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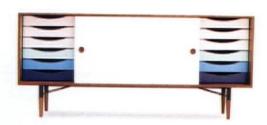


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### editor's letter



## Tile with

AVE YOU EVER WALKED INTO A KITCHEN AND IMAGINED YOURSELF WHIPPING UP FAMILY-FAVORITES, hosting festive events or casually enjoying everyday life—all with a perfectly tiled backdrop? What about a bath that had you imagining spa-like weekends and an idyllic morning routine? That is just what we've strived to create in Atomic Ranch's Kitchen & Bath issue.

For fans of Midcentury Modern design, these spaces have a lot to live up to in the style category. The bright hues of boomerang-patterned Formica counters, metal cabinets, sleek handles, pastel appliances and of course—the pink bathroom. These rooms were far from bland, and we wouldn't have it any other way.

These spaces are more than pretty, they have to be workhorses. So, what is a modernist to do when the charm of original detail is outweighed by dysfunction? What of bad renovations that left period-appropriate character to be desired?

Enter Atomic Ranch's Kitchen & Bath issue. Let me tell you, these kitchens and baths are as dream-worthy as they are attainable. We're featuring real homes that will have you daydreaming while simultaneously making your to-do list. Don't believe me? We've got expert insight on how to design a functional bath (page 60) and choose the right retro-inspired tile (page 70). Plus, we're showcasing three kitchens that perfectly marry midcentury style with modern conveniences (pages 24, 52 and 64).

All the usual features are here too—including two stunning homes with their own equally amazing kitchens and baths (pages 28 and 40). Be sure to check out the shopping guides (pages 15 and 19) for kitchen and bath essentials as well as stylish table and chair combos.

What will you do with all this kitchen and bath inspiration?

Sarah Jane Stone







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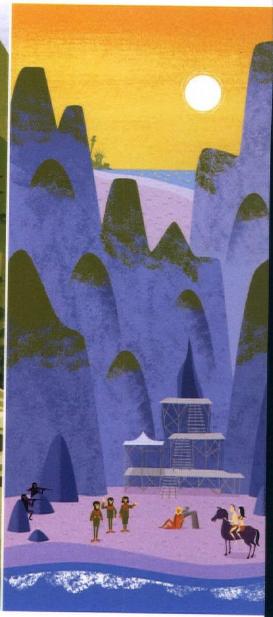
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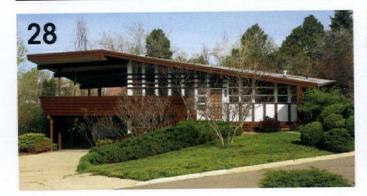


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Kevin Kemper & Howard Hawkes

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#### cover

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Get a sneak peek into what's coming online at atomic-ranch.com.

### Inside Scoop!

#### Retro Road Trip

Where will Ken MacIntyre take us next? Join us as we tour Midcentury Modern landmarks and hotspots.



#### Flea Market Survival Guide

Tips and tricks for scouting out the best vintage finds at the best prices.

#### Must-Have Mod Collectables

See what tops our list of the retro treasures we simply have to have.



#### Blenko 101

It's as popular as midcentury treasures come, but do you know the history-or how to spot the real thing?

#### Cool Stuff -



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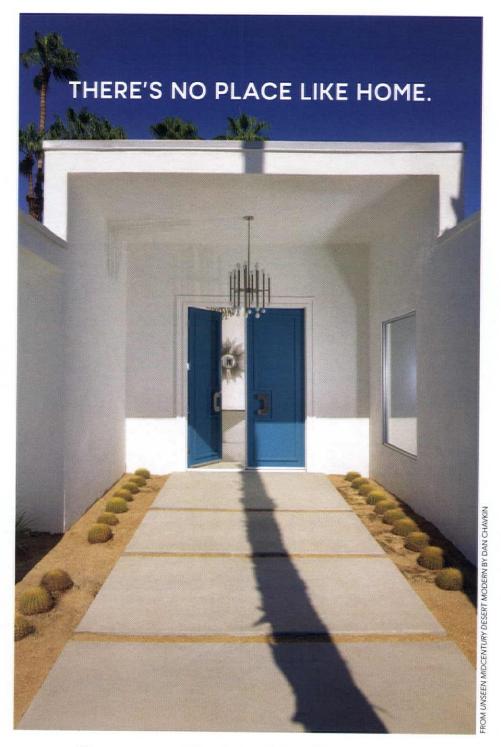
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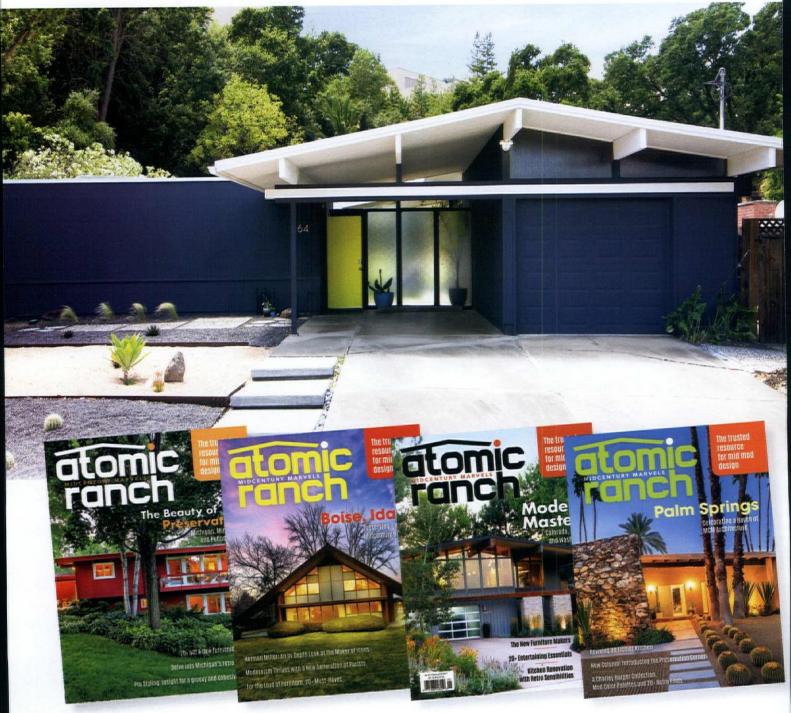
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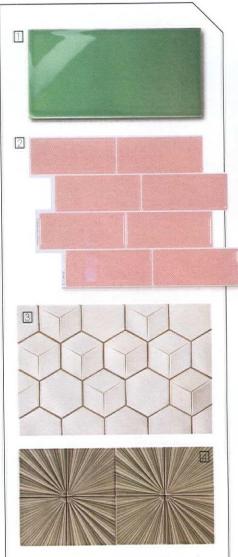
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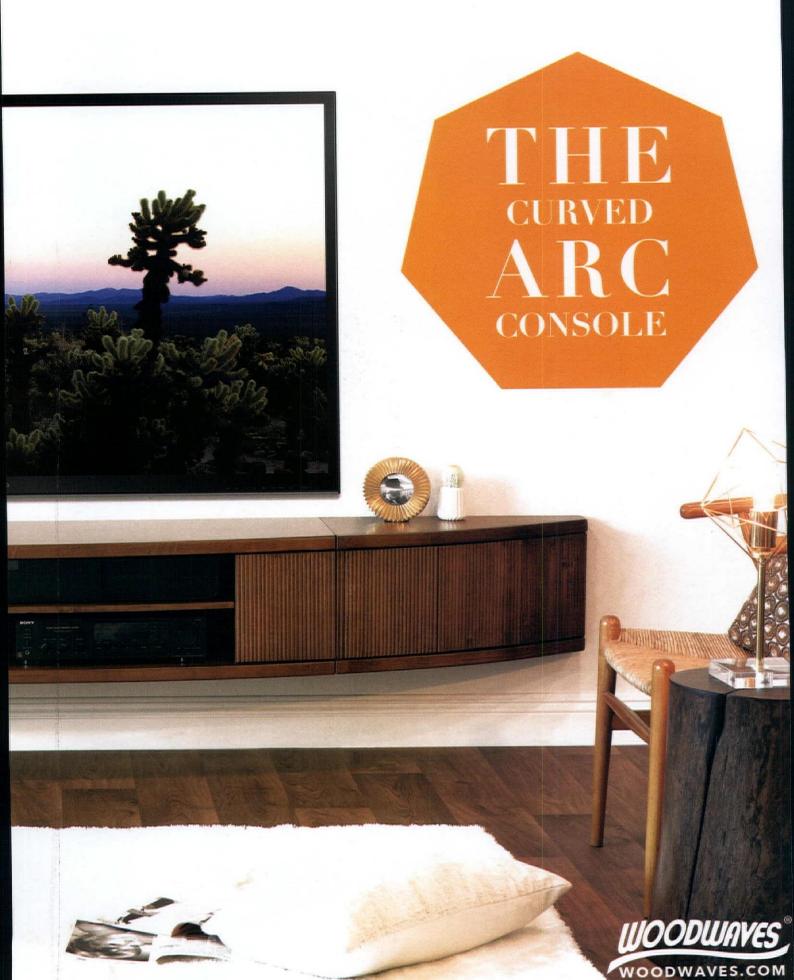


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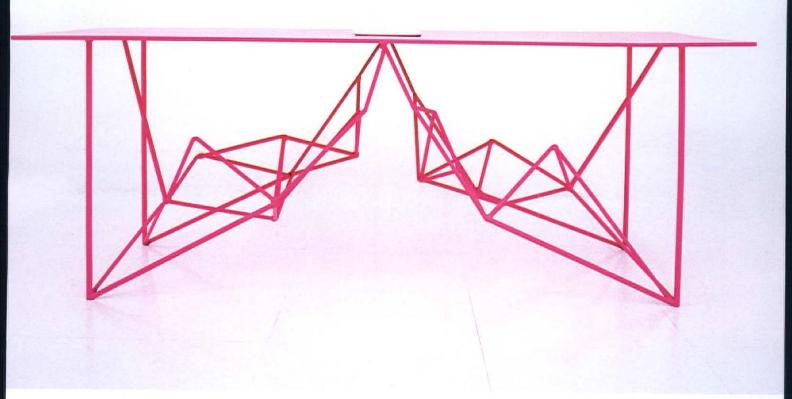


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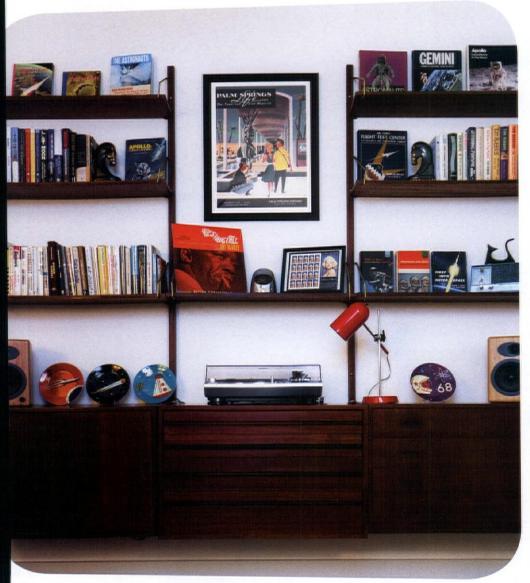


### accidentalarchivist

### Confessions of a Former Packrat

You've saved countless books, papers and blueprints in the name of research and preservation—but now what? How to know if it's time to cut through the clutter.

