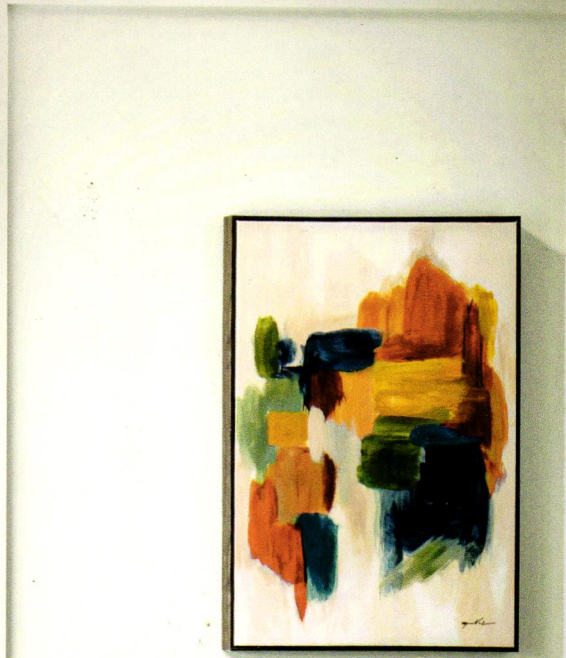
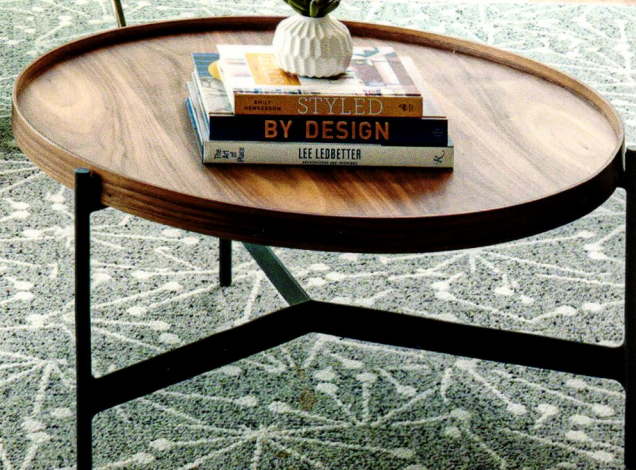


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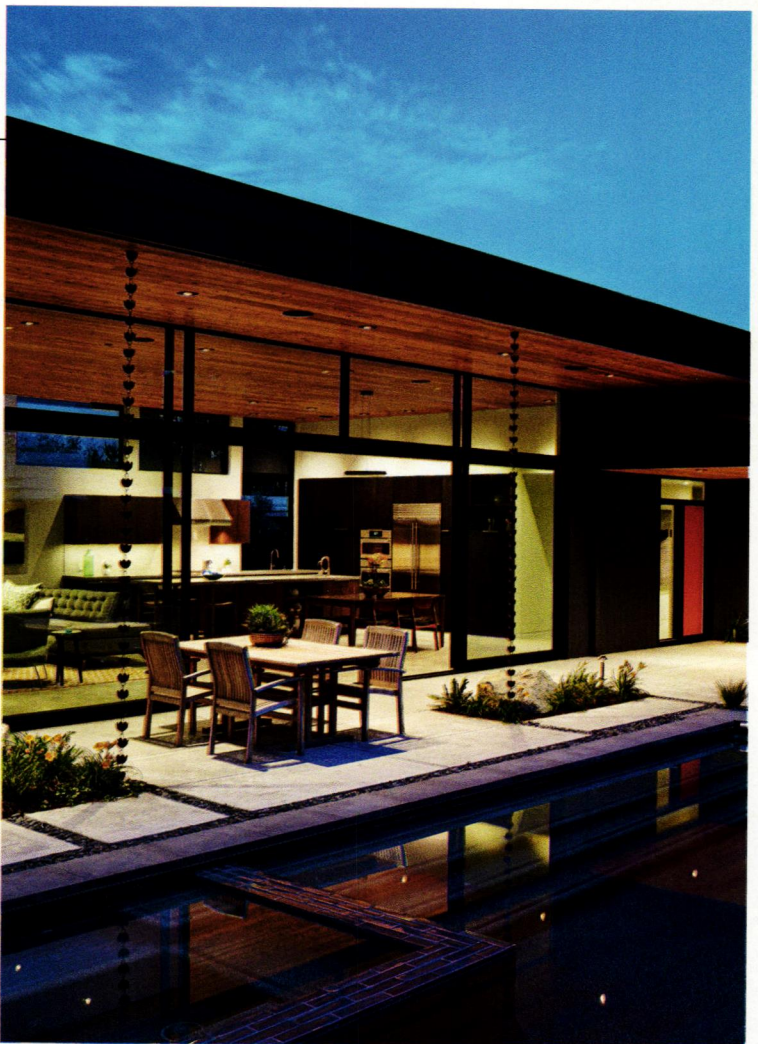


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cover

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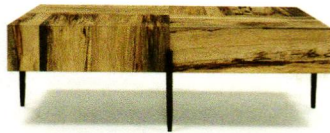
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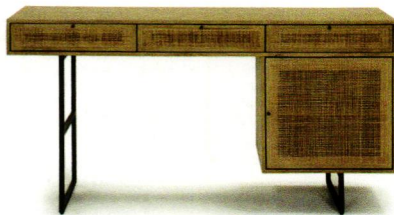
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


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editor's letter



PHOTO BY MARK MENDEZ

HOME BREWING

WHILE MANY OF US TEND TO PUT A HALT TO THE HAMMERING AND NAILING OF RENOVATIONS AND REMODELS during the winter, that doesn't mean that the work of beautifying our homes stops. Instead, we shift to decorative updates, shopping and the kind of nest feathering that happens when we prepare to host, gather and spend time enjoying our homes during the holiday season.


And what a beautiful time it is: home projects in the vein of holiday decorating and baking, weekends around the fireplace, playing vintage records and making memories in your Mid Century Modern home that add to its story.

The homes in this issue all have a unique story to tell. From a house designed as a love letter to one architect's wife, to an Eichler literally rebuilt from the ashes, our features delve into the custom elements of any mod home, whether built 60 years ago or today. We also get into the merry-making business and offer a list of gift ideas for any mod lover and some tips for holiday entertaining with our new columnist Robert Maurer of Commuter Industries (his home was also on the cover of our Fall 2019 issue).

Last and certainly not least, I've been brewing up a little something special that is part storytelling and part love letter: a new Atomic Ranch book! *Atomic Ranch Remodeled Marvels: Understanding, Planning and Designing Your Next Mid Century Transformation* gathers all the insight, advice and inspiration you need to tackle your renovation and get the results you've been dreaming of. I can't wait for you to see it, and I hope it might find its way onto a bookshelf or coffee table in your home this winter.

Jackie Torres

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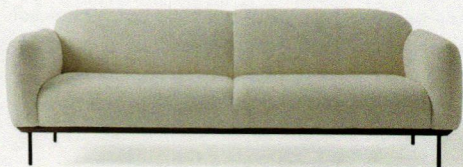
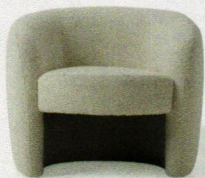
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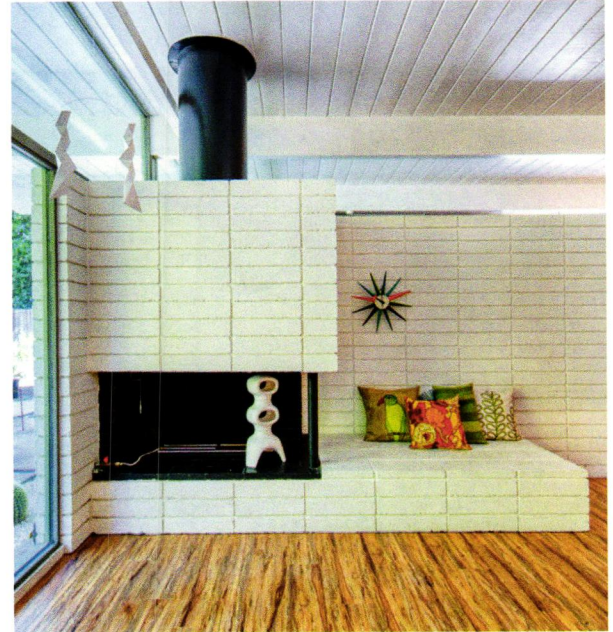
Retro Road Trip! Dream Coastal Rentals

Dreaming of a coastal getaway but don't have patience for over-stuffed furniture, bland décor or nautical kitsch? Well, we've found some great MCM Airbnb options along the West Coast, such as this one in San Francisco, to inspire your next trip.



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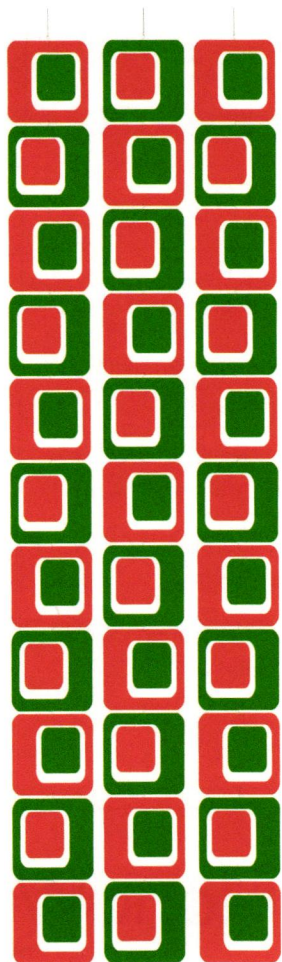
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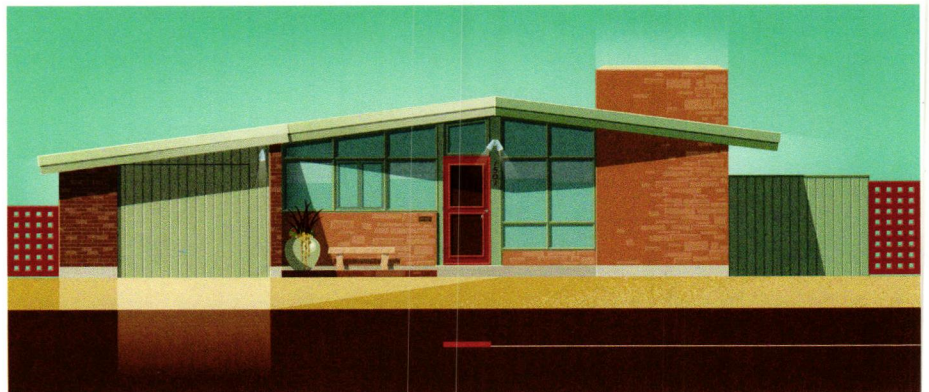
By Jackie Torres & Ian McMaster

Decorate & Celebrate!

