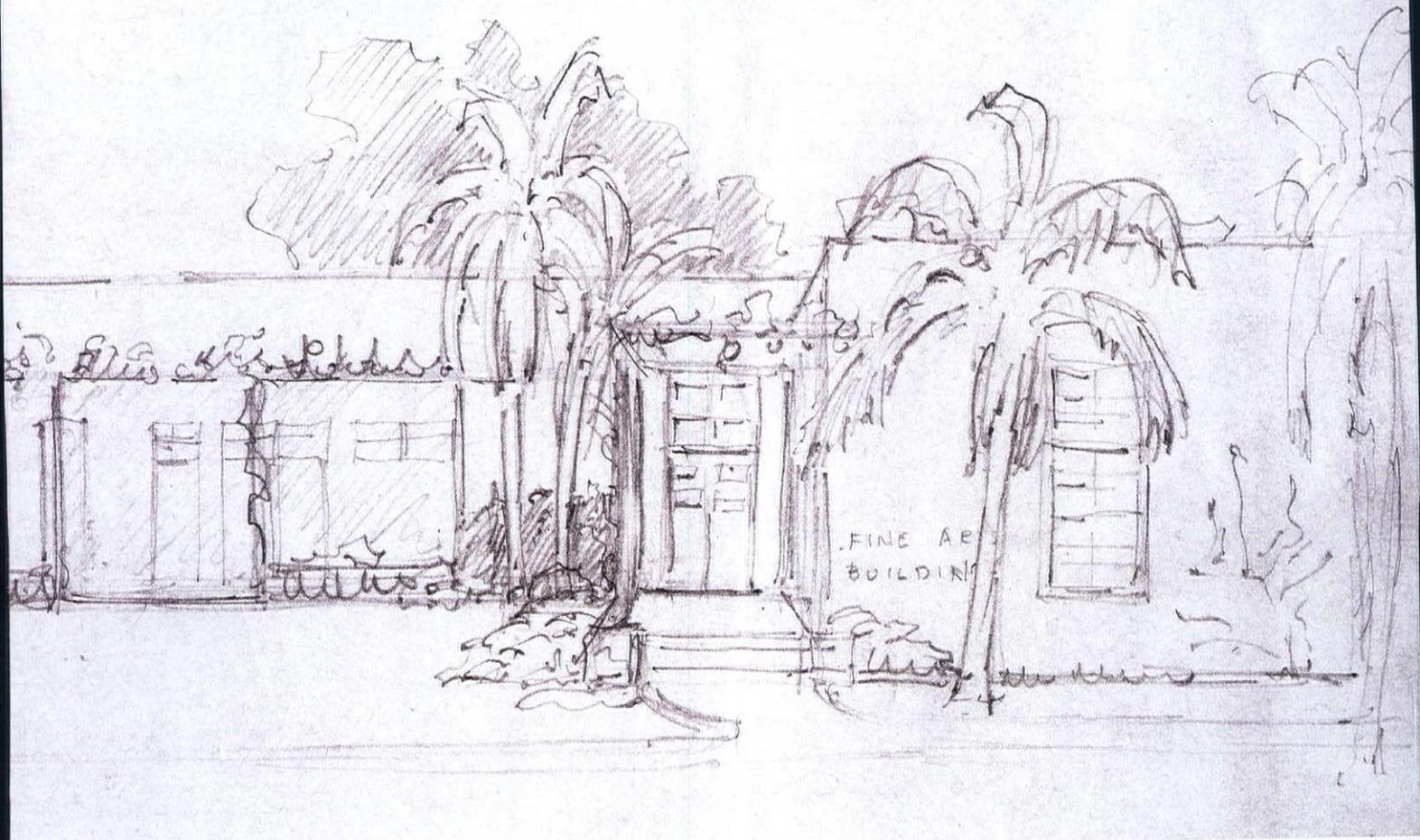


# Landscape Maven: Ruth Shellhorn

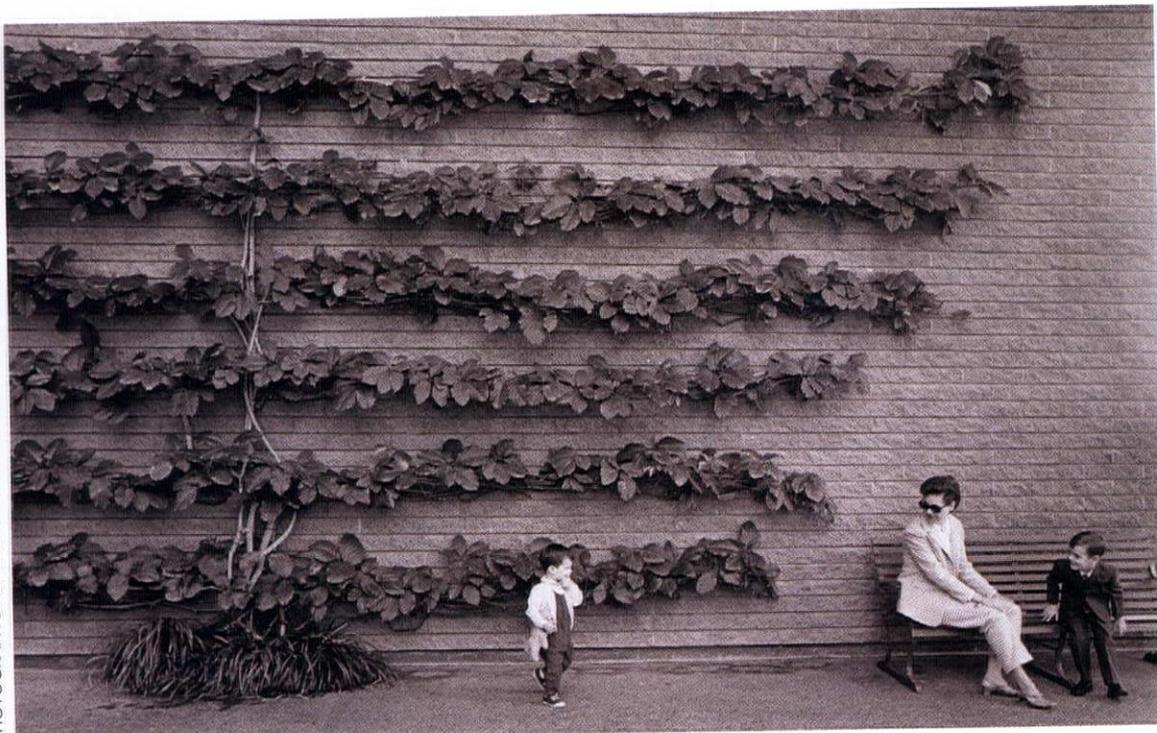
By Tori Youngbauer  
Photos provided by The University  
of Georgia Press

A glimpse into the life of one of California's most influential landscape architects.

