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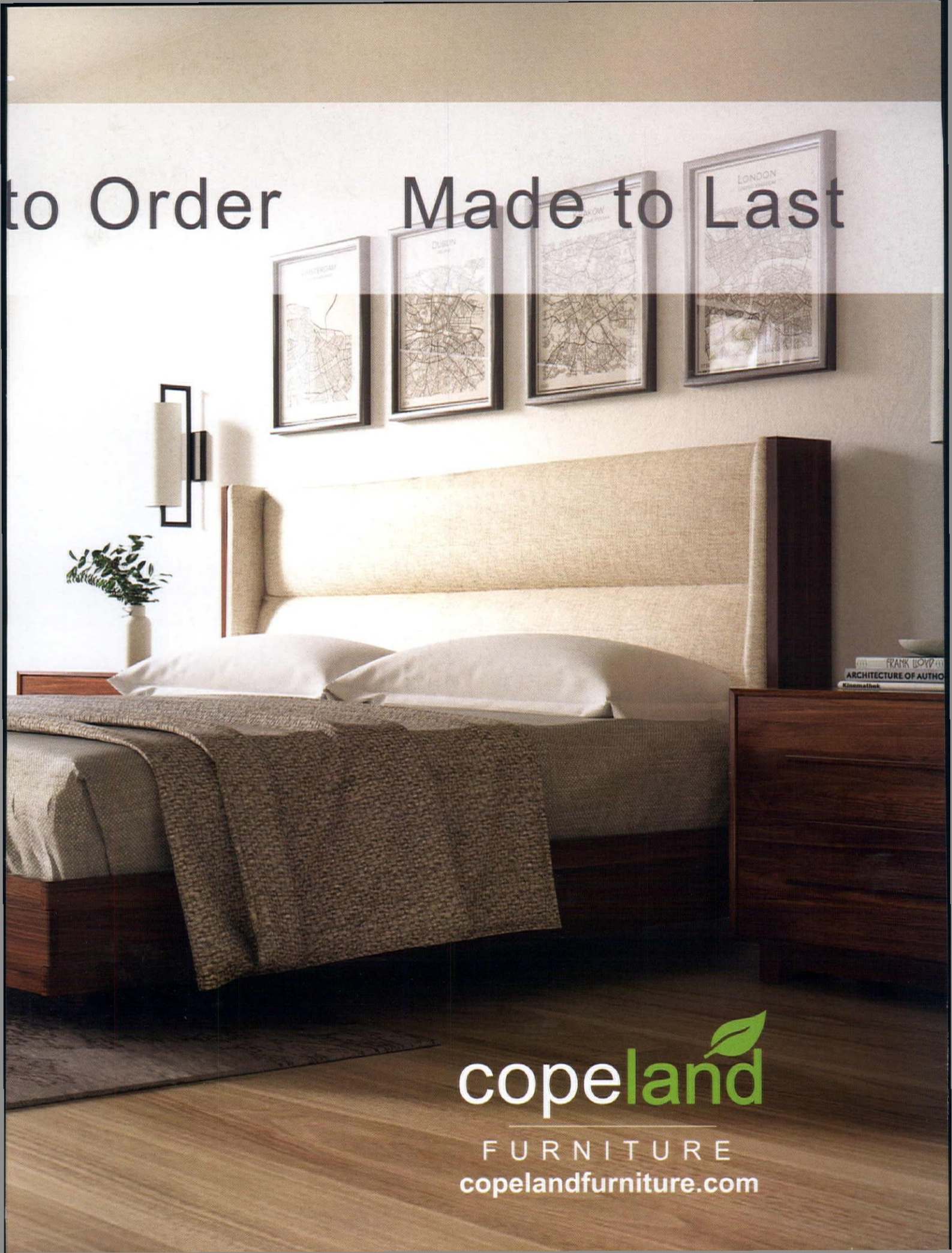
Palm Springs: Tour the Midcentury's Desert Oasis

Not so Mellow: The Colors Modernists Crave

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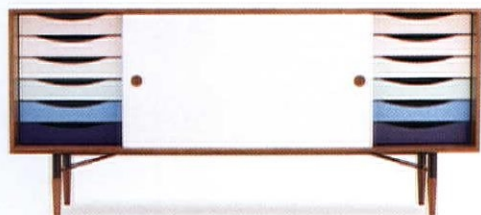
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editor's letter



SPRING AHEAD

WHY DO WE DEVOTE A WHOLE ISSUE TO PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA?

This desert oasis has captured the hearts of vacationers for years. Close enough to Los Angeles to be accessible, it became Hollywood's playground. Drawing in icons like Frank Sinatra, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, the town and its surrounding communities turned into a hotbed for midcentury design. Modernist architecture quickly popped up around Spanish-style homes and hotels—creating a town that was to become a style mecca.

Fast forward to 2019 and Palm Springs still draws vacationers, celebrities and design enthusiasts. Thanks to extensive preservation efforts, the town is brimming with incredible architecture and has a bright future ahead. Modernism Week—held every February—draws visitors from across the country and around the world who want to tour iconic homes, experience a town with a rich design pedigree, and enjoy a heck of a party. It offers inspiration to everyone who visits.

That inspiration is why we focused our spring issue on Palm Springs. I myself have yet to visit this town without feeling anything but inspired and enriched—and here at *Atomic Ranch* we want to give you a taste of that same experience.

Inside you'll find three breathtaking homes. One is a vacation rental that will have you packing your bags for a weekend getaway (page 32), and another uses art and color to showcase the homeowners' vibrant personalities (page 44). Finally, we have a glass-walled beauty whose architect is unknown, but this home is a don't-miss (page 54). Plus, you'll find a fresh take on Palm Springs style (page 16), the history of Rancho Mirage (page 64) and paint colors for your front door (page 74).

Here's to enjoying a little Palm Springs magic, no matter where you reside!

Sarah Jane Stone

Get connected!

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atomic ranch

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Contents spring 2019

44



FEATURES

32 The Getaway

To reclaim its midcentury edge, this 1960 home in Palm Springs needed a thorough restoration inside and out.

44 Racquet Club Revival

Palm Springs is surrounded by the San Jacinto mountains, which make a dramatic backdrop for this 1959 William Krisel home.

54 Making It Midcentury

A Palm Springs home built in 1955 serves as both a getaway and a vacation rental for this couple, who have curated key pieces to create a time-capsule feel.

64 Desert Greens

In her book, *Mod Mirage: The Midcentury Architecture of Rancho Mirage*, Melissa Riche explores the midcentury origins of Rancho Mirage, which sprang from the fertile ground of celebrity golf courses.

74 Door-to-Door: The Colors of Palm Springs

Bring home the vibrant look of the desert's design oasis to your own front stoop with these inspiring paint concepts.

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DEPARTMENTS

- 8 Editor's Letter
- 14 Web News
- 16 Cool Stuff
- 20 Period Picks
- 24 Accidental Archivist
- 28 Atomic Kitchens
- 78 Resources
- 80 Advertisers
- 82 Last Look



cover

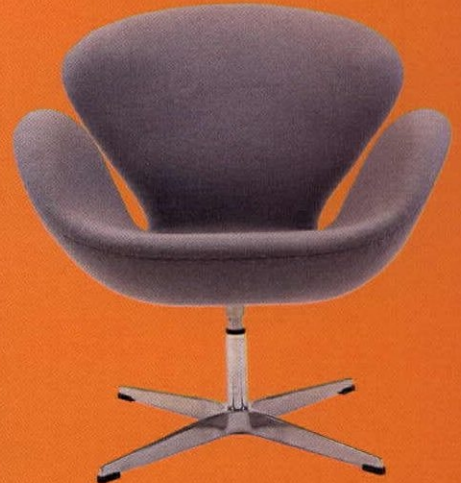
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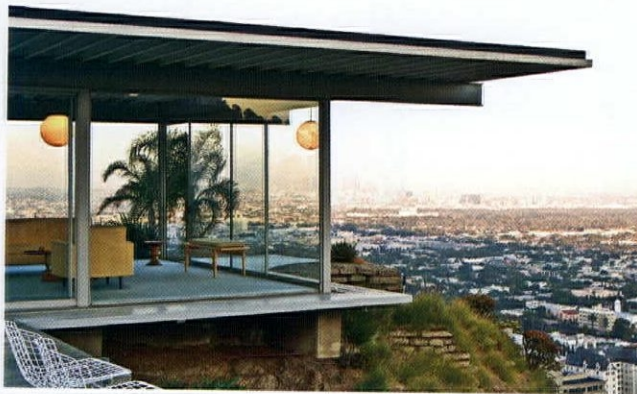


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Our Case Study Series Continues!

Learn about the project that has long captured the hearts of modernists.



PHOTO BY MARNI EPSTEIN-MERVIS

Tips for Buying Your Dream Home

On the hunt for your next midcentury marvel? Our real estate experts weigh in with the info you need to know.

Plan Your Next Getaway

Florida, California, Hawaii and more! Where will your modernist passions take you on vacation? We've got all the details to help you plan.



PHOTO BY DAVID A. LEE FOR MODERNISM WEEK

PHOTO COURTESY OF TARGET



Surprising Mod Suppliers

Mid mod furnishings and décor pop up in some unexpected places—and we've found the best secret sources.

Cool Stuff



Vintage orange club chair, \$395. Visit chairish.com.



Bergevin upholstered dining chair, \$563.98. Visit allmodern.com.



Beetle upholstered dining chair, \$1,139. Visit yiliving.com.



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Residents of Palm Springs aren't scared of pastels, metallics or bold textures. Try a few of these ideas on for size.

By Kathryn Drury Wagner



MODNLOVR Midcentury Modern indoor planter, \$44.99. Find it on Amazon.com in five colors.



Midcentury Modern gold swizzle sticks, \$22. Visit store.vinepair.com.



Tiered bar console, \$399, (888) 922-4119 or westelm.com.



Cane floor lamp, \$600, (800) 382-9303 or industrywest.com.

Jorgen midcentury vertically channeled settee, \$319.99, (844) 887-1367 or allmodern.com.



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Starburst metal wall sculpture, \$90. Visit Lunar Lounge Design on Etsy.



Penguin cocktail shaker, \$30. Visit store.vinepair.com.



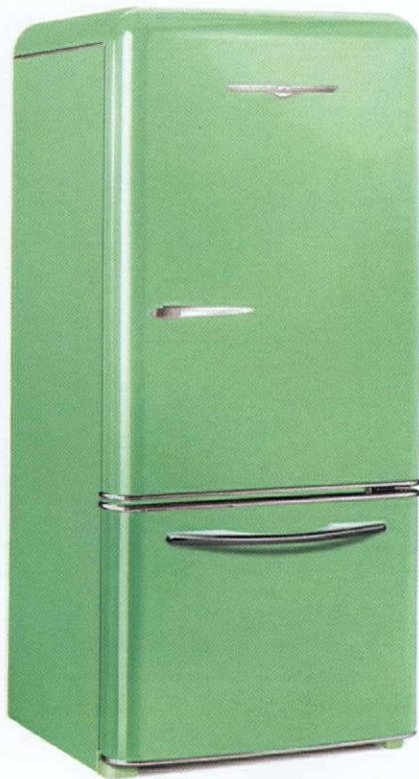
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Angle chair, \$349, (888) 746-3455 or article.com.

KAIU record storage holder, \$29.95, shown in vintage brown. Find it on Amazon.com.



Catalina sofa table, copelandfurniture.com to find a retailer.



Model 1950 18.5-cubic foot fridge, shown in mint green, (800) 295-8498 or elmirastoveworks.com.

Raina dinnerware, \$6.95 to \$14.95 and available in other colors, (800) 223-4311 or lenox.com.