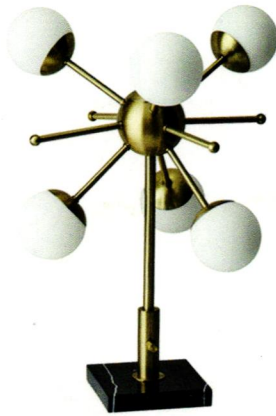
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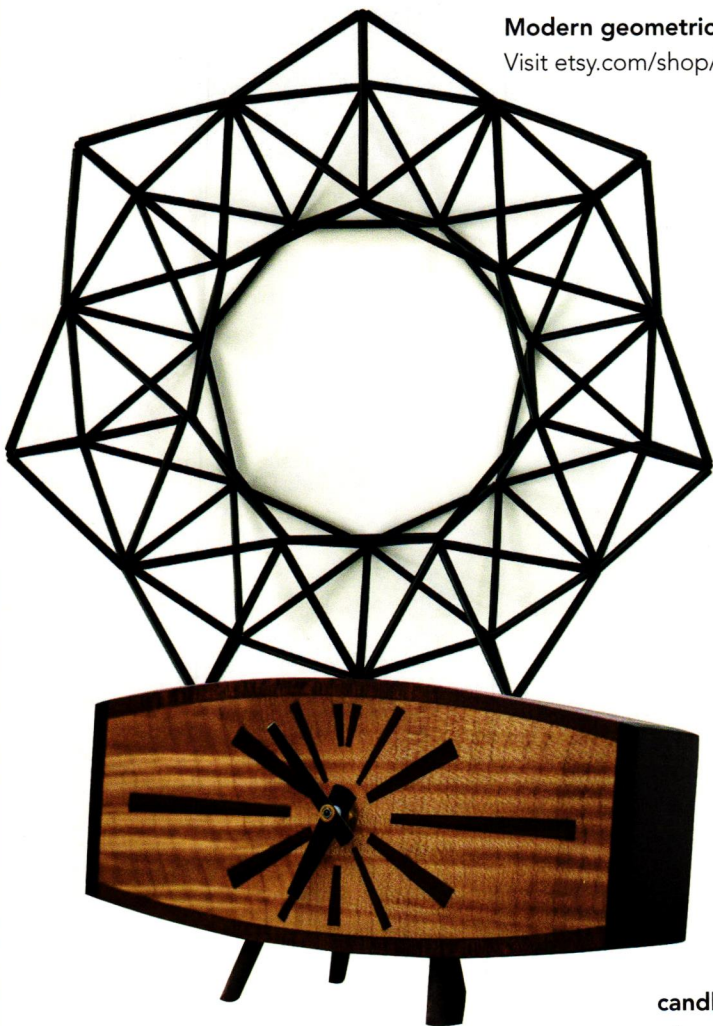
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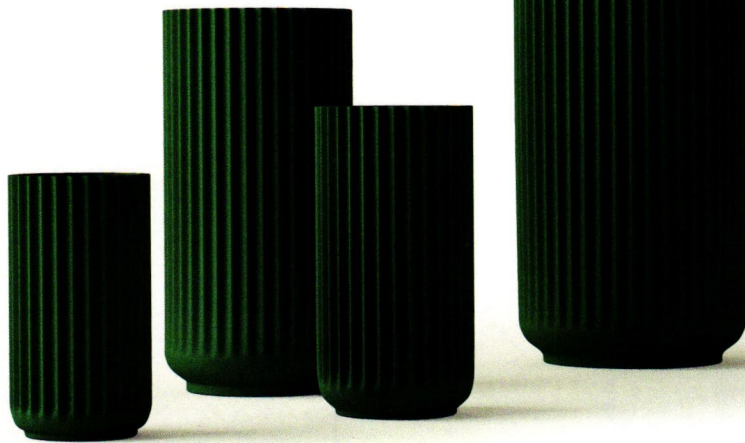
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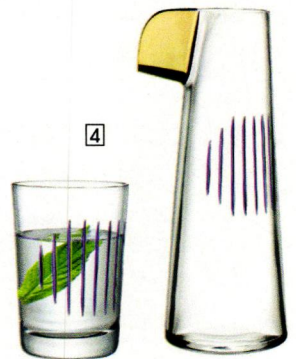


By Jackie Torres & Ian McMaster

Holiday Party

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A Modern Jewel Box

Discover this authentic mid mod home in Alexandria, Virginia, designed by architect Charles Goodman.

By Laura Shimko | Photography by Greg Hadley | Architect: Christine A Kelly, AIA

With daring architectural lines and exciting design features, MCM homes tend to draw the eye. When the homeowners of this 1958-build located in the Hollin Hills community contacted Christine A Kelly, AIA, founder and owner of Crafted Architecture LLC, their goal was to return their classic mid mod home to its former glory. "The homeowners wanted to open up and update the interior floor plan as well as restore the exterior façade to its original appearance," Christine says.

With a flat roof line, walls of windows, a centrally located skylight and a rectangular layout, the home is a gem of MCM style.

Christine preserved the original siding and windows that had not been damaged by the passage of time to give the home an authentic feel. Windows were added to bring in more natural light, and the roof was replaced. "We refurbished the exterior of the home to return it to its original appearance, and we captured the recessed entry and enclosed it within the footprint of the house to enlarge the entry foyer," she says.

The result is a stunning exterior that pops against the wooded background. "The scale of the house gives it a jewel-box feel—the house really sparkles at night," she says.

THE DOOR, WITH ITS VIBRANT MCM COLOR, IS ORIGINAL TO THE HOME. "THE FRONT DOOR CREATES A POP OF COLOR REMINISCENT OF THE '50s," CHRISTINE SAYS. SHE RECOMMENDS USING FEATURES ALREADY PRESENT WHEN RENOVATING A HOME, RATHER THAN REINVENTING THE WHEEL. "STICK TO THE DISTINCTIVE ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS OF MID CENTURY STYLE, WHICH INCLUDE MINIMAL TRIM, CLEAN HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL LINES, SIMPLE COLOR SCHEMES AND NATURAL MATERIALS," SHE SAYS.

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THE DANISH-STYLE TABLE AND CHAIRS ARE FROM THE OWNER'S MOTHER, ADDING A PERSONAL TOUCH TO THE KITCHEN'S DINING AREA, AND A NELSON SAUCER BUBBLE PENDANT COMPLETES THE LOOK.



PRESERVATION PROJECT

A design team takes care to update this mid century kitchen while maintaining, and sometimes duplicating, many of its original features. By Kristin Dowding
Photography by David Papazian



NO MATTER HOW PASSIONATE you are about preserving Mid Century Modern design, kitchens that haven't been touched are usually in need of a few functional updates. When the homeowners of this 1962 ranch wanted to remodel their kitchen, they hired Beth Rhoades, owner of C&R Design Remodel, to help them achieve their vision.

"The homeowners loved the house and its structure and wanted to embrace that," she says. "Our motivation was to help these homeowners update their beautiful home in ways that stayed true to the original design and aesthetic."

BUILT TO BLEND

The home had many original features still intact, including an indoor barbecue grill. But because the homeowners needed a functional stove, it was one of the first features to go in the remodel. "We rebuilt the range wall's whole section," says Beth. But you'd never guess that the section is new when you look at the existing cabinets. "All the cabinetry was either existing or built to blend in with what was existing," she says.

They even duplicated the angled design found on the existing drawers on the range wall for consistency. The design allows the drawers to open, even with a smooth finish. "We didn't want to add hardware, because we didn't want it to look busy," says Beth.

Other original features were preserved, such as the sliding glass doors and the wood paneling on the walls and ceiling. "We had to patch some areas after the modifications to the lighting and plumbing, but it's all existing," says Beth.

ABOVE LEFT: THE ORIGINAL COUNTERTOPS USED TO HAVE A ROLLED EDGE. "WE REMOVED THAT AND ADDED A FILLER PIECE BETWEEN THE COUNTERTOPS AND CABINETS," SAYS BETH. THEY INSTALLED NEW QUARTZ COUNTERTOPS AND A NEW QUARTZ BACKSPLASH THAT WOULD COMPLEMENT THE STYLE OF THE EXISTING CABINETRY. THE BACKSPLASH IS BROKEN UP INTO TWO DESIGNS FOR ADDED TEXTURE AND INTEREST.

ABOVE RIGHT: THE RANGE WALL UNDERWENT THE MOST CHANGES DURING THE KITCHEN RENOVATION SINCE THEY REMOVED THE ORIGINAL INDOOR GRILL IN FAVOR OF MODERN APPLIANCES. THEY WERE ABLE TO PERFECTLY MATCH THE NEW CABINETS TO THE ORIGINAL CABINETS ON THE SINK WALL, AND THEY KEPT THE ORIGINAL WOOD CEILING PANELING AFTER INSTALLING NEW LIGHTS.

/REAL HOME 101/

TYPE OF HOME: 1962 ranch

ARCHITECT: Unknown

BACKGROUND: The house was constructed on land that was once part of a homestead property. The modern design reflected Mid Century Modern concepts and included what were then cutting-edge features, such as a blender built into the countertop and an indoor barbecue grill.

COLOR SCHEME: Neutral and moody with warm woods and grays and touches of greenery to bring the outdoors in

INNOVATIVE IDEA: They used two different tiles on the backsplash to create a border and add more texture to the space.



design
MUST-HAVES:

- Alder wood cabinetry
- Moody atmosphere of the Northwest
- Heated limestone flooring

WHAT MAKES IT **MCM?**

- Floor-to-ceiling windows connecting to the outdoors
- Sleek cabinets with no hardware
- Original wood paneling on ceiling

TOP: TEXTURE PLAYS A HUGE ROLE IN A MONOCHROMATIC KITCHEN. WHILE THE ORIGINAL CABINETRY ALONG THE SINK WALL IS SMOOTH, THE LIMESTONE FLOOR DESIGN, NEW BACKSPLASH AND ORIGINAL WOOD PANELING ON THE WALLS AND CEILING HELP BREAK UP ALL THE WOOD TONES.

MID CENTURY MOODY

But preservation isn't solely about retaining existing features. It's also about preserving the original design aesthetic. In the case of this Salem, Oregon, kitchen project, they didn't want to add bright, retro colors to the space and completely change its character. "Living in the Northwest, we have a moody atmosphere," says Beth. "The wood-on-wood tone was part of the architectural design. That's something you would see everywhere, and it was something we needed to embrace with the new material selections."

The new quartz countertops and quartz backsplash are dark and complement the sophisticated kitchen palette, while the new heated limestone flooring adds a lighter foundation. "The windows with the sliding glass doors flow right through to the exterior, so we wanted to bring those colors into the kitchen," says Beth. "I kept the grays as warm as possible."

Because the kitchen has a neutral palette with mostly wood tones, it was important to highlight the textural elements to keep the features from blending together. Some of the original wood elements already had that contrast. "The ceiling paneling is a rough-sawn wood, but the paneled walls are smooth," Beth says. Other textures needed to be added, such as the backsplash tiles and the limestone floor squares, which helped balance the room.

With a few carefully chosen updates and a classic color palette, the owners and Beth were able to successfully transform the kitchen into a mid century time capsule that's fit for modern living. 🌿

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 88.



