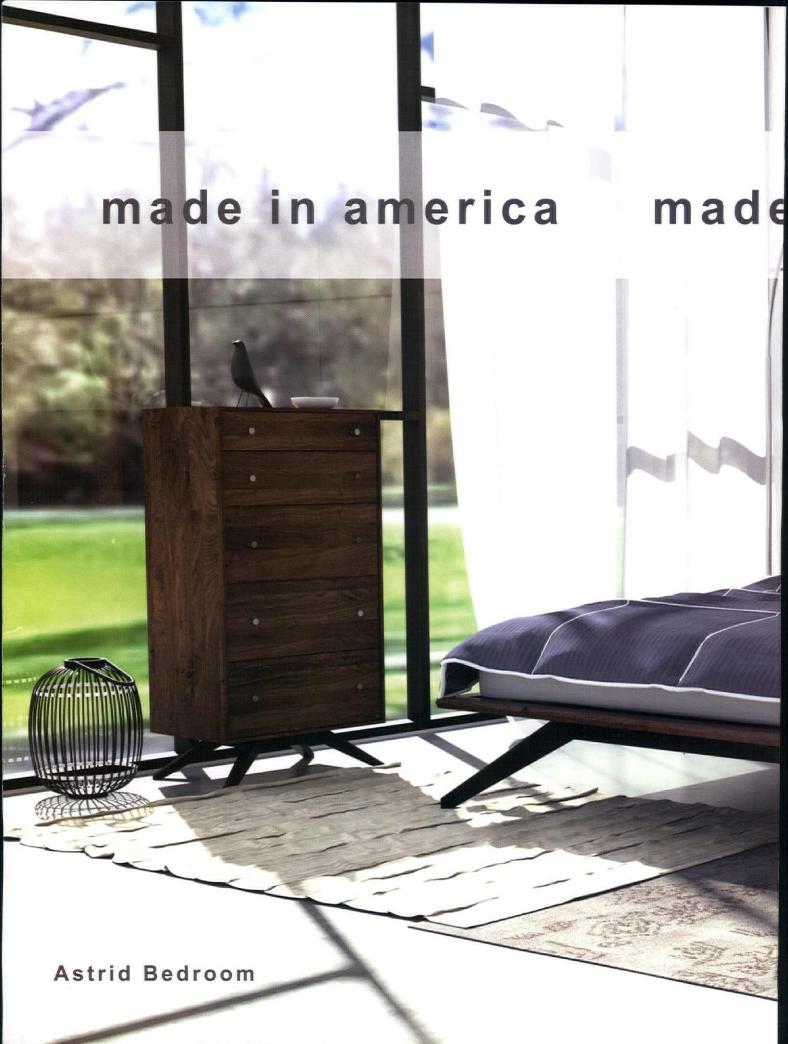
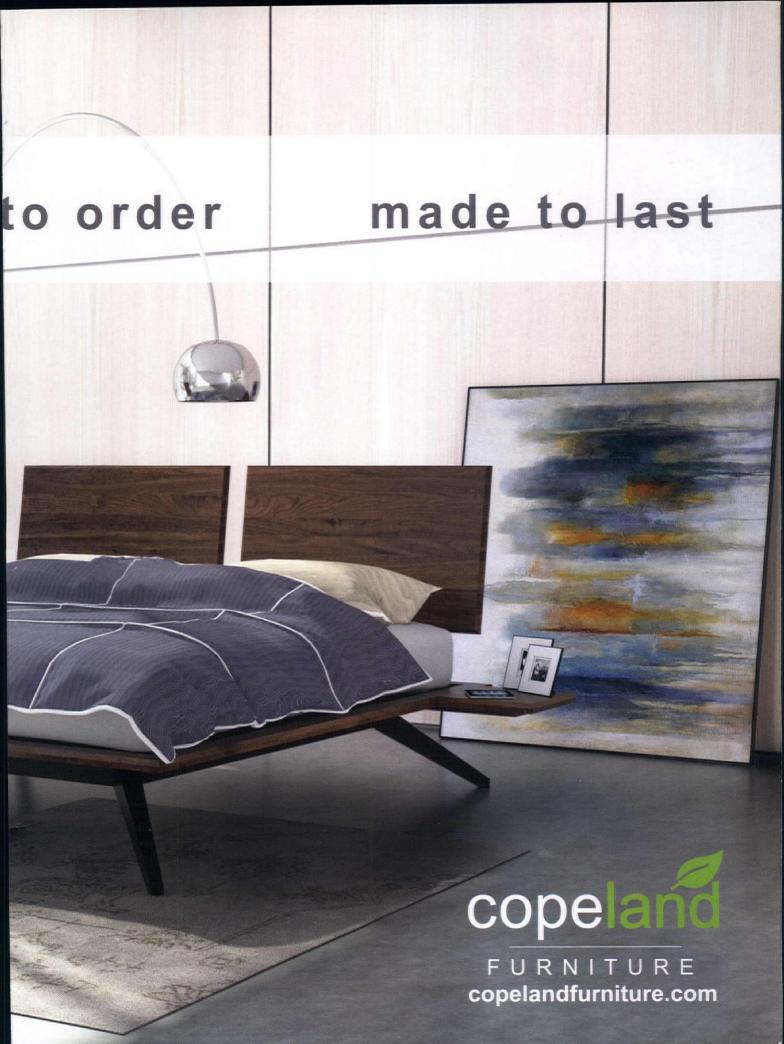
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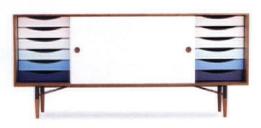


















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#### editor's letter



# ИODERN

#### WHEN YOU'VE DONE IT RIGHT, HOME FEELS LIKE A GETAWAY. For many of us who

dream—nay, covet—a midcentury gem of our own and work hard to find ourselves calling one home, it sure feels like winning.

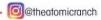
After the summer vacations are over, or I come back home from a night out on the town, coming home always feels like the bigger coup. Don't get me wrong, my little rancher is far from perfect, and the work we've done to spruce it up and bring it back has been hard fought. But no matter, I still feel like the luckiest gal in the world.

The homes we tour in this issue are all about homeowners—and midcentury houses—that are winning. They are folks who've managed to settle into their own special gems, worked hard to restore, preserve and outfit their rooms with dreamy coveted things and have come out on top. We also celebrate this season of staying home. There's a focus on comfortable stylish furniture and winter's best friend: the fireplace. And if you're still in the mood to leave the nest and travel, we've got amazing A-frame cabins to keep your holiday destinations delightfully midcentury.

**Jickie Torres** 



Email: editor@atomic-ranch.com • Online: atomic-ranch.com • @@theatomicranch





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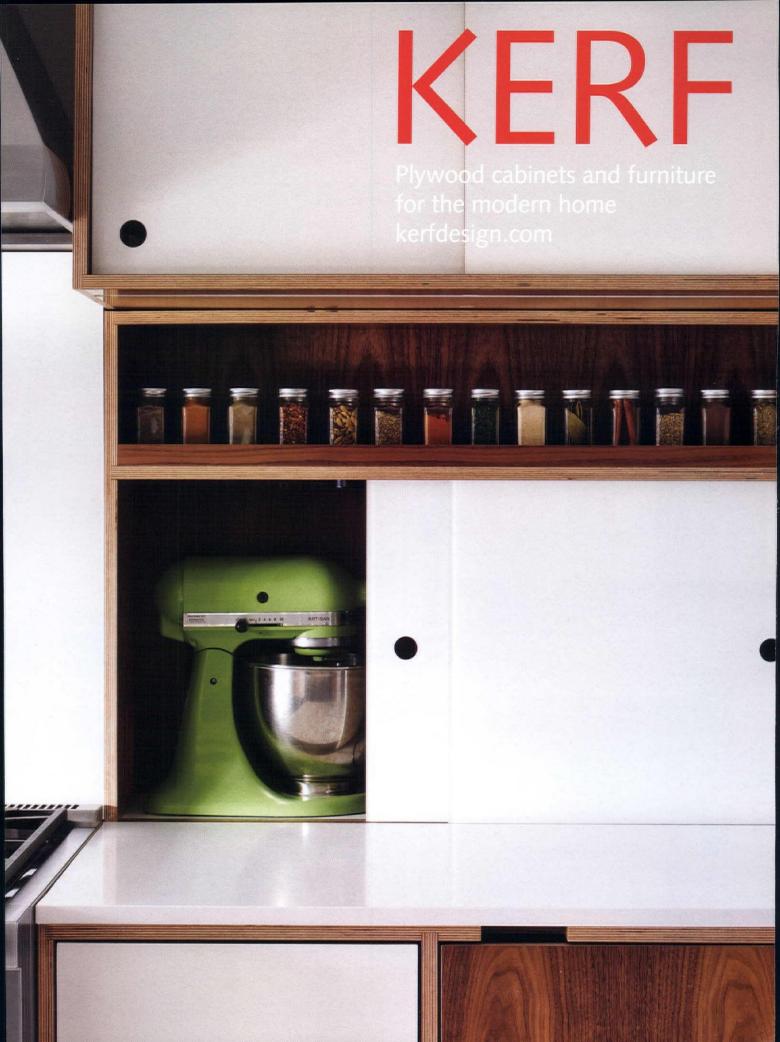
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Cover Photography by CJ South Cover Design by Gabby Oh





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Sunset Strip Residence, Los Angeles CA . NanaWall SL45 Folding Glass Wall . Architect: Atelier Vianney Boutry

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#### Inside Scoop! -





All About Aluminum Christmas Trees

For an atomic holiday, ditch the Douglas Fir and spruce up your décor with an iconic aluminum Christmas tree.

#### Curate Your Walls with MCM Art

From old favorites to new discoveries, these artists always inspire.











#### **Everything You** Need to Know **About Breeze** Blocks

From coast to coast. breeze blocks have graced the facades of iconic buildings and residential homes alike.

#### Gift Ideas for Lovers of Mid Mod

Perfect picks for everybody on your list, including yourself!



#### Getaway

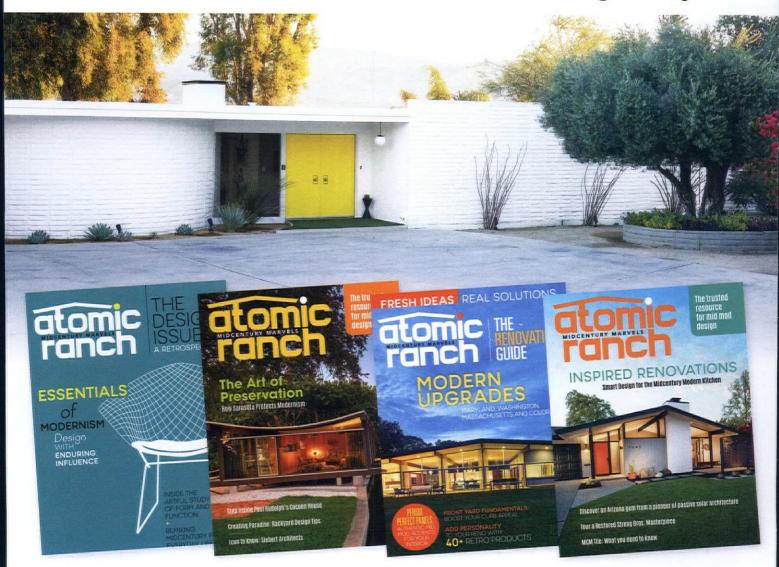
Love A-Frame cabins? Tour this retro retreat and learn how the renovation blended sleek and modern style with the charm of a cabin to create a superb Midcentury Modern getaway destination.





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Astrid bed with 1 adjustable headboard panel; to find a retailer, (802) 222-9282 or copelandfurniture.com.

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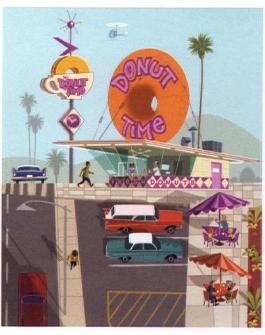












#### MAC GEORGE

#### **ART PRINTS**

#### About the Artist

Mac George has received credits that include The Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin, The Lion King, Chicken Little, Tangled and Wreck It Ralph. He designed the stained glass prologue for Beauty and the Beast, has been nominated for two Annie awards and in 2010 won a prime time Emmy award for his work on Prep and Landing.

macartprints.com

## coolstuff



Turquoise-and-gold 1959 Bulova model 100 AM antique clock radio, \$249. Visit retroradiofarm.com.