The aesthetic of 20th-century Southern California is not only iconic, but it also set a precedent for modernist landscape design around the country. Author Kelly Comras takes readers behind the scenes of this influential movement of landscape architecture in her book *Ruth Shellhorn*, and shows us a woman who, in her 60 years of working as a landscape architect, helped shape some of Southern California's midcentury landmarks.



“In the course of a career lasting nearly 60 years,  
**Ruth Shellhorn helped shape SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S  
 ICONIC 20TH-CENTURY DESIGN AESTHETIC.**”



SOUTH ENTRANCE  
 OF FASHION SQUARE  
 SANTA ANA, 1969.  
 FASHION SQUARE  
 SANTA ANA WAS THE  
 EARLIEST INTEGRATED,  
 SPECIALTY-SHOPPING  
 COMPLEX IN THE  
 COUNTRY TO EMPLOY  
 A PEDESTRIAN MALL AS  
 A UNIFYING FEATURE.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DARROW M. WATT. COURTESY OF SUNSET PUBLISHING



# Design with **Nature** in Mind

An in-depth look at Ruth Shellhorn's midcentury garden oasis.

## INTEGRATION WITH NATURE

In 1948, Ruth was commissioned to design a garden for artist Edith Knapp's studio in Brentwood, California. The homeowner expressed that preserving views of native plant life beyond the garden was of the utmost importance, making it a perfect project for the sustainably minded Ruth.

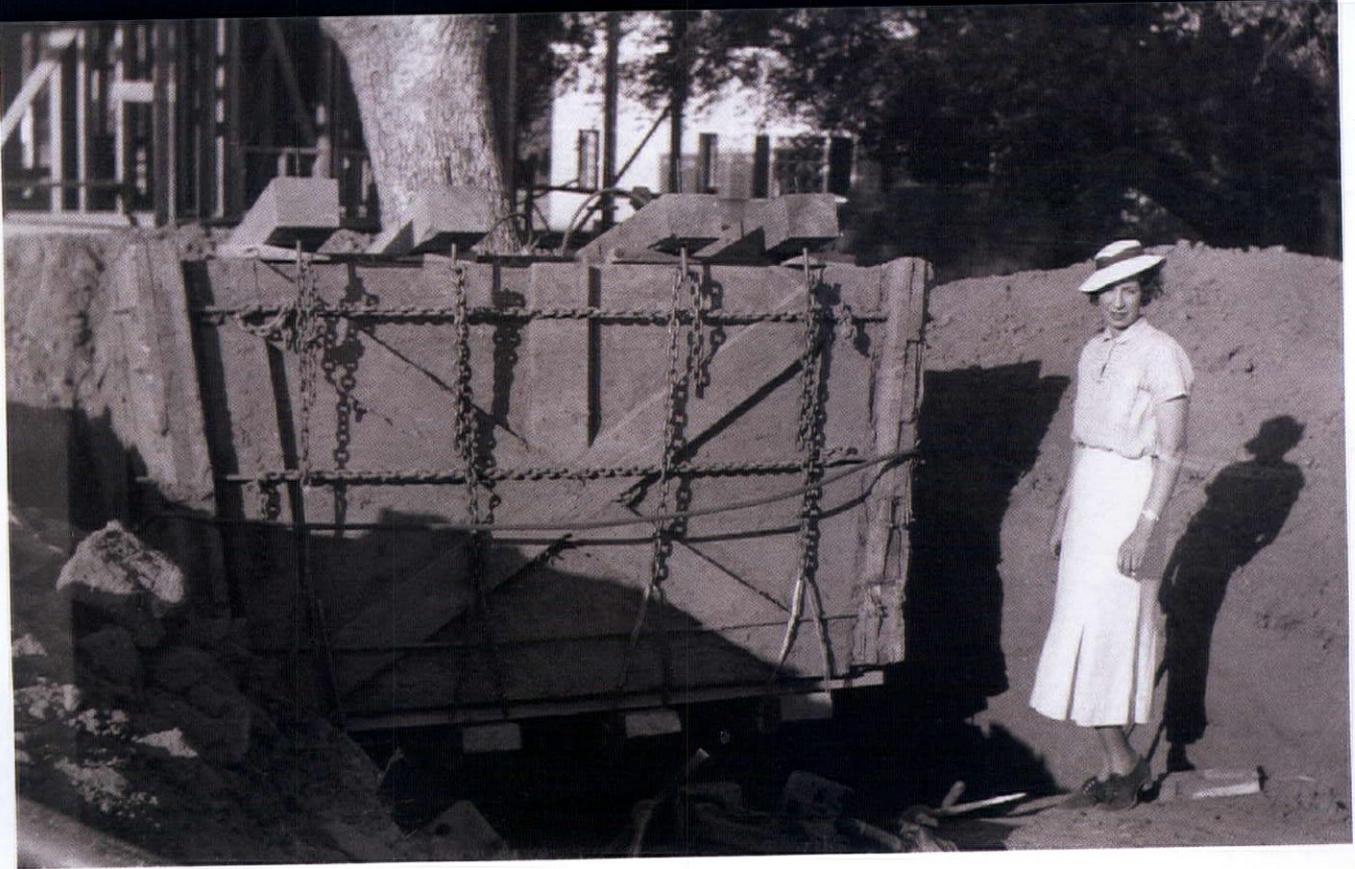
She designed an innovative glass screen in front of the view of the Santa Monica Mountains to protect guests from up-canyon winds. Ruth included a colorful, textured foreground for the windscreen using succulents, as well as orange and coral fuchsias, camellias and azaleas. The integration of the windscreen encouraged an interaction with nature and is a classic element of midcentury design.

## ATTENTION TO DETAIL

The garden was carefully detailed with foliage that would accent each area of the patio accordingly. Ruth included rough timbers as risers, redwood rounds for treads, and decomposed granite for the path. She planted garden foliage that would transition into the native plants surrounding the exterior to create a seamless oasis for the homeowner.