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By Kathryn Drury Wagner

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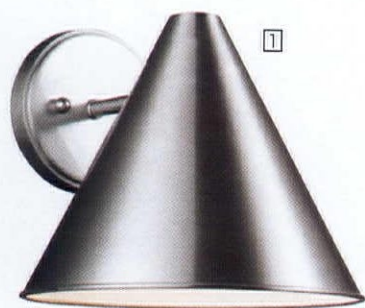
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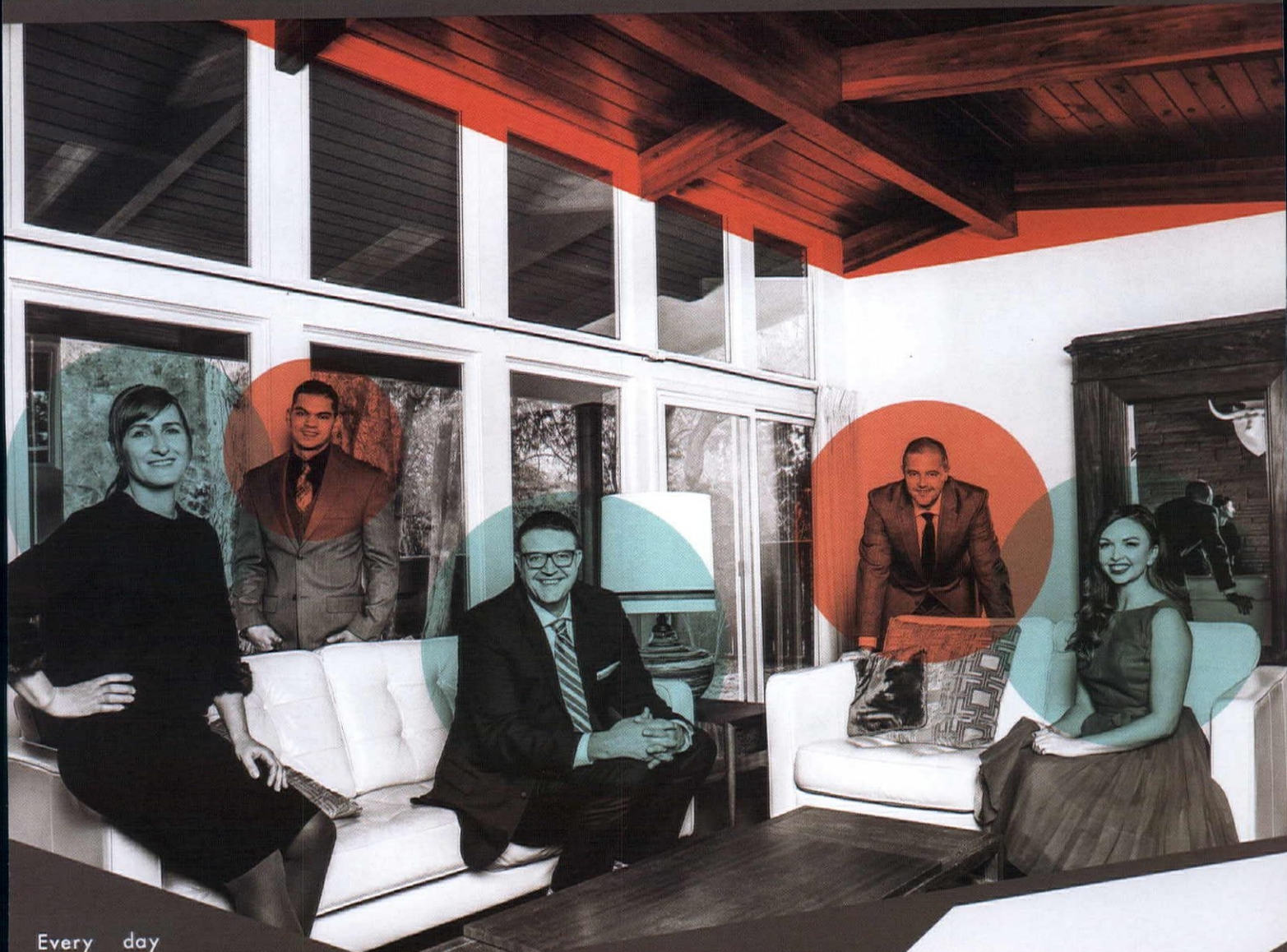
FAMOUS FOR POOLS, PALM TREES AND MOD HOUSES, Palm Springs has a unique take on midcentury style that has captured the hearts of modernists around the world. Bring the vacation destination's signature style to your own backyard with the ease of online shopping through AllModern.



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When You Wish Upon a PRICE

How to settle on a realistic value for your mid mod home.

WHEN A SELLER OF A MODERNIST HOUSE CALLS AND ASKS MY OPINION ON PRICING,

I try to be helpful, but I'm not a real estate agent or appraiser. What I can ask is, how did the caller arrive at that price? If it was based on solid comparable houses, they are likely on the right track. But sometimes, the seller has invented a price, fixated on it, and only wants to hear agreement from me. Here's a typical tale.

Three siblings, Rick, Hudson and Janine, must sell their mom's 1962 modernist ranch designed by a talented local architect, Bob Cartwright. They ask

Rick's wife, Barb, to be their realtor. Barb has never sold a house like this before. The best modernist realtors have a network of inspectors, appraisers, roofers, architects and other specialists, in addition to direct experience. Barb, however, is baffled by Midcentury Modern design. She recommends an appraisal—which the family rejects. Hudson, having watched way too much HGTV, declares the house is "too unique" to appraise and is "worth a fortune" because of the Cartwright design. The family lists the house at a price everyone agrees "feels right."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

TOP LEFT: TROY WINTERROWD AND KELLY ERIN-SPINNEY OF MODERN ASHEVILLE REAL ESTATE IN ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, SOLD THIS COOL MIDCENTURY DECK HOUSE WITH MOUNTAIN VIEWS FOR \$945,000 IN AUGUST 2018.

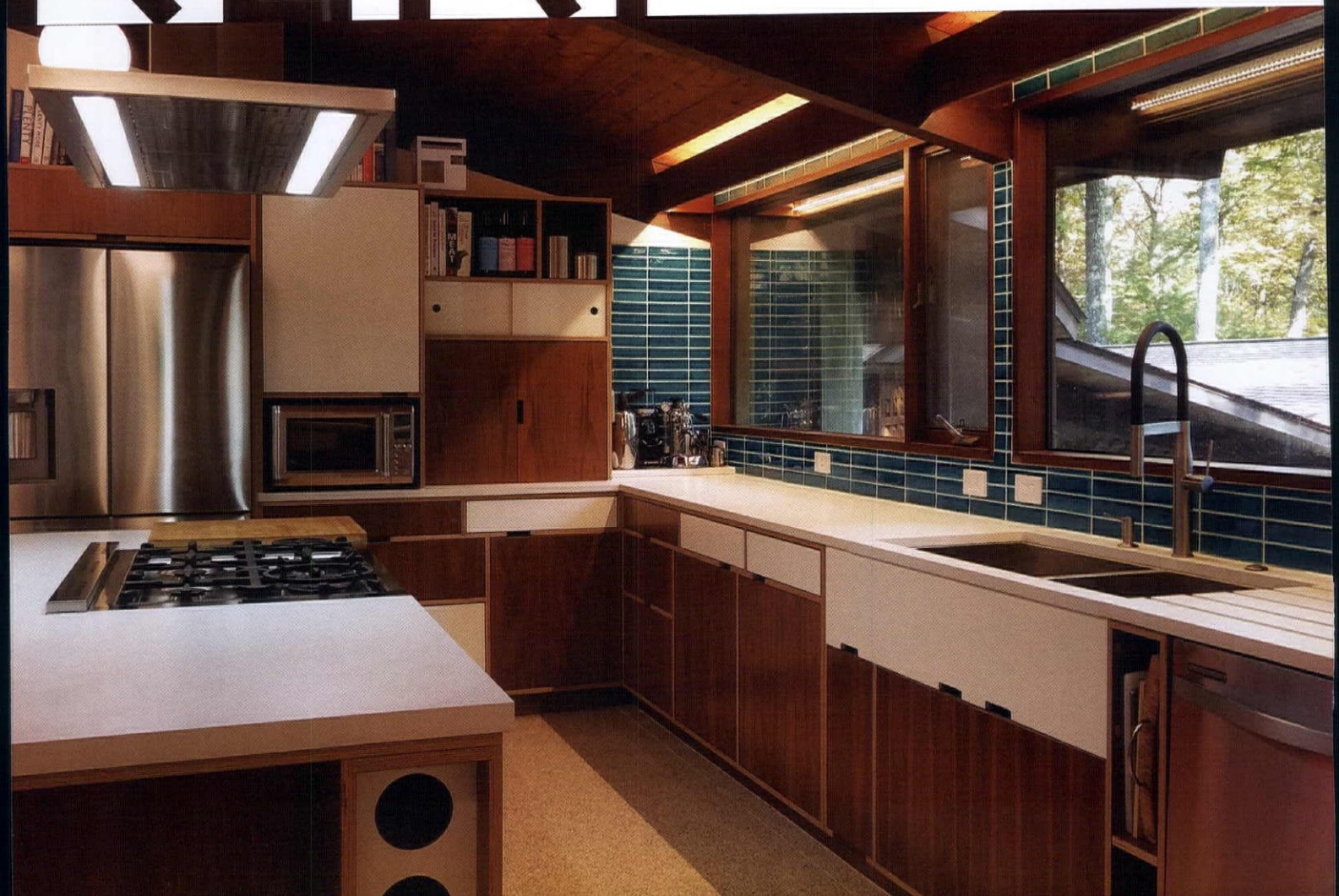
TOP RIGHT: THEY SOLD THE REMODELED ATOMIC RANCH, WITH THE FOYER SEEN HERE, FOR \$924,000 IN OCTOBER 2018.



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ABOVE LEFT: THIS KITCHEN IS IN THE HOME OF A 1964 STUNNER SOLD BY JESSICA SIERACKI, OF MODERN SOUND LIVING IN SEATTLE. ABOVE RIGHT: THIS FUN 1965 RANCH WITH A VIEW WAS SOLD IN JULY 2018 FOR \$325,000 BY NAVIGATOR NW REAL ESTATE IN SPOKANE, WASHINGTON.

The house sits for three months with three showings and no offers. Preservationists, Cartwright fans and fellow agents tell Barb the house is overpriced. The siblings insist everyone is wrong. Instead, they lower the price 5 percent and replace the cute pink bathrooms hoping that will do the trick. A year after the initial listing, with no offers, the siblings lower the price again, tell Rick to tell Barb they “want to go in a different direction,” and hire a realtor promising more advertising. Eventually, needing to close the estate, the siblings sell the abandoned house (with new water

damage issues) to a developer for land value. Another cool house bites the dust.

Wishful thinking is a poor valuation strategy. Get on the right track toward determining a market price with an appraisal. Most appraisers are not familiar with modernist architecture and tend to appraise low, so ask your appraiser to compare against other houses by the architect plus other similar modernist houses in town. An appraiser may claim that including houses outside the neighborhood is prohibited, but it's only true when a bank or mortgage company pays for the appraisal. Better yet, work with a knowledgeable real estate agent specializing in listing Midcentury Modern homes. The bottom line: Buyers are going to be well-informed about pricing. You need to be equally well-informed, rather than wishing on a star. 🌀



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.

Home Market Resources

- If a house is by a well-known architect, the USModernist Library helps realtors, buyers, sellers and appraisers find historical information, including photos and often advertisements for the fixtures, which may need to be replaced or repaired. Find it at usmodernist.org/library.htm.
- If you have an Eichler home (a developer working on residential subdivisions 1949–1966), there is a whole network of Eichler realtors, connected with Eichler-friendly appraisers, eichlernetwork.com.
- If you're refinancing your home, seek out a bank that deals with a lot of historic properties, as it will have appraisers who know the market better.



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THE KITCHEN AND ADJOINING DINING ROOM ARE BATHED IN NATURAL LIGHT. WITH THEIR MIX OF VINTAGE AND VINTAGE-STYLE PIECES, AND BRIGHTLY COLORED ACCESSORIES, THE SPACES FLOW EASILY WITH THE REST OF THE HOME, INCLUDING THE BRIGHT YELLOW DEN WITH ORANGE-UPHOLSTERED MILO BAUGHMAN SCOOP LOUNGE CHAIRS JUST BEYOND.



Beyond the **Big Box**

A midcentury kitchen is saved from a Tuscan renovation, thanks to custom touches and vintage accents.

By **Devlin Smith** | Photography by **Marni Epstein-Marvis**

WHAT MAKES IT **MCM**?

- George Nelson-inspired cabinetry.
- Warm wood accenting gleaming white walls and countertops.
- Open floor plan.

LIKE THE REST OF THEIR MODERN HOME, the kitchen/dining room in Blake Siler and Lincoln Bogard's 1960s ranch went through an awkward phase, one in which it had a Tuscan makeover. Thanks to careful styling and a passion for the midcentury aesthetic, the couple helped the home move past this rough design phase.



design
MUST-HAVES:

- Walnut wood finishes on the bar and walls.
- Brightly colored accent pieces.
- Clean lines.

FOR MORE,
TURN TO PAGE 32!

WHEN HOMEOWNERS BLAINE SILER AND LINCOLN BOGARD MOVED IN, THE KITCHEN HAD NONDESCRIPT IKEA CABINETRY AND A DIY Poured-concrete COUNTERTOP. SOMETHING DECIDEDLY MORE MODERN WAS NEEDED, SO CUSTOM GEORGE NELSON-INSPIRED CABINETRY WAS INSTALLED.

/REAL HOME 101/

TYPE OF HOME: 1960 Ranch

BUILDER: Jerry Apelby

BACKGROUND: The midcentury home had been given a Tuscan makeover by its previous owners.

DECORATING COLOR SCHEME: White walls and warm woods are accented by brightly colored accessories.

INNOVATIVE IDEA: Cathrineholm Lotus plates styled to create an accent behind the range.

Not far from Palm Springs, the makeunder of this Bermuda Dunes, California, kitchen required the homeowners to pretty well start from scratch. "The house came with a newly installed gloss white IKEA kitchen and an amateur-poured concrete countertop," says Blaine. "I blame the Home Depot for telling people they can do things they shouldn't."