Woodrow box chair; for pricing, (877) 844-4988 or kardiel.com.



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## periodpicks





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- 1. Solomon side table, \$950. (313) 731-2485 or huntandnoyer.com.
- 2. Audrey buffet–2 doors and 3 drawers; for pricing, (877) 634-1018 or lumens.com.
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- Sean Dix prima cabinet, \$1295. (973) 276-0444 or inmod.com.







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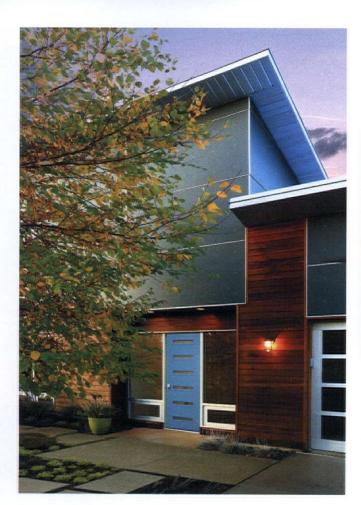
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- B. Dog Tower 9, \$2150. Visit pdworkshop.com.
- C. Midcentury Modern Wexler cat bed, from \$349. Visit etsy.com/shop/cairudesign.







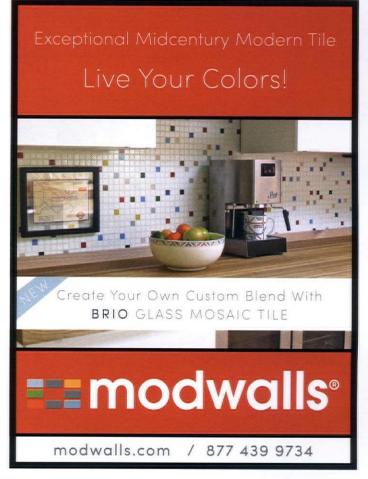


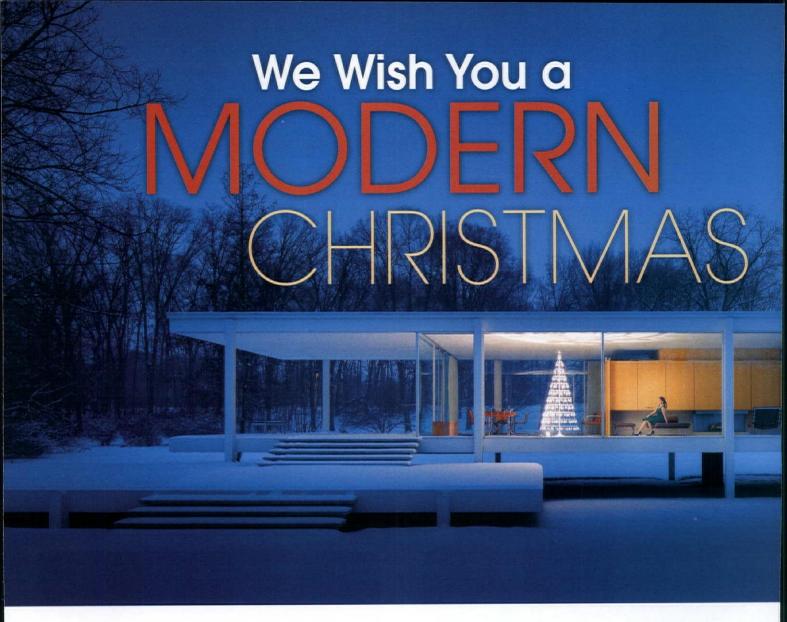
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#### Preserving a family legacy through modern Christmas trees

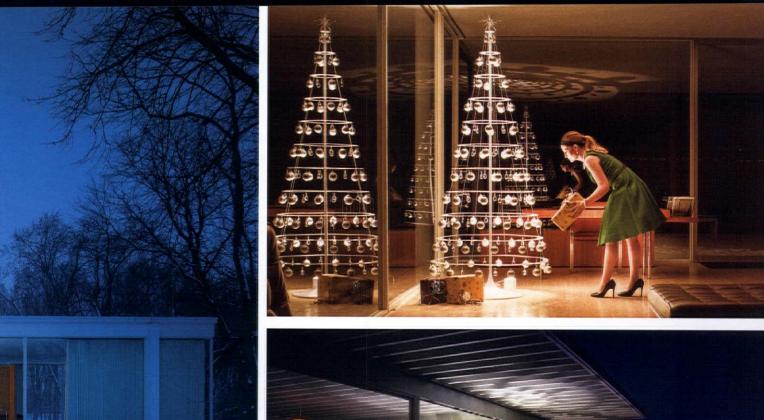
By Dani Grace | Photography by JC Buck

## The holiday season often engenders beautiful memories that will last a lifetime.

But how do you pay homage to those sparkling times as an adult? When Matthew Bliss' grandfather passed away after battling Alzheimer's, Matt wanted to commemorate all the Christmas Eve memories they had created together. His grandfather, Lawrence "Bud" Stoecker, spent years working in aerospace and construction, but his hobby was creating modern Christmas trees. Bud decorated his family's modern structure with a different ornament theme each year.

"My brothers and I would put our heads underneath the tree and look up, and my grandfather would slowly rotate the tree," remembers Matt. "It looked like the most amazing kaleidoscope you've ever seen. I take great pride in knowing that I'm offering that unique experience to families all over the world."

TOP: A SPARKLING MODERN CHRISTMAS TREE ON DISPLAY AT THE HISTORIC FARNSWORTH HOUSE—DESIGNED AND BUILT BY LUDWIG MIES VAN DER ROHE IN 1949.







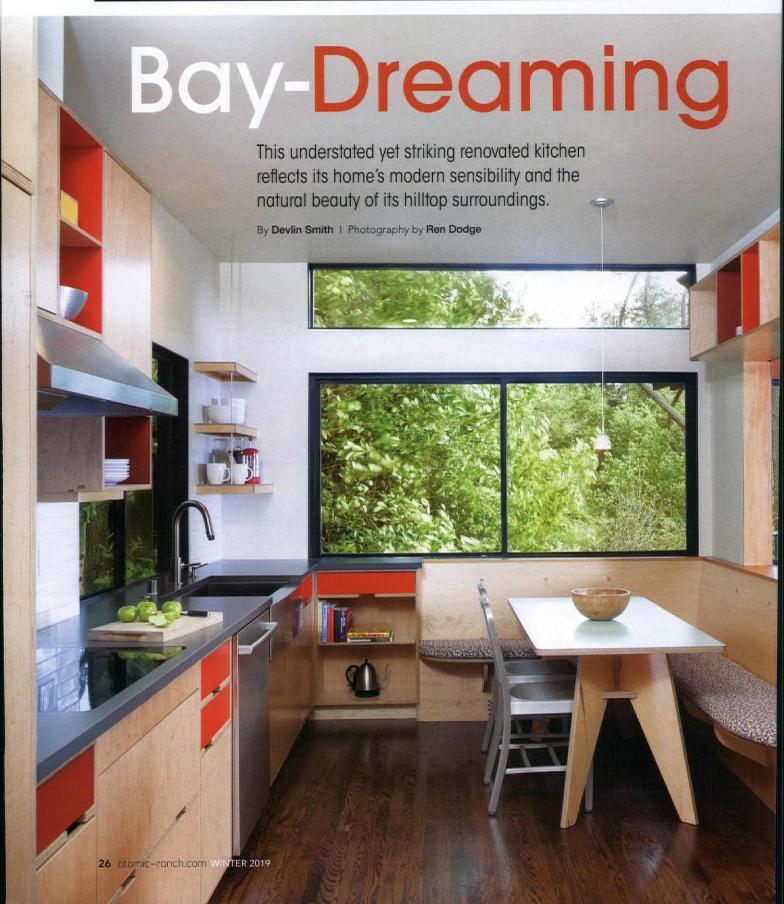
In memory of his grandfather, Matt started The Modern Christmas Tree®, a company that sells trees constructed from acrylic, crystal, glass and plexiglass components. "My grandfather was such an important person to me, and he wasn't living the final years of his life with the dignity I thought he deserved," Matt says. "It was time for me to pay tribute to him and his ingenuity and designs."

The modern trees are found in Midcentury Modern homes, hotels and even at Disneyland during the holiday season. The company's most popular designs are the pearl-white and

crystal-clear colors. "The white tree is kind of a blank canvas, so you can use [it] to pull off any look you want, simply by changing the color of the ornaments," he explains.

Customers who put up their own artificial trees will often use the small or wall trees as additional home décor. Matt receives Christmas cards from customers across the globe, from Hong Kong to Europe to Australia. "It's really cool to have that direct connection with the consumer," he says. "You lose that when you start producing tens of thousands of trees."

## <u>atomickitchens</u>





#### When this home was built in the early 1960s, the original

homeowners decreed that no trees be removed from the property during construction. Architect Joseph Esherick complied and created a three-story wood, steel, concrete and glass modern marvel that, nearly six decades after its construction, remains nestled in trees.

Located high above Oakland, California, much of the hill-set home offers its current homeowners views across the city to the San Francisco Bay and its iconic bridges, in addition to trees in all directions, thanks to the multiple layers, shapes and sizes of windows. A recent renovation added the kitchen to the list of rooms providing sweeping views of the hills behind and

The kitchen is located on the upper level of the home (the level the homeowners and their guests enter), sharing space with the living room, dining room, a bedroom and a bathroom. When architect Andrew Lee was tasked with completing a renovation, the kitchen had already been through a 1980s makeover that was functional but did not fit with the modernist sensibilities of the home nor the natural beauty of its surroundings.

REAL HOME 101/-

BACKGROUND: Nestled in the Montclair Hills above Oakland, the home offers sweeping views of the East Bay. The design was cited in Charles Jencks' 1972 book Adhocism: The Case for Improvisation. The kitchen renovation garnered Andrew Lee Architecture an AIA East Bay 2014 Design Award Citation Award.

COLOR SCHEME: Warm and cool wood tones with sienna accents

INNOVATIVE IDEA: Custom cabinetry with shutters that can open up or close off the kitchen at the homeowners' discretion



Located high above Oakland, California, much of the hill-set home offers its current homeowners views across the city to San Francisco Bay and its iconic bridges.

TOP: THE 1963 JOSEPH ESHERICK-DESIGNED HOME SITS HIGH IN THE HILLS ABOVE OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA. WITH ITS GRACEFUL MIX OF WOOD, STEEL, CONCRETE AND GLASS, THE HOME BLENDS EASILY INTO ITS NATURAL SURROUNDINGS.

### WHAT MAKES IT MCM?

The space is a wood-lover's dream, from the warm tones in the custom cabinetry and cool tones in the flooring to the skyscraping trees that surround the home. Multiple layers, sizes and shapes of windows harmoniously connect inside and out.

#### THOUGHTFUL DESIGN

The renovated kitchen had just a small countertop-height opening and doorway uniting it with the dining and living rooms, so one goal of the update was to further open the space. The homeowners didn't want to change the footprint, though. Andrew Lee met the challenge with the assistance of Shara Lee (no relation) and her team at Kerf Design.

"The first step of the design process was to test various floor plans: arrangements of counters, cooking, refrigeration, sink, dining nook and access points to adjacent spaces," Andrew says. "In parallel, we studied various configurations of openings into the dining/living room, both doors and above-counter openings." The chosen concept for the new design was folding shutters and doors in the walls that separate the kitchen from the living and dining rooms, giving the homeowners the ability to easily close off or open up the space.