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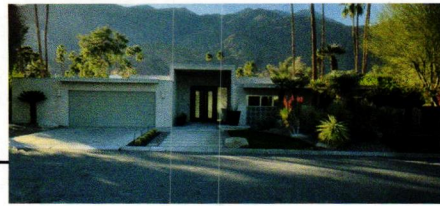
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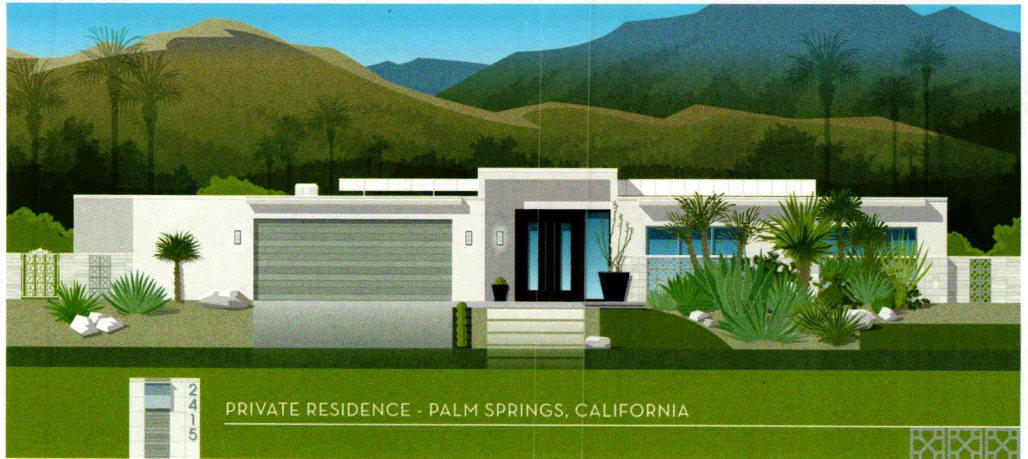
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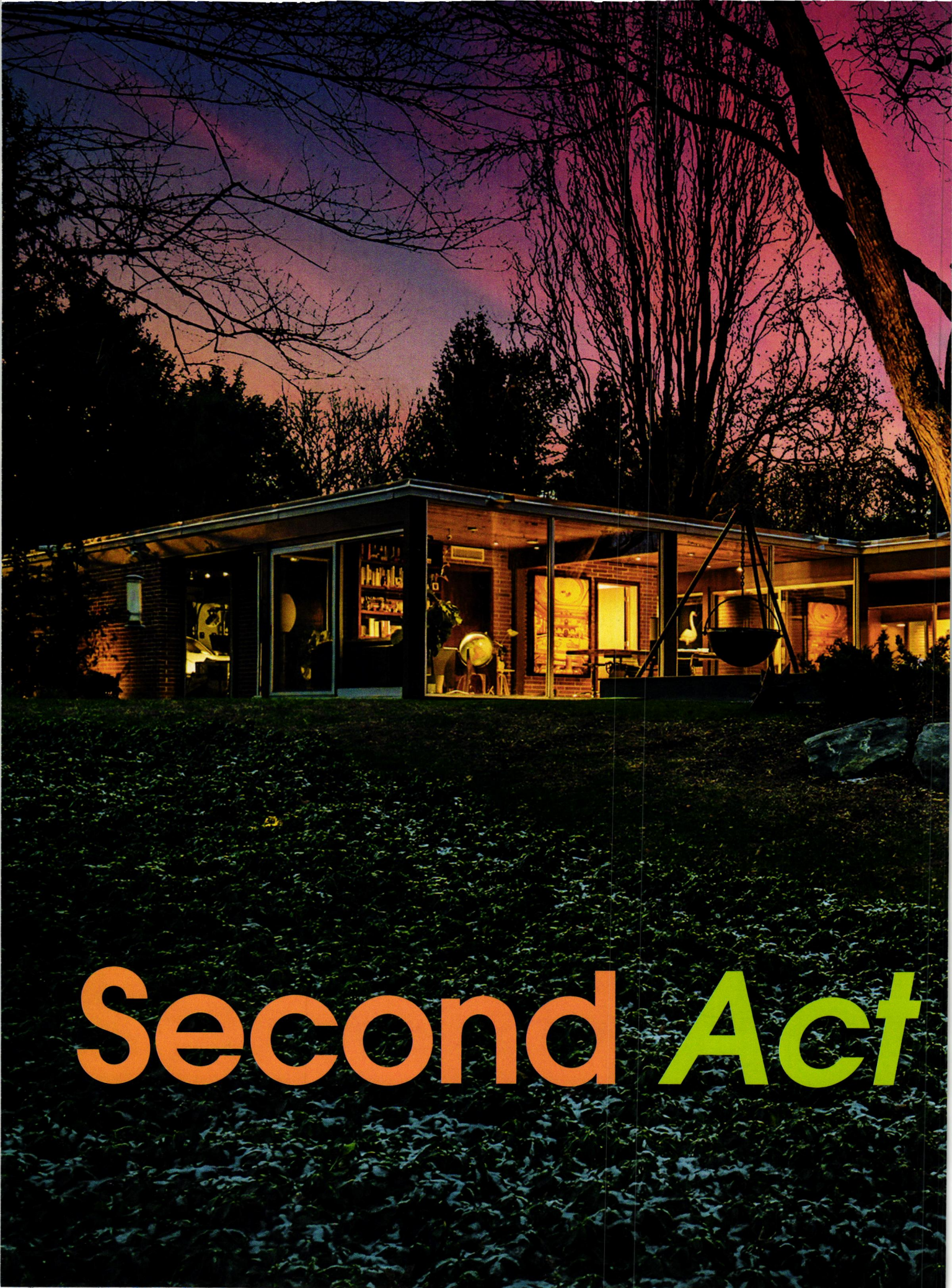
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Second Act



Though this historic home was marked for tear down, one couple knew they could sensitively restore it, while adapting it for modern life.

By Autumn Krause | Photography by Maksim Akelin



THE GLASS SKYLIGHTS ARE A SHOWSTOPPER. "WE REPLACED THE ORIGINAL SKYLIGHTS WITH GLASS BARREL VAULTS, A DETAIL I BORROWED FROM A PHILIP JOHNSON HOUSE I HAD COME ACROSS," DAN SAYS. THOUGH THE GLASS VAULTS WERE PRICIER, THE COUPLE CONSIDERED THEM TO BE A WORTHWHILE SPLURGE, SAYING THAT THEY DESERVED A DRAMATIC CEILING. THE VAULTS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE CLEAR BUT MISTAKENLY ARRIVED FROSTED. "IN THE END IT WAS A LUCKY MISTAKE, AS I FEAR THE SUNLIGHT MIGHT HAVE BEEN TOO HARSH ON MY LIBRARY," HE ADDS.

Some love stories are meant to be. Such was the case with Dan and Brandie Meis. The two met at Dan's office and quickly realized how naturally their talents and interests dovetailed. (Dan is an architect and owner of MEIS Architects, and Brandie is a designer—and both have a deep, abiding appreciation for Mid Century Modern furniture and homes.) They embarked on the grand adventure of marriage, and soon another love story unfolded: finding just the right residences to fall in love with and call home. "I have been practicing for 30+ years but specialize in the design of stadiums and arenas," Dan says. "Brandie graduated architecture school from University of Southern California. Our experience in renovation has grown from a shared love of mid century architecture and design."

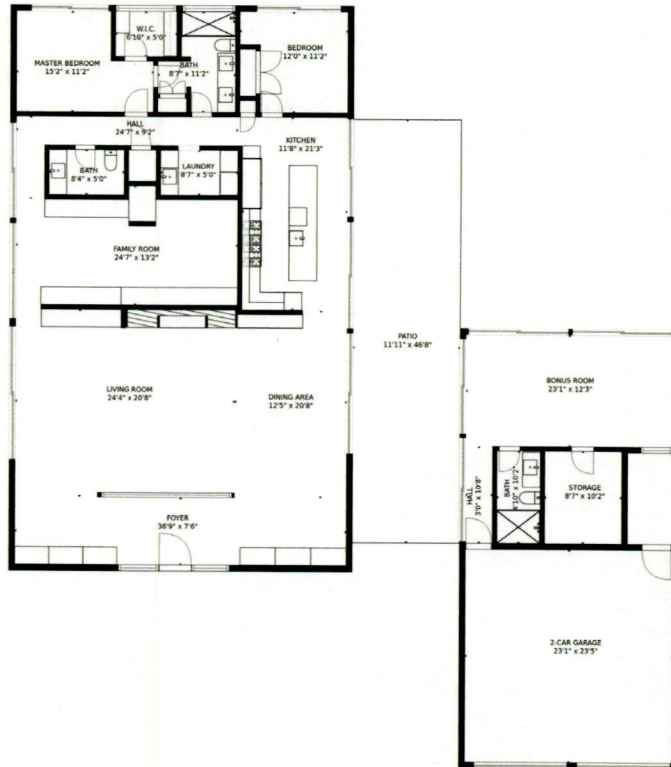
A HIGH BAR

They relocated from California to New York in order to be closer to Dan's European projects. The move meant leaving behind an incredibly special Mid Century Modern house located near Malibu, so the couple were determined to find another place that they loved as much. Little did they know just what awaited: a historic home doomed and marked for tear down.

When they first toured the residence, it was in terrible shape. "We immediately knew it would be a big project if we decided to buy the home," Brandie says. Rain poured into the main bedroom, and the structure was afflicted by termite damage and dry rot. "I was a bit intimidated by how much we were going to have to rebuild," Dan says. "To her credit, Brandie was more the optimist and saw the opportunity in reconfiguring the plan to make it work perfectly for us."

FIRST FLOOR

50 HAIGHTS CROSS RD CHAPPAQUA, NY 10514



BELOW: LEON GREENBERG DESIGNED THE HOME, AND THE COUPLE SET OUT TO SENSITIVELY RENOVATE HIS WONDERFUL WORK. A TRANQUIL REFLECTING POOL IS ON THE SAME GRID AS THE HOUSE. "IT'S REALLY IMPRESSIVE! WHEN WE RENOVATED THE KITCHEN, WE MOVED THE KITCHEN SINK TO THE NEW ISLAND, SO NOW WHEN WE ARE DOING DISHES, DESPITE THE 12-FOOT DEEP OVERHANG, WE CAN SEE THE SKY—IN THE REFLECTING POOL," BRANDIE SAYS.





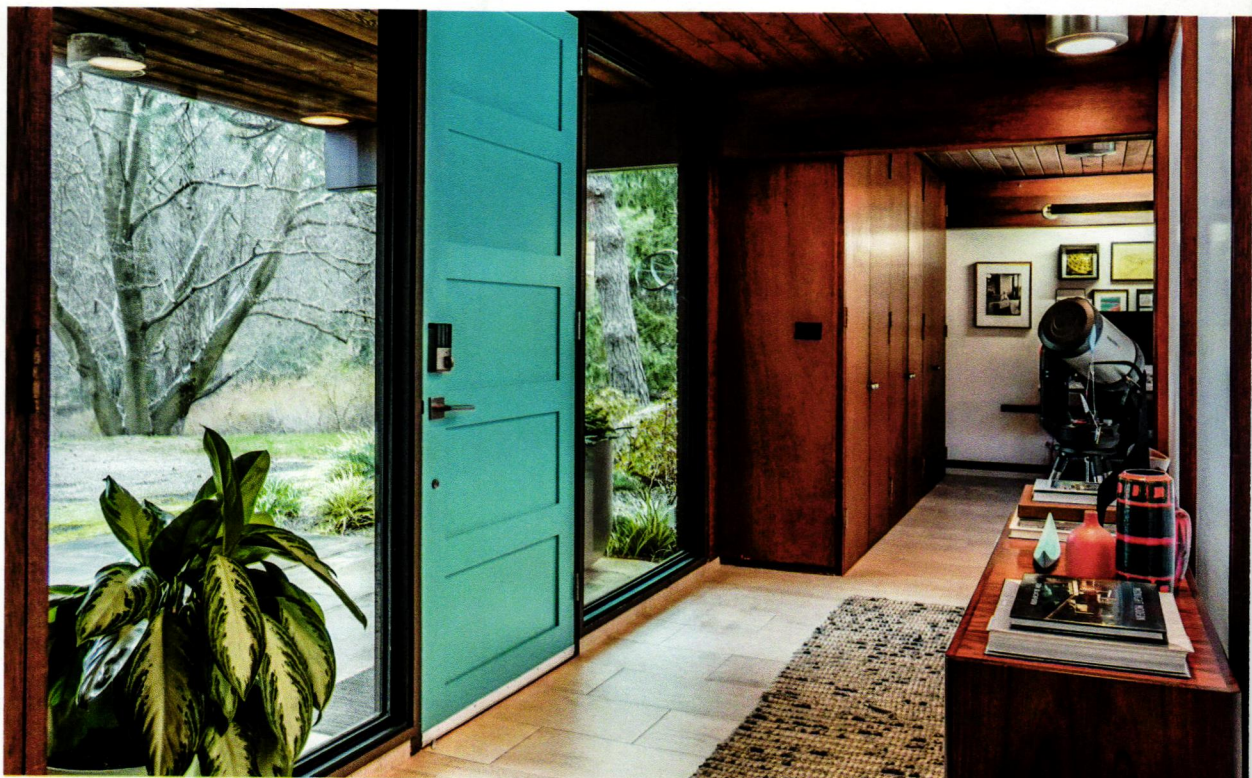
A FROSTED SCREEN FRAMED IN WOOD AND STEEL IS ORIGINAL TO THE HOME. THE SCREEN OFFERS PRIVACY AND DEFINES THE ENTRY. IT ALSO FOCUSES YOUR VIEW AS YOU ENTER THROUGH THE BLUE DOOR: TURN RIGHT AND YOU CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE DINING ROOM; TURN LEFT AND YOU SEE AN OFFICE THAT FEATURES AN ORIGINAL MAYLINE WORK DESK. AT NIGHT, WHEN YOU TURN DOWN THE ENTRY LIGHTS, THE SCREEN APPEARS BACKLIT BY THE LIVING ROOM LIGHT; SHADOWS CAST ON THE SCREEN CREATE VISUAL INTEREST FROM THE ENTRY.