By George Smart



### WE ARE A NATION OF PACKRATS. We have

so much stuff that the self-storage industry just laughs at us—all the way to the bank. One in 11 Americans pays an average of about \$90 per month, often for years, to store things they will likely never ever use again. Some storage spaces are even air-conditioned and heated, raising the cost.

One out of 11 of our nation, or 9.4 percent of American households, created this \$38 billion dollar industry. That is three times the volume of the entire Hollywood box office gross for a year. According to an article on the subject by Patrick Sisson for CURBED, "the volume of self-storage units in the country could fill the Hoover Dam with old clothing, skis, and keepsakes more than 26 times."

There is nothing wrong with storing things, of course, and I say this as a former packrat. If you are moving or merging households, storage units are an inexpensive and practical way to manage transitions. However, most of us just cannot bear the emotion of parting with our grandma's favorite chair or that live model painting we did in college—

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF GEORGE SMART

let alone our boxes of architecture magazines and books. If you are the child of an architect or a fellow accidental archivist, you may also have blueprints, specs and office records.

A few times a year, I meet someone at his or her storage unit to counsel them on the stuff inside, typically from a parent who was an architect. People open the door slowly and carefully, as if opening an ancient tomb waiting to behold glorious and priceless artifacts. The items are perhaps priceless emotionally, which is why they've been saved at such cost for so long. Financially, however, there's rarely any value. If you are convinced you are sitting on a goldmine of your architect parent's papers in a storage unit, I understand the emotional value, but financially this collection is likely worth zero unless there's a Matisse hidden in there somewhere.

#### HOW TO CLEAR OUT YOUR STORED COLLECTION:

#### Recent Design Magazines:

Community colleges and high schools with drafting programs often don't have the budget for periodicals and want recent issues (within five years) of current titles. If you paid for these personally and not through a company, donate them and get a tax deduction for what you paid in subscriptions.





### One in 11 Americans pays an average of about \$90 per month on storage unit fees.

### Past Design Magazines: If

you're thinking there's gold in them there storage boxes, older titles (over five years) have almost no market value, and schools and libraries don't want them. USModernist has a list of needed issues you can donate, providing free shipping. After that, your best bet is recycling. The good news is, you will feel great relief in freeing up the space. Hasn't your spouse bugged you about this for years?

• Design Books: Coffee table books, especially those with lots of photos, have a robust second life on eBay, Amazon and Craigslist. Reasonable listing prices are 25 percent to 35 percent off face value, plus shipping.

#### · Blueprints, specs and office

records: If your parent was a notable area architect, contact the closest university offering a school of architecture. Typically, the university library can advise about donating. While blueprints typically don't have any financial market value, they do have a tax value when donated. In this situation, however, an appraisal is required. This also gives homeowners a central place to request blueprints when planning future renovations.

Letting go is an important stage in the process of growing up, moving on and freeing up space for the future. Is it your time to finally let go? 🕸

George Smart founded NC Modernist Houses and USModernist Houses, together the largest open digital archives for residential Modernist architecture. He is host of the podcast USModernist Radio, which posts every other Monday on iTunes, www.usmodernist.org.

## <u>atomickitchens</u>

THE KITCHEN REFLECTS THE ATTENTIVENESS TO MIDCENTURY DESIGN SEEN THROUGHOUT THE HOME. BRAD WANTED TO, "UPDATE THE SPACE TO BE MORE EFFICIENT AND FUNCTIONAL WHILE PRESERVING THE OVERALL MIDCENTURY CHARACTER." TO CREATE A MOD LOOK, MARK BLENDED IN WARM, NATURAL FINISHES AND PERIOD FURNITURE PIECES TO BRING THE HOME BACK TO ITS MIDCENTURY GLORY DAYS.



## True Blue

A kitchen in a 1964 townhome now pops thanks to wellappointed midcentury details and a striking backsplash.

By Shelby Deering | Photography by Landon Wiggs | Styling by James Judge

A CONDOMINIUM MAY NOT BE THE FIRST PLACE YOU WOULD EXPECT TO FIND a stylish and functional Midcentury Modern kitchen—and when Brad Erwin moved into Phoenix. Arizona's Roman Roads condo complex in 2015, he knew he had some work to do. His townhome, built in 1964. needed renovating to return it to its former midcentury splendor. Refreshing the first floor was at the top of his list, which included his now-stunning kitchen.

#### MAKING SPACE

"Essentially, the entire kitchen, along with almost all of the remainder of the first floor, was demolished down to the studs as part of the renovation," Brad shares. "Overall, the space was



### /REAL HOME 101/----

TYPE OF HOME: 1964 townhome

ARCHITECT: Al Beadle

BACKGROUND: Previously, the kitchen was cramped and dark due to a restrictive floorplan, and the cabinetry needed a refresh as well.

INNOVATIVE IDEA: To avoid switch plates in the walls, particularly in the backsplash, pop-up alternatives were installed in the countertop.







TOP: BRAD SAYS THAT VISITORS FREQUENTLY COMMENT ON HIS ANGLED WATERFALL COUNTERTOP, INSPIRED BY A NEIGHBOR'S RENOVATION. "I LIKED HOW IT MADE THE ISLAND LESS OF A MONOLITHIC BLOCK AND ALSO GAVE A BIT OF A 'SPACE AGE' FEEL TO THE KITCHEN," HE SAYS.

ABOVE: DAVID EXPLAINS, "BRAD CHOSE TO USE MODCRAFT'S 'HEXON' TILE IN PACIFIC BLUE GLAZE. THIS IS A 6-INCH HEXAGONAL TILE WITH A BOLD ATOMIC PATTERN THAT CREATES A 3D ILLUSION WHEN PUT TOGETHER, RESULTING IN A MODERN KNIT PATTERN—TWO DISTINCT SHAPES CAN BE SEEN IN THE PATTERN ONCE INSTALLED. THE DEEP BLUE, TRANSLUCENT GLAZE CONTRASTS NICELY WITH THE WALNUT CABINETRY."

- Natural, woodgrain cabinetry
- Geometric tile backsplash
- Vintage décor pieces

quite cramped and fairly dark. You couldn't even open the refrigerator doors all the way without hitting the countertop or walls."

The problematic layout was addressed by relocating the open staircase to allow the kitchen to grow slightly. This provided more working space and a functional bar area. Renovations were completed in early 2017, with Brad doing some of the designing alongside design consultant Christine Mettler.

#### WOW FACTOR

Although the entire kitchen captures midcentury style, there's one element that's perhaps more mod than all the rest—the blue porcelain backsplash, featuring dimensional geometric tiles.

"The 'Hexon' tile fits right into Brad's kitchen so perfectly, doesn't it?" says David Clark, owner of ModCraft, the company that crafted the tile. "I think it marries well with the design and history of the of the house's architecture. It's a very bold tile that really creates a dynamic look and is set off beautifully against that amazing cabinetry."

Other throwback touches include the dark woodgrain cabinetry, chosen to coordinate with Brad's furniture pieces, vintage pitchers and vases and a midcentury-inspired sculpture.

Brad, who enjoys making one-pot chili and cassoulet in his redesigned kitchen, shares, "I wanted to keep the space as clean as possible, both literally and visually." He has certainly achieved it, through carefully-chosen materials, distinctive décor and a dedication to midcentury design.



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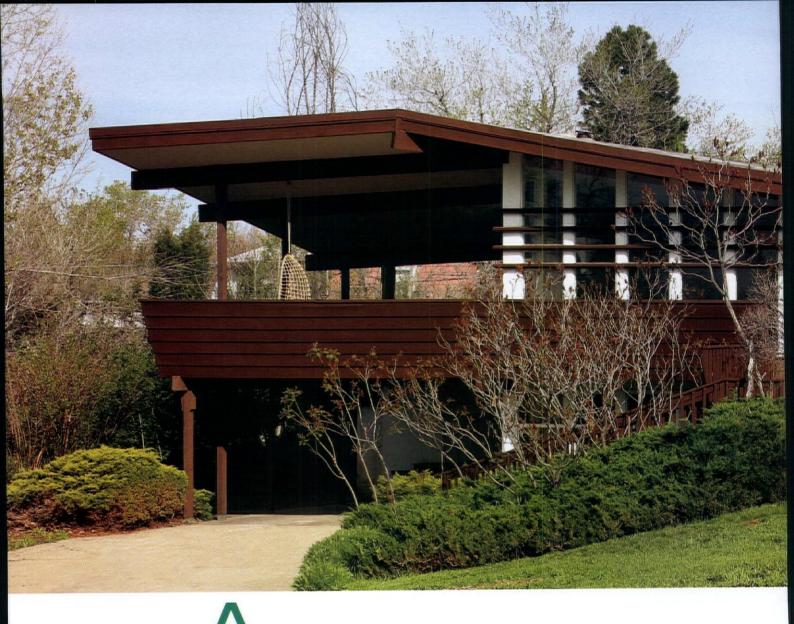
DenverModernismWeek.com

# Suburban OSIS

Necessary updates blend seamlessly with the restoration and enhancement of original features in a custom 1957 Colorado home.