MIDDLE RIGHT: SHUTTERS DRAMATICALLY

OPEN THE KITCHEN ONTO THE LIVING ROOM

AND, WHEN PULLED BACK, PROVIDE MULTIPLE

VANTAGE POINTS FOR THE HOME'S STUNNING

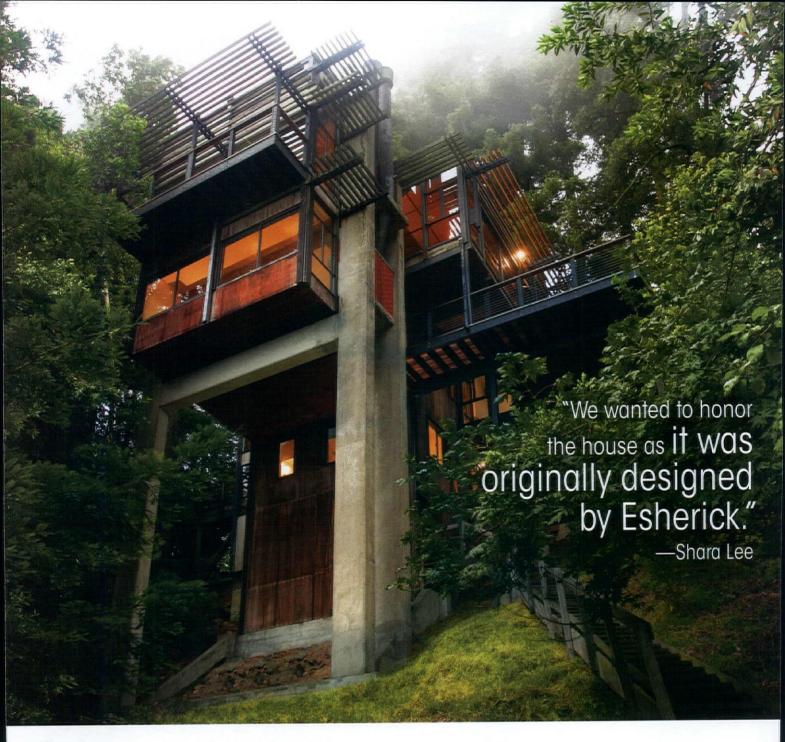
EAST BAY VIEWS.

BOTTOM RIGHT: WOOD IS THE STAR IN
THIS INTERIOR, AN IDEAL PICK FOR A HOME
NESTLED AMONG THE TREES. A CLOUD-LIKE
GEORGE NELSON LIGHT FIXTURE IS A SERENE
ACCENT IN SWEEPING SPACE.









"I'm especially proud of the oversized shutters that separate the kitchen from the living/dining room," states Andrew. "These were the result of testing different ideas for how to provide a way to close off the kitchen when desired: sliding panels, louvered shutters, etc. ... In the end, I felt that the house wanted something very simple—something that would almost disappear—and the final design basically mimics the original pass-through shutters (which were simply functional, to allow food to be passed from the kitchen to the living area), only greatly enlarged."

#### FORM AND FUNCTION

"We wanted to honor the house as it was originally designed by Esherick," explains Shara. "Form follows function. Instead of adding handle hardware, we cut notches into the cabinetry for handles because it's the most efficient and straightforward way to open a door or drawer."

The remaining finishes are equally restrained, with just a slight pop coming from the sienna color used on a selection of drawer fronts and the insides of selected cabinets. Just as in the home's original design, the kitchen renovation recognizes what the true draw is at this home, the great outdoors.





#### design

#### **MUST-HAVES:**

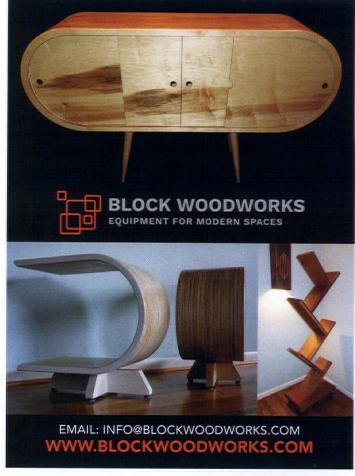
- Clean and minimalistic cabinetry with notches for pulls instead of hardware.
- Oversized plywood shutters that give the homeowners the option to open up or close off their kitchen.
- Carefully plotted pops of a deep sienna bring more warmth to the space.

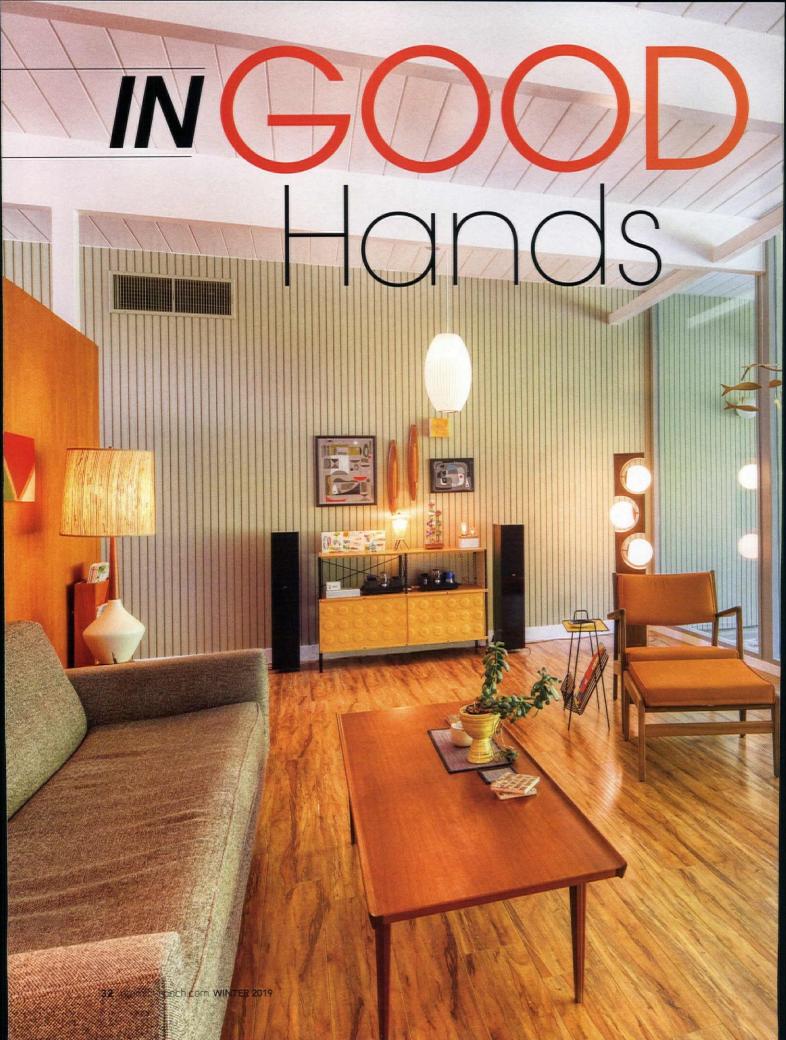
TOP LEFT: ARCHITECT ANDREW LEE PLOTTED THE LAYOUT OF THE KITCHEN CABINETRY TO ECHO THE HOME'S ORIGINAL MIDCENTURY DESIGN WHILE BOTH PROVIDING THE HOMEOWNERS WITH ADDITIONAL STORAGE AND OPENING THE KITCHEN UP TO THE REST OF THE HOME.

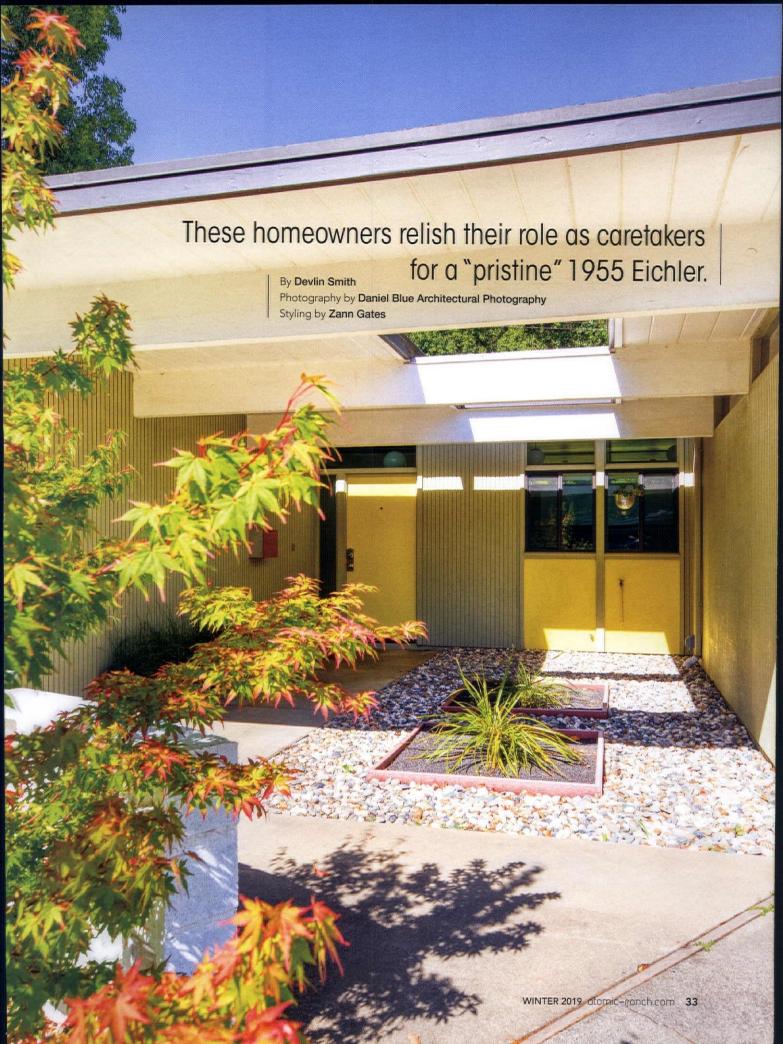
TOP RIGHT: ENVISIONED BY ARCHITECT ANDREW LEE AND EXECUTED BY THE TEAM AT KERF DESIGN, THE CLEAN, MINIMAL PLYWOOD CABINETRY FEATURES NOTCHES INSTEAD OF HANDLES AS A NOD TO THE UNDERSTATED AESTHETIC OF JOSEPH ESHERICK'S ORIGINAL DESIGN.

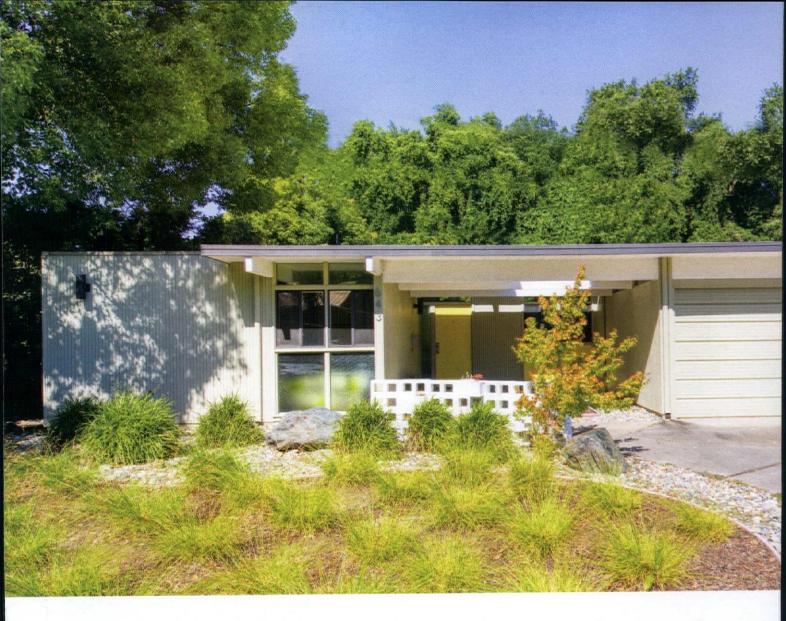












#### The roofline was what did it.

Or maybe it was the banks of windows. Or perhaps the original kitchen, open floor plan and fireplace. Something about this 1955 Eichler home designed by Jones & Emmons told Zann Gates and Jeff Roush that it was meant to be theirs, so they purchased it off-market and left their 1920 stucco cottage in Davis, California, for this flat-roofed ranch in nearby Sacramento.

"[It was] pristine—the inspector couldn't find anything wrong with it structurally, all we had to do was a toilet reset," Zann says of the state of the home when purchased. "The previous owners spent the three years of their ownership replacing the roof, the exterior siding; insulating throughout; caulking in between all

the ceiling boards; new flooring; new hot water heater and double-pane windows throughout the home. It felt like a new house."