Just before they closed on the house, the couple fortuitously ran into the now adult sons of the original owner/architect of the house as they were packing it up. Not only did the sons have loads of information about the home, but they also shared their stories of growing up there, tales which included their parents listening to classical music in the living room and reading aloud to each other at dinner, endless hours in the garden and an impressive feat of planting 1,000 pine seeds on the property. "Having access to the wonderful and fascinating history of growing up in the house was amazing," Dan says. "It convinced and inspired us to save what was surely a diamond in the rough."

MID CENTURY RESURRECTION

Over the next three years and in two separate phases, Dan and Brandie restored the home to its former self, while adapting it for their lives. "We were both very committed to rescuing it and modernizing it without losing the original magic of the design," Dan says. Originally, the bedrooms were tiny, and the main bedroom

BELOW: MAKING THE HOME FUNCTIONAL FOR MODERN LIVING WHILE HONORING ITS HISTORY WAS IMPORTANT TO THE COUPLE. "THE KITCHEN WAS ONE OF THE AREAS WE DECIDED TO MODERNIZE AS OPPOSED TO RESTORE," BRANDIE SAYS. ORIGINALLY, THE KITCHEN SPACE CONTAINED THE LAUNDRY ROOM. BY MOVING THAT OUT, THEY WERE ABLE TO PUT IN A PRO KITCHEN, COMPLETE WITH A SIX-BURNER RANGE WITH A GRILL, AN INDUSTRIAL-STRENGTH HOOD, A WALL OVEN, A BUILT-IN WALL MICROWAVE, A DISHWASHER AND A WINE REFRIGERATOR. SINCE DAN IS AN AMAZING COOK (HIS PARENTS HAD A RESTAURANT WHEN HE WAS GROWING UP), IT ONLY MADE SENSE TO GIVE HIM A PLACE TO EXERCISE HIS CULINARY TALENTS.



“Having access to **the wonderful and fascinating history of growing up in the house was amazing.** It convinced and inspired us to save what was surely a diamond in the rough.”

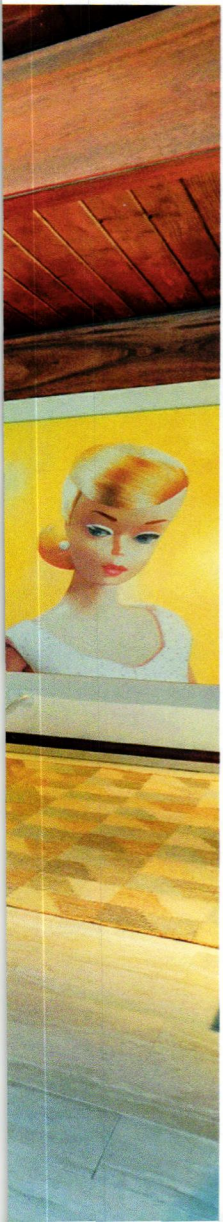
was separated from the living room with only an accordion door. Another problem was that the living room didn't have a logical place for a television. “We literally removed the entire core of the house (roof, ceiling, floor and beams) and rebuilt. Now, the center of the home is the most robust!” Brandie says. “Losing the bedrooms initially was a tough decision, but we weighed that against how important family movie night is to us.”

Aside from reconfiguring the home, there were other challenges, like matching the interior wood stain, which varied from one side of the house to the other due to age and fading. By mixing different stains, they worked to find just the right hue that paired perfectly with existing wood finishes. Overall, the project was a balance of salvaging as many historic details as possible and, when unable to, finding the most authentic way to replace and

A MEDIA ROOM NOW SITS IN THE PLACE OF THE ORIGINAL MAIN BEDROOM. DAN AND BRANDIE LOVE HAVING FUN WITH ART, AND SO IN THIS CASE, INSTEAD OF WALLPAPER OR TILE, THEY USED ART TO CREATE THE ACCENT WALL, WHICH IS ANCHORED BY BARBIE ON THE RIGHT.



TOP: AFTER FINISHING THE MAIN HOUSE, DAN AND BRANDIE REALIZED THEY COULD CAPTURE A SHED AND CARPORT AND CONVERT THEM INTO A STUDIO/ BEDROOM SUITE AND ENCLOSE THE CARPORT TO CREATE A REAL GARAGE. "OVER THE PANDEMIC, THIS SPACE WAS VERY USEFUL."



BOTTOM: IN ITS FIRST LIFE, THE HOME HAD BOOKSHELVES ON EITHER SIDE OF THE FIREPLACE, BUT DAN AND BRANDIE REBUILT THEM TO BE FAR MORE ROBUST AND FLOOR-TO-CEILING. "THE BOOKS HAVE BEEN A PASSION OF MINE FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS AND TOTAL MORE THAN 9,000 VOLUMES," DAN SAYS. "MOSTLY ARCHITECTURE, ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY, THE LIBRARY INCLUDES SOME EXTREMELY RARE AND IMPORTANT WORKS ON LE CORBUSIER, MIES, FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT AND, OF COURSE, EVERYTHING MID CENTURY AND CASE STUDY." HE SAYS THAT FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, HIS COLLECTION WAS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT PART OF THEIR DECISION-MAKING IN BUYING A HOUSE.

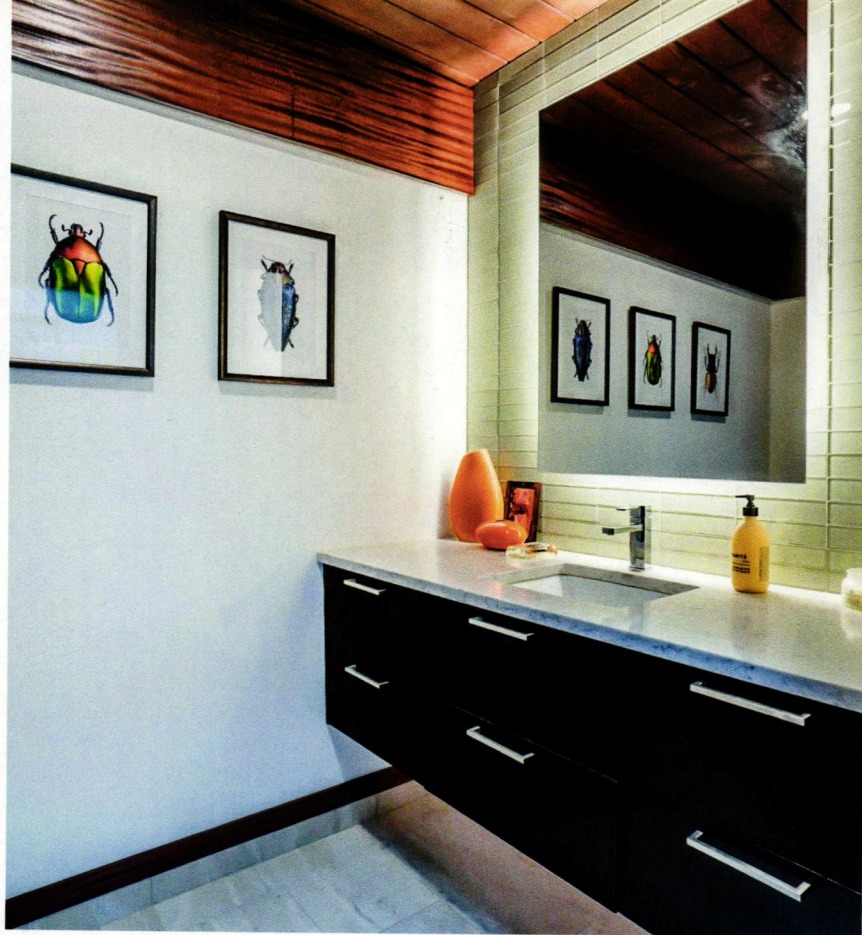


THE MAIN BEDROOM IS ORIGINAL AND FEATURES DAN AND BRANDIE'S APPROACH TO ARTWORK AND COLLECTIBLES. ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS THEY DO WHEN THEY MOVE IS ESTABLISH ART WALLS. "THE PIECES OVER THE BED ARE ARRANGED WITH STRUCTURE IN MIND," BRANDIE SAYS. "THIS CONTRASTS WITH THE LAYERS UPON LAYERS OF MINIATURE MONUMENTS, SCULPTURES, NOVELS AND OTHER COLLECTIBLES THAT SIT ON THE VINTAGE GEORGE NELSON MODULAR STORING SYSTEM TO THE LEFT."

match them. The couple also added to the heritage of the home by replacing the original skylights in the living area with stunning glass barrel-vault skylights.

Together, the couple poured their hearts and souls into restoring the home. "One of the great aspects of our partnership is that we balance each other out," Dan says. "When one has doubts, the other is there to remind what a special opportunity it is." In the end, they transformed a home on the brink of destruction into a one-of-a-kind place that's full of both history and love. 🌿

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 88.



Overall, the project was a **balance of salvaging as many historic details as possible** and, when unable to, finding the most authentic way to replace and match them.