Iready living in a 1955 Cliff May Denver, home,

Danielle and Cole St. Peter were enjoying their recent restorations and midcentury neighborhood of Harvey Park when another home fell into their laps. "Ultimately we weren't looking. We planned on staying in the Cliff May for a while," admits Cole. However, when their friend Adrian Kinney—a Denver, Colorado, Midcentury Modern real estate expert and specialist—notified them about a custom 1957 house in Northglenn, plans began to change. "We came to see it and immediately fell in love," Danielle remembers. "We were ready for another project... We saw the potential here," she continues.

#### THE SALE

Amazingly, the St. Peters' buying process was contingent upon a string of four off-market transactions. "It was a crazy deal and tested my abilities!" says Adrian, who handled each exchange. Adrian, also a former Cliff May neighbor, shares that, "It was a super stressful time making sure each one was able to move along for the next. But in the end, everyone ended up in the place they wanted, for the price they wanted and on time."

OPPOSITE: "THE DECK IS BASICALLY AN EXTENSION OF OUR LIVING ROOM. NO MATTER THE WEATHER, WE ENJOY SPENDING TIME OUT THERE SURROUNDED BY NATURE," SHARES DANIELLE.





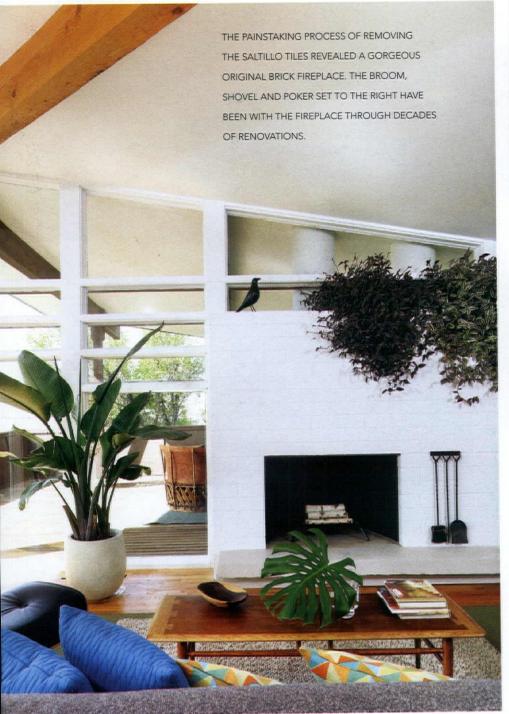


ABOVE: WITH NO NEED TO CONVERT THE HOUSE'S MANY SINGLE PANE WINDOWS, DANIELLE AND COLE RELY ON THE COLORADO SUNSHINE TO PROVIDE PLENTY OF WARMTH. ORIGINALLY COVERED IN DRYWALL, WOODEN BEAMS ARE NOW EXPOSED THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE.

OPPOSITE: THE REMOVAL OF A WALL ALLOWED FOR A KITCHEN ISLAND TO BE ADDED, WHILE THE REFRIGERATOR AND SINK WERE RELOCATED TO NEW AREAS. ONCE LINOLEUM AND SALTILLO TILES, THE KITCHEN FLOORS WERE REDONE WITH "RED OAK COMMON #1" HARDWOOD, CONSISTENT WITH THE REST OF THE HOME.

## THE MOTIVATOR Just a week after moving in, the happy news of Danielle's pregnancy meant that renovations needed to be tackled quickly. "The very first thing we did was rip up the carpet. It was old and needed to be done," says Danielle. Drywall was repaired and flooring throughout the house was redone in "red oak common #1," a popular hardwood choice during the midcentury. Danielle and Cole were living downstairs while tackling upstairs renovations mostly by themselves, with Cole's father acting as the general contractor. THE PAST Thanks to old photos from long-time previous owners, the Pattersons, Cole and Danielle discovered the stairs leading up to the living room were originally located near the front door. Centrally located since the prior renovation, the couple notes that the stairs create a welcoming invitation up to the living room. FALL 2018 otomic-ranch.com 33

The custom design and thoughtful layout of this 1957 house was a huge draw. "It is fun to be in a house that is completely unique," says Danielle.





ABOVE: SALTILLO TILES AND CARPETING FROM A PREVIOUS RENOVATION WERE REMOVED FROM THE STAIRS AND REPLACED WITH HARD WOOD. AFTER REMOVING UNSTABLE RAILINGS FROM THE LIVING ROOM STAIRCASE, COLE WORKED WITH A WELDER TO DESIGN A NEW RAILING FEATURING AN ELONGATED TRIANGLE DESIGN.



During the house's early years, the Pattersons created shade for the deck by adding a roof which connects seamlessly to the existing house. "We're really grateful for it because now we can truly enjoy the space," states Danielle. "We can use it almost year-round," Cole adds.

#### WTHE ORIGINALS

While original to the home's design, drywall covered wooden beams throughout the house. "We wanted to expose the beams and let them become an architectural feature as opposed to being hidden by the drywall," shares Danielle. The exposed wood also provides visual breaks in the all-white living room.

Original white brick was revealed after removing Saltillo

tiles from the fireplace, a painstaking task requiring hours of chipping at mortar. Cole remembers it as "very much a labor of love."

#### THE ENHANCEMENTS

While the kitchen still had some original features including a pink oven and boomerang countertops—the room needed to be gutted thanks to sixty years of wear. "It was really hard for us to decide to take this kitchen out," Cole admits. To create a truly open floor plan, a divider was removed between the family room and one side of the kitchen, while a wall was removed on the other side to connect the dining room.

Having seen a previous renovation, the guest bathroom

### "For us, it's about honoring the architecture of the home," says Danielle.





ABOVE: THE VINTAGE HUTCH—ONE OF SEVERAL BROYHILL BRASILIA PIECES FOUND THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE—SHOWCASES CERAMICS MADE BY LOCAL ARTISANS.

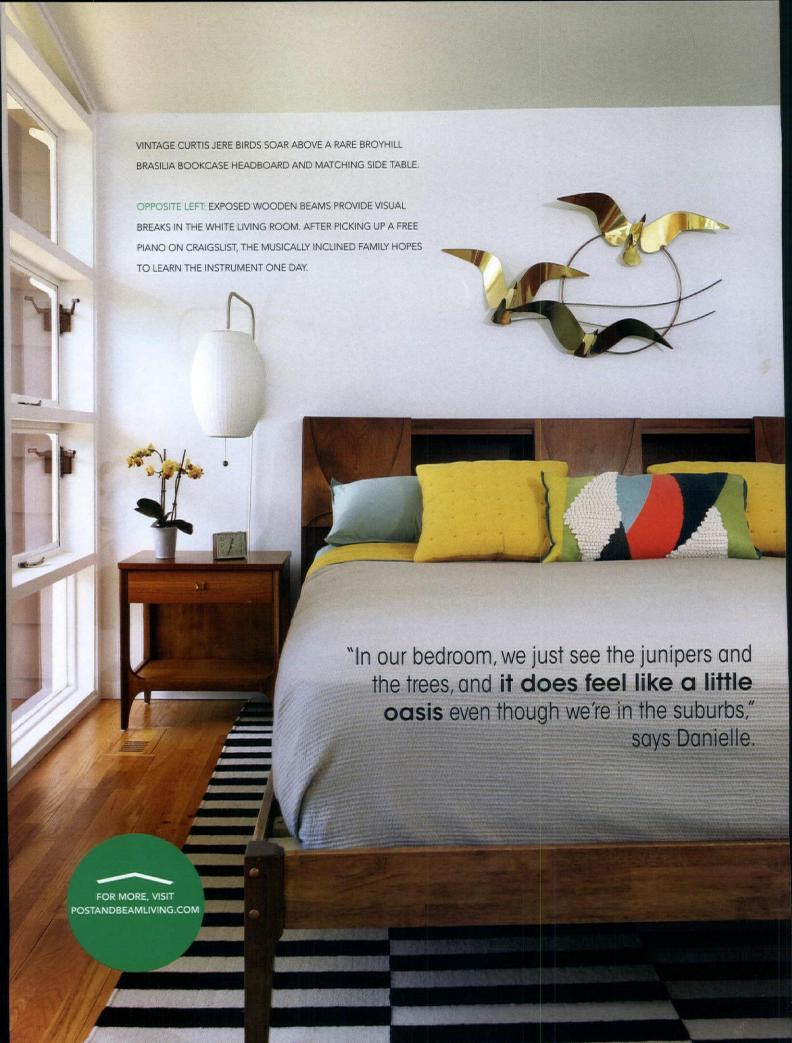
RIGHT: REMOVING DRAPERIES, A PRIVACY SCREEN, AND OVERGROWN PLANTS HAS ALLOWED FOR INCREDIBLE VIEWS FROM THE MASTER BEDROOM.

needed a complete makeover. Not only did the couple replace all the fixtures, they reconfigured the floorplan so that the tub could be positioned at the back of the room and the toilet next to the vanity. These changes allowed Danielle and Cole to gain a little over a foot of space to the master bath, which is located on the other side of the wall.

#### THE OASIS

Removing large draperies and an overgrown juniper bush cleared the







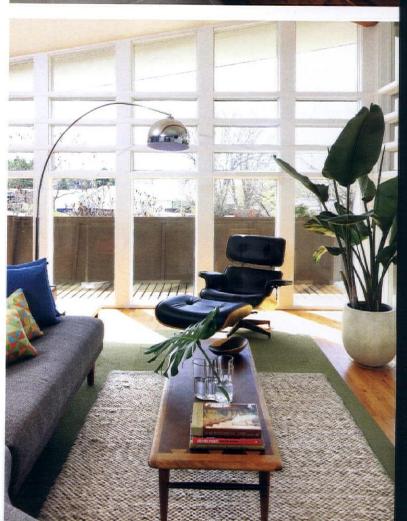


ABOVE RIGHT: BLUE LINOLEUM FLOORING AND BLACK STICK-ON TILES WERE REMOVED DURING THE GUEST BATHROOM'S COMPLETE REFRESH. RELOCATING THE TOILET ALLOWED FOR EXTRA ROOM IN THE MASTER BATHROOM, LOCATED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL.