Ruth visited the property six times a year to track the progress of the garden's growth and give maintenance instructions. Her attention to detail was one of her strongest attributes as a landscape architect.

WINDSCREEN WITH VIEWS OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS, KNAPP GARDEN, 1950. RUTH CLEVERLY DESIGNED THIS WINDSCREEN TO BE BOTH DECORATIVE AND PRACTICAL, AND SURROUNDED IT WITH BRIGHT AND TEXTURED FOLIAGE.



Between 1933 and 1990, Ruth Shellhorn created close to 400 landscape designs, including award-winning landscape designs for Bullock's department stores and Fashion Square shopping centers, collaboration on the original plan for Disneyland, a multiyear landscape master plan for the University of California at Riverside, a major Los Angeles County coastal planning project, city and regional park designs, and more than two hundred residential estates and gardens. In noting her influence within the field, her work truly speaks for itself.

The book delves into Ruth's beginnings within the industry and moves through years where she honed her design aesthetic. She had many realizations that helped focus her designs, such as the critical importance of including features that enhanced outdoor living, spaciousness within outdoor retail spaces, accessibility for pedestrians and automobiles, and "a little more humility and a reverence for natural beauty."

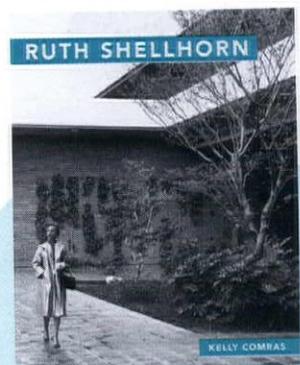
Though she did not fully dismiss modernist ideals, Ruth firmly believed that the primary purpose of landscape architecture was to instill a sense of well-being. "Her work was, in part, a response to both the rapid urbanization of the era and the egoism characterizing much of modern design," Kelly writes. Ruth pushed against designs that were "too full of ideas," and instead focused on balancing modern conveniences with natural beauty, with both client and nature in mind.

Kelly shares projects that Ruth led in her career, but also comments on her direct influence on each task she undertook. We learn through her extensive body of work that Ruth had distinct visions for what she intended to build. She conducted much of her own surveying, designed and drafted her own plans, and supervised all construction details in a predominately male work environment.

"I have never thought of myself as a woman in competition with men," Ruth once stated, "but rather as a landscape architect trying to do the best job I can."

Ruth Shellhorn is regarded as one of the leaders in developing California's regional landscape design aesthetic. "Although she went on to experiment with many elements of modernist landscape design, she never identified with any particular stylistic camp, a reflection, perhaps, on her inner authority," writes Kelly. The author encourages readers to remember Ruth for her achievements in design, as well as her personal and professional dedication to enhancing and protecting the landscape. 🌿

RUTH SUPERVISES THE INSTALLATION OF AN OAK TREE IN THE GROUT GARDEN, 1939. SHE WAS KNOWN FOR HER "HANDS-ON" APPROACH TO LANDSCAPE DESIGN, AND SUPERVISED AND SURVEYED MOST JOBS ON HER OWN.



RUTH SHELLHORN BY KELLY COMRAS, PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA PRESS, © 2016; WWW.UGAPRESS.ORG.

"WE WANTED THE POOL AREA AND PORCH TO HAVE A FUN VIBE, SO I CHOSE A MORE VIBRANT MCM COLOR PALETTE TO HELP WITH THE PLAYFUL AMBIENCE. THE SUNBREALLA FABRIC WAS THE MOST DURABLE OPTION FOR OUTDOOR CUSHIONS," SALLY SAYS.

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# Mid Mod POOL

How a backyard can  
become a retro paradise.

By Sarah Jane Stone  
Styling by Jackie Torres • Photography by Bret Gum

NORTHERN SEA OATS GROW IN GRAY PLANTERS ALONG ONE SIDE OF THE BLOCK WALL. "MY HUSBAND IS REALLY THE GREEN THUMB, AND HE CHOSE THEM FOR THEIR TEXTURE, MODERN APPEAL AND STRIKING BRIGHT COLOR AGAINST OUR DARK HOUSE," SALLY SAYS. "IN THE WINTER THEY TURN A LOVELY LIGHT BEIGE, AND THE 'OATS' RUSTLE IN THE WIND."



**LONG-FORGOTTEN POOL LEFT IN SORRY SHAPE WAS WHAT PRECEDED THIS STUNNING MIDCENTURY-INSPIRED BACKYARD.** As the outdoor living space to Ken and Holly Schoolmeester's Charlotte, North Carolina 1960 home, it only made sense that the couple wanted their backyard to reflect the same style as their carefully restored home.

## GAME PLAN

In 2015, the couple went to Modernism Week in Palm Springs hoping to gain inspiration from other outdoor midcentury spaces. "We've had a few landscape designers create plans; however, MCM landscapes are typically more minimalistic, and they kept overdesigning and adding in the traditional 'B' word (boxwood) into the plans," she says. Not satisfied with the mismatched designs, Ken and Holly created their own plans.

Needing to remove the neglected pool, Ken and Holly decided to redesign the entire space to better capture their mid mod dreams. They reduced the size of the pool, opted for a clean, modern shape and did away with the deep end. Now, they call it the "party pool" because swimmers can walk in with a cocktail in their hands from one end to the other, all while staying above water.

That wasn't their only big change. "I love how midcentury [design] seamlessly flows from the inside to the outside," Holly says. "So in renovating the back, we took the opportunity to raise the ground level so that when we step out from our sunken living room, [the yard] is at the same level." With their sliding doors fully open, the matching levels

make the back patio feel as much apart of the house as the living room.