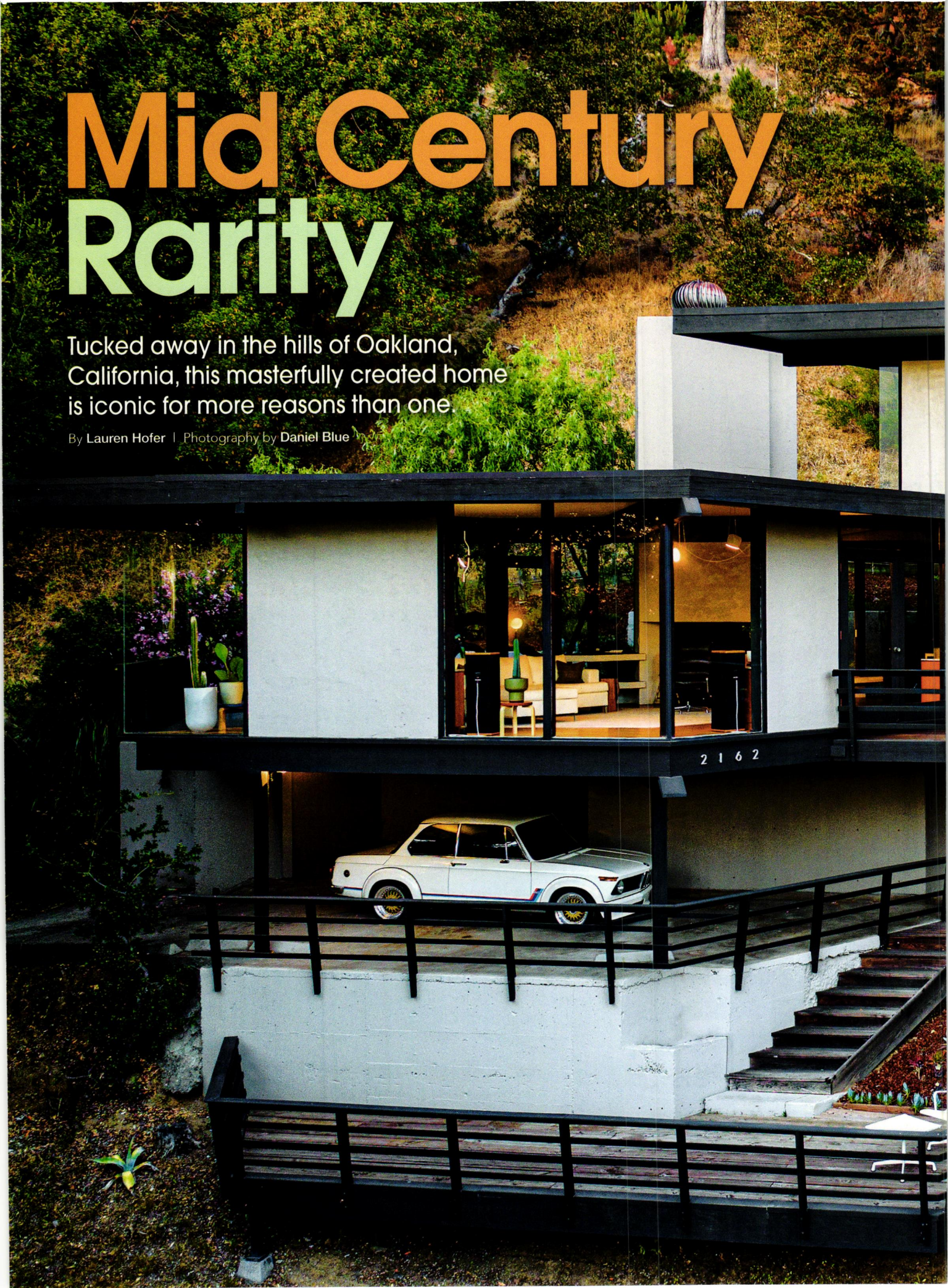
TOP: INSTEAD OF USING A TRADITIONAL MID CENTURY MODERN WALLPAPER IN THE POWDER ROOM, DAN AND BRANDIE OPTED FOR AN ACCENT WALL MADE FROM GREEN GLASS TILES.

ABOVE: WORKING WITH A HOME THAT HAS SO MANY GLASS WALLS OFFERED ITS OWN CHALLENGES. ON THE BACK OF THE HOME, PRESERVING THE GLASS FACADE WAS SO IMPORTANT TO THEM THAT THEY ENDED UP WITH SPACES LIKE THE CLOSET AND SHOWER THAT HAVE FLOOR-TO-CEILING GLASS WALLS. "AT FIRST, I WAS NERVOUS ABOUT HAVING A GLASS WALL IN MY SHOWER, BUT DAN KNEW IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. EVERY DAY IS LIKE SHOWERING IN NATURE," BRANDIE SAYS.

Mid Century Rarity

Tucked away in the hills of Oakland, California, this masterfully created home is iconic for more reasons than one.

By Lauren Hofer | Photography by Daniel Blue





While the origins surrounding this gorgeous California home border on legend, its iconic design and history have stood the test of time and continued to attract attention over the years. Built and designed in 1961 by architect Benjamin Fishstein, it is believed he intended the home to be his own. From an aerial perspective, the house is shaped like an "M," which as the story goes, was an ode to Fishstein's wife's name. "The house is literally a love-letter to his wife," says Herman Chan, the home's former realtor.



While the home is old, it has almost effortlessly managed to maintain both its beauty and sense of modernity with grace.

With 2,500 square feet, four bedrooms and three bathrooms, today it shines as an example of pure mid century design. Nestled in the hills of northern California's Bay Area, its natural surroundings and proximity to the city make it an absolute dream home. While Fishstein died before the home was completed and never actually lived there, the original owners resided there for 56 years and made only minor updates. "The home was a ship in a bottle," says Garrett Chow, who purchased the house in 2018.

UNTOUCHED BEAUTY

Because this home is without any of the major remodels that many other half-century homes have undergone, entering the stunning space feels a little like stepping back in time. "In preparation for the home's sale, the previous owner really only did cosmetic improvements like new paint, updating appliances, and some minor updates to the kitchen and master bedroom," Garrett says. While the home is old, it has almost effortlessly managed to maintain both its beauty and sense of modernity with grace. "It does not feel antiquated at all," Herman says.

ABOVE: THE ENTRANCE TO THE MULTILEVEL HOUSE IS AT THE GROUND FLOOR, WHICH CONCEALS THE FANTASTIC VIEWS SURROUNDING THE HOME UNTIL THE STAIRS HAVE BEEN CLIMBED.

OPPOSITE, TOP: AN EARLY VERSION OF ACCORDION DOORS BETWEEN THE DECK AND MAIN LIVING SPACE CREATES A SEAMLESS CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO SPACES.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: THE HOME'S LUSCIOUS SURROUNDINGS BARELY ALLUDE TO THE BUSTLING CITY NEARBY. "YOU HAVE SERENITY AND YOU HAVE PROXIMITY," SAYS HERMAN CHAN, THE HOME'S FORMER REALTOR.





HERE, THE HOME'S UNIQUE SHAPE AND DISTINCT LINES ARE ON FULL DISPLAY. THE THINLY PANELED CEILING CONTRIBUTES TO THE EFFECT.



ABOVE: "IT WAS MY AIM TO GIVE THE HOME THE BREATHING SPACE IT DESERVES," GARRETT SAYS. TO DO SO, HE INTENTIONALLY CHOSE FURNISHINGS THAT WERE LOW AND WOULDN'T INTERRUPT THE LINES OF THE ARCHITECTURE.

RIGHT: THE SPIRAL STAIRCASE IS ARCHITECTURALLY STUNNING AND, AS GARRETT SAYS, "IS THE MOST SALIENT FEATURE AND FOCUS OF THE HOME."

Built into a hillside, the entry is at the ground level, and a spiral staircase, itself the main focus of the home, leads up into the main living space. "Fishstein's compression and restriction of the view as one enters through the garage-level entry and finally enters into the open, bright expanse of the main living space is masterful," Garrett says. The structure itself is a nod to the parallelogram and, within that concept, boasts all the well-known and loved features of a mid century home. Exposed beams blur the distinction between the indoors and out, as do the glass walls. "The whole of the west elevation is in essence a wall of floor-to-ceiling glass, capitalizing on the views across to San Francisco," Garrett says. Accordion doors open onto the deck, where surrounding flora and fauna create an idyllic setting.





ABOVE: THE MAIN FLOOR REVEALS EVEN FURTHER THE HOME'S FOCUS ON THE PARALLELOGRAM AND THE STUNNING INDOOR-OUTDOOR CONNECTION.

OPPOSITE, TOP: OVER THE YEARS, SOME SMALL CHANGES WERE MADE TO KEEP THE KITCHEN UP TO DATE.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: "THE PIECE IN THE DINING AREA IS AN UNTITLED PAINTING ON LINEN BY ZIO ZEIGLER," GARRETT SAYS. SOME MOLDED FIBERGLASS DOWEL-BASE SIDE CHAIRS COMPLETE THE SPACE.

ONE OF A KIND

While this home has received press attention and become something of a legend, not much is known about the architect, who passed away before it was completed. "This house may be a literal and figurative one-of-a-kind," says Garrett. Constructed at a time when building homes was about cheap mass production, the song of this house plays differently. It was built to last.

The robust ceiling beams, a staple from the architecture at the time, were actually recycled beams from an old wooden bay bridge that was torn down upon the construction of a concrete one. "Ben Fishstein had the foresight to collect and preserve some of the original, old-growth redwood timbers," Garrett says, "Fishstein's post-and-beam construction is comprised of some of the 600 original redwood piles." At the time it was built, the home even garnered a feature in the Italian design magazine, *Abitare*, which still publishes today.

The structure itself is a nod to the parallelogram and, within that concept, **boasts all the well-known and loved features of a mid century home.**







THE FINISHED PRODUCT

At some point, the ground-floor workshop and storage area became its own in-law quarters with a private entrance. The main floor consists of the main living areas and two bedrooms, as well as the deck, and perched above it all is the master bedroom. "When you're in the house, you see all these beautiful geometric lines, and then when you step out to the outdoor space, you're under this huge panorama of blue sky surrounded by a carousel of greenery and foliage," Herman says.

When furnishing the home, Garrett sought to fill each room with pieces that would enhance the space. "It was my aim to give the home the breathing space it deserves," he says, "There is a mix of old and new, and stuff I've found off the street and in my travels alongside classics of the home's era scoured at bargain sales," Garrett says. Some prized pieces include a pair of vintage Hans Wegner chairs he purchased from Craigslist after 20 years of searching; an Ax chair by Peter Hvidt; and some vintage soft-pad recliners by the Eames Office. Artwork from friends and even a bike frame he painted himself complete the space. With a truly unique design, stunning location, impeccable detail and fascinating history, Fishstein's "M" house is truly a marvel. 🌀

ABOVE: THIS TILED BATHROOM REMAINS ALMOST EXACTLY AS FISHSTEIN DESIGNED IT IN 1961, RIGHT DOWN TO THE LOUVERED, JALOUSIE WINDOWS.

OPPOSITE, TOP: "THE MASTER BEDROOM HAS AN OLD, FOLDING CHURCH PEW IN WALNUT THAT I FOUND ON THE STREET IN SAN FRANCISCO AND BOUGHT HOME ON BART, ALONGSIDE AN ORIGINAL, 4-STAR EAMES SOFT PAD RECLINER," GARRETT SAYS OF THE SPACE. WITH ITS LOFT-LIKE AURA, THE MASTER BEDROOM ENCOMPASSES THE THIRD FLOOR.


OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: IN THE GUEST BEDROOM, A MINIMALIST APPROACH TO THE DESIGN ALLOWS THE LINES OF THE HOUSE TO SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. WITH A DANISH CREDENZA, AN EARLY EXAMPLE OF HVIDT'S AX CHAIR AND AN ART PIECE THAT GARRETT CREATED FROM BICYCLE ROAD-RACING SIGNAGE, THE SPACE IS BOTH STRAIGHTFORWARD AND STUNNING.



Rebuilding Retro

After a fire, this Eichler-inspired home had to be rebuilt from the ground up. And though it takes plenty of inspiration from its original Eichler roots, it also has a few changes too.

By Rabekah Henderson | Photography by Mariko Reed

A photograph of a modern, dark-toned house at night. The house features large glass windows and doors, revealing a well-lit interior with a bed and two chairs. In the foreground, there is a pool of water reflecting the lights from the house and the sky. The sky is a deep blue, suggesting dusk or dawn. The overall atmosphere is serene and sophisticated.

This San Mateo neighborhood has one of the highest concentrations of Eichler homes in California. Atop one of its lots an original Eichler used to sit, built in the mid century. However, an unfortunate grill fire made quick work of this so-called “two-minute Eichler,” a reference to how quickly its all-wood structure succumbed to the fire.



So, when later owners of the burnt-down lot reached out to Klop Architecture to rebuild, they knew they wanted to include classic Eichler elements, while making the home work better for the homeowners than the original Eichler ever could have.

THE REBUILD

One of the biggest changes in the rebuild was the layout of the home. One of the homeowners wanted to include an additional primary suite for their mother, which presented a challenge for the already narrow lot.