#### PAST AND PRESENT UPGRADES

Doorways were moved to create an en-suite guest bath, and an extra glass panel was added to the master bedroom, which Zann shares is the best upgrade the prior homeowners made. She doesn't agree with all their choices for the four-bedroom, two-bathroom home, like removing most of the original mahogany-paneled walls. So Zann and Jeff have made modifications that are both 21st-century eco-conscious and fitting to the MCM period.

TOP: THIS 1955 FLAT-ROOFED HOME WAS DESIGNED BY A. QUINCY JONES AND FREDERICK E. EMMONS FOR EICHLER HOMES AND IS PART OF AN INTACT EICHLER TRACT IN SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA. THE HOMEOWNERS SELECTED A VIBRANT YELLOW FOR THE FRONT DOOR AFTER VISITING A FRIEND'S HOME IN PALM SPRINGS.





TOP RIGHT: ZANN AND JEFF WORKED WITH A LOCAL LANDSCAPE DESIGN FIRM ON THEIR OUTDOOR SPACES, WHICH FEATURE NATIVE PLANTS SELECTED TO ATTRACT BEES AND BUTTERFLIES.

BOTTOM RIGHT: ALL BUT ONE OF THE HOME'S ORIGINAL MAHOGANY PANEL ACCENT WALLS WERE REMOVED BY PREVIOUS OWNERS. "WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR THAT ONE REMAINING WALL," ZANN SAYS.



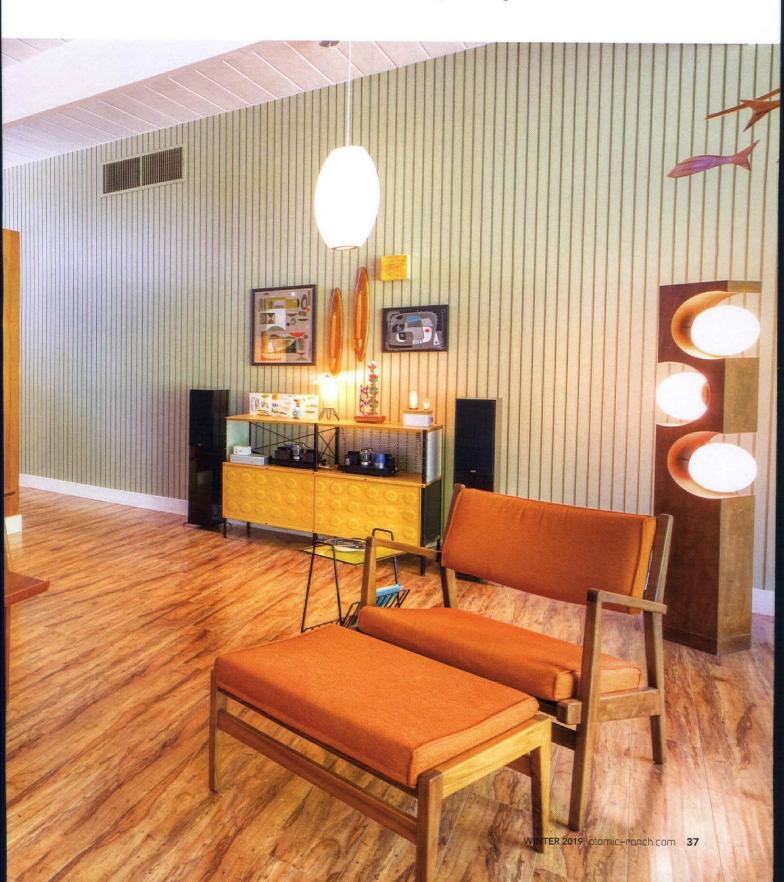
"We redid the closet doors back to their original look—painted the frames and rebuilt the grasscloth panels with new grasscloth and plywood," Zann says. "We added grasscloth to a wall in the master bedroom and a wall in the office to warm up the look." Walls will eventually be repainted, and the basic laminate floor installed by the previous owners will be replaced at some point.

"My dream is cork, and when I say cork, I mean 12"  $\times$  12" glue-down cork like in the actual midcentury," Zann says. "We have a neighbor that put it in; it makes me cry when I go over there. It's lovely and patinated like an old ball glove or a grade school in the 1950s that's seen too many little feet."



#### **ORIGINAL SPACES**

One space that hasn't needed a refresh is the kitchen, which maintains its original black-and-white color scheme and features the original cabinetry and Thermador oven and cooktop. The stove-side countertop is still covered in the original Formica. The kitchen layout is untouched. "[A] galley kitchen with a proper work triangle is a joy forever," Zann says. "Jones & Emmons knew what they were doing."







BELOW: THIS THREE-QUARTER WALL IS
ONE OF ZANN'S FAVORITE ARCHITECTURAL
ELEMENTS, PROVIDING SEPARATION
BETWEEN THE EATING AND LIVING
SPACES BUT ALSO LETTING LIGHT FLOOD
IN THROUGHOUT.

BOTTOM: MOST OF THE KITCHEN WAS INTACT WHEN ZANN AND JEFF MOVED IN. IT FEATURES THE ORIGINAL CABINETRY AND THERMADOR OVEN AND COOKTOP. THE STOVE-SIDE COUNTERTOP RETAINS ITS ORIGINAL FORMICA COUNTERTOP.









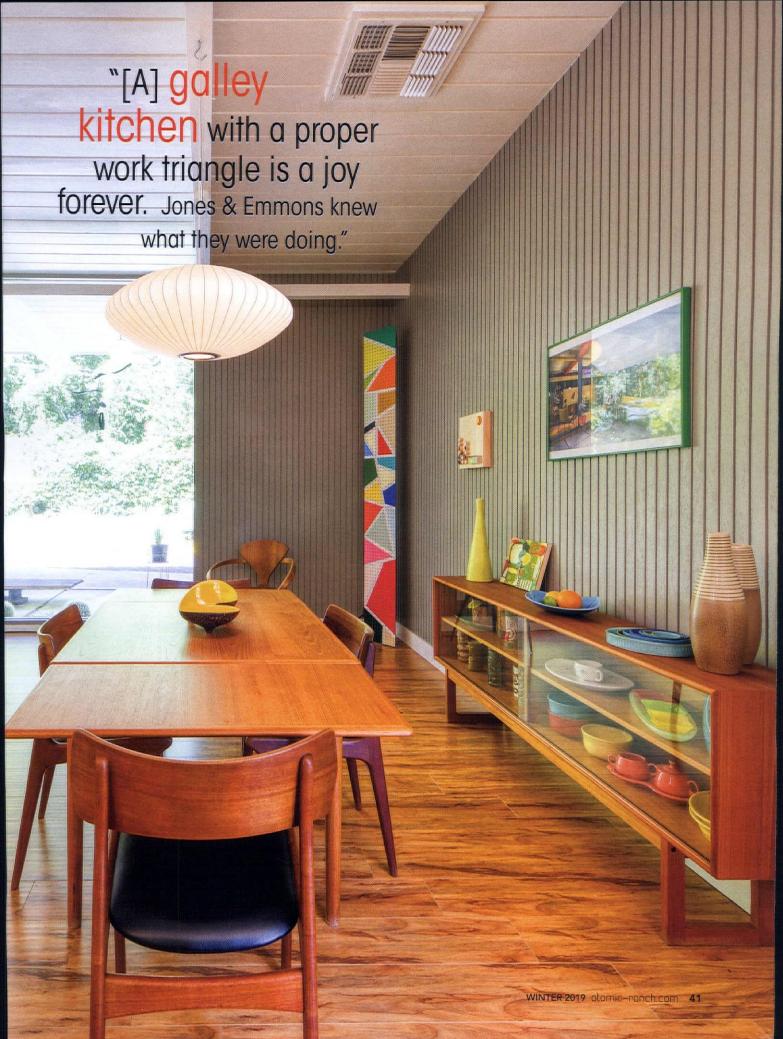


ABOVE RIGHT: THE PANEL ACCENT WALL WAS PAINTED KELLY-MOORE
"HEAD FOR THE BEACH" BY THE PREVIOUS OWNERS. BEIGE ON THE
PAINT CHIP, BATHED IN NATURAL LIGHT THAT COMES IN THROUGH
THE HOME'S WALL OF WINDOWS, THE PAINT COLOR READS PALE
SAGE ON THE WALL.

BOTTOM LEFT: THE FIREPLACE IS ORIGINAL TO THE HOUSE. IT BOASTS ROOM FOR SEATING AND SERVES AS A DIVIDER IN THE OPEN LIVING/EATING SPACE.

OPPOSITE: ZANN AND JEFF USE THE SPACE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FIREPLACE WALL AS A DINING ROOM. IT SHOWCASES SOME OF THE VINTAGE FINDS THE COUPLE HAS COLLECTED OVER THE YEARS FROM ESTATE SALES AND GIFTED BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

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"We redid the closet doors back to their original look—painted the frames and rebuilt the grasscloth panels with new grasscloth and plywood."





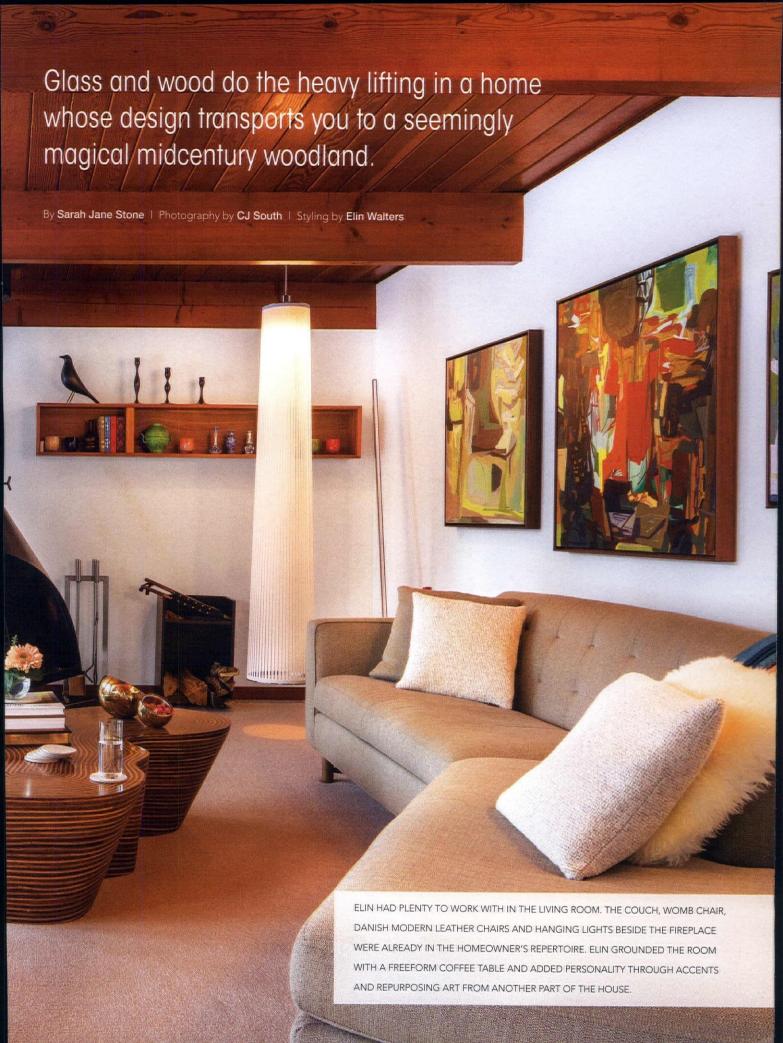
**OPPOSITE: FORMER OWNERS MADE** UPDATES TO THE HOME THAT RETAINED THE MCM FEEL, INCLUDING THE ADDITION OF AN EXTRA GLASS PANEL IN THE MASTER BEDROOM. "THAT IS ONE OF THE BEST THINGS THEY DID," ZANN SAYS OF THE UPDATE.