## BIG DETAILS

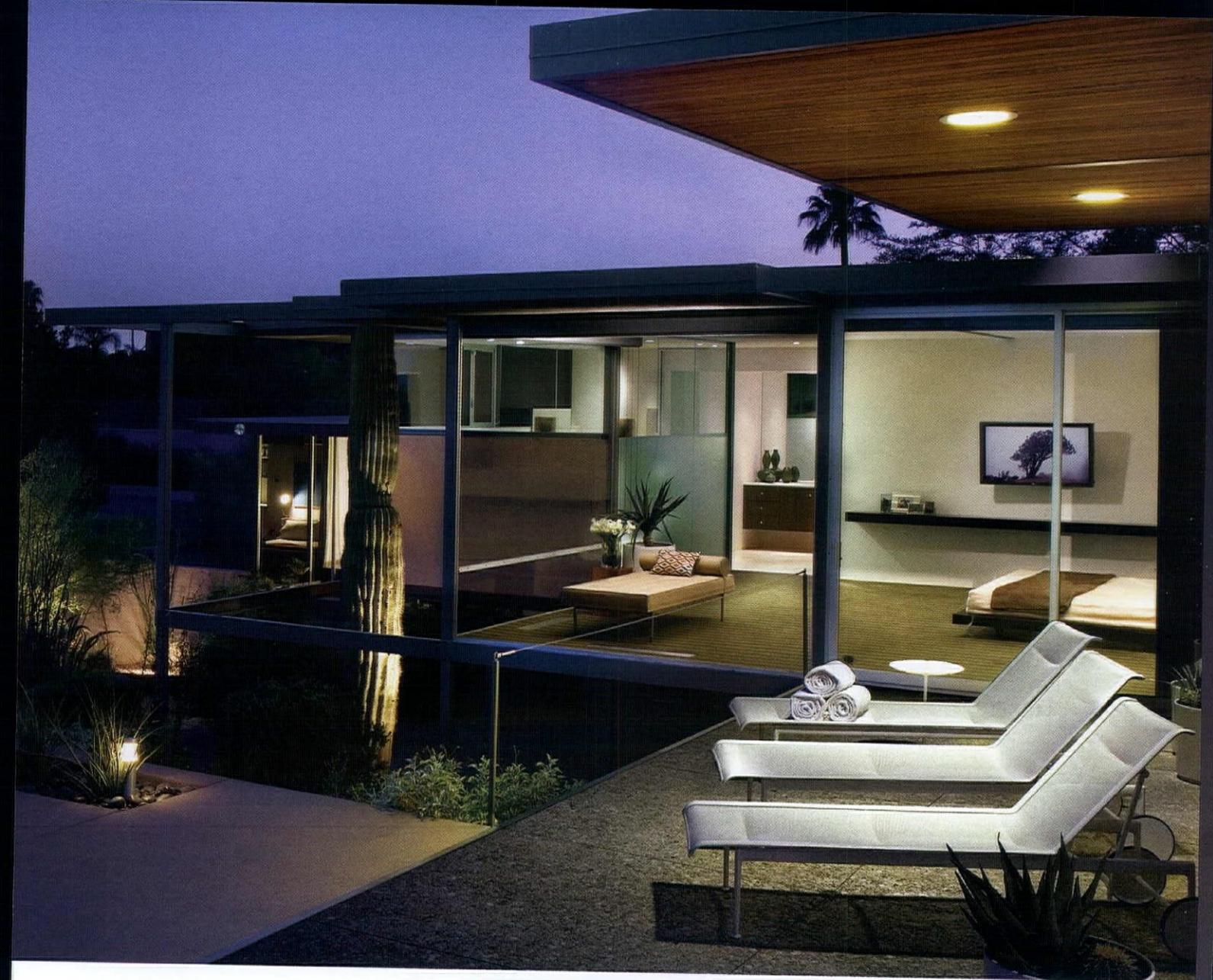
For the fencing, they turned to block with breezeblock detail—but struggled to find the material in their area. The extra effort was well worth it, as Sally says that people are often surprised to find that the walls are not original. "That makes us happy as we feel we staying true to the integrity of the home and it's midcentury roots," she says.

The back wall of the fence features a raised planter, which they chose to visually break up the long expanse of block as well as to raise the landscaping so the back hedge will feel more established sooner. "We estimate that in two to three years we'll have a complete, dense hedge that will be about 9' tall and block the neighboring house," Sally says.

A mid mod backyard isn't complete without the proper outdoor furniture, and the Schoolmeester yard is no exception. An original Knoll table with Tulip Chairs hosts summer soirees, while vintage Bertoia Lounge Chairs take their rightful place poolside.

"Luckily the back porch is very big and thus the table and chairs are completely protected from the elements. It's literally like an extra room nine months out of the year," Sally says. "However, like any good piece of furniture, we clean and protect them frequently."

Ken and Sally now have a backyard where modern meets playful and functional meets fun—which is exactly what they wanted. 🌿



SURPRISINGLY, THE HOME IS LOCATED ALONGSIDE A GOLF COURSE. THROUGH THE CAREFUL PLANNING OF ALL NEW LANDSCAPING AND A ZERO EDGE POOL, THE HOME FEELS MORE LIKE A DISTANT OASIS.



By Sarah Jane Stone  
Photography by Al Payne

# Desert Infinity

A William F. Cody residence lives on as a celebration of midcentury design.