RIGHT: A CLASSIC EAMES CHAIR AND OTTOMAN SITS BELOW AN ARC LAMP TO CREATE THE PERFECT SPOT FOR RELAXATION.

incredible window work in the master bedroom, allowing for outside access and mountain views. "In our bedroom, we just see the junipers and the trees, and it does feel like a little oasis even though we're in the suburbs," describes Danielle.

Living happily with baby Tabor and Sidney the dog,
Danielle and Cole have plans to tackle the basement next.
Hoping to continue the Pattersons' master gardening
legacy, the couple looks forward to sprucing up the front
yard as well.



# "When you respect architecture so much, there's definitely a lot of pressure when you make substantial changes to a home."

ORIGINAL MAHOGANY-FRAME WINDOWS LOOK OUT OVER A CITY PARK ACROSS THE STREET AND FLOOD THE MAIN LIVING ROOM WITH NATURAL LIGHT.



# Portography by Vanessa Weber Styling by Rachel Jacks

With a little imagination, an unusual midcentury floorplan is adapted for modern living.



TRICKY. On one hand, Midcentury Modern enthusiasts often want to preserve the original footprint and design elements that were unique to the post-war era. On the other hand, a home should be conducive to modern living.

"With the major remodel, I did my best to give a nod to the original midcentury design, even though we took a lot of it down to the studs," says

Beth Williamson of her split level house in Portland's Concordia neighborhood



Built in 1954, the house is one of the few midcentury properties to be found in northeast Portland.

OPPOSITE: WHITE OAK FLOORS CONNECT THE LIVING ROOM. KITCHEN AND DINING AREA, PROVIDING A NEUTRAL PALETTE FOR THE NEWLY RENOVATED SPACE. WALNUT CABINET DOORS AND DRAWER FACES FROM SEMIHANDMADE ADD MIDCENTURY FLAIR TO BASIC IKEA CABINETS. THE FIREPLACE WAS OPENED ON BOTH SIDES TO FURTHER CONNECT THE LIVING AND EATING AREAS.













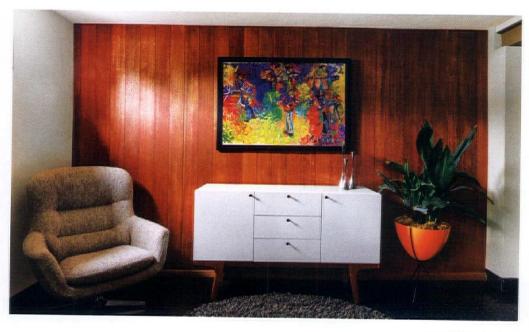


Beth and her husband Seth Berman lived in the property for three years before finally committing to a renovation, and even then, they nixed two designers before bringing in architect Risa Boyer.

"They were really debating whether they should move or stay," says Risa, who has remodeled several midcentury homes in the area. She encouraged Beth to go with her gut on her design choices and collaborated with her on adapting the home to the couple's lifestyle.

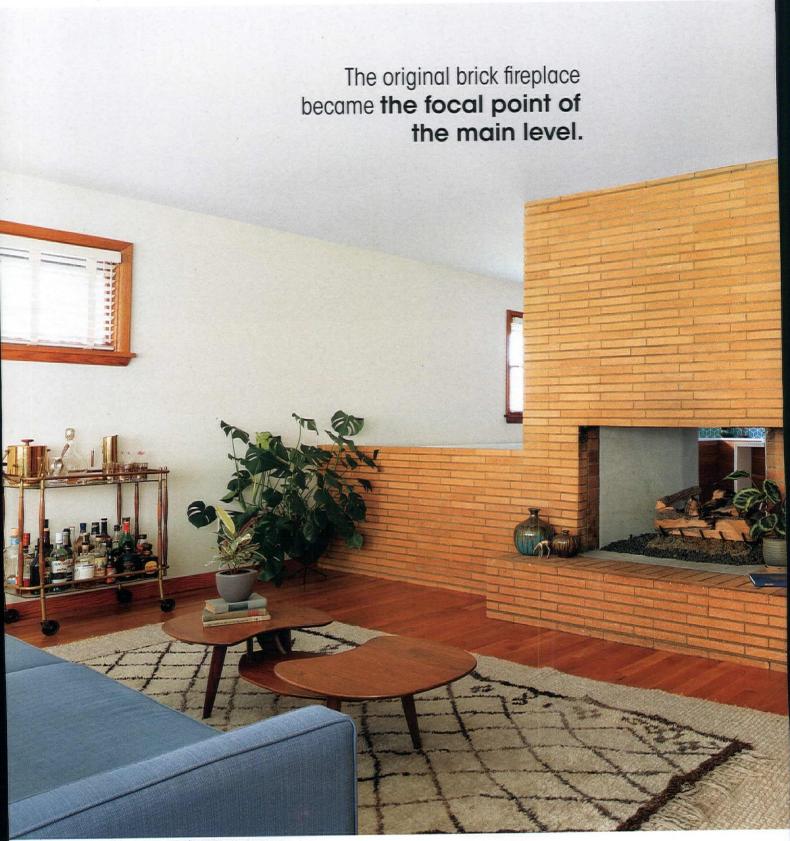
#### MODERN FLOW

The focal point of Beth's vision was preserving the original brick fireplace in the living room at the front of the house. "We didn't have that ridiculous of a budget, so I had to really consider what was important to me," she says. But amending the floor plan to create a more open space was challenging. Although technically a split-level house, the home is divided lengthwise into four living areas. Adding to the layout puzzle, a rogue bedroom



RENOVATIONS INCLUDED REMOVING PART OF THE ORIGINAL FIREPLACE WALL TO CREATE VISUAL FLOW BETWEEN THE DINING AREA AND LIVING ROOM.

OPPOSITE: HEXAGONAL FLOOR TILE AND WALNUT
CABINET DOORS HELP CREATE THE PERFECT MID MOD
AESTHETIC IN THE NEWLY RENOVATED MASTER BATH.







separated the kitchen and dining room from the living room on the main floor.

"For me to stay in the house, I needed better light, I needed a more modern flow," Beth says. They chose to move the kitchen and dining area to the center of the house, and to remove a section of the brick fireplace to make the entire space more cohesive. The homeowners hesitated at gutting the kitchen, which featured stunning plasterwork done by hand from the previous owner, but Beth held fast to her vision. "I felt that if I did that well enough and kept some nods to the midcentury, I was improving the house and not taking away from its original character," she says.

These nods include installing custom walnut doors and drawer fronts on Ikea cabinets, and white Caesarstone on the kitchen countertops with a waterfall edge island. A glass Atos dining table flanked by a walnut bench and modern wire dining chairs create a clean, minimalist aesthetic while providing a welcoming gathering place adjacent the living room.

#### **NEW BEGINNINGS**

The original dining room, meanwhile, has been reimagined as a nursery (the couple are expecting later this year). A built-in china



"We didn't have that ridiculous of a budget, so I had to really consider what was important to me." cabinet will be used to house baby clothes and stuffed animals, Beth says. The kitchen on the northeast corner of the house was converted into a den that also doubles as the home's main entry. "Down the road, I foresee it being the play room. Right now, my dog controls that room," she laughs.

Upstairs, the homeowners expanded the half-bath attached to the master bedroom, while operating within the confines of the area's peculiar layout. "We were working with a 42-inch wide space, so we had to get creative," says Risa, who maximized the square footage by adding a pocket door across from a narrow vanity. She positioned the shower at one end of the bathroom and the toilet at the other. A large three-section mirror above the sink helps brighten the room, while walnut cabinets and hexagon floor tiles pay homage to the home's midcentury roots.

Although the homeowners had to make due with a clunky layout for several years before saving enough for their desired renovations, they feel the end result was well worth the wait. "When you respect architecture so much, there's definitely a lot of pressure when you make substantial changes to a home," says Beth, who hopes to spend many more years in the newly refreshed midcentury abode. She adds, "Finding Risa was huge in helping us visualize this home in a more modern, functional way. We're pretty proud of what we did."

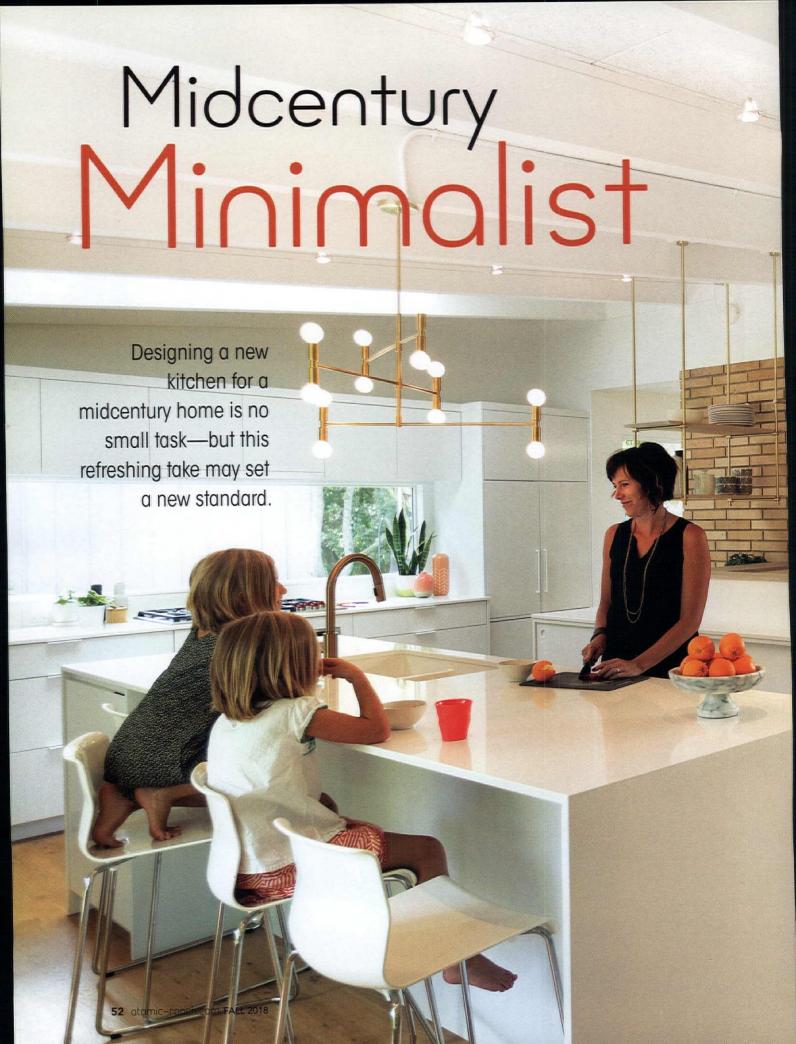


LEFT: NO RENOVATIONS WERE NEEDED IN THE MASTER BEDROOM, WHICH STILL HAS THE ORIGINAL PARQUET FLOORING AND MAHOGANY-FRAMED WINDOWS.