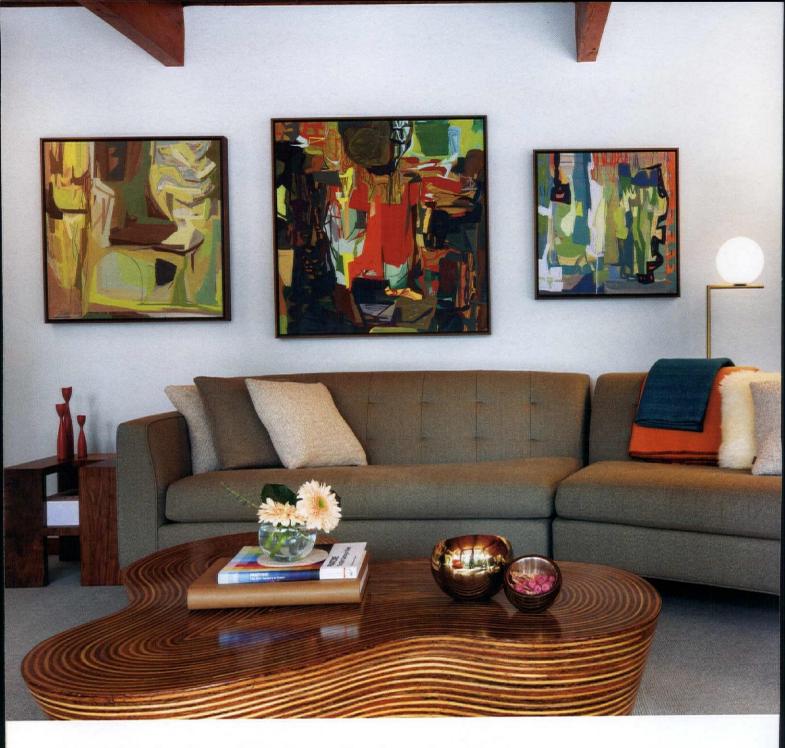
A panel wall is carried through from the entryway into the living room and out into the backyard. It was painted Kelly-Moore's "Head for the Beach" by the former homeowners. Beige on the paint chip, it can read as sage green on the walls, depending on the light. This chameleon quality has made Zann a fan of the color.

#### A LOOK TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Though just the fourth owners in the home's nearly 65-year history, Zann and Jeff know they will one day protectively pass this Eichler gem along and are grateful for their place in its ongoing story. "It's a dream home for us; we feel lucky to be its caretakers for now," Zann says. "And I hope to God no one ever tears out the three-quarter wall between the kitchen and living room in a misguided attempt to 'open up' the space."







# Nestled in the woods sits a quietly breathtaking masterpiece. Boxy and clean-lined, this

midcentury home simultaneously stands out and fits perfectly among the flora and fauna of its surroundings. Inside, original details have been painstakingly preserved—from the floorplan all the way to the wood paneling. With homeowners keen to cultivate a period-perfect aesthetic with few restrictions and a generous budget, this particular home is a designer's dream. Enter Elin Walters of Exactly Designs.

#### STARTING WITH GOOD BONES

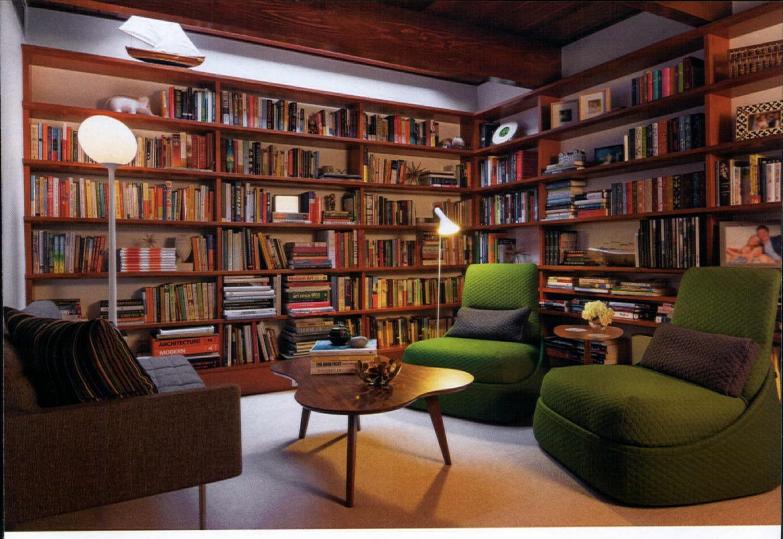
Not on the market for a number of years, this flat-roof 1960 home by local legend Ted Smith was already a masterpiece before Elin brought her magic touch to its interiors. With windows and decks that run the length of the house and beams that reach through the glass panels, bringing the outdoors in has never felt more natural. "It's classically midcentury in a very simple way. There are no crazy rooflines. It's one with the property, with the light and the way it sits on the land," says Elin. Despite sitting on less than an acre, the home feels miles away from the bustling world outside.



Creating a consistent theme throughout the house while simultaneously breaking up hard lines, Elin worked in a freeform coffee table to both the living room and master bedroom.



(RIGHT) LOCATED OUTSIDE THE MASTER
BEDROOM, THIS SPOT WOULD QUICKLY
ACCUMULATE COATS AND SHOES BUT WASN'T
ORGANIZED. ELIN TURNED IT INTO A PINTSIZED LANDING AREA FOR THE HOMEOWNERS'
LITTLE ONES—GIVING TINY OUTERWEAR AND
BACKPACKS A STYLISH HOME.



"THEY'RE NOT VERY COMFORTABLE, BUT WE LOVE THEM," WAS THE HOMEOWNER'S STATEMENT REGARDING THE GREEN STEEL CASE CHAIRS IN HER OFFICE. MADE IN GRAND RAPIDS, THE CHAIRS IMMEDIATELY CATCH YOUR EYE AND BRING A JOLT OF COLOR AND PERSONALITY TO THE ROOM.

"The homeowners very much loved the house with its wood paneling and exposed beams. They absolutely didn't want to touch the house itself; they just wanted help making it look how it was supposed to look."

#### REIMAGINING SPACES

Prior to Elin's arrival, the home was functional but was missing that special something to bring it all together. While many great pieces were in place and the home itself boasts effortless charm, some things weren't quite living up to their full potential. For each room, Elin worked with the homeowners to clearly define its purpose and use. From there, she rearranged furniture and brought in complementary pieces to ensure each space would be equal parts functional and stylish.

"The homeowners pretty much gave me free rein," says Elin. "She has really good taste, so she was really fun to work with because I felt like I could present pieces to her that maybe your average person wouldn't embrace, and she loved them."

One example of this can be found in the master bedroom, where Elin paired a periwinkle Roche Bobois bubble sofa and ottoman with the homeowners' existing marshmallow couch. The luxurious and boundary-pushing piece was instrumental in anchoring the room without taking away from its counterpart's iconic design.

#### **PUZZLE PIECES**

It was during this process that something about the wall unit, besides its midcentury charm, stood out to Elin. It just didn't feel like it was in the right place. When she first visited the house, it was in the family room, with the top portion somewhat blocked by the exposed beams. As Elin began to work on the master bedroom, the unit felt like a natural fit for the wall across from the bed, so she trusted her gut and relocated the unit. It fit perfectly and suited her plans for a seating area. Later, Elin saw older listing photos of the home, and the mysterious unit had indeed been in the master bedroom to begin with.







(TOP) BY DIVIDING THE MASTER BEDROOM INTO LOUNGING AND SLEEPING QUARTERS, ELIN WAS ABLE TO RECAPTURE PREVIOUSLY UNDERUTILIZED SPACE AND BRING IN ICONIC MIDCENTURY FURNISHINGS.

(ABOVE LEFT) AN ACRYLIC END TABLE WITH A WOODGRAIN PATTERN PULLS TOGETHER THE NURSERY'S NATURAL ELEMENTS WITHOUT TAKING UP VISUAL SPACE. THE ROOM NEEDED TO HAVE A DAYBED FOR THE NANNY, SO THE END TABLE OFFERS FUNCTION WITHOUT ADDING VISUAL CLUTTER.

(ABOVE RIGHT) "THOSE CABINETS ARE ACTUALLY 24 INCHES DEEP AND LIFT FROM THE BOTTOM UP SO HER DAUGHTER HAS EASY ACCESS," SAYS ELIN. THIS PROVIDES AMPLE STORAGE FOR MORE THAN JUST TOYS, WHILE OPEN SHELVES AROUND THE TV KEEP BOOKS AND FAMILY FAVORITES WITHIN EASY REACH. WOOD PANELING TIES THE UNIT INTO THE REST OF THE HOME'S DESIGN.

## BEDROOM TURNED OASIS "The building block for the bedroom, I have to say, was the marshmallow couch." Upon her arrival, the room felt cavernous with only the couch and the bed. With the end goal in mind of creating a cozy but mod space, Elin got to work dividing the expansive room into lounging and sleeping quarters by creating a welcoming lounge space ideal for winding down at the end of a long day. With the wall unit in place, the couches were given the necessary context and now could provide the perfect spot for taking in views of the trees just outside the original sliding glass door. Since the couple has a baby, a nursing space was necessary, which Elin created beside the bed. With artwork and neutral bedding layered in, the room now exudes warmth and character.

#### (OPPOSITE TOP)

THE BOOK-HOLDING TREE AND SWEET PLUSH TOYS ADD WHIMSY TO THE NURSERY, WHILE THE COCOON-SHAPED CRIB PROVIDES A NOD TO MOD.

#### (OPPOSITE BOTTOM)

THE HOMEOWNERS NEEDED A SPACE TO PLAY MUSIC AND WATCH TV AND THEY WANTED A KIDS' PLAY AREA WHERE THE TOYS COULD BE EASILY PUT AWAY, SO ELIN HAD TO FIT A LOT OF FUNCTION INTO THE DEN. CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, A LARGE SECTIONAL WAS THE PERFECT FIT. WITH THE INSTRUMENTS ON THE WALL AS FUNCTIONAL ART, A CUSTOM-BUILT CABINET TOOK CARE OF THE REST.





(BOTTOM) CAN YOU SPOT THE HIDDEN DOOR? THAT TINY DOOR OPENS TO REVEAL A PROJECTOR.



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#### NURSERY GONE MOD

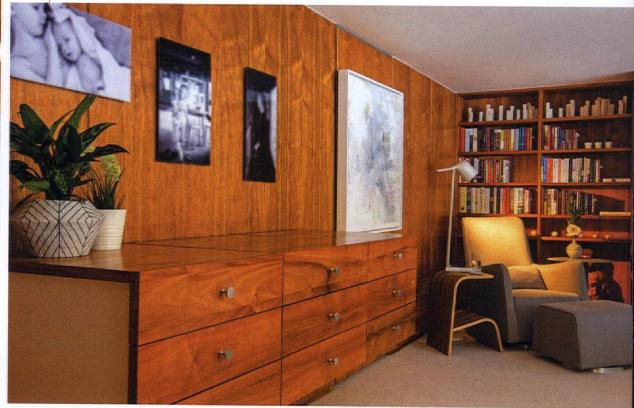
Designing children's spaces to be anything but childish is no small task. To accomplish this, Elin turned to quality furnishings that offer all the necessary functionality with clean-lined designs. Case in point: the rocker. A nursery necessity, this design by Modern Nursery nods to mod and features a built-in bassinet, which can also be used for keeping baby basics in easy reach.

"I tried to choose elements that felt a little bit playful, but still simple," she says. Just as in the rest of the house, art plays a big role in the room's design. From the playful book-holding tree to the pieces pulled from the homeowner's collection, art rounds out the room's warm design.

"Projects like this come along once in a lifetime," says Elin. "I certainly hope I get to work on another house like this, but to get to work on a property with this much detail and to be given so much trust—it was pretty incredible."