"Your back wall is your connection to the outdoors," says architect John Klop. "It can only be a certain number of feet wide, and [if] you have two primary suites back there, you don't have much space for a living room to connect to the back either."

ABOVE: THE HOME'S EXTERIOR IS WHERE ITS EICHLER BEGINNINGS SHINE THROUGH MOST STRONGLY. THE OVERHANGING AND LOW-PROFILE ROOFLINE, ALONG WITH THE VERTICAL SIDING AND SPLASHES OF EICHLER COLOR, ENSURE THAT THOUGH THIS HOME IS A 2016 CREATION, IT HAS FIRM ROOTS IN THE MID CENTURY.

OPPOSITE, TOP: THE LIVING ROOM OFFERS ONE OF THE BEST VIEWS OF THE SPACE, BOTH INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR, AND IS ONE OF JOHN AND KLARA'S FAVORITE PARTS OF THE HOME. WESTERN RED CEDAR CEILINGS GIVE THE ROOM A WARM AND RICH FEELING, WHILE FLOOR-TO-CEILING WINDOWS SHOW OFF THE EQUALLY STUNNING EXTERIOR.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: THE LIVING AREA OFFERS A VIEW OF THE SAN MATEO HOME'S ATRIUM, WHICH DIVIDES THE TWO VOLUMES OF THE HOME AND HOLDS A ROOFTOP TRELLIS, LETTING LIGHT INTO THE PLANTERS BELOW. TO THE RIGHT OF THE ATRIUM IS THE HOME'S GARAGE AND SECONDARY SUITE.





The solution came in an L-shaped layout, which was markedly different from the classic square shape of Eichler homes, but it fit the lot (and the homeowners' needs) much better.

As project manager Klara Kevane explains, the new layout for the San Mateo home is made up of two volumes, with the first volume holding the garage and the additional primary suite. The second volume is the main house, which includes a primary suite, a guest bedroom and bathroom, a TV room, an office and an open-concept living area.

OPEN CONCEPT

The open-concept living area features a kitchen, a dining space and a living room. The kitchen cabinetry is also seen in the bathrooms and bedrooms, maintaining a sense of continuity throughout the home. "In an open concept house like this, with a lot of flow," says John, "we want to keep the same material all throughout the house. We want the same cabinetry all throughout the house, and it should all have the same palette ... even down to, in this case, the bathroom wall tiles."



THE OPEN LIVING AREA FEATURES CONCRETE FLOORS, WHICH CONTINUE OUT TOWARD THE COURTYARD AND POOL. WHEN PAIRED WITH THE EXTENDED CEDAR CEILING AND THE FLOOR-TO-CEILING WINDOWS, THE SAN MATEO HOME EMBRACES AND JOINS WITH THE OUTDOORS, RATHER THAN EXCLUDING IT.



DESIGN RECIPE FOR AN EICHLER

But it was crucial that the rebuilt home didn't lose its Eichler look. On the exterior of the home, many quintessential Eichler elements were re-added, like the low profile of the home, its overhanging roof and vertical siding. "[We wanted to] keep the house more private towards the street facade, and have it look more like a wood wall," says John.

Eichler colors were also used where possible, like the subtle orange front door and deep gray siding. Together these elements make the home blend in in its neighborhood full of Eichlers. But it almost wasn't that way. When they were building the home, it had to be reframed at the last-minute, as the original framing on the hilly lot made the home look two stories tall. "We didn't want to look like a two-story home from the street," says John. "It stood out, and we wanted to try to preserve the whole feel of the neighborhood ... It was well worth it [to change the framing] to prevent the house from looking like this two-story monstrosity."

Inside, the home's Eichler feel continues. One of the biggest ways it shines through is in the home's expansive wall of floor-to-ceiling windows. The windows look out onto a picture-perfect courtyard, which holds a pool, space to entertain and an outdoor kitchen.

ABOVE: THE WALL OF FLOOR-TO-CEILING WINDOWS CAN BE OPENED UP TO THE COURTYARD, CREATING A SPACE THAT FEELS JUST AS AT-HOME INSIDE AS IT DOES OUTSIDE.

OPPOSITE, TOP: THE CABINETRY IN THE KITCHEN IS ECHOED THROUGHOUT THE HOME, AS THE SAME CABINETRY IS USED IN THE BUILT-IN WARDROBES OF THE PRIMARY SUITES AND IN VANITIES AND STORAGE IN THE HOME'S BATHROOMS.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: THE OUTDOOR POOL PROVIDES A POP OF BLUE IN AN OTHERWISE GREEN COURTYARD. THE CONCRETE THAT FILLS THE PATIO AREA IS THE SAME AS THE FLOORING INSIDE, CONNECTING THE INDOORS TO THE OUTSIDE. ADDITIONALLY, THE RETAINING WALL ON THE BACK SIDE OF THE COURTYARD PROVIDES A HOME FOR SOME LUSH PLANTINGS AND A FEW BOULDERS.







ABOVE: AT NIGHT, EXTERIOR LIGHTING CREATES AN OUTDOOR SPACE THAT FEELS JUST AS COZY AS ITS INTERIOR COUNTERPARTS. THE CONTINUOUS LINE OF LIGHTS FROM INSIDE TO OUT, ALONG WITH THE OVERHANGING ROOF AND CEILING, ADDS TO THE HOME'S INDOOR-OUTDOOR FEELING.

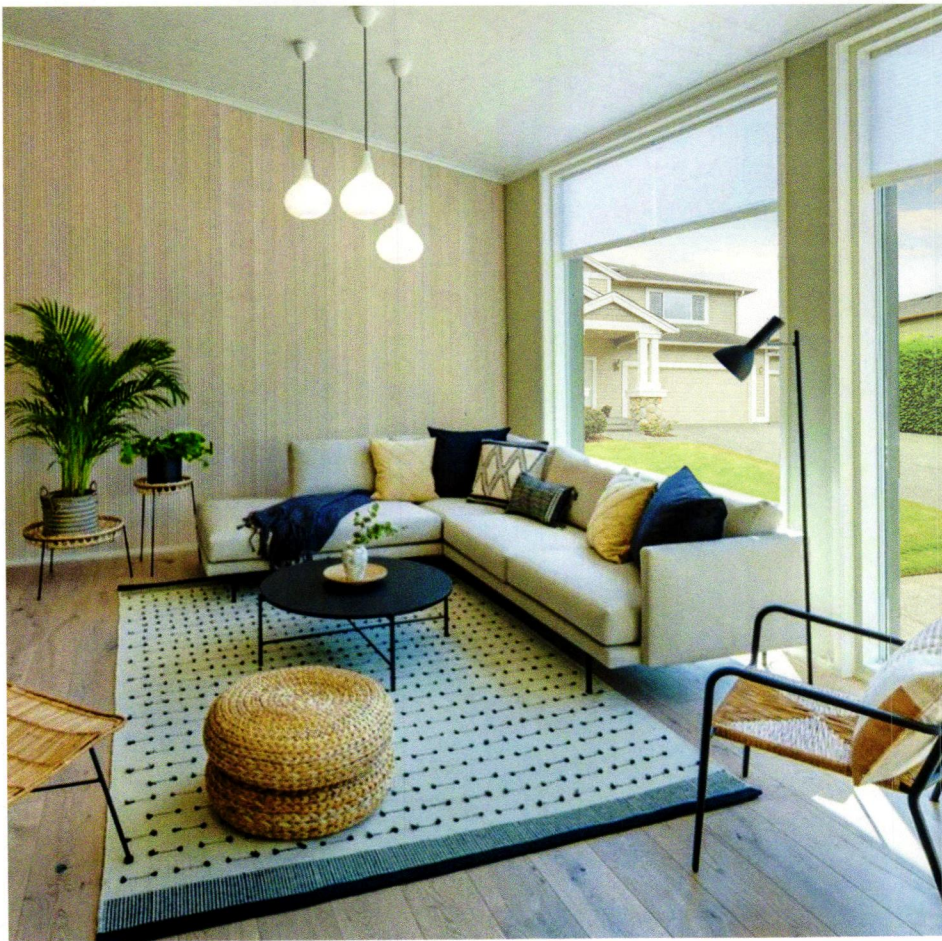
OPPOSITE, TOP: THE PRIMARY BEDROOM'S FLOOR-TO-CEILING WINDOWS GIVE THE SPACE A FANTASTIC VIEW OF THE COURTYARD. A SMALLER WINDOW ON THE RIGHT WALL SHOWS HOW THE HOME IS TUCKED INTO THE RETAINING WALL.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: THE HOME'S PRIMARY BATHROOM FEATURES A LARGE SKYLIGHT ALONGSIDE AN UPPER WINDOW ABOVE THE BATHTUB. "THE SKYLIGHT OVER THE SINKS BRINGS IN [ADDITIONAL] LIGHT AND BALANCES THE LIGHT OUT IN THE ROOM," SAYS JOHN.

INDOOR-OUTDOOR FEELING

Bringing the inside and outside together as one is a must for any mid century home, especially in California. And it's no different for this Eichler rebuild. One of the ways John and his team created the indoor-outdoor feeling was through the home's concrete slab flooring, which fills the interior of the home and is continued outside. "The floor slab is exposed concrete flooring with radiant heating, which is another typical Eichler element," says Klara.

And as the lot sits on a slope, the courtyard has a retaining wall. But rather than trying to hide or remove the wall, it's instead highlighted, covered in lush plantings and boulders. The home sits up against the wall, where it's highlighted through window placements, which, John says, create the feeling of the home being perfectly integrated into the landscape. ☯



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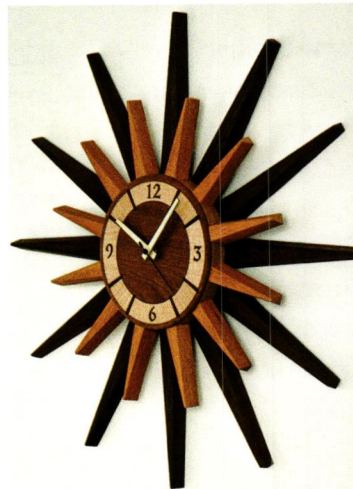
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FESTIVE & MOD

Get into the holiday spirit with these merry modern ideas from mid mod expert Robert Maurer.

By Robert Maurer

Hello fellow mid century enthusiasts! I'm Robert Maurer, creative director, and residential designer at Commuter Industries. I'm so excited to partner with *Atomic Ranch* to bring you this new recurring lifestyle column, "The Vibe." As an extension of my blog, midcenturymaurer.com, I'll be sharing highlights from my home, geared toward design, entertaining, restorations, home improvements, recipes, décor and more. I hope you will find inspiration in these features that you can apply to your own mid century home and way of life. I can't think of a better first feature than one that celebrates the winter season, so let's seek out the holiday spirit and get our homes feeling festive!

ABOVE: A FEW MUGO PINE CLIPPINGS FROM THE YARD GO A LONG WAY IN CREATING A SEASONAL MOOD FOR THIS MOD CENTERPIECE.

SETTING THE SCENE

When it comes to setting the table for a holiday gathering, I like to keep the holidays feeling warm, inviting and stylish, never stuffy or overworked. I have four design criteria I often use in creating an MCM-inspired centerpiece.

- **VINTAGE TOUCHES:** I've chosen this shallow, vintage brass vessel as the container for the arrangement. Its low profile, tapered legs and oblong shape mimic the architecture of the table.
- **MOD STYLE:** Red seed pods that resemble Space Age ball chairs add a punch of bold, mod color and interest.
- **LIVING ELEMENTS:** Live greenery is a centerpiece essential, and holiday arrangements are no exception. Don't be afraid to mix artificial with living items.
- **ODD NUMBERS:** Working in odd numbers creates visual interest, shown here with the incorporation of three Danish taper candles.