BELOW: THE HOME'S NEWLY RENOVATED MAIN ENTRY DOUBLES AS A DEN, WITH ADDED SEATING FOR ENTERTAINING. THE BUILT-IN UNIT PROVIDES A HANDY PLACE TO STASH OUTERWEAR.







By Stephanie Agnes-Crockett | Photography by Spacecrafting Interior design by Kristin Rackner, Studio Vice and Kimberly Scanlon, Vela Creative

FOR THE RENOVATION of a 1959 Minneapolis, Minnesota kitchen with functionality at the core of its design, highlighting its Midcentury Modern aesthetic was an absolute must. Designers Kristin Rackner and Kimberly Scanlon, formerly of Crush Collective, collaborated with the homeowners, the Taylors, to recreate the space.

According to Kristin, the team renovated with three goals in mind: "To respect the integrity of the architecture and its time period, to integrate the homeowners' love of Scandinavian design and, most importantly, to make the space function for a busy family with three young girls."



MRS. TAYLOR SLICES INTO AN AFTERNOON SNACK WHILE TWO OF HER DAUGHTERS OBSERVE. THE SHORT ISLAND COUNTER ENABLES THE YOUNG GIRLS TO WATCH THEIR MOM PREPARE MEALS. THE MATCHING WHITE CHAIRS OFFER SEATING FOR FOUR, AND THE CENTRALIZED SINK MAKES FOR EASY CLEAN-UP.

#### STRATEGIC STRUCTURE

"Honoring the history of the home is always a priority when working on an original Midcentury Modern project," Kimberly says. For this project, according to Kristin, that meant "working within the parameters of numerous architectural constraints. An existing stairwell, two large openings leading to the atrium and dining

room, a large span of windows and the hidden bar all needed to remain."

At the same time, the designers did make some structural changes, like removing the doorway to the patio. "While it was convenient for bringing in groceries, it also made for a confusing first approach to the home," Kimberly says. "There is always a leap of faith a client must take. For the Taylors, this was it."



LEFT: MIDCENTURY MODERN DÉCOR
THRIVES ON VARIED TEXTURES AND
LINEAR ALIGNMENT. THIS KITCHEN,
WITH ITS WHITE PANELED STORAGE
CABINETS AND SHINY APPLIANCES,
INCORPORATES HARDWOOD
FLOORS, EXPOSED CEILING BEAMS
AND EVEN BRICK. "THE ORIGINAL
BRICKWORK WAS PRESERVED AND
ADDS A GROUNDING TEXTURE TO
THE SPACE," KIMBERLY SAYS.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM: EVERY SPACE,
EVEN THE SEEMINGLY BLANK ONES,
SERVES A PURPOSE. THE WOODEN
SIDEBOARD PROVIDES ADDITIONAL
STORAGE SPACE, AND THE HIDDEN
BAR AREA IS EQUIPPED TO SERVE UP
ANY BEVERAGE. AS YOU CAN SEE,
THE ORIGINAL ARCHITECTURE OF
THE KITCHEN INCLUDED A PERFECT
ENCLOSURE, MASKING THE BAR
FROM THE REST OF THE ROOM.



ABOVE: THE FUNCTIONAL KITCHEN-LOUNGE AREA EASILY ACCOMMODATES THE FAMILY OF FIVE. "THE CLIENT LET US KNOW RIGHT FROM THE START THAT THE KITCHEN WAS A GATHERING PLACE FOR THEIR FAMILY," KIMBERLY EXPLAINS. "IT WAS A MAJOR PRIORITY TO HAVE SPACE FOR THEIR THREE GIRLS TO BE IN THE KITCHEN WITH MOM AND DAD."



RIGHT: CLEAN WHITE CABINETS CONCEAL A VARIETY OF APPLIANCES AND NECESSARY ODDS AND ENDS. "THE KITCHEN IS RICH WITH FUNCTIONAL STORAGE OPTIONS," KIMBERLY SAYS. "FROM A CLOSED-DOOR MAIL CENTER AND POP-OUT DOOR DOGGIE STATION TO THE CONCEALED COFFEE STATION. EVERYTHING HAS ITS PLACE AND CAN BE OUT OF SIGHT TO MAINTAIN A MINIMALIST APPEAL."

BELOW: CONSIDER INTRODUCING COMFY SEATING TO YOUR MID MOD COOKING SPACE. "IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE HOMEOWNERS THAT THERE WAS LOUNGE SEATING IN THE KITCHEN FOR GUESTS TO SIT WHILE [THE HOMEOWNERS] WERE COOKING OR JUST SPENDING TIME IN THERE," KRISTIN SAYS. "THEY WANTED IT TO BE ANOTHER SPACE FOR GUESTS TO SOCIALIZE WHEN THEY HAD LARGE PARTIES."





# Cooking up a Design

For Kristin and Kimberly, the design process truly is a process. Consider these factors as key "ingredients" in your recipe for mid mod success.

- THE PEOPLE. It's important to consider what Kristin calls the "human experience."
  Who's going to be living in the space you're decorating, and how can you tailor that area to fit their needs? As Kimberly points out, "We are all in need of a haven from the chaos of daily life."
- THE LIGHTS. Lighting might not be at the top of your renovation to-do list, but its importance cannot be overemphasized. Your lights, in addition to contributing to the room's décor, also determine how you'll see that décor. Change up your fixtures and you might just see your space in a whole new light.
- THE DETAILS. Get creative with the small stuff! Whether you're deciding on a
  unique trim for your hanging shelves or an accent color for throw pillows, a little
  forethought and coordination can go a long way.

#### STREAMLINED STATEMENT

To embrace midcentury design, Kristin and Kimberly chose to incorporate certain hallmark characteristics. Traditional features, Kristin says, include "suspended shelving, long linear lines, a mix of soft and hard materials and bringing nature indoors." The designers also crafted a functional space with what Kimberly dubs, "a place for everything."

For a family environment to accommodate five, the homeowners planned plenty of seating and decided to shorten the center island to better serve their children. "It was a major priority to have space for the Taylors' three girls to be in the kitchen with mom and dad," Kimberly says.







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# The Art of Escaping

An unassuming kit house is transformed into a tranquil modernist retreat.

By Sarah Jane Stone
Photography by Bates Masi + Architects

# NESTLED IN AN IDYLLIC WOODED NEIGHBORHOOD ONLY

A HALF MILE FROM THE BAY, this 1960s kit house in Amagansett, New York, offers all that you would expect of a midcentury weekend retreat—and then some.

"The frequent turnover within a vacation community can be wasteful. Some are eager to tear down what exists and start new," says architect Paul Masi, of Bates Masi + Architects. "This project preserved the skeleton of the house and the history in the patinated materials that the client desired. Conventional materials were utilized in new ways to unify the old and the new."



In planning the renovation, the client's design aesthetic was married seamlessly with the home's post and beam construction. "The clients, DJ Victor Calderone and interior designer Athena Calderone—who worked on the home—gathered images of objects and conventional materials utilized in new, interesting ways as inspiration for the design," says Paul.

Their goal was to find a single design solution that could unify the home's original spaces and aesthetic with the new. "A vocabulary was developed that allowed the patina and history that the client favored to remain and new experiences to evolve," he shares.

What would such a solution be? "Between the existing ceiling joists, natural rope was woven through a digitally fabricated framework with weaving patterns used to signify different ceiling conditions," says Paul. Lighting penetrates a crossed weave while a straight weave shields speakers and utilities from view. "Since the client is a DJ, sound is very important. The rope weave acts as an acoustic baffle absorbing background noise but allows music from the ceiling-mounted speakers to be emitted," says Paul.

Unifying the exterior is a dark-stained cedar siding. It encompasses the entire home—wrapping all of the exterior facades and transitioning seamlessly into the matching frames of the replaced windows and doors. "Behind a sheet of glass, reclaimed wood lines the shower surround and one feels as though they are showering outdoors," shares Paul.

The sprawling home fits four bedrooms and three bathrooms into its 2,400 square feet. With an ease of flow between the interior and exterior spaces the home breathes effortlessly—inviting life both within its carefully restored walls and outside of them.

FOR MORE, VISIT ATOMIC-RANCH.COM





# reatively Custom

Look no further for cabinets that boast midcentury style without compromising on smart, functional bath design.

> By Camellia Ghotbzadeh Photography courtesy of Kerf

### WHEN YOU THINK OF MIDCENTURY

MODERN STYLE, functionality and quality through design likely come to mind. Nathan Hartman offers exactly this to his clients with his custom cabinet and design company, Kerf Design.

#### A CHANGE IN SPACE

According to the New Englander, Nathan grew up in an environment where "People were doing things themselves," and was exposed to the do-it-yourself mentality early on. After graduating from the Rhode Island School of Design with a degree in industrial design, Nathan moved to Seattle, Washington and created his company.

THE BATHROOM IN A JOSEPH EICHLER-BUILT HOME IN SUNNYVALE. CALIFORNIA FEATURES A WALL-MOUNTED VANITY THAT MAKES FOR EASY CLEANING, FUNCTIONAL DESIGN AND DISTANCE FROM EXPOSURE TO WATER FROM BELOW.

Started in 1999, Kerf Design began as an experiment to "make simple furniture" but it grew into a custom-furniture and cabinet company that combines Midcentury Modern style with their personalized services, as well as a unique aesthetic that stems from a love of plywood and plastic laminate.