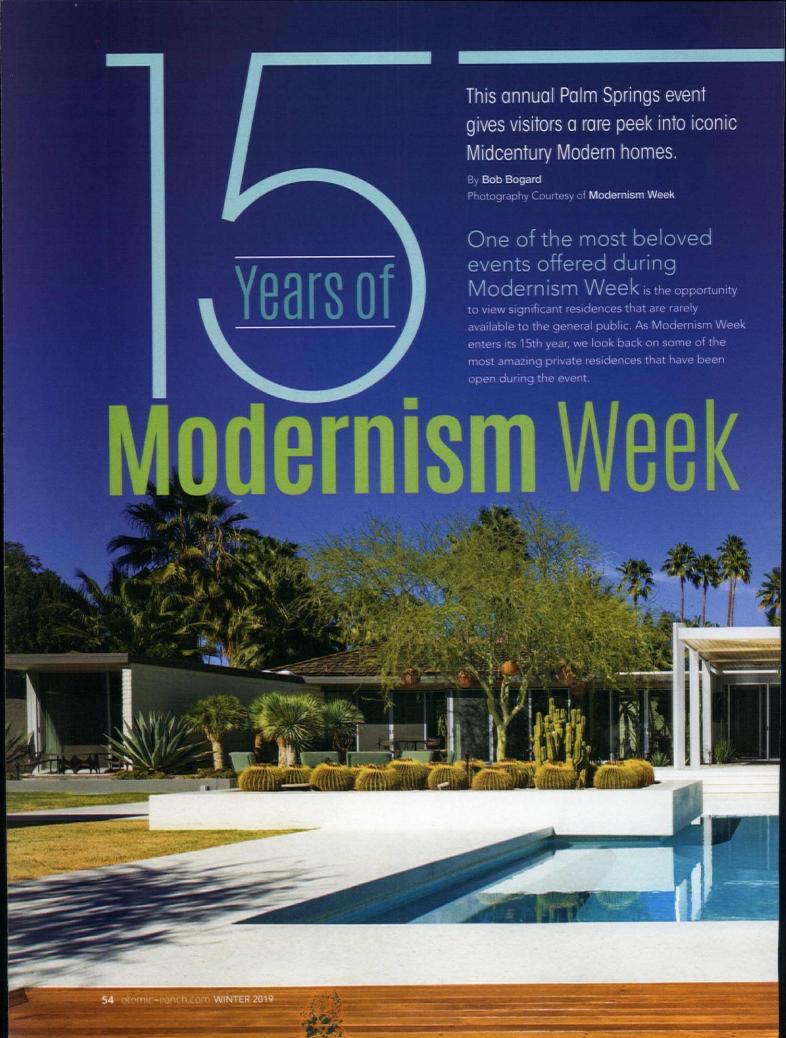
"They very much loved the house with its wood paneling and exposed beams. They absolutely didn't want to touch the house itself; they just wanted help making it look how it was supposed to look."



#### (ABOVE RIGHT)

THIS BUILT-IN BAR
FEATURES STORAGE
AND EVERYTHING
NECESSARY FOR
WINDING DOWN AT
THE END OF THE DAY
IN TRUE DON DRAPER
STYLE. THE ARTWORK
CONCEALS THE
ENTRANCE TO THE
WALK-IN CLOSET.









#### William Edris Residence (1954, E. Stewart Williams)

1030 W. Cielo Drive, Palm Springs

IN 1954, E. STEWART WILLIAMS designed the iconic Edris House for William and Marjorie Edris, and today it stands exactly as it did then. Positioned on a rocky ridge that overlooks Palm Springs, the home is approximately 2,800 square feet and is situated on a half-acre parcel. Williams chose to build the pool first, and the home itself was built around large boulders on the site, which they chose to keep mostly in place. The home maintains the designer's original intentions: be a home first, and second incorporate organic materials, such as knotless Douglas fir, local stone and the indigenous landscape. Steel columns support the entire roof system separately from the walls in order to seamlessly slide the frameless windows into the ceiling. It recently underwent a one-year restoration project in which Williams was on hand and approved the few changes that occurred during the refurbishment. It holds a Class 1 historic designation and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2016.





#### Albert Frey Residence II

(1963, Albert Frey)

686 Palisades Drive, Palm Springs

THE FREY HOUSE II, the final residence of iconic Midcentury Modern architect Albert Frey sits atop a hill overlooking downtown Palm Springs. Frey spent five years hunting for the perfect site and a year measuring the movement of the sun using a 10-foot pole. At only 800 square feet, the house is small but very functional. The design included a flat corrugated-aluminum roof, overhangs to block the summer sun and sliding-glass doors that open the interior to the exterior. Its ample walls of glass showcase the astounding views. The swimming pool and small deck function as the roof of the carport. One of the most famous elements of the property is the incorporation of a large boulder into the design, acknowledging our connection with nature. The boulder protrudes into the house and acts as a divider between the bedroom and living room.

**NOTE:** Frey House II is open for tours every year during Modernism Week, but this is the only time the general public can tour this iconic heritage structure.

#### Steel Development Houses

(1962, Wexler & Harrison)

North Palm Springs

#### ARCHITECTS DONALD WEXLER AND RICHARD

HARRISON designed the innovative and affordable all-steel prefabricated houses with the harsh desert elements of Palm Springs in mind. A tract of 38 all-steel homes was planned in 1961; however, only seven homes were ultimately built. Due to the rising cost of steel, the development was never finished, and the original seven homes were mostly forgotten. Thankfully, these groundbreaking prefabricated steel and glass homes were rediscovered in the 1990s. The majority of the homes have been carefully restored to their original appearance. No public tours of the interiors are available, but many of the homes have been featured on Modernism Week tours.

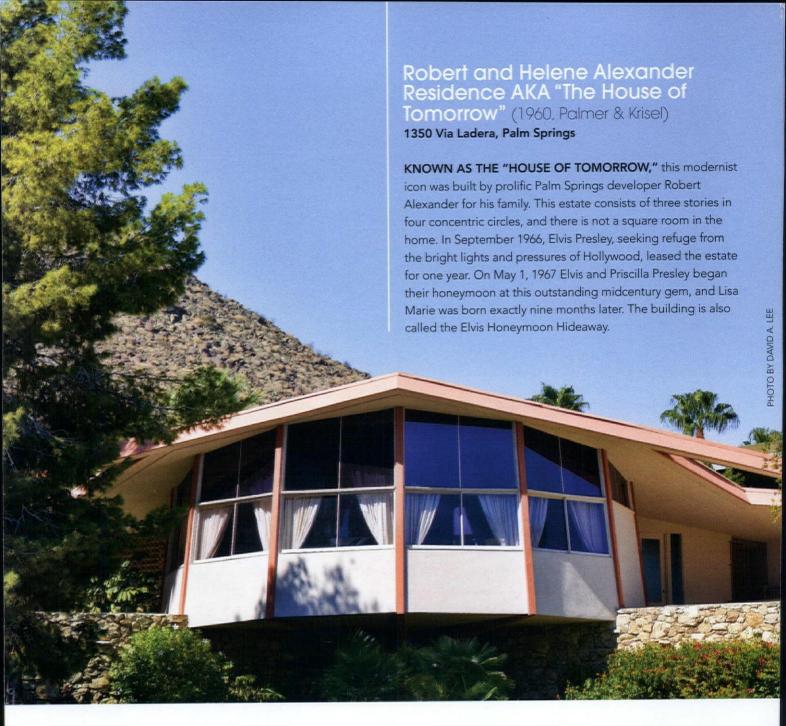


#### Mr. and Mrs. Maurice (Dinah Shore) Residence (1964, Donald Wexler)

432 West Hermosa Place, Palm Springs

THIS MIDCENTURY MODERN RANCH-STYLE ESTATE, designed by renowned architect Donald Wexler, was built in 1964 for actress and singer Dinah Shore in the Old Las Palmas neighborhood of Palm Springs. Past Wexler's signature dramatic steel post-and-beam walkway lies a bright interior encased in glass walls. The single-story 6-bedroom home includes a sunken living room with a fireplace, grand piano and cocktail bar; a formal dining room; a kitchen with a breakfast bar; and an office/media room. The master suite has a sitting room and a spa-like bath boasting two saunas. Set on 1.3 lush acres, the house has multiple terraces for dining and entertaining, all easily accessible from the main living areas. A guesthouse overlooking a pool, a tennis court and a tennis pavilion complete this ultimate desert oasis.





## Modernism Week by the Numbers

Over the last 15 years, Modernism Week has achieved some significant milestones and has helped celebrate and promote Midcentury Modern architecture and design on an international scale. Check out these stats.

#### **Attendance**

152,000 Number of attendees of Modernism Week 2019 events

10,000 Number of attendees of Fall Preview 2018

25 Number of countries represented by Modernism Week attendees

Number of U.S. states, districts, and territories represented by Modernism Week attendees

#### Impact

\$57

million Economic impact of Modernism Week 2019

29 Number of neighborhoods that produced Modernism Week tours in 2019



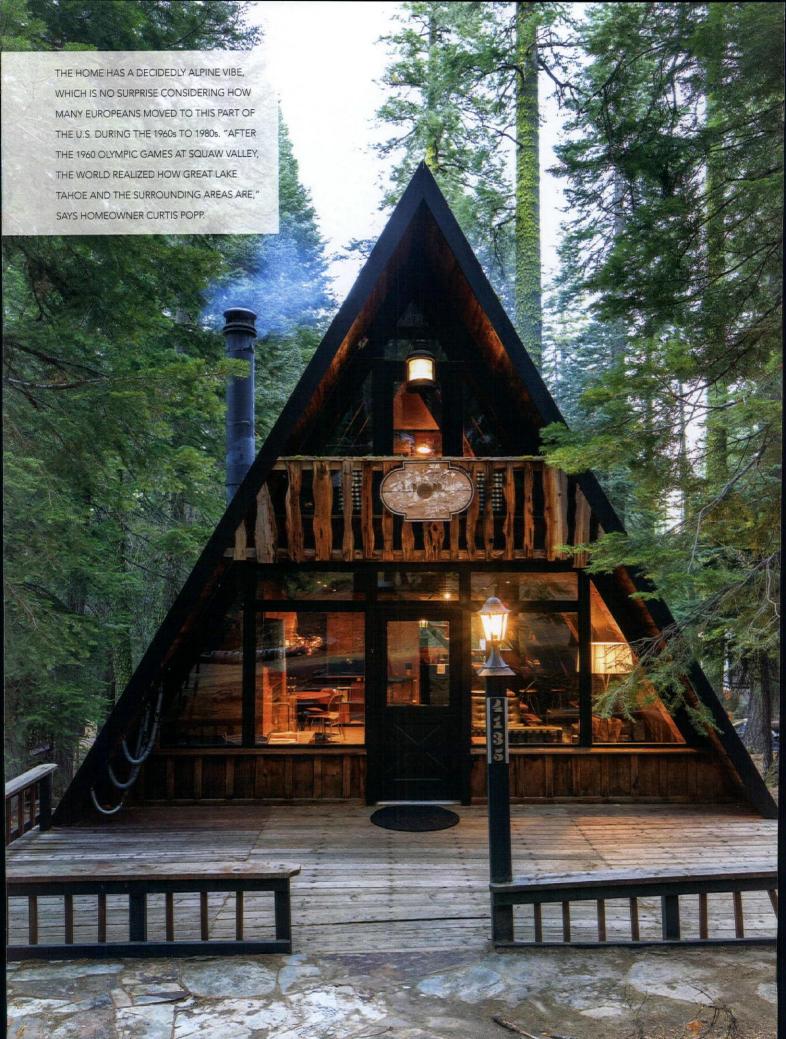
#### **Desert Hot Springs Hotel**

(1947, John Lautner)

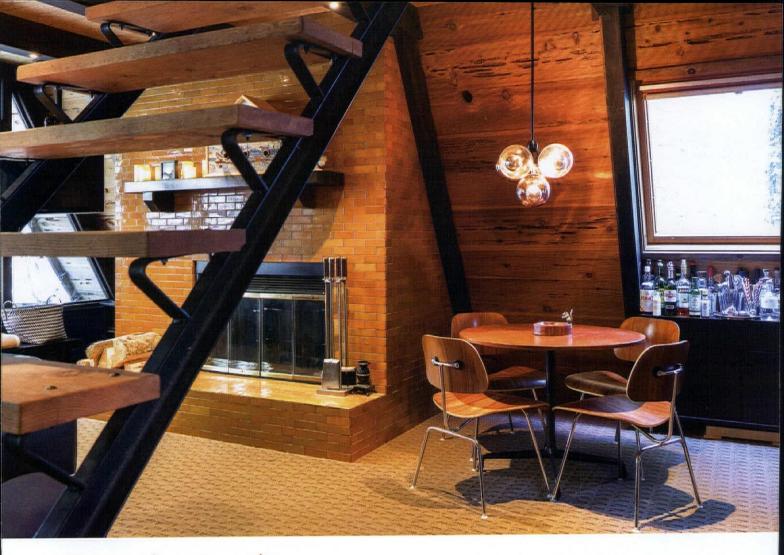
67710 San Antonio St, Desert Hot Springs

JOHN LAUTNER, one of America's most legendary architects, designed this iconic desert hideaway in the 1940s as a prototype for a master planned community in the desert that was never built. The four-unit structure is an example of one of Lautner's earliest works. Originally called Desert Hot Springs Motel, it has been reimagined today as Hotel Lautner, an award-winning, stunning modern-day oasis in the desert. During the restoration, the designers paid homage to the four primary elements used in the original construction of the property—concrete, steel, redwood and glass—and meticulously restored and replaced damaged materials. Hotel Lautner is one of the few, if only, Lautner designs open for public experience today, and it is frequently open for public tours and other special events during Modernism Week.