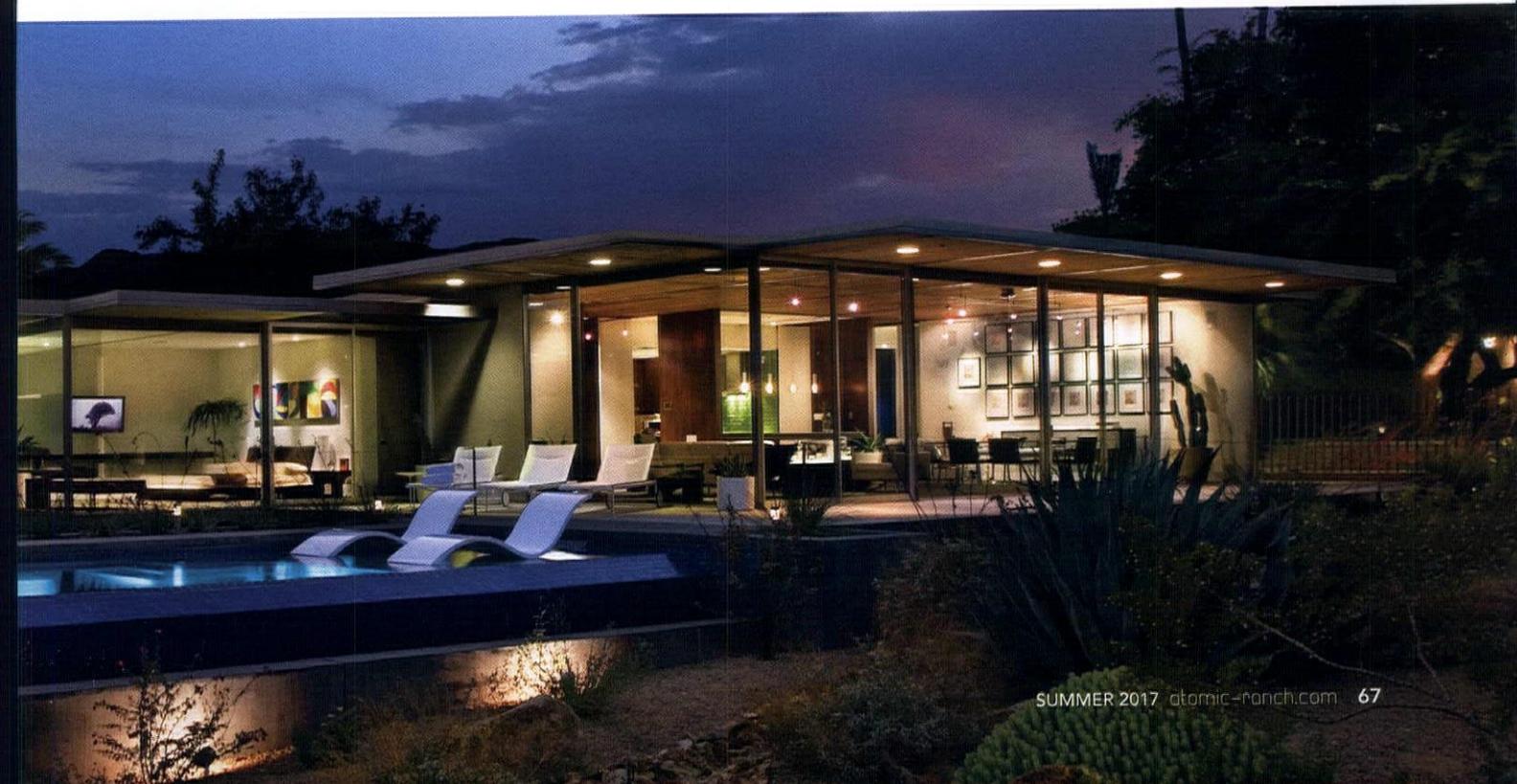
**P**aradise Valley, Arizona, located just outside of Scottsdale, is home to a true midcentury paradise.

Originally designed by famed architect William F. Cody, AIA in 1966, this stunning example of modernist architecture was refreshed by the team at LEA Architects, LLC in 2007. Design Principal Lance Enyart, AIA LEED AP, says, "For me, the most important element of Midcentury Modern design is the strong connection between indoor and outdoor space, as well as the simple and honest expression of materials and structure."

LEA Architects designed the renovation and addition and focused on opening up the floor plan while preserving the character of the original architecture. Walls that divided the kitchen, dining, and living space from one another were removed to create a more open plan that better meets the needs of the home's current owner. However, the entertaining areas weren't the only interior spaces to receive a careful facelift—the master suite was expanded to make the bathroom larger as well as take full advantage of the home's views of Camelback Mountain.

Rather than making do with the original carport, the homeowner requested that the space be enclosed—which LEA Architects did by installing venting windows and glass hydraulic garage doors (not unlike those used for aircraft hangars).

Despite making these changes, the original 10x10 tube steel column structural grid of Cody's design was respected. According to Lance, the team used hot rolled plate steel along with a blend of both original and new walnut paneling and cabinetry so as to refine the interior design. After an eight-month process, the final product is a midcentury inspired modernist design where Cody's clean lines and LEA Architect's subtle refinements contrast the rugged terrain of the Arizona landscape. 



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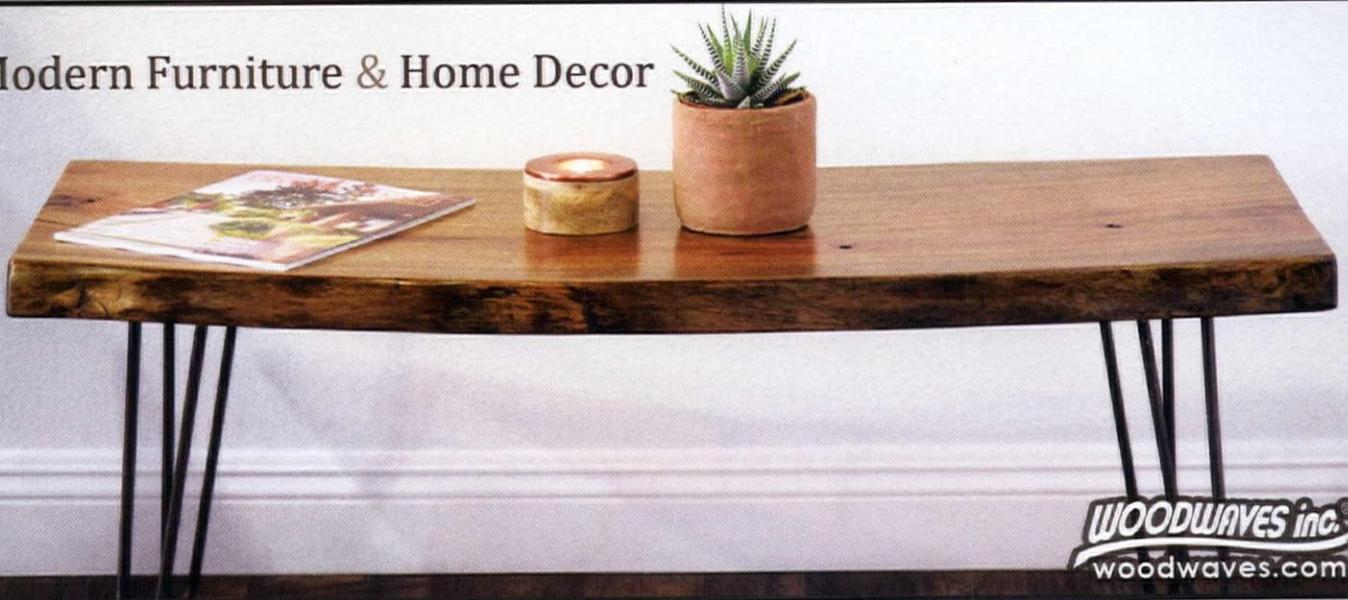
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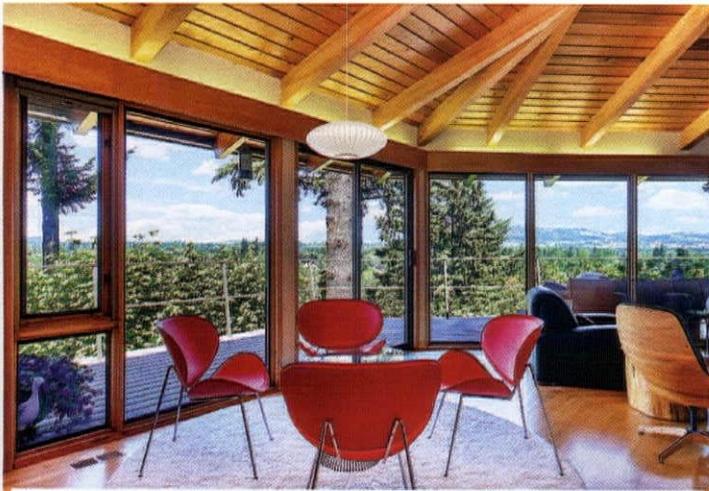
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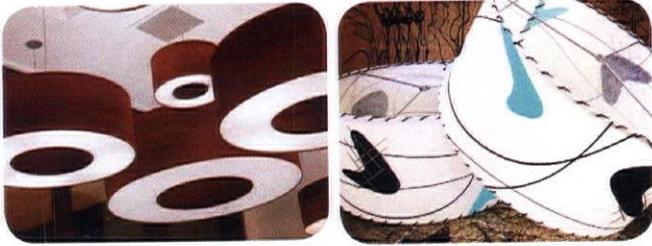