Out went the gloss white cabinetry and concrete counter; in came the walnut cabinetry and white Caesarstone counter, each cleaner and decidedly more modern than what they replaced. "For the design, I tried to style the drawer banks like a Nelson cabinet using a Mockett edge pull, for a clean, simple, grain-matched, flat-panel look," says Blaine. "For the counter, I chose white Caesarstone and went with a thin edge profile and not a built-up blocky counter top edge."

A bar was added on the dining room side to provide additional eating space and storage in the home that serves

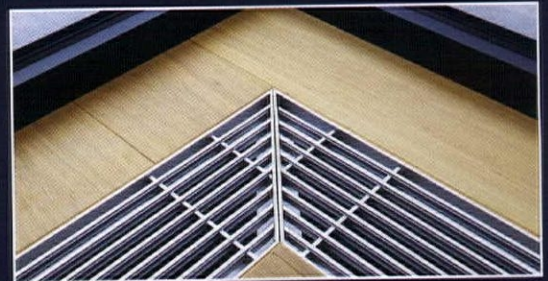
both as the couple's vacation home and an Airbnb rental.

Though he liked the general footprint of the kitchen, Blaine decided to switch up a few elements for ease of use and better styling. "I was able to reconfigure some of the appliances, centering the range so that the cabinetry flanking either side was adequate for my cookware, knives, cooking tools and spices," he says. "Someday I would like to move the washer and dryer from the hall leading to the garage and into the master closet where they should be, install a fridge and pantry in that spot, and turn the current fridge location into a side-by-side pantry, but it works nice as-is for now."

With the essentials in place, it was time to add the accessories. In place of a backsplash, the range is accented by four Cathrineholm Lotus plates. Cathrineholm pieces can also be found on the floating shelves. The time is kept on a reproduction George Nelson starburst clock. ☼

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The Getaway

This midcentury vacation home with a golf course view provides its owners with a change of pace — and style.

By Devlin Smith

Photography by Marni Epstein-Mervis

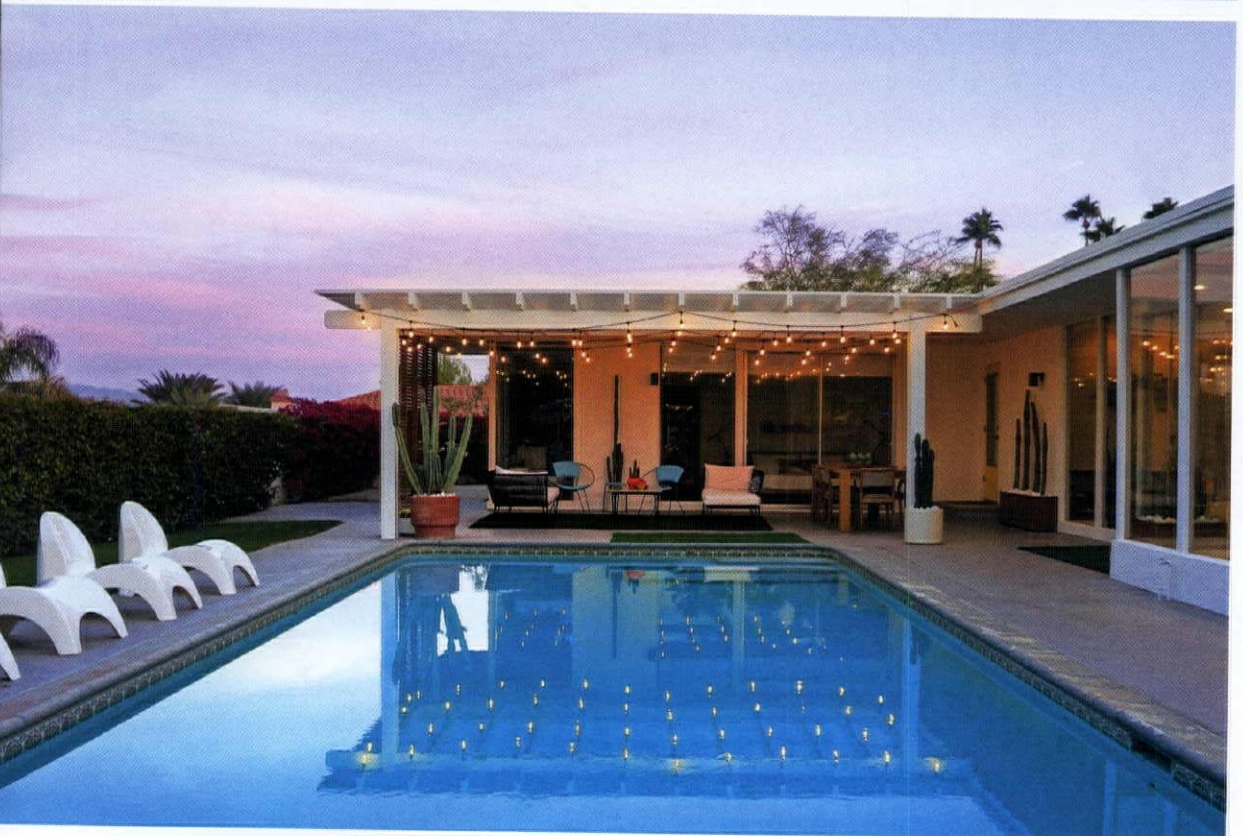




FOR MOST OF THE YEAR, BLAINE SILER AND HUSBAND LINCOLN BOGARD spend

their days in a 1,300-square-foot, two-bedroom, one-bath Craftsman bungalow built in 1912. Painted bubble-gum pink on the outside, the home, in Martinez, California, hasn't had many upgrades since 1930, and retains a classic charm.

The couple's vacation home, in Blaine's words, is "in pretty stark contrast" to their bungalow. Built in 1960, the 2,800-square-foot, three-bedroom, two-bath home was suffering from too many upgrades. This home needed restoration inside and out to reclaim its modern edge.





OPPOSITE TOP: THE HOME'S EXTERIOR PROVIDES A HINT OF WHAT YOU'LL EXPERIENCE ONCE INSIDE — MIDCENTURY PERFECTION WITH A POP OF COLOR. "I FEEL WITH MIDCENTURY DESIGN FUN BLASTS OF COLOR ARE STRIKING AND MEMORABLE AND REALLY WORK," SAYS HOMEOWNER BLAINE SILER.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM: THE OUTDOOR SPACE IS A FAVORITE OF THE HOMEOWNERS. "I ALWAYS GRAVITATE TO THE PATIO," SAYS BLAINE. "THE PALM-TREE-PEPPERED GOLF COURSE VIEW IS GORGEOUS; IT'S LITERALLY ON THE SIXTH TEE, YET IT IS HEDGED AND SECLUDED IN COMPLETE PRIVACY."

"The previous owners had attempted to give it a Mediterranean exterior facelift; it looked a bit like The Olive Garden," Blaine shares. "However, the interior was bipolar with both modern and Tuscan finishes."

Since purchasing the home in 2015, Blaine and Lincoln have worked to transform it from the setting for a boisterous family dinner to a space where you could easily picture classic film stars gathering for cocktails (in fact, the home is located in a neighborhood that once counted Clark Gable and Rock Hudson as residents). Achieving this transformation has been a long process, and one with no clear end in sight.



“That house is my favorite place to be.”

“We’ve been putting our hearts into the home since we got the keys,” Blaine says. “I feel like a home is a never-ending work in progress. Eventually, I would like to replace the Cortina Grande Azrock composition tile with real terrazzo. I would love for the living room wall of windows to be a stacked slider or accordion folding door so that the wall could open the room onto the patio.”

Faux stonework was removed to reveal original stacked Roman slump brick. Beneath faux travertine tile, the homeowners discovered laminate flooring that had been glued down, a particularly challenging aspect of the renovation. “Tip: Never install or buy a home with glued-down laminate wood flooring,” Blaine advises. “It was an absolute nightmare to remove it.”

Throughout the home’s interior and exterior, finishes were stripped away, contemporary upgrades were cast aside (like in the kitchen, which you can read about on page 28), and original design gems were discovered. Brick was freed from its drywall covering. The original jalousie windows were restored to perfect working



HOMEOWNER BLAINE SILER HAD THE 24-FOOT SOFA CUSTOM MADE TO MATCH THE CURVE OF THE LIVING ROOM WALL. THE COFFEE TABLE AND END TABLES WERE ALSO CUSTOM MADE, BASED OFF BLAINE'S ORIGINAL CONCEPTS. THESE CUSTOM PIECES ARE COMPLEMENTED BY VINTAGE PIECES BLAINE HAS COLLECTED OVER THE YEARS, INCLUDING ARTIFORT PIERRE PAULIN TONGUE CHAIRS, A HERMAN MILLER NOGUCHI COFFEE TABLE AND PETER PEPPER PRODUCTS ARTWORK.





THE DEN POPS AND SIZZLES WITH COLOR. A 1959 MILO BAUGHMAN THAYER-COGGIN SOFA IS RADIANT IN SPRING GREEN MAHARAM UPHOLSTERY. A PAIR OF MILO BAUGHMAN MIDCENTURY SCOOP LOUNGE CHAIRS ARE VIBRANT IN ORANGE MAHARAM HOPSACK UPHOLSTERY.



order and given new tempered glass louvers. Soon, the garage will be transformed back into a carport, a desert must, according to Blaine. "The desert can get crazy hot," he shares. "I've learned if it's an August or September 120-degree day, it can seriously be 160 degrees in the garage. I think a carport is really the way to go."

The reinvigorated modern space is now the ideal backdrop for the couple's vintage (and vintage-inspired) furnishings, art and accessories, many with vibrant bursts of color. "I've been collecting midcentury art and objects since I was 15," he says. "I was obsessed with buying funky midcentury ceramics and ashtrays when I wasn't even of age to smoke, back during a

"We've been putting our hearts into the home since we got the keys."



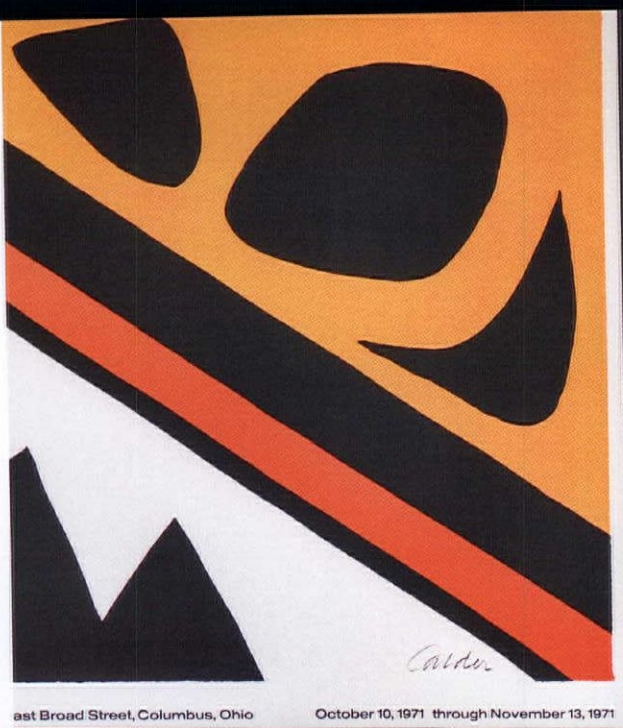


THE MASTER BEDROOM HIGHLIGHTS DECADES OF GORGEOUS MODERN STYLE. THE UPHOLSTERED BLU DOT UPHOLSTERED BED AND CUSTOM WALNUT BEDSIDE TABLE PLAY WELL WITH 1960s ALEXANDER CALDER LITHOGRAPHS, 1970s RICHARD SAPPER ARTEMIDE TIZIO LAMPS, AND 1980s EAMES LOUNGE CHAIR AND OTTOMAN.

period when midcentury wasn't appreciated the way it is now and was practically free at antique and thrift shops."

Someday, Blaine and Lincoln will retire to the Bermuda Dunes home. Until that time comes, the home serves as a vacation spot for the couple and for those who take advantage of the couple's listing on Airbnb (search for "Mid Century Modern Haven in Bermuda Dunes" if you want to book a stay). The modern home's best role, though, was as the setting for Blaine and Lincoln's November wedding.

"We had just planned to get hitched at the Palm Springs city hall, but a year before decided it would be more fun and special to do a tiny ceremony in the backyard since most of our closest friends and family are already there," Blaine says. "That house is my favorite place to be, we plan to retire there, so it felt right to celebrate a union there."