# A-Fram Escope One of Sacramento's most sought-after visual thinkers Curtis Popp expresses his design prowess in his Lake Tahoe A-frame retreat. By Kathryn Drury Wagner Photography by Kat Alves WINTER 2019 atomic-ranch.com 63



#### From the time he was a small boy up to his late 20s,

Curtis Popp's family had enjoyed a lakefront cabin in Homewood, on the west shore of Lake Tahoe. He dreamed of buying a home himself in that idyllic area of California, but the push to finally act was bittersweet. In 2011, his mother was terminally ill, and she directed Curtis to buy a cabin after she passed, ensuring her grandchildren would share in the lakeside experience. Five months after her death, Curtis owned a 1969-built A-frame in Homewood.

It was in fine condition but a bit tired. "The kitchen, window coverings and cabinetry were all very Holly Hobby," explains Curtis, who lives in Sacramento with his wife, Susan, and their two teenage children. A third-generation Sacramentan, Curtis is the head of full-service design firm CPOPP Workshop and a well-established creative who works in a variety of fields. He transformed the once fussy A-frame into a minimalist, yet still cozy, retreat filled with an enviable collection of Modernist furniture.

#### GOOD THINGS IN SMALL PACKAGES

After the major redesign, the cabin's exterior remains largely unchanged, but the interior has been refreshed entirely, creating a welcoming space for the family on the weekends. The flooring was updated, and the kitchen and both bathrooms were completely redone. The kitchen has new appliances that are compact but still befit a 1,100-square-foot vacation home; the refrigerator is a fully integrated 24 inches, the range is 24 inches and the dishwasher is 18 inches.

#### A DISTILLATION

Curtis used the dark umber of the beams and the caramel of the cedar walls and carried the colors throughout the home. "Distilling a space, especially a small one, down to a few elements is critical," he says. His style gravitates toward minimal and early 20th-century European Modernism, so he turned to black leather furniture by Mies van der Rohe and Le Corbusier to offset the warmth of the rustic wood. His favorite room? "The living room, where all the jokes and stories are told."





TOP LEFT: IN THE LIVING ROOM, FURNITURE FROM CURTIS' LATE FATHER IS LOVINGLY EMPLOYED. IT INCLUDES TWO LE CORBUSIER LC2 CHAIRS BY CASSINA, A LE CORBUSIER LC2 SOFA BY CASSINA, AND TWO LUDWIG MIES VAN DER ROHE BARCELONA CHAIRS.

TOP RIGHT: THE FIREPLACE WAS REBUILT AND COVERED IN HEATH CERAMICS TILE.

OFF OLD SHAG CARPET, PLANED AND SEALED THE WOOD, AND REPAINTED THE STRINGERS BLACK.

BOTTOM RIGHT: CURTIS' WIFE FOUND THE CARVED BEAR, WHICH IS FITTING FOR THE CABIN'S LOCATION. (A GRIZZLY BEAR IS THE OFFICIAL STATE ANIMAL OF CALIFORNIA.)





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TOP RIGHT: LOOK CLOSELY: THE BAGELS ARE ARTWORK BY THE LATE CERAMIC ARTIST DAVID GILHOOLY.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** POPP USED SMALL EUROPEAN-STYLE APPLIANCES TO KEEP THE SCALE IN THE KITCHEN APPROPRIATE.

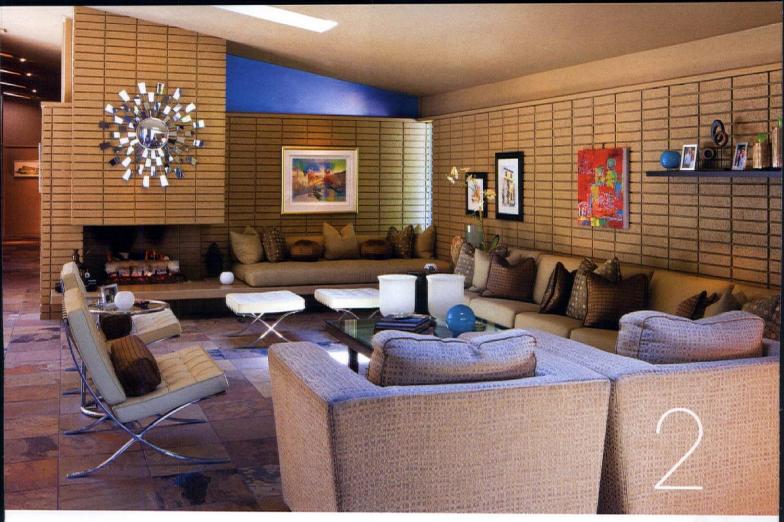
#### CLASSIC SIMPLICITY

For Curtis, an A-frame is architecturally significant. "It represents for me utter simplicity of form; I don't think architecture can be pared down more than an A-frame. Our house was actually a kit house, which says a lot about how lo-fi they actually are, but I don't think the simplicity takes away from its elegance." If you have a vintage A-frame you are remodeling, Curtis advises, "Embrace the existing architecture and keep editing. The beauty of the vernacular is its simplicity."



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- 2. BUILT IN 1958 BY CARTER SPARKS, THIS WAS THE FIRST OF A SMALL SET OF 55 CUSTOM HOMES IN SACRAMENTO, separate from the tracts he worked on with the Streng Brothers. Next to the impressive fireplace is original built-in cantilevered seating against brick walls, painted taupe by the homeowners. A frosted clerestory between the living room and bedroom brings warmth to the space, while a narrow window next to the hearth seating adds additional light.
- 3. A CRACKLING FIRE IS THE CENTERPIECE
  OF A COZY CONVERSATION AREA IN THIS
  1958 HOME IN WALLINGFORD, Pennsylvania, by
  Architect Irwin Stein. A built-in sofa near the hearth
  was reupholstered in Maharam wool, and a metal
  wall sculpture adds dimension to the room. Acrylic
  shutters on the second-floor master bedroom allow
  a connection between the two floors. The sunken
  dining room to the right of the fireplace adds
  another place to entertain in this two-bedroom,
  split-level home.







4. INNOVATIVE AND FUNCTIONAL, THE FIREPLACE IN THIS 1957 A. QUINCY JONES HOME RUNS from the interior out, with the exterior portion doubling as a planter. Inside the fireplace, Geo Shapes gas logs from Real Fyre add a unique mod twist on traditional logs. Part of a Mutual Housing Association in Brentwood, California, this 2,000-square-foot model was built with post-and-steel-beam construction on a multilevel hillside lot.

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- 1. COCOON AERIS MODERN HANGING FIREPLACE IN BLACK, \$2450. (800) 368-4268 OR HOUZZ.COM.
- COCOON AERIS MODERN HANGING FIREPLACE IN STAINLESS STEEL, \$3420. (800) 368-4268 OR HOUZZ.COM.





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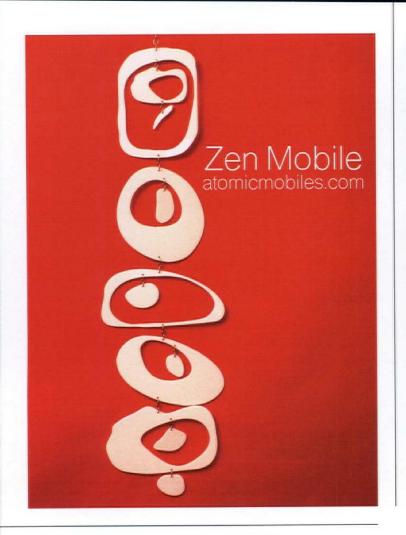


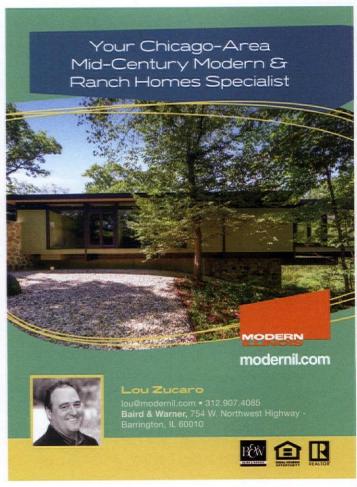
### Jillian Rene Decor

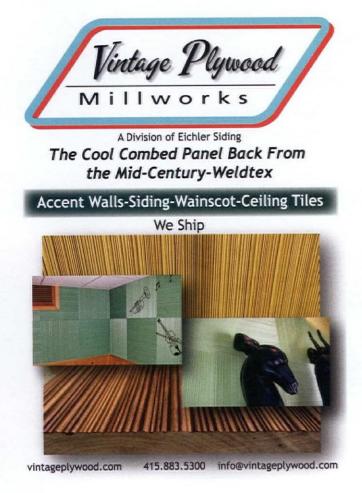
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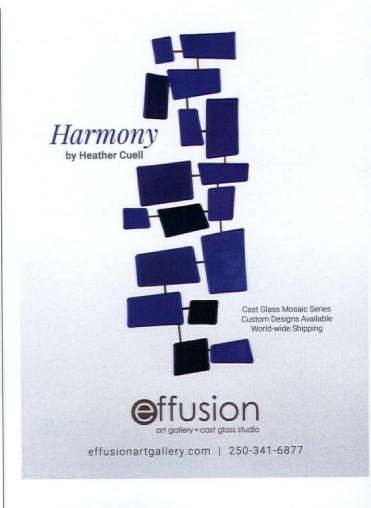
www.JillianReneDecor.com

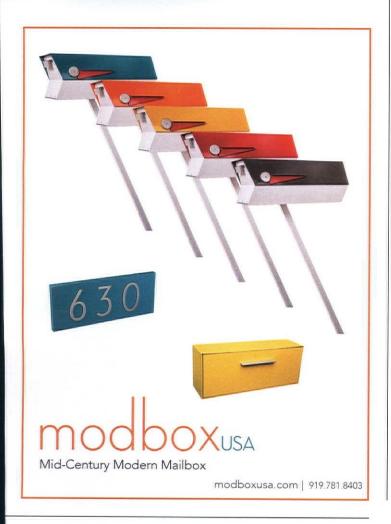




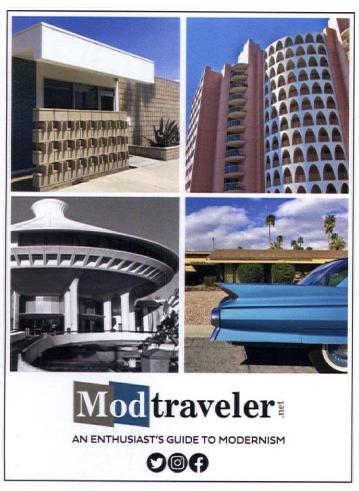


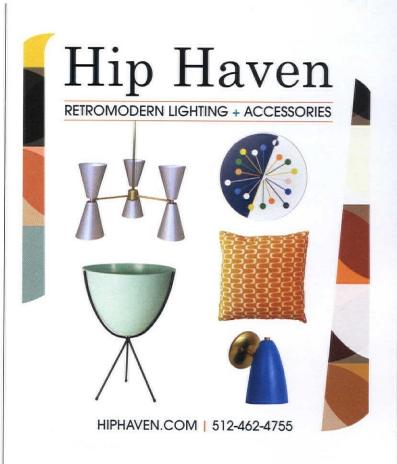












# Fine Dining

This mid mod gathering space serves up style and functionality.