photos: Brad + Margo Richter

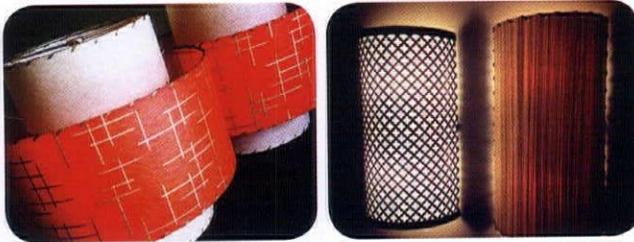
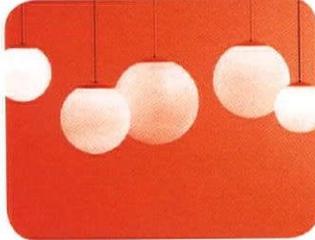
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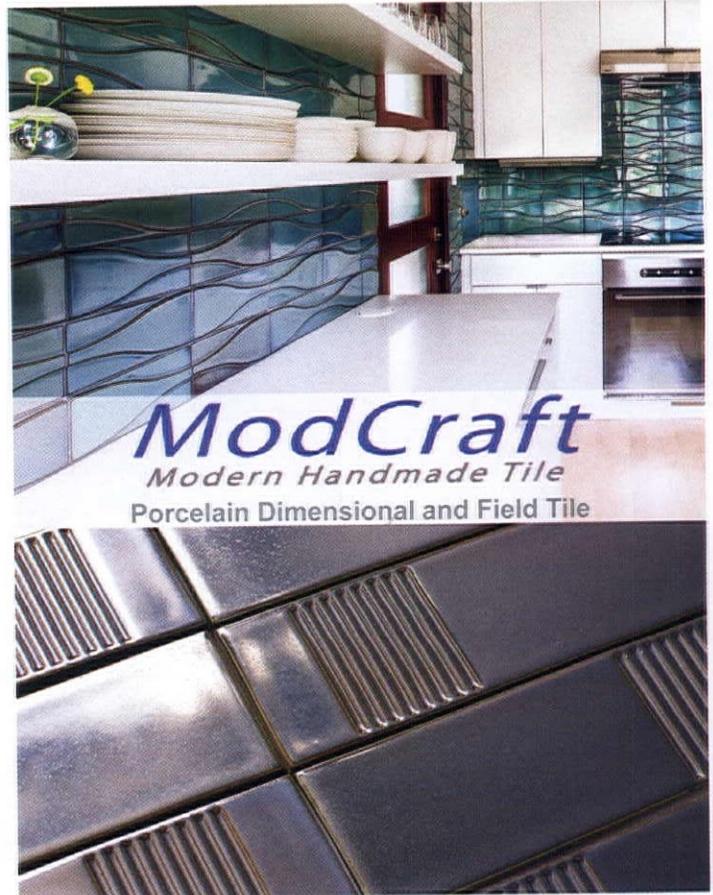
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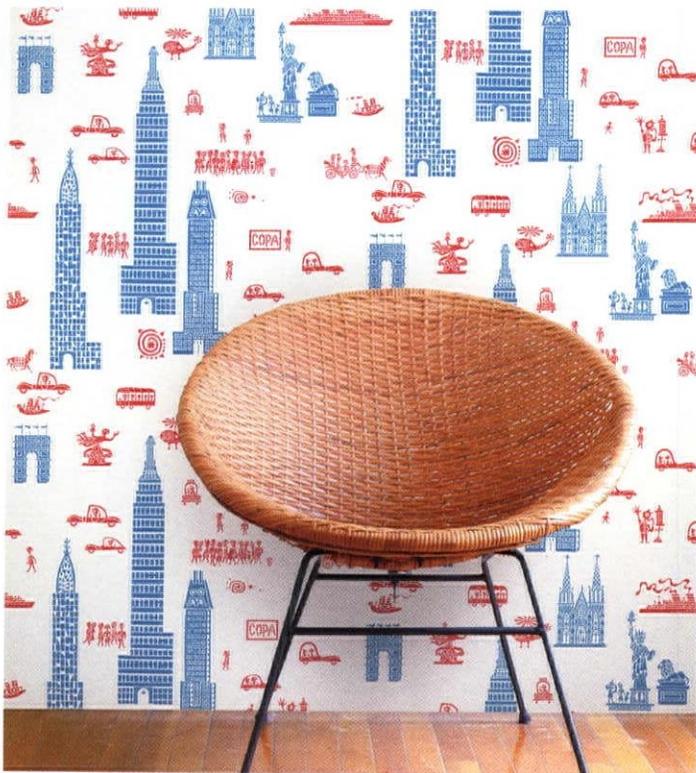
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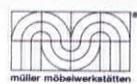
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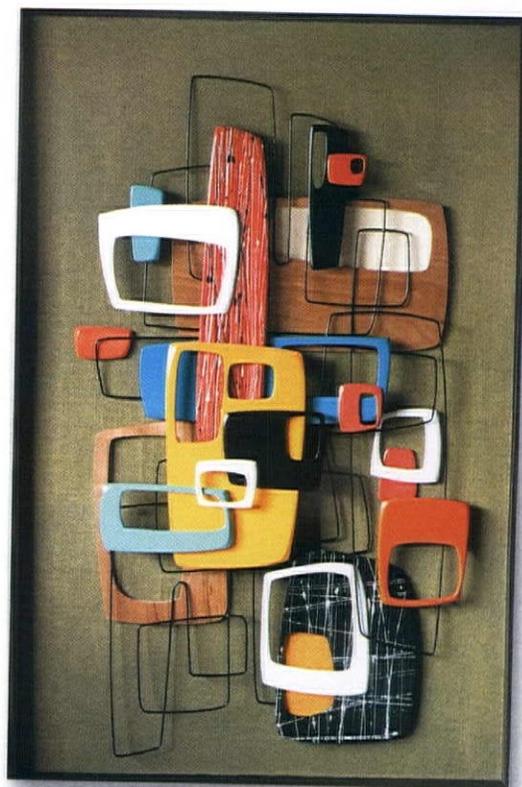
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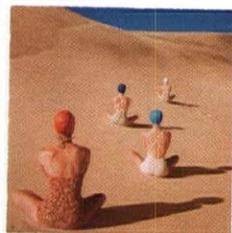