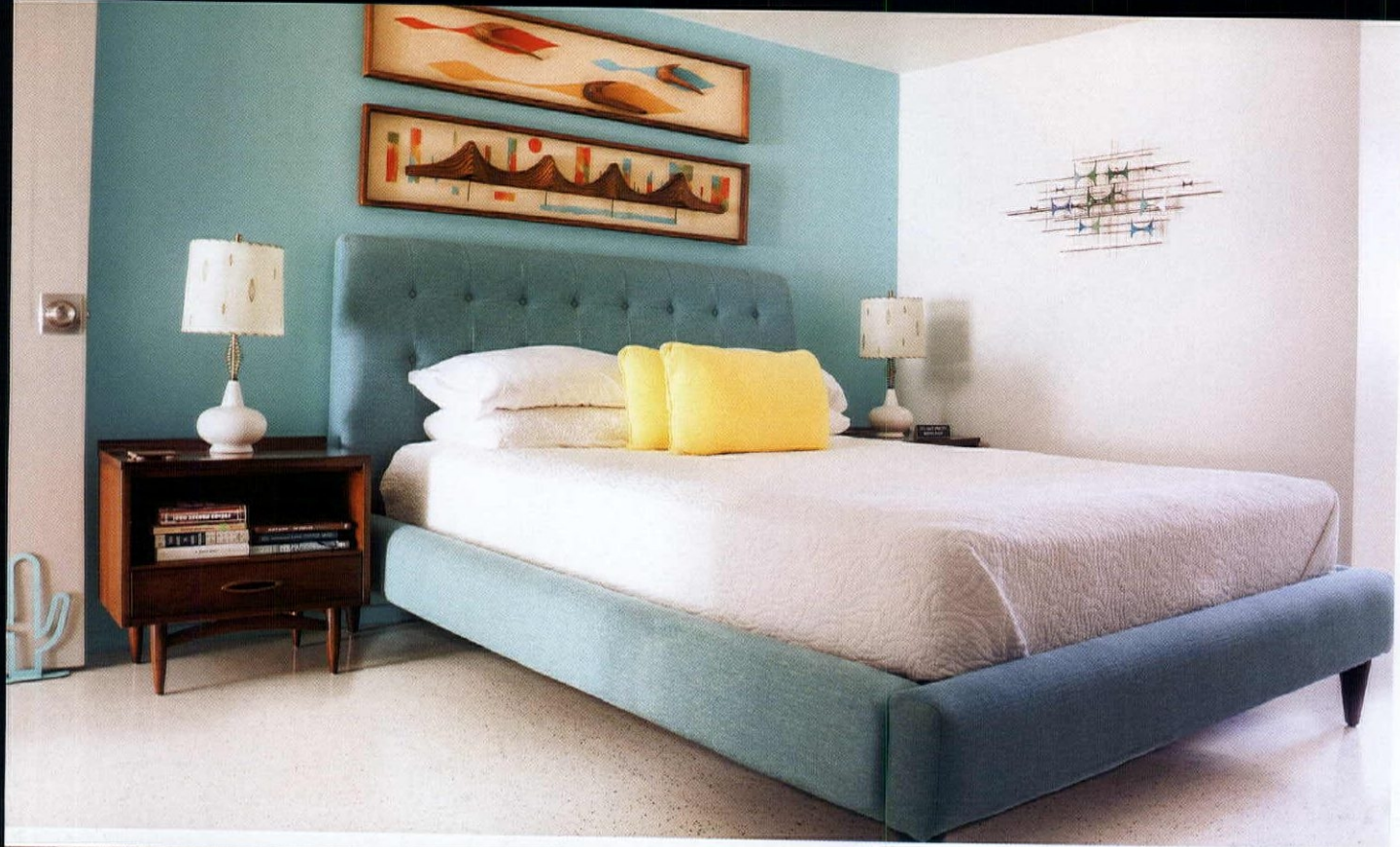
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October 10, 1971 through November 13, 1971



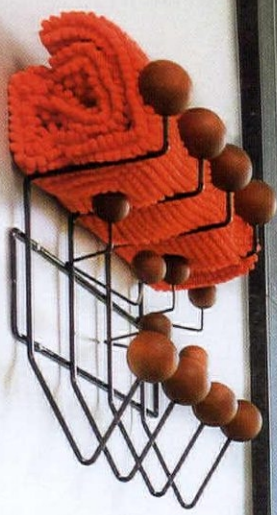
"I feel like a home is a
never-ending
work
in progress."

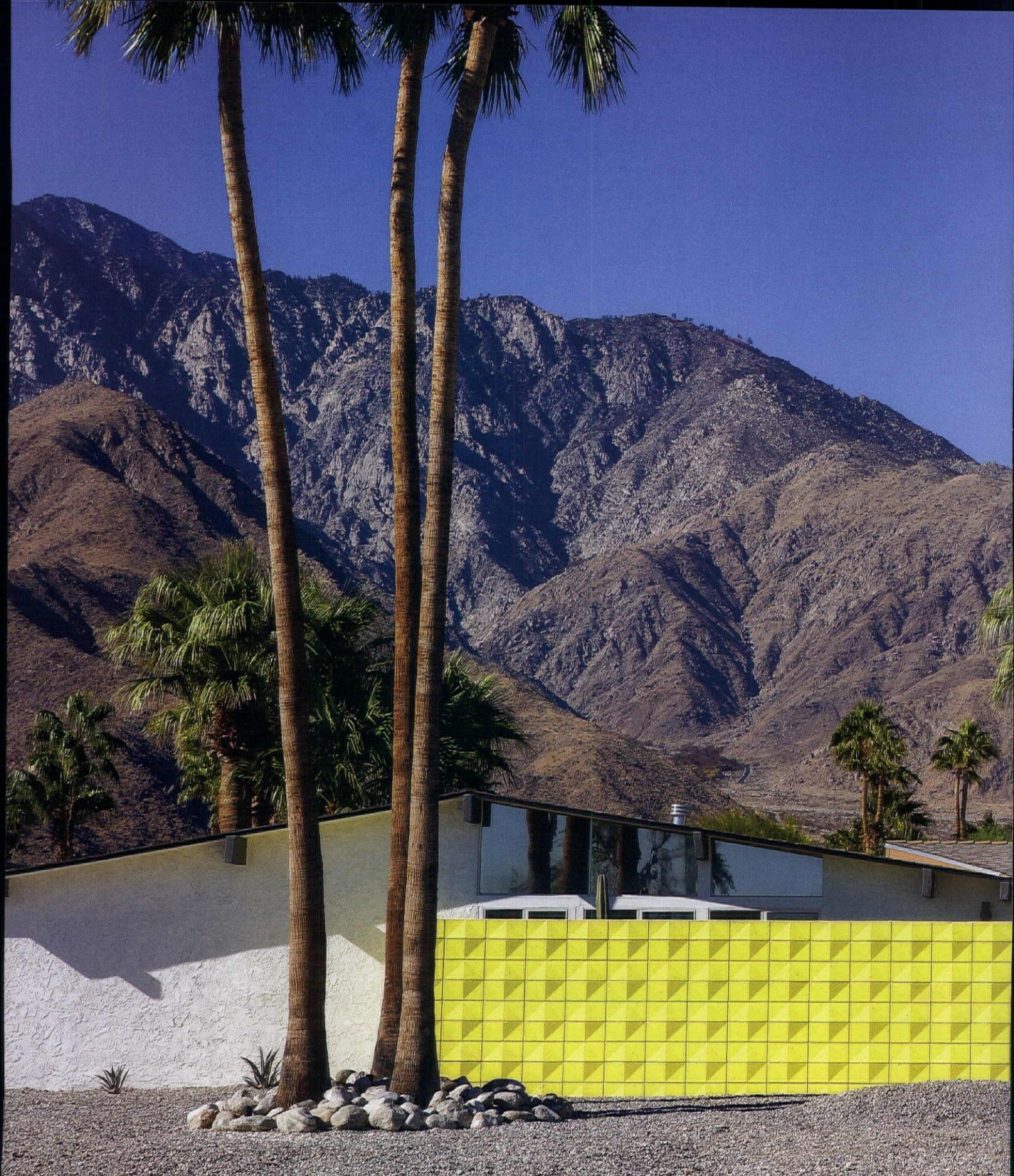




TOP: VINTAGE AND VINTAGE-STYLE PIECES GIVE THIS BEDROOM A THOROUGHLY MODERN LOOK. THE JOYBIRD UPHOLSTERED BED COMPLEMENTS VINTAGE WITCO ARTWORK.

ABOVE: THE HOME BOASTS TWO FULL BATHS, INCLUDING A MASTER WITH A STEP-IN SUNKEN SHOWER WITH A GLASS WALL. "[IT] IS SPACIOUS BUT ALSO PRIVATE SO WITHOUT WINDOW TREATMENTS DRAWN, IT FEELS MUCH LIKE AN OUTDOOR SHOWER," SAYS HOMEOWNER BLAINE SILER.





THE SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS CREATE A DRAMATIC BACKDROP FOR THIS 1959 WILLIAM KRISSEL HOME. WHILE NOT ORIGINAL TO THE HOUSE, THE SUNNY PRIVACY WALL WAS CREATED WITH A SHADOW BLOCK PATTERN PREVIOUSLY USED BY KRISSEL. A 1974 MERCEDES 450 SL ADDS THE PERFECT VINTAGE TOUCH TO THE HOME'S ENTRANCE.

Racquet Club Revival

Having seen many renovations throughout the years, this 1959 William Krisel tract home was transformed with warmth and personal touches from the current owners into the perfect Palm Springs getaway.

By **Lindsay Jarvis**

Photography by **Marni Epstein-Marvis**





D

ESPIE THE USUAL HEADACHES OF HOUSE HUNTING, realtors Dane Kealoha and Christopher Johnson found their Palm Springs home on the first day of searching. "It was actually pleasant," Christopher admits of the couple's experience. Working with local realtor Paul Kaplan, it took only four or five viewings to find the perfect match. "We walked in and got as far as the back and said, 'This is it,'" Christopher remembers. Located on a corner lot in the Racquet Club Estates neighborhood, the William Krisel tract home was built by the Alexander Construction Company in 1959. "We wanted midcentury, but we weren't specifically looking for an Alexander," says Dane. "But it was more specifically the view and how it was laid out on the property," Christopher says.

TOP: THE VIBRANT VELVET COUCH AND RICH SHAG CARPET ADD WARMTH TO THE LIVING AREA. LARGE GLASS SLIDERS PROVIDE MORE LIGHT FOR THE ROOM AS WELL AS ACCESS TO THE PATIO AREA.

OPPOSITE: OPEN AND BRIGHT, THE STARK WHITE BACKDROP OF THE LIVING ROOM AND DINING AREA IS CONTRASTED WITH THE RICH COLORS AND TEXTURES OF THE DÉCOR. DURABLE FURNITURE ALLOWS FOR LOTS OF USAGE, WHILE SMALLER PIECES ARE UNIQUE VINTAGE FINDS.

“... because it was so white, **we needed to bring back color, wood to warm it up, and some softer textures.** So that went into getting a shag rug and a velvet couch and these warm wood cabinets,” Dane says.



THE OPTIMAL LAYOUT OF THIS HOME WAS ONE OF THE COUPLE'S FAVORITE FEATURES. "I THINK THIS LAYOUT WITH THE KITCHEN AND THE LIVING ROOM FACING THE BACK WAS PERFECT, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF THE VIEW," SAYS DANE. BERTOIA-STYLE BARSTOOLS AND EAMES-STYLE SHELL CHAIRS PROVIDE MOD SEATING FOR THE KITCHEN AND DINING AREA, WHILE A GEORGE NELSON BUBBLE LIGHT HANGS ABOVE THE PLATNER TABLE.





BACKYARD BEAUTIFICATION

After several renovations and updates, the interior had been mostly returned to its original blueprint by the previous owners (flippers) who also took care of systems updates to the property. With no major electrical, plumbing or AC issues to deal with, the couple focused their attention on necessary exterior updates when they acquired the home in late 2016. While the original deep pool was in good shape, the surrounding backyard area was barren. Hedges were planted around the border and, other than a small grassy area for their chocolate lab, Larry, the rest of the flora reflects the desert landscape. Keeping the budget down, the couple tackled most of the planting on their own. "We hired a gardener and he did all the irrigation and major trees, but every cactus and all those agaves and everything, Dane planted. And those aren't fun to plant!" Christopher recalls of the prickly cactus gardening.

KRISEL CONNECTION

Though not original to the home, the now vibrant yellow shadow block wall was built with a nod to the designer, William Krisel. "The block that we got was actually a pattern that Krisel used on other projects around town," says Dane. In one of the first projects tackled, the couple wanted to create a privacy wall for street-facing bedrooms. Though started early on, the wall ended up being the most time-consuming project due to the extensive planning and permit

“We wanted midcentury, but we weren’t specifically looking for an Alexander,” says Dane.

process. Further delayed by unusually wet weather, the vibrant wall was completed in roughly four months. “Once that went up, it kind of made this whole place feel like a little compound, which is great, and it also adds color to the bedrooms by being that bright yellow,” says Dane. The couple was then able to start work on a front gate and pathway as well as further landscaping, all projects that had been dependent on the wall’s completion.