#### MIDCENTURY SHIFT

What first drew Nathan to midcentury style was its transformative character. Coming from a background "where everything needed to be 200-years-old to be good"—over the course of his time in Seattle, Nathan began working on furniture and expanded his creative horizons. Eventually finding interest in Midcentury Modern style and design concepts, now his projects are mostly residential and his team focuses on custom-made cabinets for kitchens and bathrooms. Functionally-designed, sleek bathroom vanities are particular staples of their work.

When designing a bathroom, Nathan and his team approach the task like any other project. Looking to the space itself for areas and design opportunity, the Kerf team partners with clients by adding suggestions to their needs and vision to create a uniquely designed space perfectly suited for the client.

A functional bathroom doesn't have to mean a lack of character, and a charm-filled bath doesn't have to mean sacrificing your smooth morning routine. True Midcentury Modern style celebrates the function of design-much like Kerf's custom cabinetry. With just a little imagination, retro style can blend seamlessly with a mod bathroom renovation.



## Design Checklist

GIVE YOUR BATHROOM SOME EXTRA ATTENTION WITH SIGNATURE MIDCENTURY MODERN ELEMENTS THAT ARE SURE TO MERGE FORM AND FUNCTION

- 1. OUT IN THE OPEN. Incorporate open shelving into your bathroom to showcase everyday essentials—like folded towels or a basket of extra paper goods-for stylish organization.
- 2. POPS OF COLOR. Whether it's with a painting on a wall or an accent color on the vanity, a little color can go a long way in paying homage to the bright baths of the midcentury era.
- 3. LARGE MIRRORS. Add depth and dimension to your getting-ready space by mounting a large clean-lined mirror.
- 4. WORK IN WOOD. It is no secret that wood is an iconic element of midcentury design. Its masculine yet refined appeal can create an eye-catching bathroom design.
- 5. A TOUCH OF TILE. Add that extra edge of mid mod personality with a unique tile backsplash.

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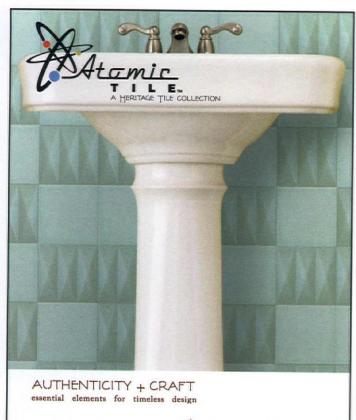


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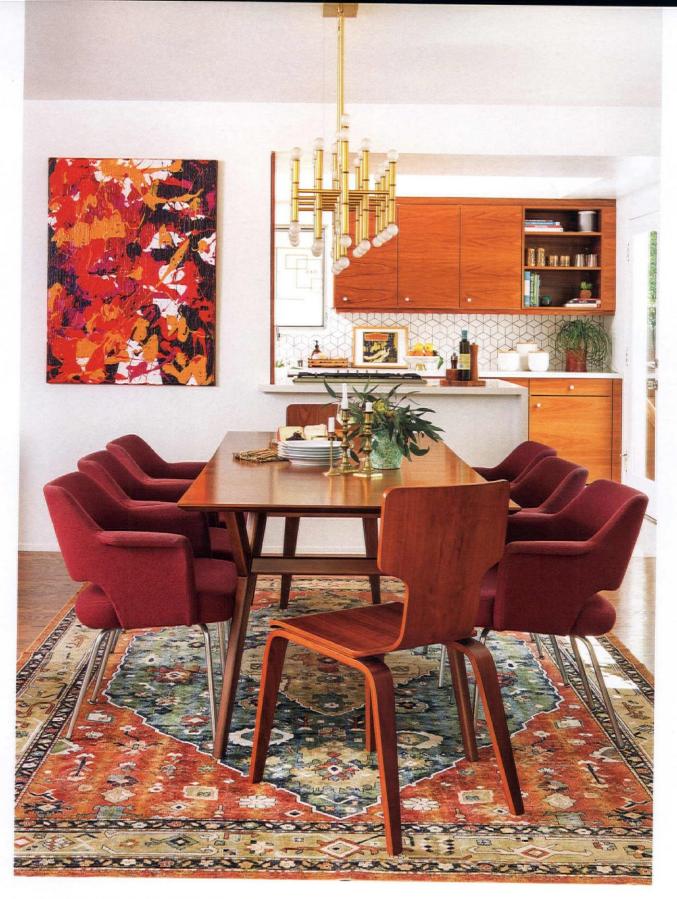
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ERITAGETILE







ANNETTE AND ALAN OPENED UP THE WALL SEPARATING THE KITCHEN AND DINING ROOM TO GIVE A MORE OPEN FEEL TO THE AREA. THE NEED FOR A VENT HOOD OVER THE STOVE POSED A POTENTIAL AESTHETIC PROBLEM, SO INSTEAD OF GOING WITH A TRADITIONAL OPTION, ANNETTE DECIDED ON ONE THAT DISAPPEARS INTO THE CABINET STRUCTURE. "THIS WAS A REALLY IMPORTANT DESIGN CHOICE THAT ALLOWED FOR SOMETHING PRACTICAL AND FUNCTIONAL BUT STILL WORKS WITH THE DESIGN," SHE SAYS.



### LOCATED IN PASADENA, CALIFORNIA,

it is hard to believe that this stunning 1959 custom-built home was once a daunting fixer-upper. Thanks to Annette Vartanian's eye for interior design and her husband Alan's architectural background, their Midcentury Modern dream was soon realized.

"The place was a hoarder's paradise," says Annette. Through all the clutter they saw the home's amazing architecture—boasting an inviting and open floor plan, large windows and a wide outdoor deck—and fell in love. "No one else saw the potential, but we did," Annette reminisces. With a can-do attitude the couple bought their dream home and began the process of renovations and touch-ups.

"Ultimately what we wanted to do with our Midcentury Modern look was to maintain the integrity of the house but update it to our modern lifestyle," Annette says.

OPPOSITE LEFT: WHAT WAS ONCE AN OPEN PLANTER IN THE HOME'S ENTRY IS NOW A WELCOMING BENCH, THANKS TO A WOOD SLAT COVER MADE BY ALAN.

OPPOSITE RIGHT: TO KEEP WITH THE ORIGINAL AESTHETIC
OF THE KITCHEN ANNETTE CHOSE WALNUT HORIZONTAL
GRAIN FRONTS FROM SEMIHANDMADE AND PAIRED THEM
WITH THE KITCHEN'S ORIGINAL KNOBS AND PULLS.





#### **BIG RENOVATIONS**

With this in mind, they began to renovate the home, starting with the kitchen. Annette describes the original as, "dark, dingy and frankly, really gross." In order to pay homage to the dark wood cabinetry from the original kitchen while adding some much needed brightness, the couple opted for Ikea cabinets with walnut-finish fronts from Semihandmade. The dark toned cabinets are paired with white counters and a white backsplash.

The floorplan was kept much the same. The refrigerator was the only appliance moved swapping walls for easier accessibility. Annette, as well as the previous owner, loves to entertain. To suit their lifestyle and give a nod to the last owner, the couple decided to open up part of the wall that previously separated the kitchen from the dining room. The change better connects the space to the dining room and increases the available natural light. "Now we can continue that tradition of hosting parties," says Annette.

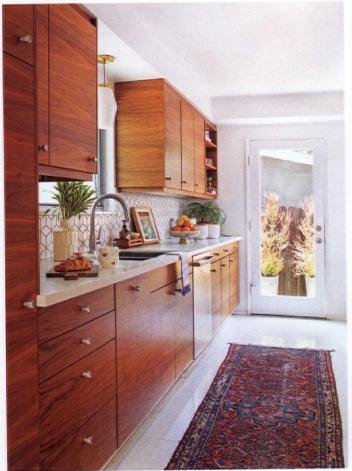
## Custom Kitchen

WITH THE HELP OF SEMIHANDMADE, ANNETTE WAS ABLE TO CREATE THE CUSTOM MIDCENTURY KITCHEN SHE'S ALWAYS WANTED-FOR A FOURTH OF THE PRICE.

When Annette first began to tackle the kitchen, she met with a carpenter to discuss a custom space. Discouraged by the price, she researched other options and discovered Semihandmade. "It was the obvious choice," she says.

Founded in 2011 by John McDonald, Semihandmade specializes in creating custom doors, shelves and other accessories to fit lkea cabinets. Their process allows for a custom space at a fraction of the cost. "With Semihandmade we could get a Midcentury Modern feel but in a fully modern kitchen that's functional for our family," Annette says.

For John and Semihandmade it's been a wild ride. The company has landed on Inc. Magazine's list of 1,000 fastest-growing private U.S. companies every year since 2015. Semihandmade has spread through word-of-mouth and its strong social media presence and continues to grow. "It's been a blast," John says.





BELOW: THE STUNNING JOHNATHAN ADLER MAURICE CHANDELIER SERVES AS A STATEMENT PIECE IN THIS OTHERWISE NEUTRAL SPACE. THE LARGE RUG BRINGS A VINTAGE LOOK TO THE SPACE THAT CONTRASTS NICELY WITH THE SLEEK DESIGN OF THE REST OF THE ROOM.

ABOVE: AFTER A YEAR OF SEARCHING, ANNETTE FINALLY FOUND THE PERFECT BACKSPLASH THANKS TO FIRECLAY TILE'S SMALL DIAMOND DESIGN. THE TILE WAS INSTALLED AFTER THE KITCHEN HAD BEEN OTHERWISE COMPLETED, BUT SHE SAYS, "IT WAS WORTH THE WAIT!"



While Terrazzo was their ideal flooring choice, at a hundred dollars per square foot, it wasn't plausible. Instead, Annette chose a similar material with the same periodappropriate charm—white quartz stone tile flecked with silver and grey, which was only four dollars per square foot. The flooring stretches from the entry through the kitchen, but transitions to hardwood in the dining area. The original flooring was a worn laminate, so Annette and Alan traded it out for chestnut-stained wood.