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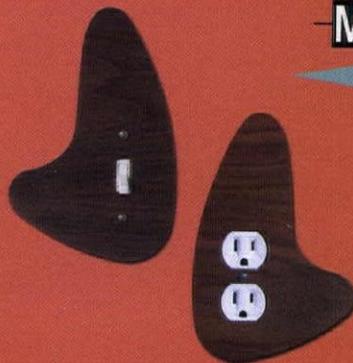
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# resources

## Atomic Kitchens, pp. 24-26

**Architect:** Rick & Cindy Black Architects, rickandcindy.net.

**Contractor:** Davenport Builders, visit davenportbuild.com.

**Cabinetry:** Vintage Material Supply, visit hewnaustin.com.

**Plaster and Terrazzo refinish:** Sloan Montgomery, visit sloanmontgomery.com.

**Tile:** Fireclay Tile, visit fireclaytile.com.

**Paint:** Island, Midsummer Night; upper cabinets, Boca Raton Blue, Benjamin Moore, visit benjaminmoore.com.

## Lost in Space, pp. 28-38

**Dining room:** Midcentury line walnut veneer expandable dining table, West Elm, visit westelm.com.

**Living room:** 1960s Danish modern teak table lamp, Retro Revival, (817) 521-2018 or retrorevivalshop.com.

**Sitting room:** Steiffel pole lamp, Lula B's, (214) 749-1929 or visit lulabsdallas.com.

**Spare room:** Orange sleeper sofa and white shag rug, IKEA, visit ikea.com.

**Hi-Fi Lounge:** Midcentury pole lamp and his-and-hers chairs in original fabric, Lula B's, (214) 749-1929 or lulabsdallas.com.

**Master bedroom:** Midcentury line Acorn bed, matching nightstands, and media cabinet, West Elm, visit westelm.com.

## Symbiosis, pp. 40-47

**Interior Design:** Rachel Simmons, preserveourmodern.com.

**Artwork:** (above record player) Michael Walchalk, visit michaelwalchalkdesign.com; (by built-in blue shelf) Mikey Jackson

**Flooring:** Painted concrete.

**Living room sofa:** Vintage, recovered in Joybird's Impact Ochre fabric, visit joybird.com.

**Planter:** Noah Nipperus, visit noahnipperus.wordpress.com.

**Tile in kitchen and hall bathroom:** Ann Sacks ceramic tile, visit annsacks.com.

**Two brown leather chairs:** Ingmar Relling for Westnofa Siesta Chairs.

**Starburst clock:** George Nelson Reedition.

## The Bitossi Craze, pp. 52-55

Max McDonald would like to thank Erica, Phil, Matthew, Alex, Tove, Pam, Ross, Tom, Jason, Jon Jay G. and Guido G. from the Midcentury Modern Facebook group for their help in educating him about his collection.

## Landscape Maven: Ruth Shellhorn, pp. 60-63

Ruth Shellhorn by Kelly Comras, published by The University of Georgia Press, © 2016; www.ugapress.org.

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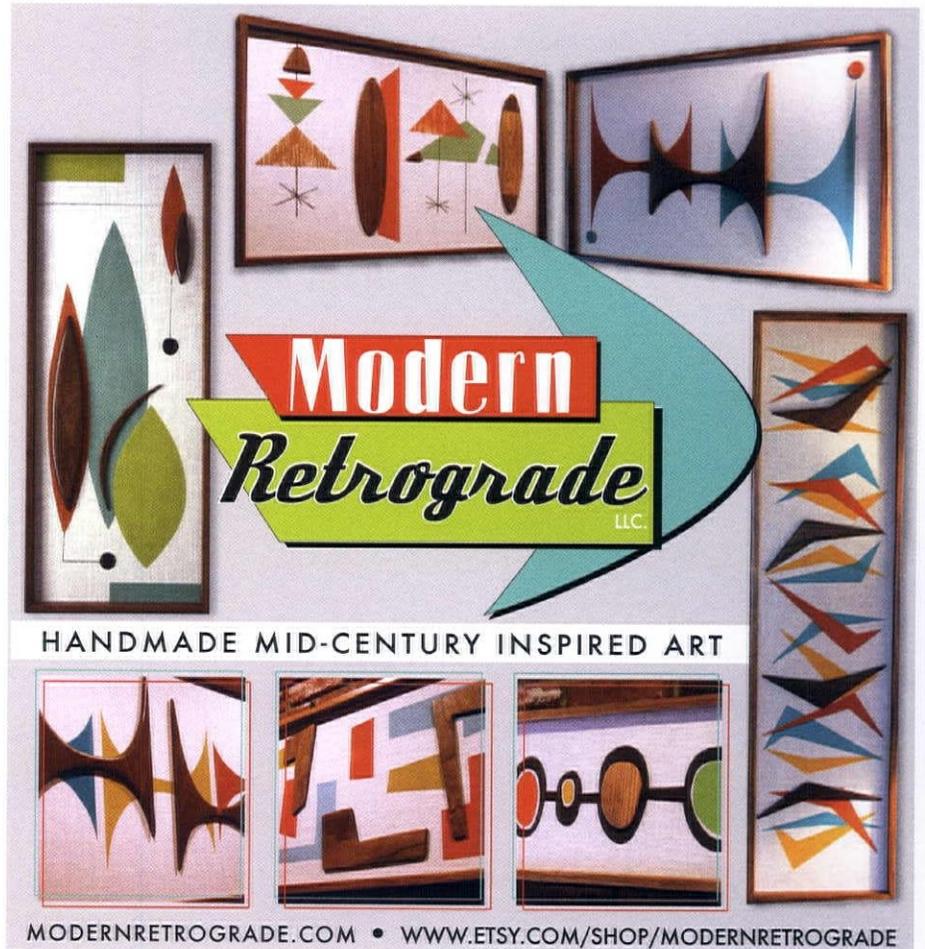