INTERIOR

Christopher and Dane were pleased that flippers had returned the home to its rough original blueprint, but the couple wanted to give the interior more personality. “They kind of went very contemporary and sleek, and we are now trying to bring back some warmth that would have been here originally,” says Dane. “Because it was so white, we needed to bring back color, wood to warm it up, and some softer textures. So that went into getting a shag rug and a velvet couch and these wood cabinets,” he continues. Because they rent the house out when they are not using it, the couple had the added challenge of balancing aesthetics with durability. While many of the larger furniture pieces are new, the décor is highlighted with vintage art and accessories.





TOP LEFT: A WEST ELM DESK IS CUSTOMIZED WITH SCHOOLHOUSE ELECTRIC KNOBS IN ONE OF THE GUEST BEDROOMS.



TOP RIGHT: VANITY LIGHTING ADDS A TOUCH OF PERSONALITY TO THE GUEST BATHROOM.

RIGHT: VINTAGE STOOLS ARE TRANSFORMED INTO NIGHTSTANDS WITH A GLASS TOP. COLORS AND DÉCOR FOR THE GUEST BEDROOM WERE INSPIRED BY THE STRIKING SLIM AARONS PHOTOGRAPH ABOVE THE BED.

OPPOSITE: THE COUPLE CHOSE DIFFERENT SLIM AARONS PHOTOGRAPHS TO ADORN EACH BEDROOM, THEN DREW INSPIRATION FROM THE SHOTS FOR THE OVERALL ROOM DESIGN. "I THINK HIS PHOTOGRAPHY TAKES YOU BACK IN TIME A BIT," SAYS DANE.





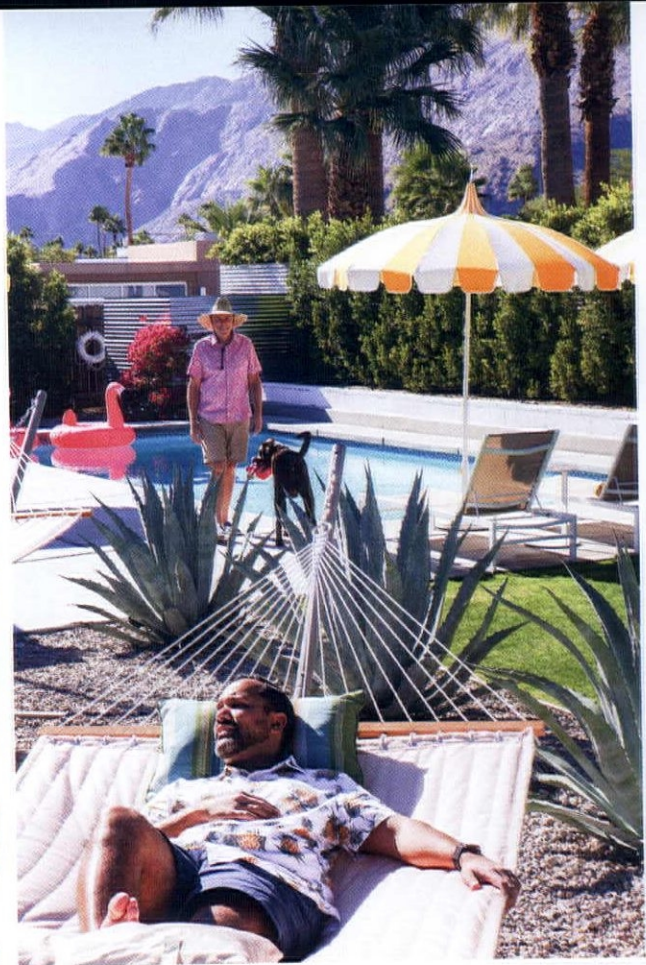
TOP: WARM WOOD AND RATTAN ACCENTS CONTRAST WITH SLEEK WHITE WALLS IN THE MASTER BEDROOM. A VINTAGE PEACOCK CHAIR—COMPLETE WITH CUP HOLDER—LEADS THE WAY TO A LUXURIOUS PATIO AREA.

ON THE HORIZON

"There are some systems upgrades we have plans for; these are the original single-pane windows, and we want to do double," Christopher says about their vision for the large, pool-facing windows. They also hope to add clerestory windows in the back of the house to mimic the originals in the front, and to replace the flooring with polished concrete. Other plans include a new kitchen backsplash, a spa addition and a possible upgrade to a foam roof. Originally a carport, the garage is now the perfect starting point for a future casita. "The back of the garage was converted to the third bath plus a storage closet, says Dane. Because there's already plumbing in the bathroom, for us to add a casita it's a little bit easier," says Dane.

COME ON DOWN

When Christopher and Dane aren't lounging in their Palm Springs paradise with their dog, Larry, the Racquet Club Estates home is available to rent. To learn more about the property, visit theavenidaps.com. 



TOP LEFT: BLUDOT CHAIRS AND A LEXMOD TABLE MAKE THE PERFECT MOD SETTING TO ENJOY A POOLSIDE SNACK.
TOP RIGHT: DANE SOAKS UP SOME PALM SPRINGS SUNSHINE IN THE HAMMOCK WHILE CHRISTOPHER PLAYS WITH LARRY, THEIR CHOCOLATE LAB.
BOTTOM: ORIGINAL TO THE HOME, THE SWIMMING POOL STILL FEATURES A 10-FOOT DEEP END. COLORFUL SHADE UMBRELLAS CREATE THE ULTIMATE SPOT FOR POOLSIDE RELAXATION.



Making It Midcentury

By Lauren Hofer
Photography by Chad Mellon
Styling by Kryz Melo

Palm Springs gave one couple a love for all things mod and helped them curate a dreamy time-capsule vacation home.



NEUTRAL TONES AND TIMELESS VINTAGE PIECES
LIKE THE GRAND SERVER COFFEE TABLE MAKE
THIS SPACE BOTH RELAXING AND CLASSY.

“The more we started spending time there, the more we got into learning about the neighborhoods and the architecture.”



From the front exterior, this Palm Springs home looks rather unassuming.

For the homeowners, husband and wife Joe O'Hara and Lizbeth Scordo, the true moment of impact comes after walking through the front door to see the entire back wall of the house made up of floor-to-ceiling glass windows and doors. When you open up the front door and there is this wall of glass," says Joe, "that's what I just fell in love with."

For the couple, the home is a desert escape from the grind of life. "On a nice day, when you open up all the sliders, it's really just kind of indoor-outdoor living," says Lizbeth, "it adds that feeling of being away."





OPPOSITE: THE COUPLE REDID THE FRONT LANDSCAPING WITH MORE DESERT PLANTS AND SUCCULENTS TO MATCH THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE.

TOP: WITH VIEWS OF THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS, THIS STUNNING YARD IS TRULY A DESERT OASIS.

ABOVE: THE DINING AREA AND LIVING ROOM BLEND SEAMLESSLY TOGETHER.

"We've tried to, over time, curate key pieces and certain accent pieces so it could have a kind of time-capsule feel."



UPDATED APPLIANCES MAKE THIS SLEEK KITCHEN BOTH FUNCTIONAL AND VISUALLY APPEALING.



MAKING IT THEIR OWN

Lizbeth and Joe bought the house in 2011 to use as both a vacation home and a rental. Built in 1955, the home doesn't have a known builder or architect, but rumor has it that Hollywood singer Ginny Simms lived there at one time.

The space is Joe and Lizbeth's second Palm Springs residence, but their first midcentury home, a purchase inspired by the design culture they encountered in the area. "The more we started spending time there, the more we got into learning about the neighborhoods and the architecture and midcentury homes," says Lizbeth. "We really wanted a house like that."

With views of the surrounding mountains, the backyard is one of the couple's favorite areas to spend time and host guests. Almost every room in the house has a slider to access the yard; the aesthetic appeal is just as important as functionality. After the couple redid the pool and added features like an outdoor kitchen, shower and covered seating area, the home is truly a secluded oasis.

THIS STUNNING BAR IS ONE OF THE MOST RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE HOME. LIZBETH AND JOE FOUND THE PIECE WHILE SHOPPING IN VENICE, CALIFORNIA.





TOP: LIZBETH FOUND THIS SET OF DIAMOND-SHAPED MIRRORS AT A YARD SALE. THE SELLER WANTED HER TO PAY ONE PRICE, AND SHE WANTED TO PAY ANOTHER. THEY FLIPPED A COIN FOR IT, AND SHE WON.

BOTTOM: FURNISHING THE HOUSE TOOK TIME, AS THE COUPLE RELIED ON CRAIGSLIST, ESTATE SALES AND YARD SALES FOR PERIOD PIECES.





MAKING IT POP

The couple painted a wall in each of the bedrooms a bright color. "We just thought that in doing fun accent walls, we could really go bright," says Lizbeth. They kept the main living areas more neutral for balance but included other bold elements throughout the home.

"I always wanted that yellow door," says Lizbeth of the main entrance, so "that was never even a discussion." In the backyard, they painted both the existing fireplace and the added screen block the same bright yellow for consistency, and a yellow chair in the master bedroom has become a favorite location for renters to post on social media.


MAKING IT A HOME

Lizbeth and Joe have filled the home with one-of-a-kind vintage pieces, but doing so was not a quick process. "We would do estate sales and yard sales every weekend," says Lizbeth, "I would look on Craigslist, and we slowly found ourselves filling the house."

TOP LEFT: THE DRESSER HAS A VIEW-MASTER, WHICH WAS FIRST CREATED IN 1939. DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN ORDER CUSTOM REELS ONLINE THESE DAYS, TO SHOW YOUR OWN HOME AND YARD?

TOP RIGHT: A RETRO OWL WELL REPRESENTS THE SPIRIT OF THE 1950s AND '60s IN THE BATHROOM. **BOTTOM:** ONE OF LIZBETH'S FAVORITE PIECES, THIS VINTAGE YELLOW-AND-WHITE DRESSER COMPLETES THE BRIGHT COLOR SCHEME OF THE SPACIOUS MASTER BEDROOM.





A WALL WITH BRISE SOLIEL
BLOCKS ADDED DEFINITION
TO THE BACK YARD SPACE.

With views of the surrounding mountains, the backyard is one of the couple's favorite areas to spend time.

One piece they looked long and hard for was a coffee table. "We waited and waited, and eventually, in 2014 at the parking lot sale at the fall modernism preview weekend," says Lizbeth, "we found this amazing coffee table." The kidney-shaped Grand Server coffee table with a swivel top graces their living with elegance and class.

Other favorite pieces are a set of Danish lamps that Lizbeth's dad pulled out of storage; the standing bar they discovered in Venice, California; and the yellow-and-white dresser that perfectly finishes the master bedroom.

"We've tried to, over time, curate key pieces and certain accent pieces so it could have a kind of time-capsule feel," says Joe of the space that has grown into the perfect Midcentury Modern getaway. ☺



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HOME TO ROBERT MARX'S FATHER-IN-LAW, THE MARANZ RESIDENCE CERTAINLY ADHERES TO ITS FIRST HOMEOWNER'S VISION. "IF I'M GOING TO HAVE A HOUSE," MARANZ REPORTEDLY SAID, "I WANT IT TO BE THE MOST UNUSUAL ONE ON THE TAMARISK FAIRWAYS." MELISSA DESCRIBES THE HOME AS "AN ARCHITECTURAL ICON," ADDING THAT "WITH THE DESIGN FOR THE MARANZ RESIDENCE, NO HOLDS WERE BARRED."



Desert GREENS

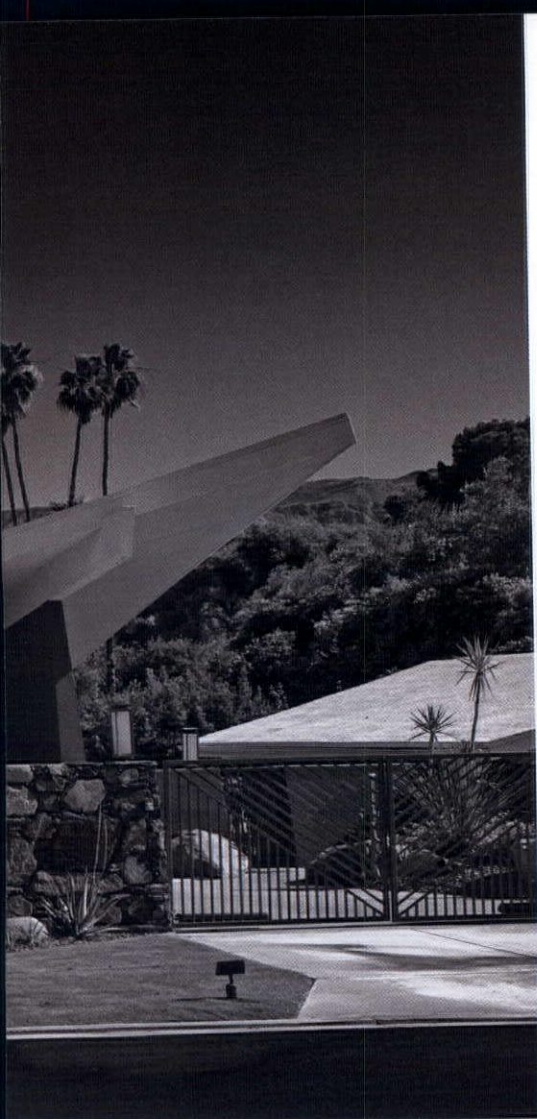
Learn how golfing and country clubs brought midcentury architecture to the barren Rancho Mirage landscape.