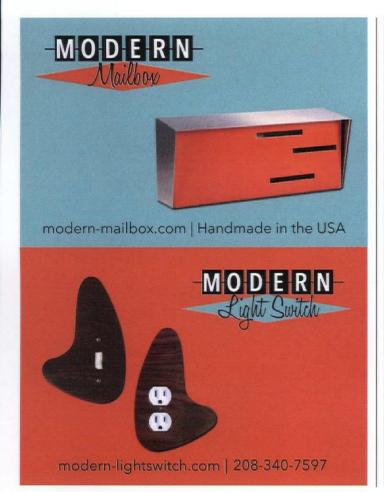
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By Camellia Ghotbzadeh Photography courtesy of Clayhaus

# TILE DONE Right

# Are hexagon tiles for me?

Is the subway tile look "midcentury" enough?

What about bubbles? Get all your tile questions answered by the pros at Clayhaus.

#### ARTISANAL MAY NOT BE

the first word you'd associate with tile, but for a company influenced by Bauhaus design, nothing could be more fitting. Clayhaus founders Jason and Megan Coleman produce handcrafted, ceramic tile that combine Midcentury Modern style with artistic techniques—resulting in uniquely beautiful and entirely mid mod tiles.





Clayhaus offers tips and insight to find the perfect tile for your home.

- 1. Choose a tile that compliments your space and adds to, not overwhelms, your design.
- 2. Do you want your tile to be the focal point or the backdrop to other pieces? Whatever you decide, keep location and scale in mind, and visualize how they factor into the overall look.
- 3. "When shopping for handmade ceramic tile, allow for budget and lead time," Megan explains. To avoid the tragedy of running out of tile due to improper cuts or other installation mishaps, she suggests ordering 10-15% extra.





#### FROM THEN TO NOW

"Our products reflect the style and architecture of the Midcentury Modern era as well as the Bauhaus period that was popular in the 1920s and 30's," says Megan.

"Ceramic tile was the preferred building product at that time and especially during the housing boom of the 1950s," she explains. Colorful tiles were produced in an array of hues with pink, mint green and pale yellow among the most popular options. Today, Clayhaus is taking a similar approach with their geometric and colorful designs. Drawing inspiration from atomic era tile

TOP RIGHT: YELLOW TILES IN "HALF-HEXAGON PATTERN B" SERVE AS THE BACKSPLASH FOR A DESIGN PROJECT BY CLAYHAUS. NOT ONLY DOES IT ADD A PLAYFUL ELEMENT TO THE SPACE, BUT ALSO CREATES A WARM AND CHEERFUL ENVIRONMENT WHEN PAIRED WITH THE WALNUT-TONED CABINETRY.

ABOVE RIGHT: A FITTING SHADE OF BLUE FOR A MIDCENTURY KITCHEN, AQUA TILES PAIRED WITH WHITE SHELVING BRIGHTEN THE SPACE BY CONTRASTING THE CABINETS.

## "We differentiate ourselves because we're known for our color."



WITH VIBRANT-COLORS AND EYE-CATCHING TILE DESIGN, AN OUTDOOR SHOWER CAN MAKE YOUR OWN BACKYARD THE ULTIMATE DESTINATION.



trends as well as pop art figures such as Andy Warhol and Victor Vasarely, their designs offer a fresh take on a kitchen and bath staple.

With dimensional designs, sheeted mosaics and a variety of collections, Jason and Megan take tiles to the next level in kitchens, bathrooms and beyond. "When it comes to kitchens or bathrooms, it's all in the eye of the beholder and up to the individual taste," says Megan. 🕸

# Background on Bauhaus

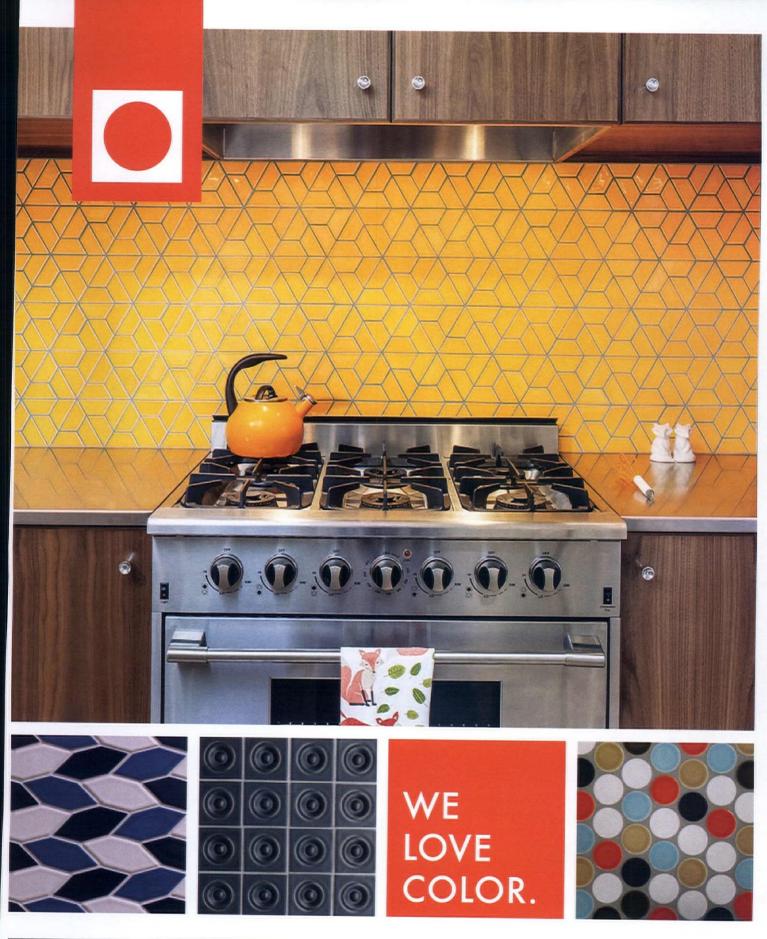
Learn about the major influence behind Clayhaus' artistic tiles.

THE TILE COMPANY, CLAYHAUS, takes its name from a prominent school and artistic movement. Bauhaus (German for "house of building") was a modernist art school founded in 1919 in Weimar, Germany. The institution stressed uniting the arts and industrial design with emphasis on practical skills, craft and techniques.

Combining elements from fine arts and design education, students were immersed into specialized workshops such as pottery, wall painting and metalworking, in order to stress the importance of designing for mass production. During World War II, many of the key figures of the Bauhaus school, such as Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer, immigrated to the United States where they continued to foster the movement both in Europe and the United States, which reunited creativity and manufacturing through design.

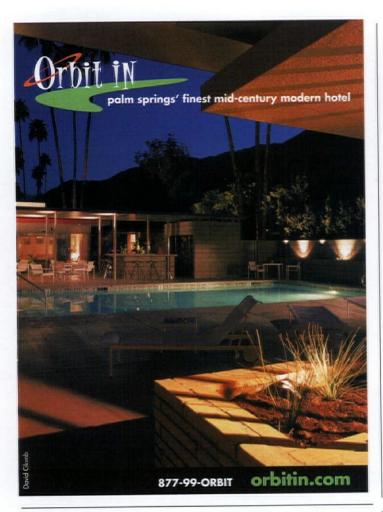
Today, the movement is widely accepted and nearly every academic art curriculum includes courses that use the Bauhaus model, which features fundamental elements of design.

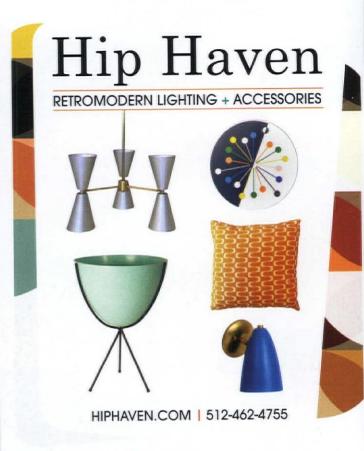
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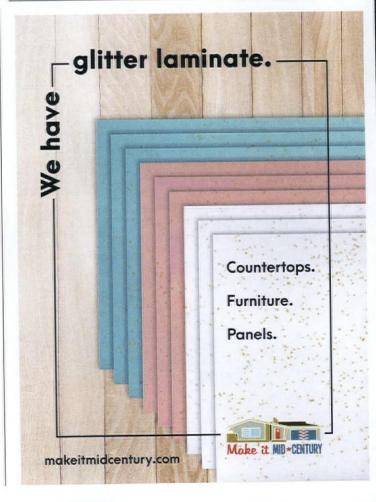


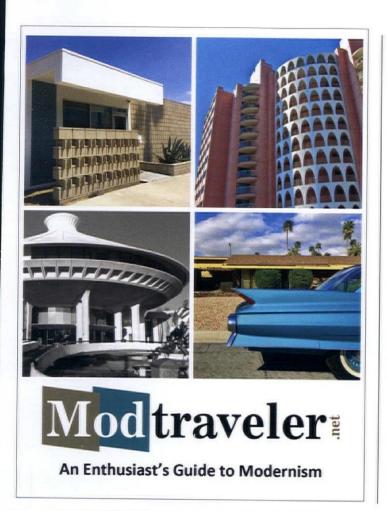
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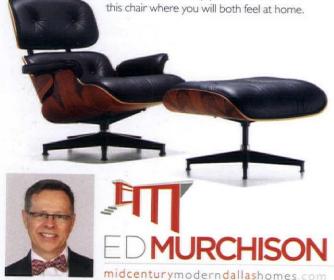






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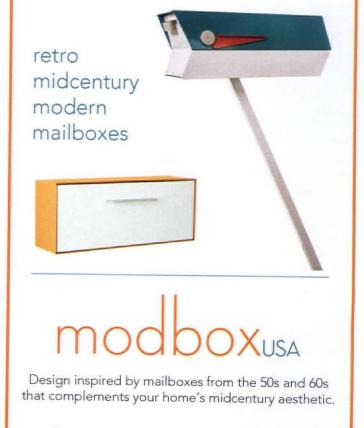
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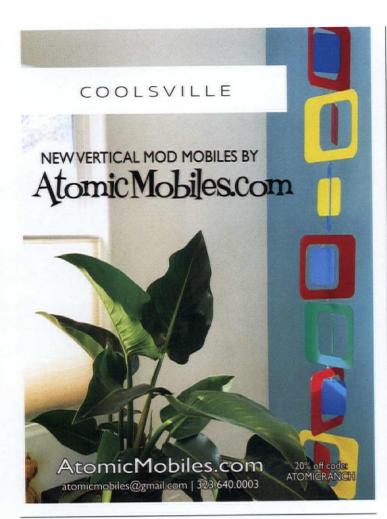