Scandinavian Home Goods, pp. 56-59

**Catherineholm:** Photos courtesy of etsy.com/SparkleUpcycledGoods, etsy.com/JuxtaposeCurated and etsy.com/DecorYouWillAdore.

**Quistgaard:** Photos courtesy of etsy.com/Kibster, etsy.com/FultonLane and etsy.com/MostlyMidModern.

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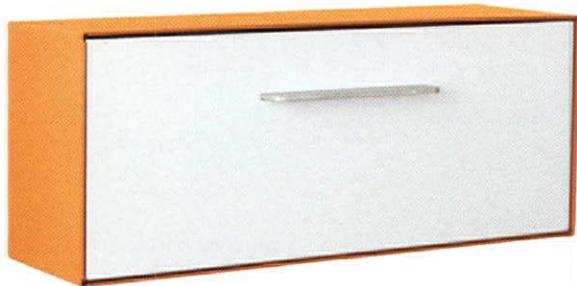
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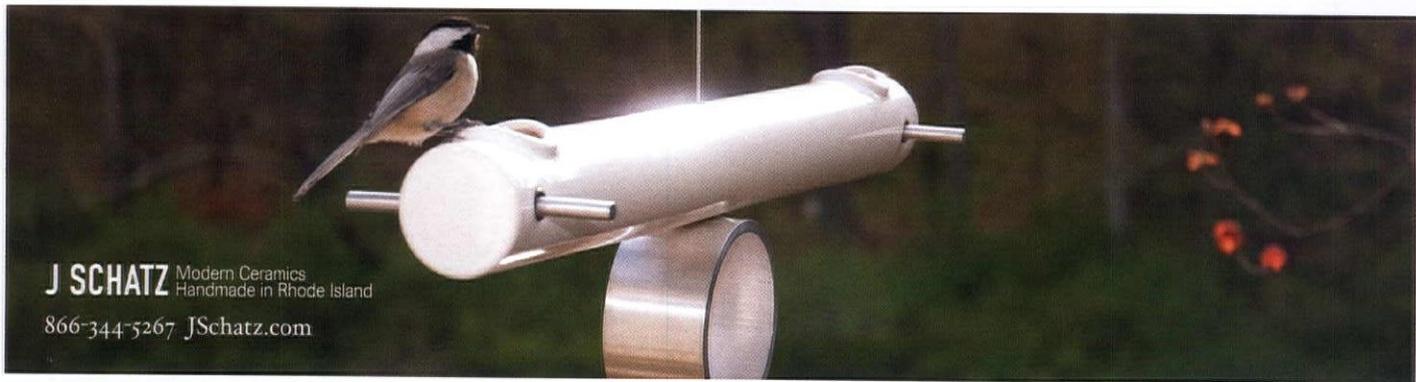
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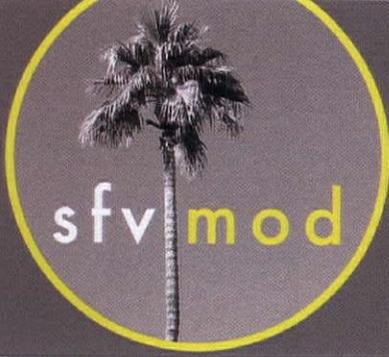
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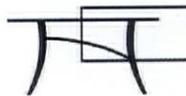


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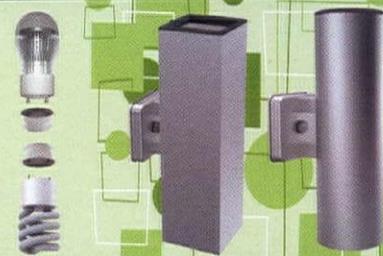


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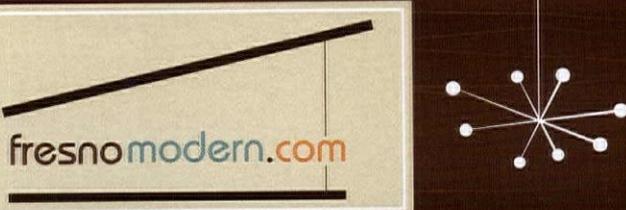
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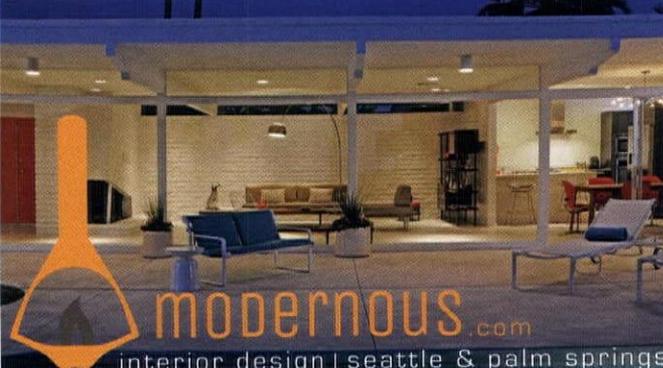
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# last look

## Dinner is ready

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