By **Stephanie Agnes-Crockett**
Photography by **Jim Riche**

WHAT TRANSFORMED THE HOLE-IN-THE-WALL DESERT LAND OF RANCHO MIRAGE INTO A HOLE-IN-ONE HAVEN? A couple of country clubs and dozens of golf clubs. In her book, *Mod Mirage: The Midcentury Architecture of Rancho Mirage*, Melissa Riche describes the midcentury origins of Rancho Mirage, which sprang from the fertile ground of celebrity golf courses.

FROM RANCH TO COUNTRY CLUB

In the late 1940s, amateur golfer Johnny Dawson dreamed of opening an 18-hole golf course... in the middle of the desert. Melissa writes that Dawson "realized that by moving east from Palm Springs... he could obtain an extra 90 minutes of sunshine each afternoon." Dawson set his sights on Thunderbird Ranch, a development that had "opened in January 1947 to great fanfare," but reportedly "lost \$50,000 a year during its four years of operation." Partnering with realtor and investor Barney Hinkle, Dawson "put up \$15,000 to hold the property in escrow and hatched the idea to build [Thunderbird Country Club], a golf course with adjacent home sites for sale."



THE HOLLYWOOD FACTOR

With celebrities taking up their clubs, people were quick to follow suit. Bing Crosby paved the way for hillside homes in Thunderbird Heights (the upper region of Thunderbird Country Club). Rancho Mirage's other founding community, in contrast, originated in response to Hollywood's exclusivity.

"Palm Springs wasn't as welcoming to everyone as it is today," Melissa explains. "Some [of the Jewish immigrants] started the Hillcrest Country Club in Los Angeles as their gathering place ... when all the other Los Angeles social clubs were closed to them." As golf popularized, they decided "to open their own country club in the desert." Enter Tamarisk Country Club.

TOP: VISUALLY ARRESTING, THIS LIVING ROOM, WHICH LOOKS LIKE IT COULD BE A LARGE PATIO SPACE, REQUIRES A SECOND GLANCE. WITH FLOOR-TO-CEILING WINDOWS OVERLOOKING THE POOL, THE OPEN-PLAN LIVING ROOM OWES ITS SHAPE TO THE UNIQUE ROOF STRUCTURE. "THE HOME'S ECCENTRIC ROOFLINE RESULTED IN UNCONVENTIONAL DOOR AND WINDOW DESIGNS ON SIDE ELEVATIONS," MELISSA EXPLAINS.

ABOVE: "INDOOR/OUTDOOR LIVING WAS TRANSLATED INTO EVERYTHING INDOOR/OUTDOOR," MELISSA WRITES. NOTE, HERE, THE USE OF AN INDOOR FIREPIT, ADJACENT TO AN EARTHY, BRICK-TONED RUG. ALONG THE BACK OF THE ROOM, THE STONE WALL "PROVIDES A BACKDROP FOR THE FIREPLACE," MELISSA WRITES. "ON THE OUTSIDE, IT'S THE BACKDROP FOR THE POOL."


Rancho Mirage, Palm Springs' favorite suburb,

a development of beautiful lots and outstanding homes. Drive out Hiway 111 to the planned community of your dreams, 8 miles Southeast of Palm Springs just adjacent to the Thunderbird Country Club or phone FAirview 8-1121 for additional information.

WITH ITS ANGULAR STONework SURROUNDING THE SIGNS, EVEN THE ENTRANCE TO RANCHO MIRAGE DEMONSTRATES A STRONG AFFINITY FOR MIDCENTURY MODERN STYLE. AND ITS AWE-INSPIRING VIEWS OPENED THE DOOR (AND WINDOW) TO INVENTIVE ARCHITECTURE. "ARCHITECTS HAD A FIELD DAY CREATING SEETHROUGH MODERNIST HOMES," MELISSA WRITES, WITH "NEVER-ENDING WALLS OF GLASS TO TAKE IN ALL THE VIEWS."

PHOTO: PALM SPRINGS LIFE MAGAZINE

ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY

"The budgets, the clients, the views and the unique environment encouraged people to think differently," Melissa writes. "The result was an unparalleled collection of modernist design at its most refined." 

BOTTOM: DEMOLISHED IN 2002, THE MASLON HOME BOASTED THE ANGULAR FEATURES, LOW ROOFLINE AND STONework TYPICAL OF THE MIDCENTURY DESERT HOME. IT ALSO INSPIRED MELISSA TO AUTHOR *MOD MIRAGE*. "ONE OF THE MAIN MOTIVATIONS FOR WRITING THIS BOOK," MELISSA WRITES, "WAS TO ILLUSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION."

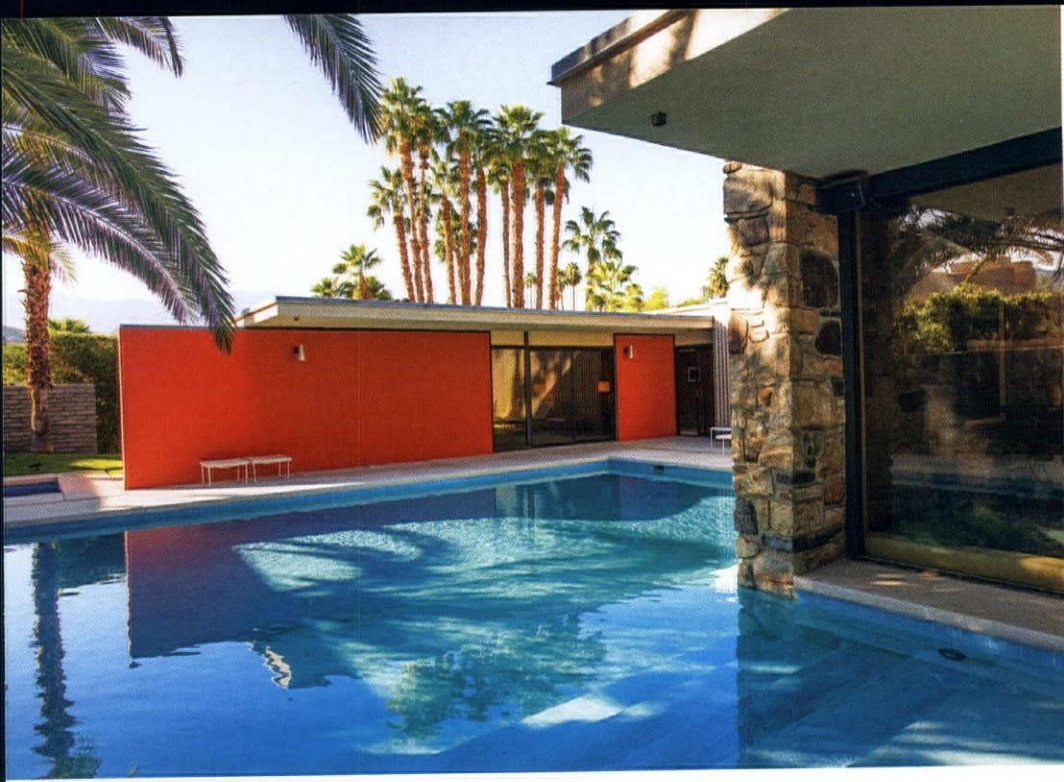
PRESERVATIONIST PERSPECTIVE

Melissa Riche, who grew up just outside of London, has now spent over half of her adult life in California. One thing she hasn't gotten used to? Californians' tendency to tear down architectural gems. "When you live in Europe, you're used to seeing buildings from different eras," Melissa writes. "Californians love tearing down anything that's more than thirty years old."

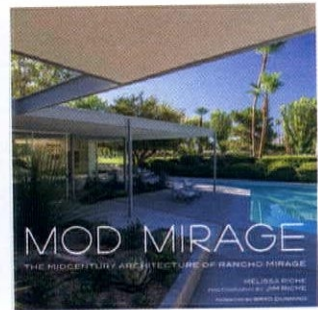
A self-styled preservationist, Melissa believes in keeping architecture intact. "Appreciate what's already there," she says. "Don't feel the need to remodel it, change it beyond recognition, or pull it down." In Melissa's opinion, education "is really the bottom line" in preservation, and her book is certainly focused on that. "It's not just a coffee table book," she says. "It's a history book, as well."

Something Melissa wants her readers to know? New builds cost money, too. "You can have an air conditioner in a midcentury house," she says. "You don't have to knock it down!"





BOTTOM: MONA KENASTON GRILLS, WHO GREW UP IN THIS HOME, REMEMBERS WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE DESIGNER SUGGESTED INCORPORATING A SWIMMING POOL INSIDE. "FATHER SAID, 'ARE YOU INSANE?' WITH TWO SMALL CHILDREN JUMPING IN AND OUT OF THE POOL, WE'LL HAVE CONSTANT TIDAL WAVES IN THE LIVING ROOM!" INDEED, MONA AND HER BROTHER "FOUND WAYS TO CLIMB THAT ROCK WALL ALL THE WAY ONTO THE ROOF, USING IT TO JUMP INTO THE POOL."




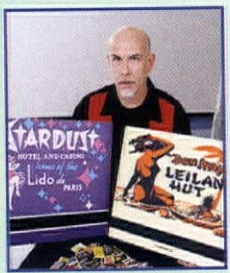
MOD MIRAGE: THE MIDCENTURY ARCHITECTURE OF RANCHO MIRAGE BY MELISSA RICHE, PUBLISHED BY GIBBS SMITH, © 2018; MODMIRAGE.COM.

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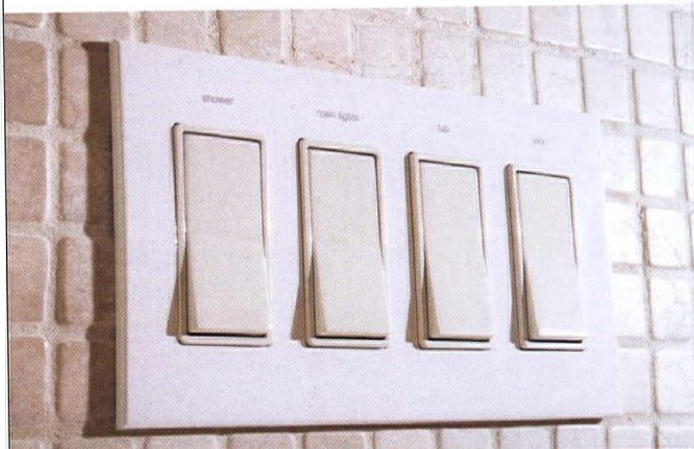

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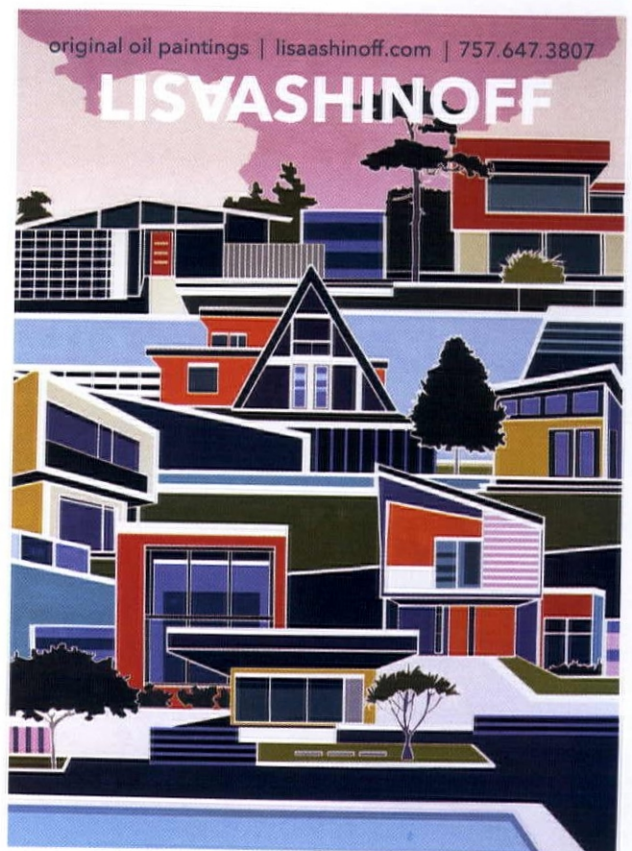