DINNERWARE

If I had to choose one obsession as a collector, mine would be dinnerware. I seldom need a reason to bring out the vintage plates and glasses. The arrangement of each place setting is casual but elegant. You may want to add a few pieces to your table, depending on the occasion and what is being served, but we're keeping things fairly informal this year.

Using a crisp, white cloth napkin is a great way to add sophistication to your table. I especially like this triple-pocket fold, which compartmentalizes each utensil, leaving a nice opening for a sprig of holiday greenery repeated in the centerpiece. Plan your seating arrangement, and make your guests feel special by creating a place card on a simple gift tag.

PUNCH PERFECT

Some of my best holiday memories revolve around delicious food and drink



ABOVE: IN THIS TABLE SETTING, I'VE USED A COLLECTION OF 1960S DENBY CAMELOT DINNERWARE ALONGSIDE LIBBEY TAWNY GLASSWARE. THE OUTER BAND OF OLIVE GREEN GIVES A SUBTLE NOD TO THE HOLIDAYS, AND THE SMOKY GLASSES ADD A TOUCH OF SPARKLE AND WARMTH TO THE TABLE.



prepared by my grandma (Me-Maw) at her home. Her signature baked ham, Southern-style green beans, deviled eggs and homemade pies always set the scene at the Christmas dinner. But the real star of the show (for us grandkids) was the holiday punch. This combination of tart cranberry, sweet grape juice and spicy ginger soda

TIP: Freeze cranberries and rosemary sprigs into a few ice molds and place in the punchbowl. The slow-melting ice keeps your punch looking beautiful and chilled without it watering down.



GET A CLOSER LOOK AT THESE HOLIDAY-INSPIRED PROJECTS AND MORE AT MIDCENTURYMAURER.COM.

made for a colorful, fizzy concoction we couldn't get enough of. She would always serve the punch in a large crystal bowl, and we would ladle it into matching cups, which hung off the side of the bowl on tiny hooks. I was so drawn to the vibrant red-violet drink that I was continually scolded for ladling out my third, fourth ... seventh serving.

I still enjoy serving this delicious punch to guests, though I have modified Me-Maw's recipe to include some festive spirits for a little added ... punch! Here's to enjoying as many refills as you like without being reprimanded.

HOLIDAY SPICE FRUIT PUNCH

Yield: Approx. 50 4-ounce servings

INGREDIENTS:

30 oz. light rum
20 oz. spiced pear brandy
64 oz. white grape juice
12 oz. frozen cranberry juice concentrate (thawed)
48 oz. (4 bottles) ginger beer

DIRECTIONS:

Gently stir rum, brandy, grape juice and cranberry concentrate into a large punch bowl. Add ginger beer. Serve with a ladle into punch cups.



For more on Robert Maurer, and to check out his line of custom mod gift wrap, visit commuter.industries.

BOUNTIFUL BUFFET

Credenzas are one of my favorite pieces of furniture in any room design. I give mine special attention for the holidays with a little seasonal décor. Using surrounding artwork as the basis for a holiday display is an excellent way to make your room feel festive. I modified these black candlesticks from Target (no longer available) by sawing off the candleholder portion from the top. Varying sizes are staggered and accompanied by a simple pine branch and clusters of colorful, vintage glass ornaments. The basic geometric shapes and colors in this setting mimic what is happening in the background, creating an added layer of depth to the artwork.

CREATIVE COVERINGS

Do you cringe at boring holiday gift wrap? Use a solid color or bold graphic paper for a less literal approach to holiday packaging this year. A simple satin ribbon in a contrasting or tone-on-tone color adds a cheerful sparkle, and a solid-color tag keeps the focus on the vibrant wrapping. Adorn your gifts with a festive holiday pick by wiring together a faux pine stem and miniature glass ornaments. ❁

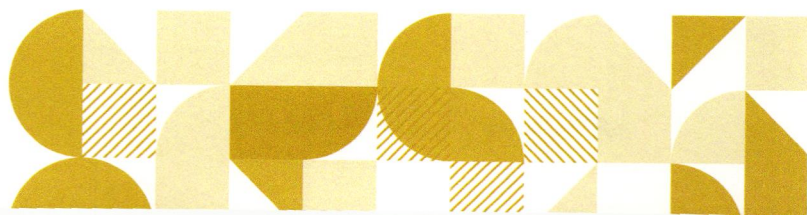
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Putting Your **SPACE TO WORK**

Here's a roundup of some of our favorite home offices.

By Jolene Nolte

Working from home puts new demands on your living space, but if anyone is up to the challenge of marrying form and function for all sorts of uses, it's those schooled in the Mid Century Modern way. Find inspiration here for a variety of mid mod home office ideas.

SERENE & ADAPTABLE.

Uncertain times call for nimble design. In her Atlanta home, Jessica Davis of Atelier Davis kept flexibility in mind. "I wanted a built-in look," she says, "but on a tight budget and to be able to move things around if and when we turn it back into a bedroom." Two desks nestled next to each other provide the extra-long surface area and can also easily be rearranged.

Tolomeo micro table lamp,
\$465. Visit artemidestore.com
or artemide.net.



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PHOTO EMILY FOLLOWILL; JESSICA DAVIS OF ATELIER DAVIS

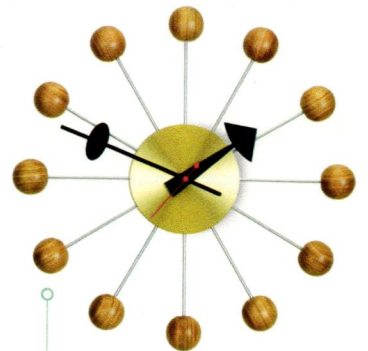
Inspired armchair by Joseph Allen,
\$319.99. (844) 782-7433 or wayfair.com.



DOUBLE DUTY. This 1951 home in Kensington, Maryland, folds an office into the living room, where a modular wall unit serves as a desk, offering out-of-sight storage as well as room to display a few favorite books and ceramics. If a dedicated room for an office isn't available in your house, tucking a work space into a larger room is a creative solution.

Get
THE
LOOK

Fisher round cocktail table (Shagreen). Contact (336) 885-5005 or visit theodorealexander.com for pricing.



Nelson ball clock (Cherry/Brass), \$550. (888) 798-0202 or store.hermanmiller.com.



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MAKE IT PERSONAL. Why not build your home office around your favorite color? Orange and handmade touches define this home office. Jenny James of Suburban Pop loves orange and painted the abstract art herself. Her husband is a hobby woodworker and made the desk. The chair was bought new, but Jenny customized it by painting the legs.

Bobbie table lamp,
\$280. (651) 408-3018 or
modilumi.com.



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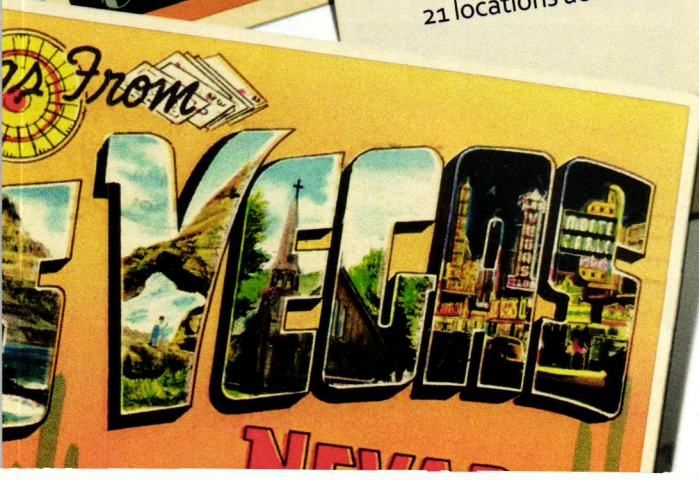


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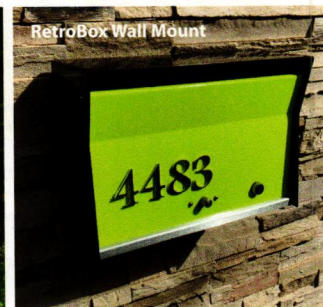
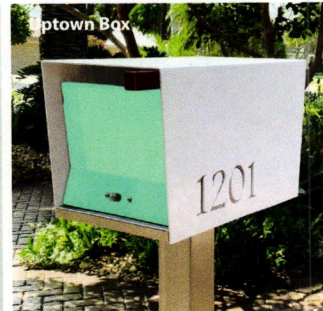
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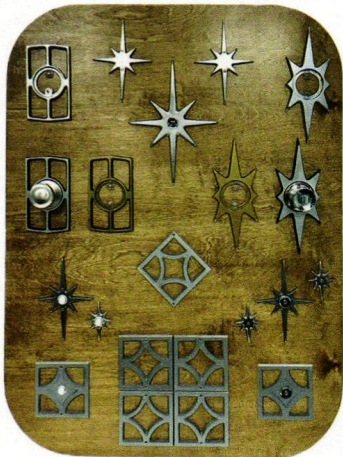
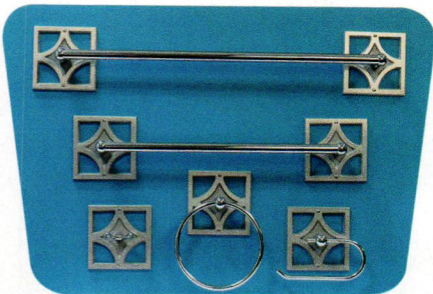
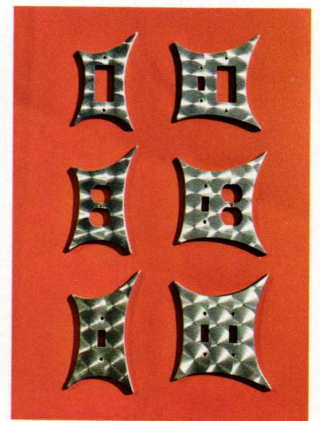
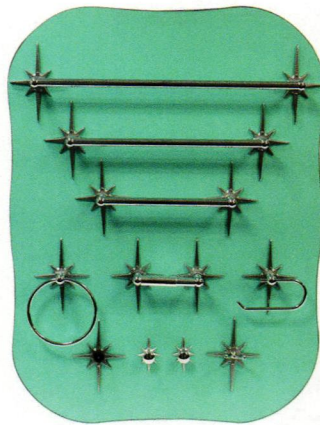


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— Cathy-anne

I bought about four items from this shop. Not only are the towel bars and hand towel rings super high quality, they're even more gorgeous in person. Also, shipping was incredibly fast. Thanks so much! I can't wait to purchase more items in the future.

— Angie

I cannot express how amazing this is with words. Incredibly fast shipping and impeccable work. You cannot find this kind of unique quality hardware anywhere else. We absolutely love this and will continue to order from this buyer. Long live Atomic everything!!!! Thank you so much.

— Laura

OMG, perfect! The towel bar and rings, and cabinet knobs are just what I needed for our bathroom redo. Beautiful and very high-quality workmanship!

— Pamela



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AT THE KNOLL SHOWROOM IN SAN FRANCISCO,
DESIGNED IN 1954, FLORENCE KNOLL
TRANSFORMED A BLAND WAREHOUSE INTO A
STYLISH, TWO-STORY SETTING BY INSTALLING
METAL WALL DETAILS FOR A MORE SOPHISTICATED
LOOK THAN SIMPLY USING CONCRETE.



In the 1950s and '60s, an elite class of designers transformed pieces of furniture into works of art. Their names have become synonymous with the iconic modern masterpieces they created: Eames, Saarinen, Starck, Mies van der Rohe, Bertola, Wright and Jacobsen, to name a few. However, this supreme list would be incomplete without noting the innovative work of Florence Knoll.