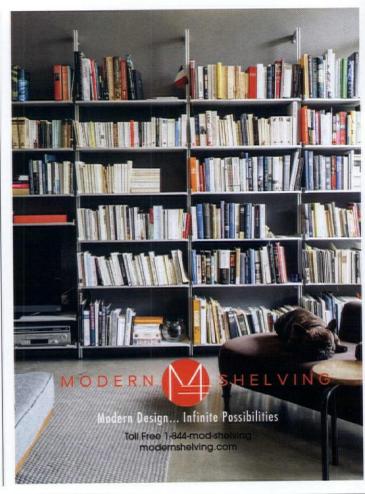
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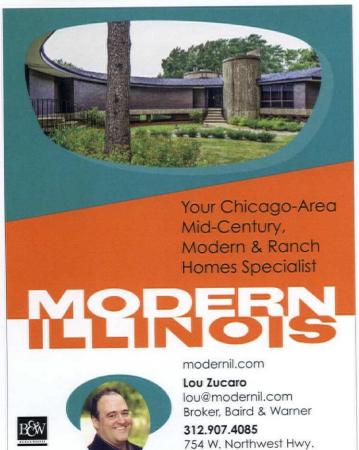
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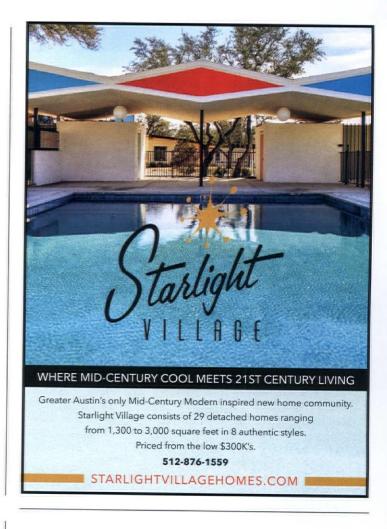
The Cool Combed Panel Back From the Mid-Century-Weldtex

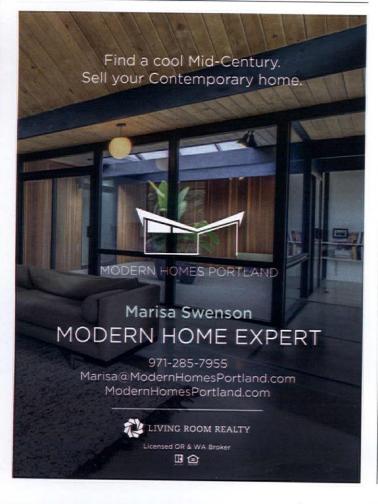
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# resources

#### True Blue, p. 26

Hexon tile backsplash in Pacific Blue:

ModCraft, mod-craft.com

Broyhill Brazillia Hutch: Vintage.

5 Piece Vase Set: AllModern, allmodern.com

#### Suburban Oasis, p. 28

#### **DINING ROOM:**

George Nelson Bubble Lamp: Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

#### KITCHEN:

Cabinet fronts and handles: IKEA, ikea.com. White ceramic tiles: Floor & Décor, (877) 675-0002 or flooranddecor.com.

Hanging light above island: Deerstedt, etsv.com/shop/Deerstedt.

#### LIVING ROOM:

Retro rounded sectional couch: West Elm, westelm.com.

Rug: Target, target.com.

Eames lounge chair and ottoman: Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

Zenith record console: Vintage.

Arc lamp with marble base: Vintage.

Atomic gravel art: Vintage.

Lane Acclaim coffee table: Vintage.

Edward Wormley for Dunbar bench:

Craigslist, craigslist.com.

American of Martinsville end table: Vintage. DECK:

Equipale furniture: From a local estate sate.

MASTER BEDROOM:

Broyhill Brasilia dresser: Vintage from Mid Century Mike, (303) 258-6076 or midcenturymike.com.

Broyhill Brasilia bookcase headboard: Vintage.

Broyhill Brasilia side table: Vintage from Mid Century Mike, (303) 258-6076 or midcenturymike.com.

Hans Wegner chair: Vintage.

Bedding and pillows: Target, target.com.

Rug: IKEA, ikea.com.

Curtis Jere seagulls sculpture: Vintage. **GUEST BATHROOM:** 

Morenobath double bathroom vanity set: Wayfair, wayfair.com.

Delta Faucet: Amazon, amazon.com.

White double hexagon polished porcelain mosaic tile: Floor & Décor, (877) 675-0002 or flooranddecor.com.

Organic resin smoke porcelain tile: Floor & Décor, (877) 675-0002 or flooranddecor.com.

Vanity light: Lowe's, (800) 445-6937 or lowes com.

Shower curtain: Amazon, amazon.com. Towel rail: IKEA, ikea.com.

#### Portland Puzzle, p. 40

#### KITCHEN:

Cabinets: Ikea, ikea.com.

Cabinet and drawer faces: Semihandmade, semihandmadedoors.com.

Small Diamonds-Escher backsplash tiles in Azurine: Fireclay Tile, fireclaytile.com.

#### DINING ROOM:

Eurostyle Atos glass and chrome dining

table: Amazon, amazon.com.

Wire Lucy Dining Chairs: Bend Goods, bendgoods.com.

Print: Nate Duval, nateduval.com.

Gray sofa: Perch, perchfurniture.com. Moroccan poof ottoman: Ikram Design,

ikramdesign.com.

Art print: Chuck Sperry, chucksperry.net.

#### MASTER BEDROOM:

Platform bed: Crate & Barrel,

crateandbarrel.com. Valetta swivel lounge chair: Mobital,

mobital.ca. Bedspread: Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

Blue dog wedding print: George Rodrigue, georgerodrigue.com.

#### MASTER BATH:

Gray hex floor tile: Ann Sacks, annsacks.com.

Matte white shower tile: Daltile, daltile.com.

#### Midcentury Minimalist, p. 52

Lounge chair: Covet Consign, covetconsignanddesign.com.

Sideboard: Golden Age Design, goldenagedesign.com.

Overhead light fixture: Lambert & Fils, lambertetfils.com.

#### The Art of Escaping, p. 58

Architect: Bates Masi + Architects, batesmasi.com

General Contractor: Mannix Custom

Builders, mannixcb.com

Landscape: Sweetbay Landscape Design, sweetbaylandscapes.com



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**Interior Design:** Rawlins Calderone Design, eye-swoon.com

Creatively Custom, p. 60

Cabinets: Kerf, kerfdesign.com

Style by Design, p. 64

Cabinet and drawer faces: Semihandmade, semihandmadedoors.com.

Midcentury expandable dining table: West Elm, (714) 662-1960 or westelm.com.

Crest Brentwood dining chair: West Elm, (714) 662-1960 or westelm.com.

Larchmere Wexler table lamp: Lamps Plus, (800) 782-1967 or lampsplus.com.

Meurice rectangle chandelier: Jonathan

Adler, (800) 963-0891 or jonathanadler.com.

**Backsplash:** Small diamond sheeted tile in gloss white, Fireclay Tile, Inc., (800) 773-2226 or fireclaytile.com.

Sculptural glass geo pendant: West Elm, (714) 662-1960 or westelm.com.

Crosshatched Taza dishtowel set:

Anthropologie, (800) 309-2500 or anthropologie.com.

Marble paddle cutting board: Cost Plus World Market, (877) 967-5362 or worldmarket.com.

Olivewood cheese cutting board: Cost Plus World Market, (877) 967-5362 or worldmarket.com. Eileen French Press: Nordstrom, (888) 282-

6060 or shop.nordstrom.com.

Palm Jungle wallpaper: Wallpaper Direct,

(855) 823-9755 or wallpaperdirect.com.

**Hexagon ceramic mosaic tile:** Wayfair, (844) 782-8495 or wayfair.com.

Kohler Purist bathroom sink faucet, handles and spout: Wayfair, (844) 782-8495 or wayfair.com.

Quoizel Valentina vanity light: Lowes, (800) 445-6937 or lowes.com.

Tile Done Right, p. 70

Tile: Clayhaus, (503) 928-3076 or clayhaustile.com.









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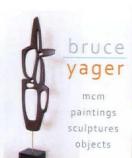
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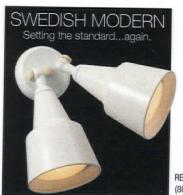


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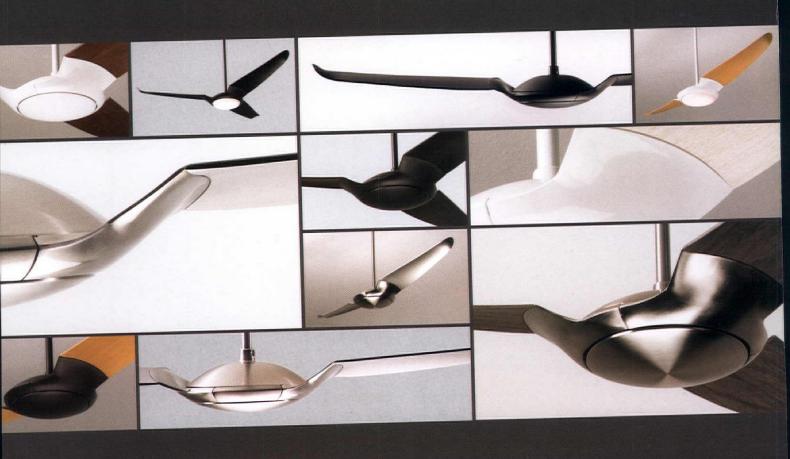
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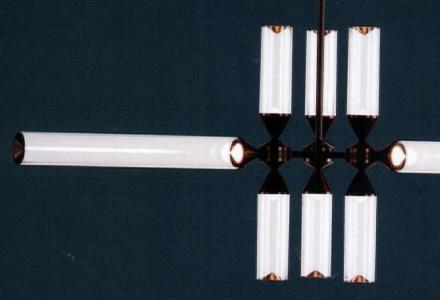




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