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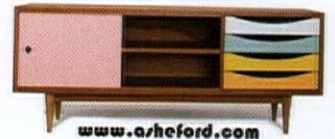
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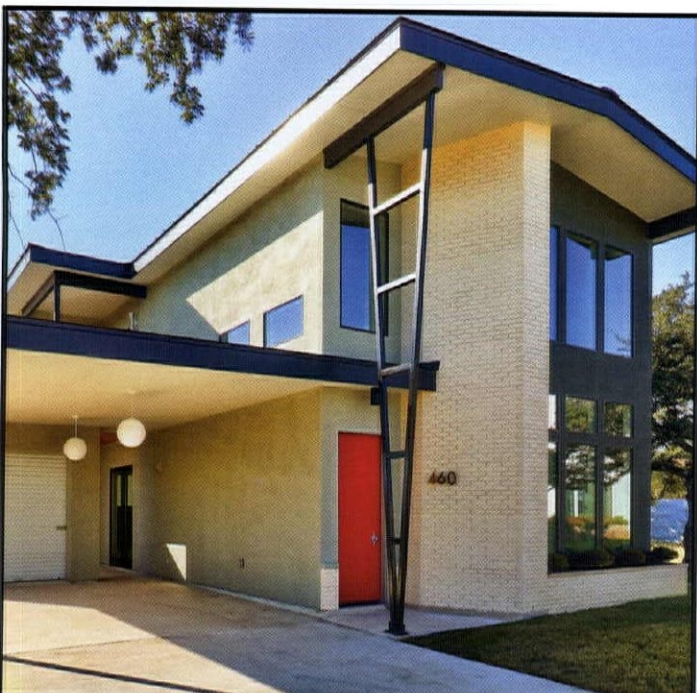
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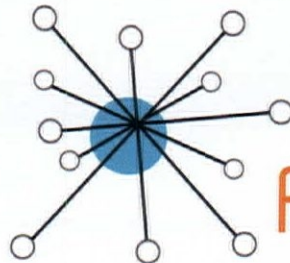
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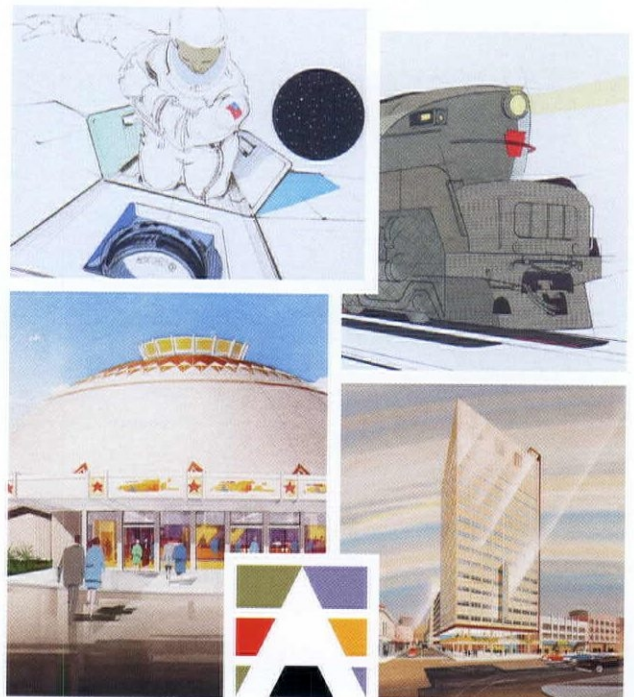
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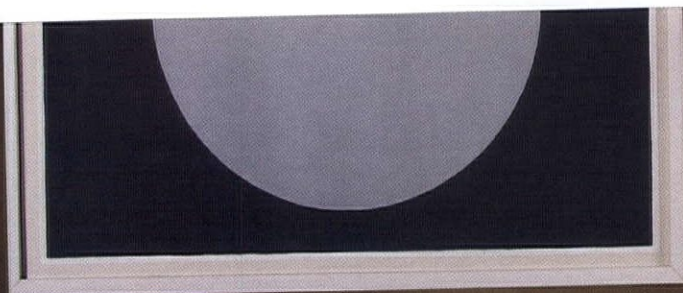
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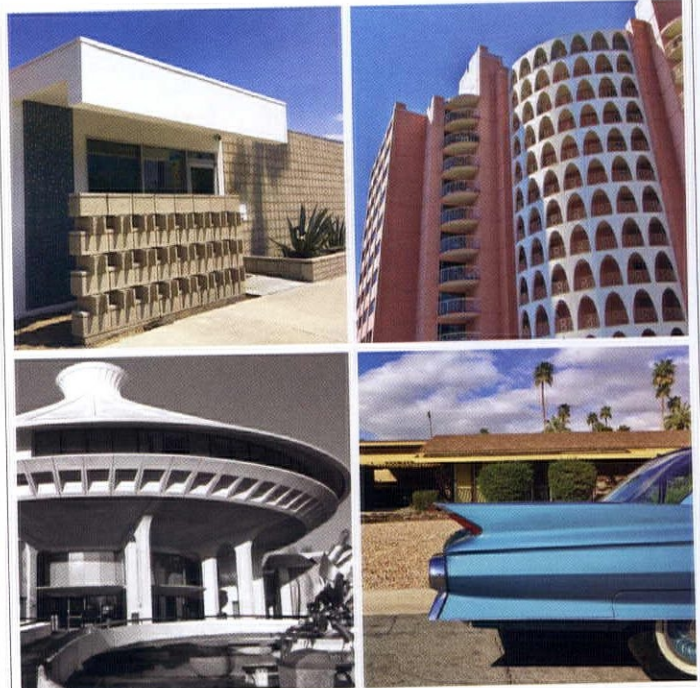
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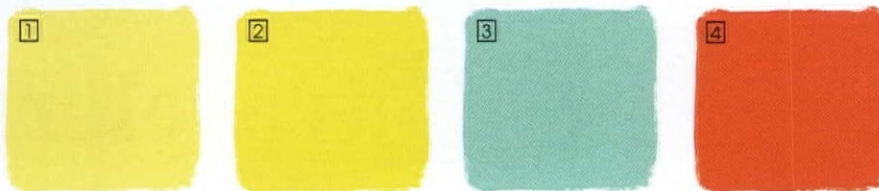


DOOR-TO-DOOR: THE COLORS OF PALM SPRINGS

Inspired by the scene-stealing looks of Palm Springs' doors, we went in search of ways to replicate the effect.

By **Jin Hyun**
Photography by **Patrick Ketchum**

IN PALM SPRINGS, THE MINIMAL LINES OF MIDCENTURY MODERN DESIGNS and the monochrome colors of the area's natural desert climate cause many homeowners to use bright colors on their doors to give their homes a unique touch. In fact, Palm Springs "door tours" spring up around the theme of checking out these vibrant colors. Designers Howard Hawkes and Kevin Kemper of H3K Design are based in Palm Springs and share how you can bring this look to your home, no matter where you live.



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COOL TURQUOISE

"Owning a retail store in Palm Springs, you find that there is an insatiable appetite for orange and turquoise in the desert. Those seem to be the trademark colors," Howard and Kevin explain. Choosing an accent color for any part of your home requires observing your surroundings and deciding what would complement the natural features in the vicinity. In this case, the tropical turquoise shades provide a cool place for your eyes to rest from the warm tones in the desert. "It's sort of reminiscent of swimming pools, and it's such a contrast to the earth tones of the desert, so it really pops," they say.

DESERT SUNSET ORANGE

While looking for contrasting colors can be a great option, complementary colors work just as well. Warm tones, such as various shades of orange, can create different moods—bright, neon orange can conjure up images of sunrises, while deeper shades will remind you of desert sunsets. "Even a burnt orange can work on a lot of different styles, so it doesn't always have to be a bright sunshine orange," Howard and Kevin tell us. At the end of the

day, doors can be easily repainted without a lot of risk or expense, so it doesn't hurt to be a little spontaneous with the decision.

LIVELY AND MOD YELLOW

The midcentury style in Palm Springs emphasizes minimal front yards while celebrating the interior and backyard instead. By adding a pop of color on the door, it adds a much more exciting element to the house. Yellow is already a popular choice in midcentury design, and Howard and Kevin believe choosing the right shade doesn't have to push you too far out of your comfort zone. "If you're nervous, you don't have to do a bright sunshine yellow to get started. Maybe opt for a nice mustard yellow that's a little more subdued to get you into the water of painting your front door," they say.

Ultimately, making a statement with door colors requires reflection on the homeowner's personal style. "If you're writing a sentence, you always want to think about the ... punctuation you're going to use at the end. That kind of goes for your front door color too—how do you want to punctuate your house?"



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The Getaway, page 32

Artwork: Alexander Calder lithographs, Maurice Chalhignac, Peter Pepper products, Sexton metal bottle wall art, Witco.

Ball light, glitter shade hanging lamp: Original to the home.

Escutcheons: Schlage.

Exterior paint: Dunn Edwards.

Floor tile: Cortina Grande Azrock composition tile.

Foyer console: Vintage Danish Rosewood elevator table.

Front door paint: Benjamin Moore.

GUEST BEDROOMS:

Bed: Joybird teal upholstered bed.

Chair: Knoll Risom armless lounge chair.

Bedroom suite: Broyhill Sculptra.

Beds: West Elm Beds.

LIVING ROOM:

24-foot curved sofa: Custom.

Chairs: Artifort Pierre Paulin Tongue chairs.

Coffee table: Herman Miller Noguchi.

MASTER BEDROOM:

Bed: Blu Dot Nook.

Bedside tables: Custom.

Chair: Eames.

Lamps: Richard Sapper Artemide Tizio.

Ottoman: Eames.

PATIO:

Patio aluminum umbrella and motel chairs: Craigslist.

Patio chairs: Vintage hoop chairs.

Patio dining table: Crate & Barrel.

SUNKEN DEN:

Chairs: Milo Baughman Scoop lounge chairs by James Inc.

Coffee table: eBay.

Game table: CB2.

Ottoman: Milo Baughman ottoman by James Inc.

Sofa: Milo Baughman Thayer-Coggin sofa.

Upholstery: Maharam Fabrics.

Racquet Club Revival, page 44

MASTER BEDROOM:

Bedframe: Scandinavian Designs, scandinaviandesigns.com.

Bedsheets: Brooklinen, brooklinen.com.

Wicker poufs: CB2, (800) 606-6252 or cb2.com.

Side tables and knobs: West Elm with Schoolhouse Electric knobs, westelm.com and schoolhouse.com.

Lamps: West Elm, westelm.com.

Peacock chair: Vintage find, from a Portland warehouse store.

Slim Aarons wall photography: Photos by Getty Images, photos.com.

Metal wall art: Target, target.com.

Glass art pieces: Vintage, mostly from Dazzles (Palm Springs), (760) 327-1446.

MASTER BATHROOM AND GUEST BATHROOM:

Kichler lights: Amazon, amazon.com.

GUEST BEDROOM #1:

Rattan/bamboo side tables: Vintage stools topped with glass top from Pier 1, pier1.com.

Lamps: West Elm, westelm.com.

Slim Aarons wall photography: Photos by Getty Images, photos.com.

Bedding: Brooklinen, brooklinen.com.

Bedframe: IKEA, ikea.com.

GUEST BEDROOM #2:

Desk: West Elm with Schoolhouse Electric knobs, westelm.com and schoolhouse.com.

Eames-style fiberglass shell chair: Pelago, (760) 322-3999 or pelagopalmsprings.com.

Side tables and knobs: West Elm with Schoolhouse Electric knobs, westelm.com and schoolhouse.com.

Lamps: West Elm, westelm.com.

Bedding: Brooklinen, brooklinen.com.

Bedframe: IKEA, ikea.com.

Slim Aarons wall photography: Photos by Getty Images, photos.com.

DINING AREA:

Bertoia-style bar stools: Rove Concepts, (888) 246-3585, or roveconcepts.com.

Eames-style chairs: Rove Concepts, (888) 246-3585, or roveconcepts.com.

Platner table: Rove Concepts, (888) 246-3585, or roveconcepts.com.

George Nelson bubble lamp: Design Within Reach, (800) 944-2233 or dwr.com.

Pendant lights above kitchen island: West Elm, westelm.com.

LIVING ROOM:

Couch: West Elm, westelm.com.

Rug: CB2, (800) 606-6252 or cb2.com.

Chair: West Elm, westelm.com.

Blu Dot patio table and chairs: Pelago, (760) 322-3999 or pelagopalmsprings.com.

Standing lamp: Rejuvenation (Portland), (503) 238-1900 or rejuvenation.com.

Blu coffee table and side tables: Pelago, (760) 322-3999 or pelagopalmsprings.com.

Hutch and buffet: West Elm with Schoolhouse Electric knobs, westelm.com and schoolhouse.com.

Glass art bottles: Glass art pieces: Vintage, mostly from Dazzles (Palm Springs) (760) 327-1446.

EXTERIOR:

Shadow block bricks: Angelus Block Co, Inc., angelusblock.com.

GoFloat Flamingo pool float: Amazon, amazon.com.

Hammock stands: Home Depot, (800) 466-3337 or homedepot.com.

Hammock: Amazon, amazon.com.