By Jickie Torres | Photography by Marisa Vitale

DIMENSIONAL TILE FROM HEATH
CERAMICS AND A BUILT-IN
SIDEBOARD CUSTOM FIT TO THE
NICHE BESIDE THE FIREPLACE ARE
MIDCENTURY MODERN ELEMENTS
THAT INFUSE THIS SPACE WITH
EXTRA MID MOD CHARACTER.







#### During this season of turning our attention to hosting and entertaining,

the dining room naturally comes back into focus. This bright and expansive dining room designed by Natalie Myers, owner and principal of Veneer Designs in Los Angeles, sets a great standard for any updated midcentury dining room. The 1963-built ranch in Mandeville Canyon had great bones, and a few smart additions and a carefully curated selection of furnishings give the open-plan space a heart-of-the-home appeal.

#### STYLE BOOSTERS

While this home certainly has its share of show-stopping architectural elements, Natalie shares how any homeowner can boost the architectural feel of a less flashy mid mod space. "Monochromatic is a great way to play with midcentury patterns and shapes without being too loud. Stick to the black/white/gray/wood color tones and get a little crazy with layering patterns."

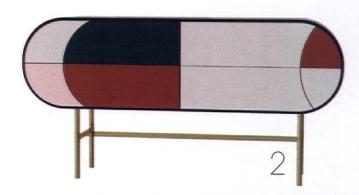
#### **FUNCTION MATTERS**

A recess beside the fireplace was the perfect spot for Natalie to add a custom built-in sideboard. Its simple design focuses on a beautiful wood finish, which gleams in the mostly white room and complements rather than detracts from the striking brick and tile.

## Store More

A sideboard is the entertainer's best friend, concealing much-needed hosting tools behind stylish closed doors. Looking to add more style and function to your dining room? Here are a few stunning examples.







- 1. Emerson Credenza, \$1,865. (619) 487-1025 or d3home.com.
- 2. Retro Moryson sideboard, \$9,350. Visit mezzocollection.com.
- 3. Pablo 3-door sideboard, \$1,699. (973) 276-0444 or inmod.com.



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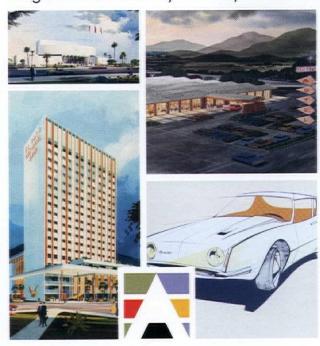




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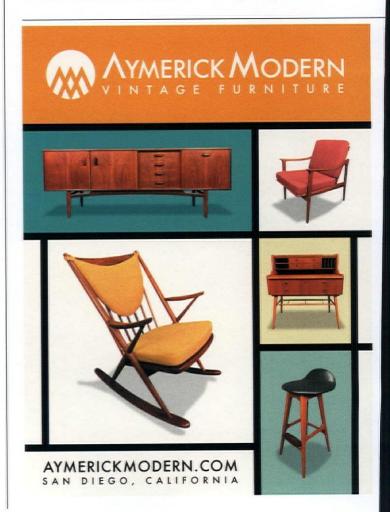
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## resources

#### We Wish You a Modern Christmas, page 24

The Modern Christmas Tree®, (720) 638-9511 or modernchristmastrees.com.

#### Bay-Dreaming, page 26

**Architect:** Andrew Lee Architecture, (510) 428-4042 or alee-arch.com. **Interior design:** Shara Lee of Kerf Design,

(206) 954-8677 or kerfdesign.com.

Contractor: Cameron C. Habel Construction, Inc., (510) 531-4090 or habelconstruction.com.

Plywood banguette, bench and cabinetry:

Custom.

#### In Good Hands, page 32

Vintage-style furnishings: Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

Vintage-style furnishings: West Elm, westelm.com.

**Lamps:** Modernica, (323) 933-0383 or

modernica.net.

Bed: Ikea, ikea.com.

Antique trestle table, Craftsman-style dresser and vintage Cherner pretzel chair: Homeowner's collection.

Finn Juhl coffee table: Estate sale find.
Color-block magazine rack: Peter Pepper

Products, peterpepper.com.

Panel wall paint color: "Head for the Beach"

by Kelly-Moore, kellymoore.com.

Thermador oven and cooktop: Original to the home.

#### Into the Woods, page 44

#### KIDS' LANDING STRIP

Eames® Hang-It-All®: Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

Alma pouf ottoman: InMod, (877) 22-INMOD or inmod.com.

**Shoe rack:** OneFortyThree, (702) 566-8298 or onefortythree.com.

Baltwood rug: AllModern, allmodern.com.

#### DEN

IC T1 high table lamp by FLOS Lighting, Bink mobile media table by BDI, Flat woven Ago MTSF01A rug and Archer

floor lamp by Robert Abbey: YLighting (866) 842-6209 or ylighting.com.

**Guitar hook:** OneFortyThree, (702) 566-8298 or onefortythree.com.

#### LIBRARY

Risom amoeba-shaped coffee table by Knoll: YLighting, (866) 842-6209 or vlighting.com.

Glo-Ball F1 floor lamp: Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

Koncept Z-Bar LED floor lamp and Blu Dot Swole small table: 2Modern, 2modern.com.

#### LIVING ROOM

Danish modern midcentury wooden bird flock of three: Etsy, visit

etsy.com/shop/TNTDesignsStudio.

**Brian Dubois end table:** Next Space Detroit, (586) 601-6595 or nextspacedetroit.com.

**Vintage Aaron Kllc ceramic sculpture:** Etsy, visit etsy.com/shop/TheHappyCollective.

IC floor lamp by FLOS Lighting, 6 foot torch floor lamp by Stickbulb and Showtime Orgo cocktail table by Oggetti:

YLighting, (866) 842-6209 or ylighting.com.

Maharam pillow in pebble wool: Design

Within Reach, dwr.com.

Cambridgeshire log holder firewood rack log basket: Etsy, visit

etsy.com/shop/anvilforgeart.

#### NURSERY

**Playground sofa by Eilersen:** Trade Source, (510) 244-0112 or tradesourcefurniture.com.

**Ubabub pod 2-in-1 convertible crib:** Modern Nursery, modernnursery.com.

Alvord 55.5" floor lamp: AllModern,

allmodern.com.

Cosmos floor lamp: Land of Nod,

landofnod.com.

Balloon dog night light: Bitten,

bitten-design.com.

Tree bookcase and Ami bassinet rocker: Nursery Works, (323) 688-3678 or nurseryworks.net.

#### MASTER BEDROOM

Showtime Orgo occasional table by Oggetti: Lumens, (877) 634-1018 or lumens.com.

Alden end table: Ciseal, ciseal.com.

Pair of decorative round pillows: Joybird, (855) 855-9784 or joybird.com.

Vondom Bubbles lamp: 2Modern,

2modern.com.

Magazine rack: Ciseal, ciseal.com.

Belgian flax linen melange duvet cover and shams: West Elm, westelm.com.

**Bubble sofa and ottoman:** Roche Bobois, roche-bobois.com.

Nelson Saucer crisscross bubble pendant by Nelson Bubble Lamps (in headboard): Lumens, (877) 634-1018 or lumens.com.

#### 15 Years of Modernism Week, page 54

Modernism Week, visit modernismweek.com.

#### A-Frame Escape, page 62

#### KITCHEN

Dishwasher: Bosch, bosch-home.com.
Refrigerator: Liebherr, liebherr.com.
Range: Bertazzoni, us.bertazzoni.com.
Pitcher and cups: Heath Ceramics, (415) 361
5552 ext.12 or heathceramics.com.
Tray and fondue set: Flea-market finds.

#### **DINING AREA**

**Table:** Herman Miller by Charles and Ray Eames, (888) 443-4357 or hermanmiller.com. **Lighting:** Roll & Hill, rollandhill.com.

#### LIVING ROOM

Coffee table: Bensen, (604) 684-4919 or bensen.com.

#### CARPET

Atlas Carpet Mills, (800) 367-8188 or atlascarpetmills.com.

#### Fine Dining, page 74

**Interior designer:** Natalie Myers, Veneer Designs, (310) 995-8108 or veneerdesigns.com.

**Sidewinder woodblock print:** Block Shop, blockshoptextiles.com.

**Slice wallpaper:** Hygge & West, (855) 982-9280 or hyggeandwest.com.

Rug: West Elm, westelm.com.

Eames® molded plastic wire-base side chair and Nelson® triple bubble fixture kit: Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

Dining table: Croft House, (323) 886-0423 or

crofthouse.com. **Dimensional tile:** Heath Ceramics, (415) 361-

5552 ext. 12 or heathceramics.com.

#### A-Plus A-Frame, page 82

**A-frame cabin:** Lokal Hotel, (267) 702-4345 or staylokal.com.



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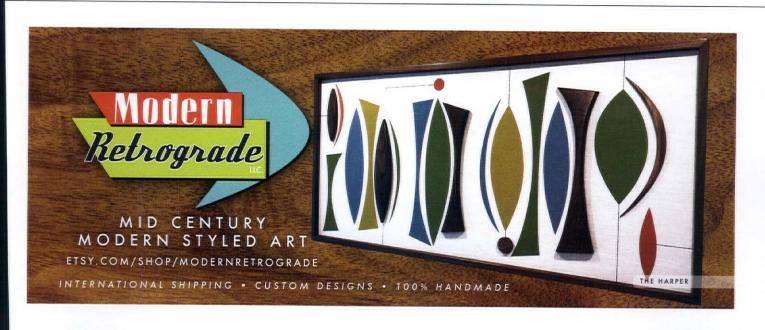












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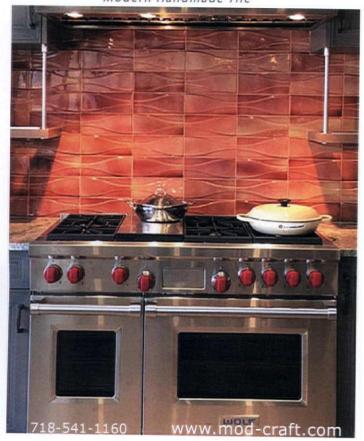
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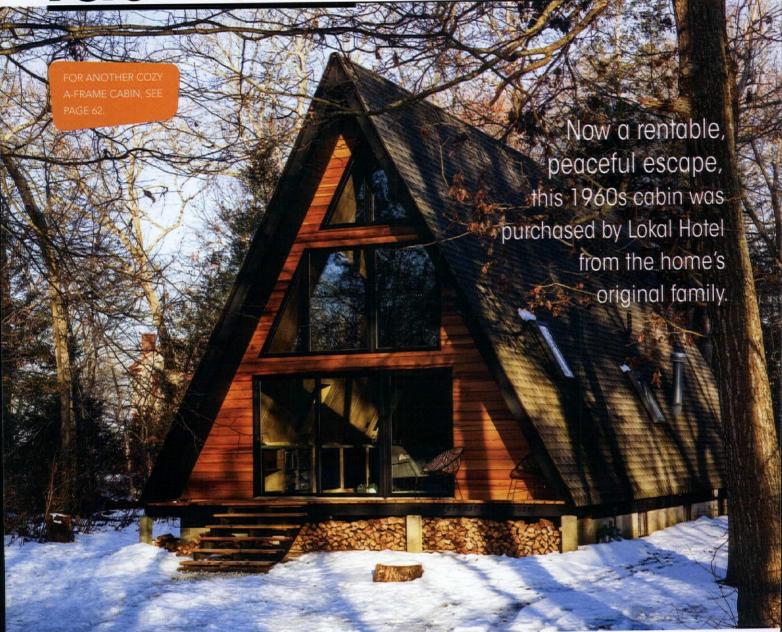








last look



## A-Plus A-Frame

Photography by Heidi's Bridge, courtesy of Lokal Hotel

THE STEEPLY ANGLED ROOFLINE OF AN A-FRAME COMBINES Midcentury Modern sleek design with rustic simplicity and a touch of whimsy. Add in some snow and you've got an idyllic winter escape. Located in Dorchester, New Jersey, this cozy A-frame cabin was built in the 1960s from California redwood. Now a Lokal Hotel boutique vacation home with a Scandinavian Modern interior, this wilderness retreat is situated on 2.5 acres of serene wooded land and fronts the Maurice River. About 50 minutes outside of Philadelphia, the cabin boasts three bedrooms and two baths, for the perfect getaway.



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