Sun umbrellas: True Value (Palm Springs), (760) 322-1951 or pstruevalue.com.

Lounge chairs: CB2, (800) 606-6252 or cb2.com.

BlueDot "Hot Mesh" chairs: Pelago, (760) 322-3999 or pelagopalmsprings.com.

Table: LexMod, (800) 768-7750 or lexmod.com.

Globe pendant light: Schoolhouse Electric, schoolhouse.com.

Golden torch cactus: Mariscal Cactus & Succulents (Desert Hot Springs), (760) 917-3375.

Door-to-Door: The Colors of Palm Springs, page 74

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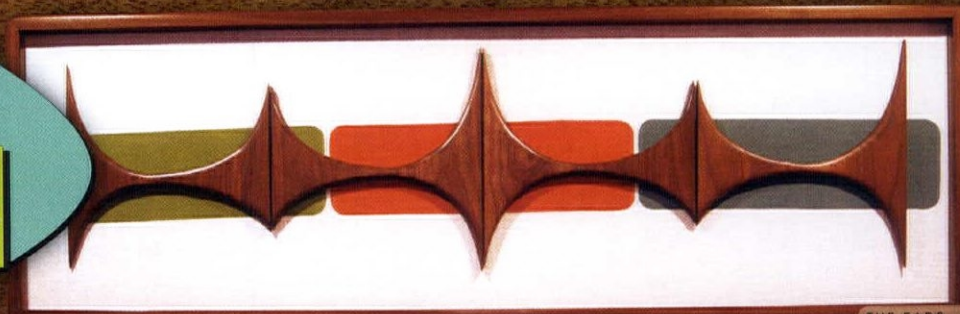
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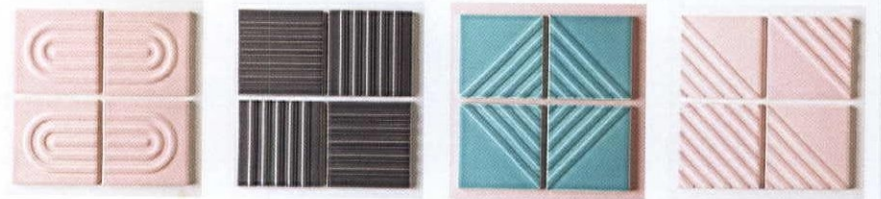
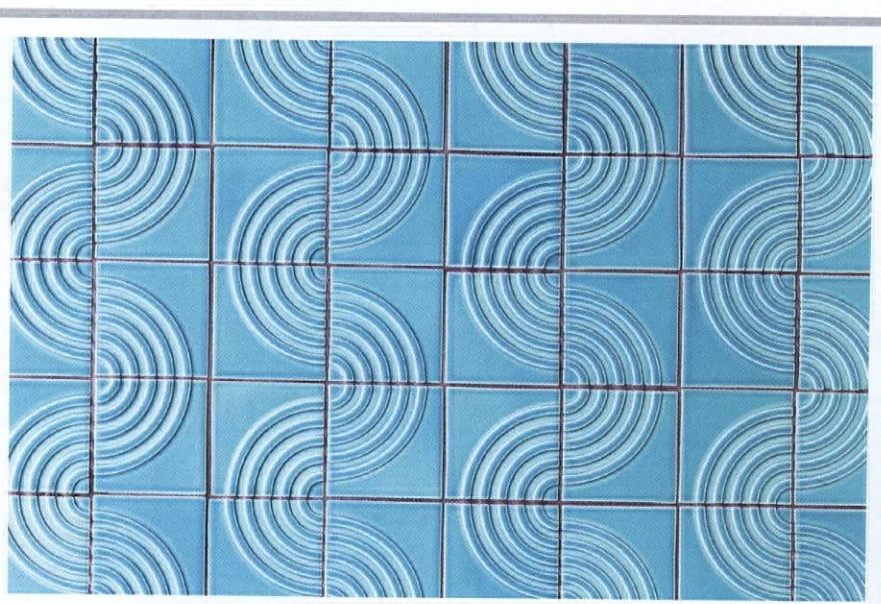
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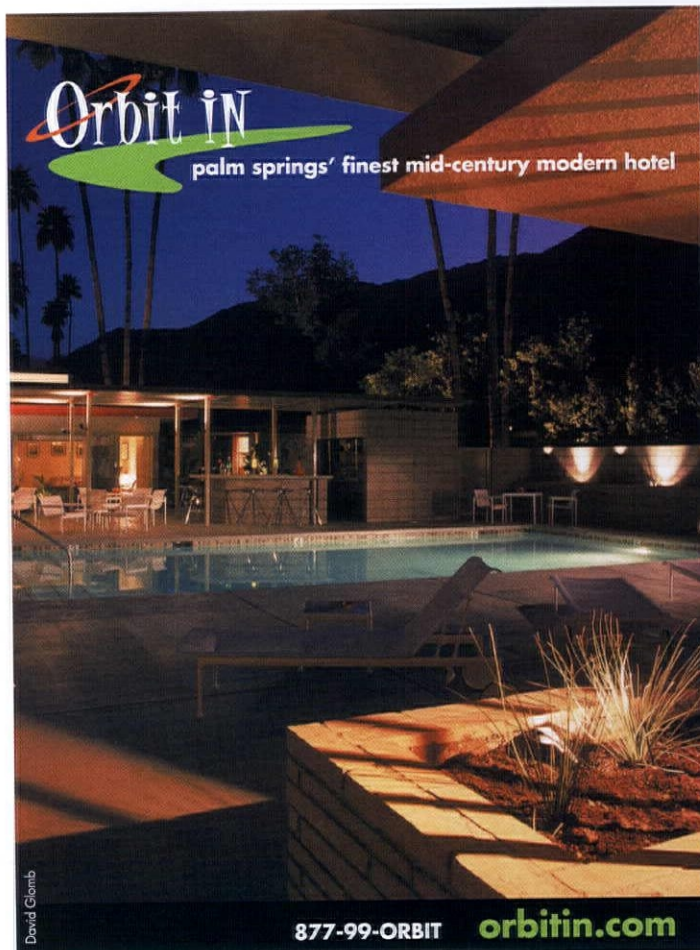
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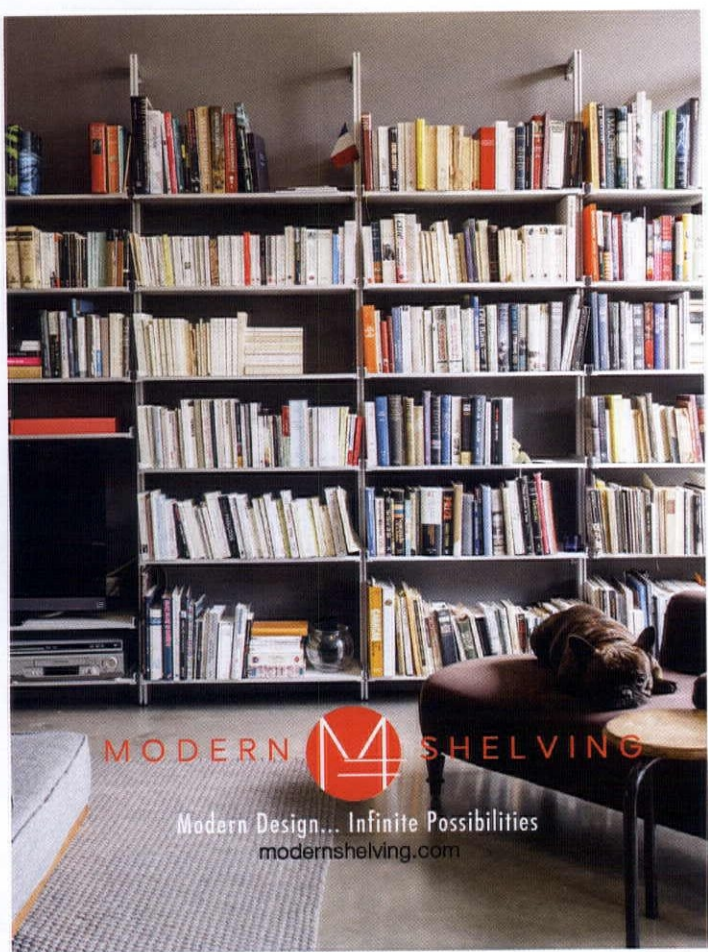
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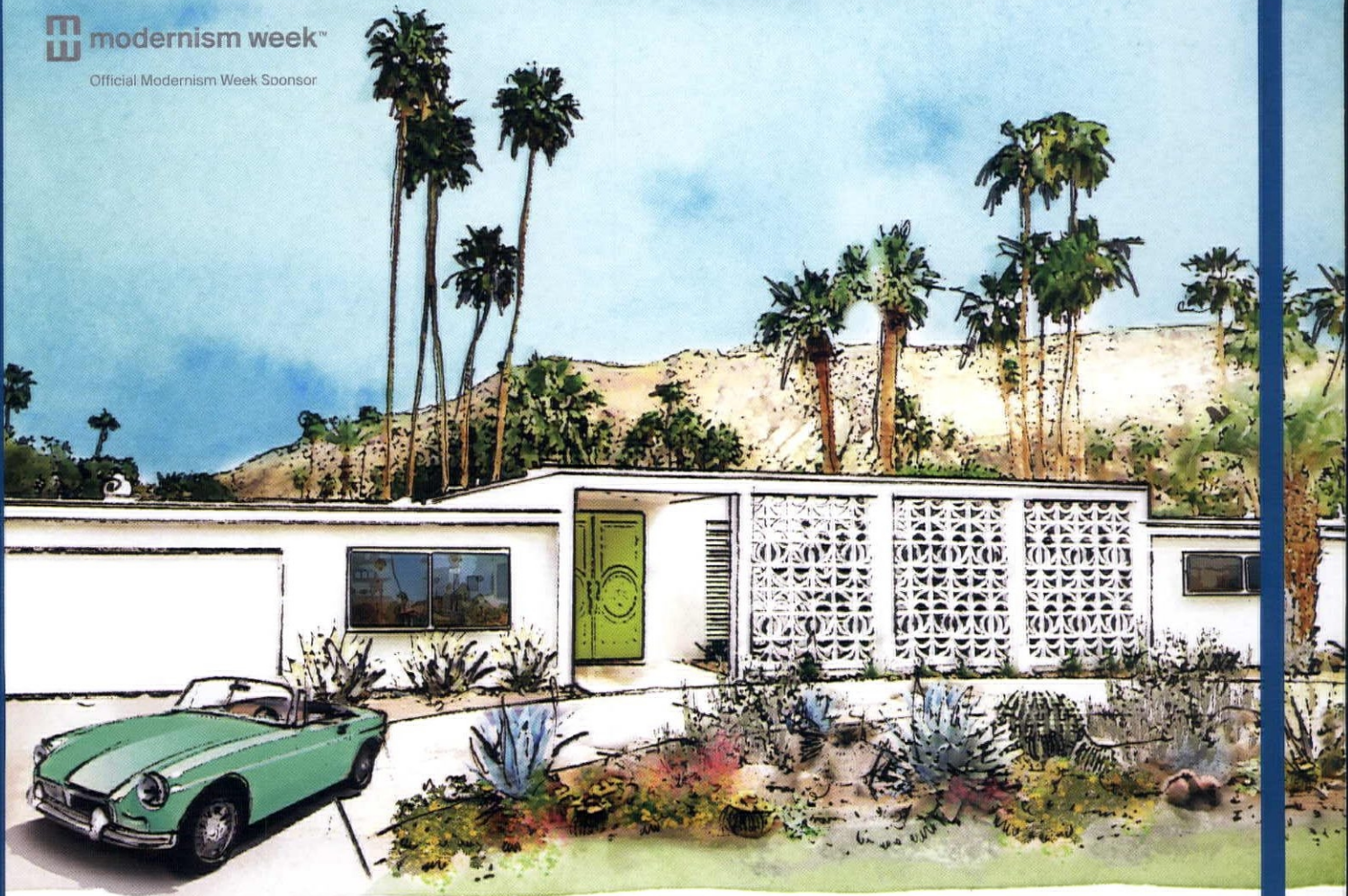


Hello, Yellow

By Kathryn Drury Wagner | Photography by Marni Epstein-Mervis

AT THEIR 1959 WILLIAM KRISSEL-DESIGNED HOME, Dane Kealoha and Christopher Johnson have created a perfect Palm Springs getaway. Poolside, "The umbrellas are definitely a highlight," says Dane. "They are new, manufactured by California Umbrella Co. and purchased locally. We were inspired to get these from seeing a similar yellow scalloped umbrella in the Slim Aarons photo 'Poolside Gossip.'" That iconic image, shot in February of 1970, was taken at a Richard Neutra home and features a palette of yellow, white and fabulous. Although the umbrellas Dane and Christopher own are new, "they have a vintage Palm Springs style that gives our pool area that old poolside glam feel." For more on their home, see "Racquet Club Revival," on page 44.

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