The primarily industrial designer opened the door to a new kind of office that evolved into an artistic experience. "Knoll paired interiors with architecture, and in so doing, she both defined a clearer brief for the interior design profession and elevated its social and cultural status," writes Ana Araujo in her new book, *No Compromise: The Work of Florence Knoll*.

Knoll's roster of renowned corporate clients included media moguls, such as television executives, and business titans, such as the Rockefellers.

FLORENCE KNOLL ATTENDS A CONFERENCE AT ONE OF HER ICONIC PROJECTS, THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, CIRCA 1955.

By Meryl Schoenbaum
Photography courtesy of the Knoll Archives

Florence Knoll

The furniture designer created her own version of modernism, taking office spaces to a new level of functionality with flair.



FLORENCE KNOLL CREATED "SCULPTURAL" FEATURES TO HELP SHAPE HER INTERIORS. THIS IS APPARENT IN HER DESIGNS FOR SEVERAL KNOLL SHOWROOMS, SUCH AS THIS ONE IN CHICAGO, DESIGNED IN 1953, WHICH INCLUDES ORIGAMI-SHAPED FIGURES.

"Knoll paired interiors with architecture, and in so doing she both defined a clearer brief for the interior design profession and elevated its social and cultural status."



"I am not a decorator," Knoll stated in a 1964 interview with *The New York Times*. "The only place I decorate is my own house." Indeed, Florence Knoll did nothing less than turn the concept of the plain, practical office environment on its ear.

CREATING SOLUTIONS

Knoll believed the secret for producing good design was to identify what the problem was and solve it. A perfect example of how Knoll approached specific design challenges was her creative furniture at the office of the president of the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS), where one of her tasks was to conceal a sophisticated electronic control system that housed a phonograph, telephone, radio and televisions, Araujo explains. She says Knoll created "an ingenious storage unit to resolve the problem, which she detailed in an elaborate but concise sketch. It was one of the main hallmarks of the Knoll look: the articulation of a utilitarian problem with such a degree of care and artistry that it almost acquired, in itself, a decorative status."

The designer created her own version of modernism, Araujo says, explaining that "her style—consistent with her architectural training from mentors such as Eliel Saarinen and Mies van der Rohe and influenced by colleagues such as Charles and Ray Eames—combined the boldness and sleekness of the steel-and-glass aesthetic with a 'humanized' application of color, texture and comfort."



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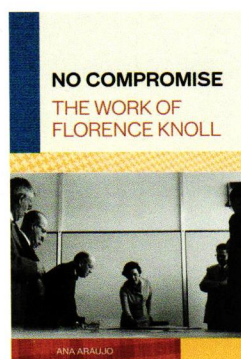




TOP: THIS EXECUTIVE LOUNGE AND DINING AREA AT LOOK PUBLICATIONS' OFFICES IN NEW YORK WAS DESIGNED BY FLORENCE KNOLL AND THE KNOLL PLANNING UNIT IN 1962.

ABOVE: "CONNECTICUT GENERAL [LIFE INSURANCE CO.] WAS AN EXEMPLARY MODEL OF TOTAL DESIGN," AUTHOR ANA ARAUJO WRITES. "ITS INTERIORS WERE PERFECTLY STREAMLINED WITH THE ARCHITECTURE, PROVIDING A SMOOTH, COHERENT EXPERIENCE." FLORENCE KNOLL ELEVATED UNINSPIRED WORKSPACE DESIGNS TO A NEW LEVEL OF MID CENTURY MODERN STYLE.

NO COMPROMISE: THE
WORK OF FLORENCE
KNOLL BY ANA ARAUJO,
PUBLISHED BY PRINCETON
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© 2021 ANA ARAUJO.



Knoll's designs were nearly as minimal as Mies' buildings and interiors, yet they felt cozier and more tactile, owing these warmer qualities to the influence of Eliel Saarinen, the Eames couple and others, Araujo says. "Knoll's interiors combined visual precision with material fuzziness, calibrating these qualities in response to the particularities of each program, site and client."

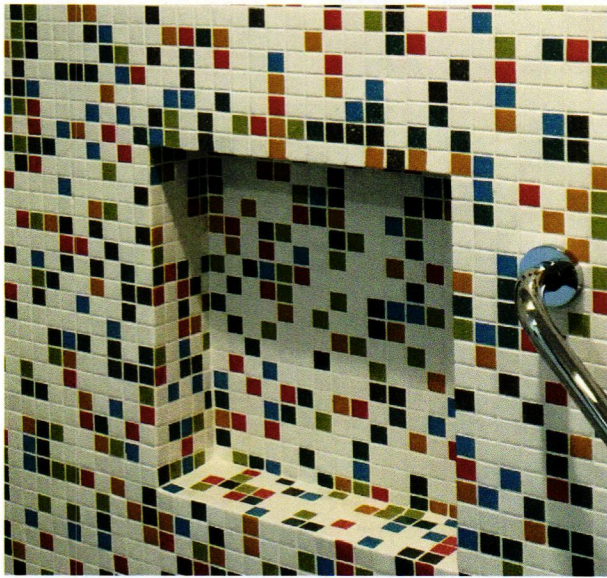
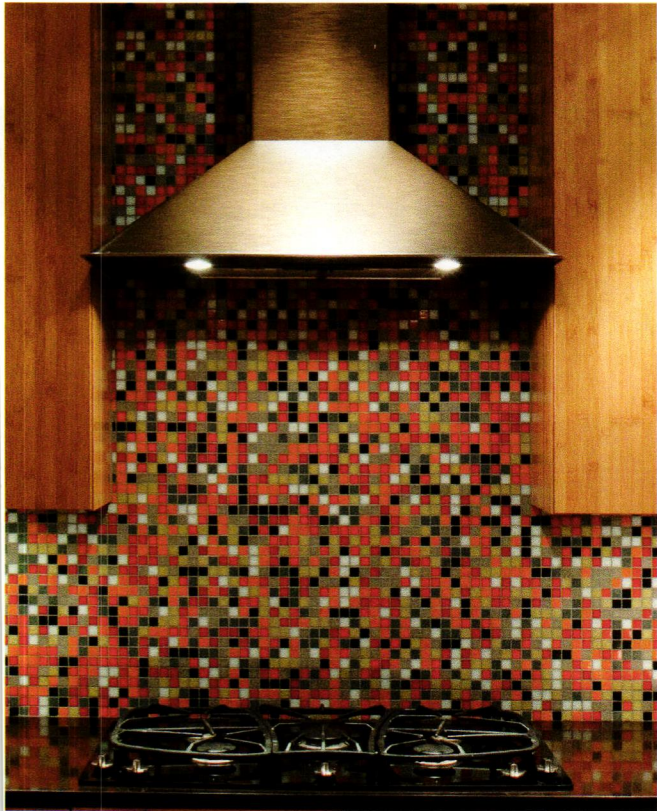
Several of Knoll's interiors became iconic, including the offices of CBS headquarters, General Motors, Connecticut General, H. J. Heinz and Look Publications. Yet Knoll was unassuming about her furniture designs, Araujo says. "'Meat and potatoes' is how she described them. The most iconic interiors Florence Knoll designed resembled living rooms, even if most of them were located within the context of corporate, commercial or institutional settings."

CULTURE SHOCK

"Under Florence Knoll, the character of the office changed," Araujo says. "In the same way that Mies, through his artistic skills, had turned the steel structure, in principle dull and monotonous, into an iconic design feature, Knoll transformed the equally boring and standardized modern office into an image that was eventually considered to be cool and sexy." Her interiors glamorized the office space. "The Knoll look combined the image of efficiency that was required from a working space with the excitement and drama that is usually linked to leisure and entertainment, adding to the mix a cozy and intimate experience typically associated with the domestic. It was as if the office as a space, and work as an activity, now contained everything that a human being needed in order to feel happy and fulfilled."

Florence Knoll refined and glamorized utilitarian design, enabling her to create highly sophisticated and seductive working spaces, Araujo says. Her body of work transcended modernizing the ambience of the office; it transformed corporate culture forever. 

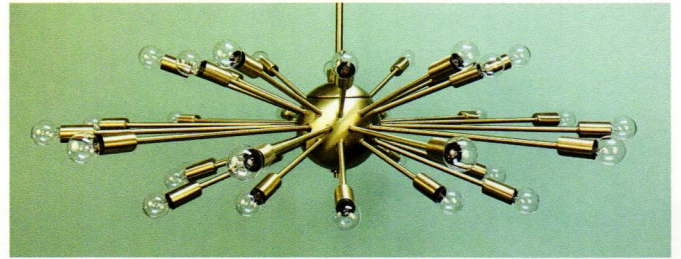
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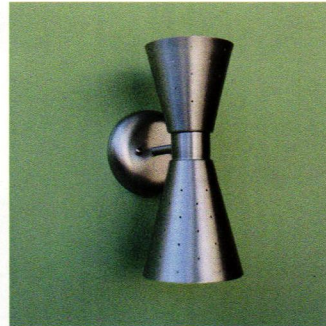
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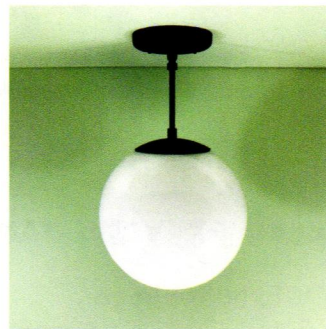
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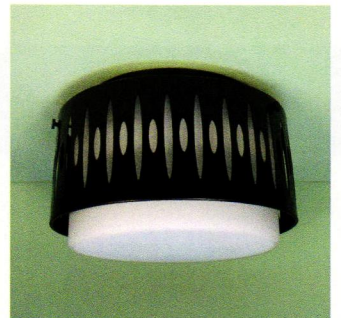
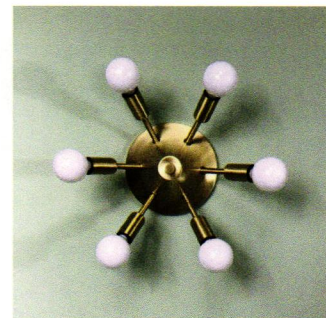
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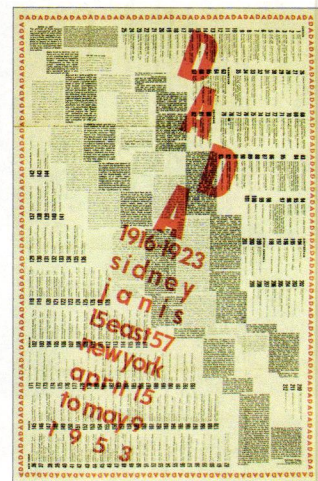
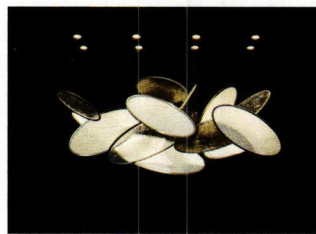
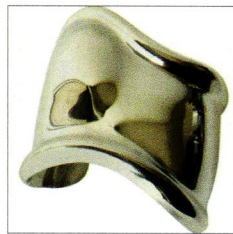
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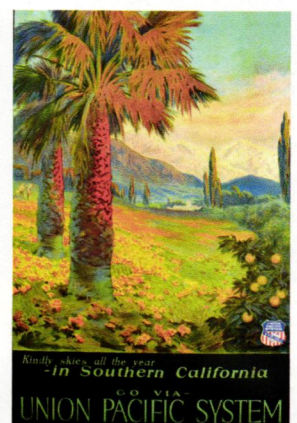
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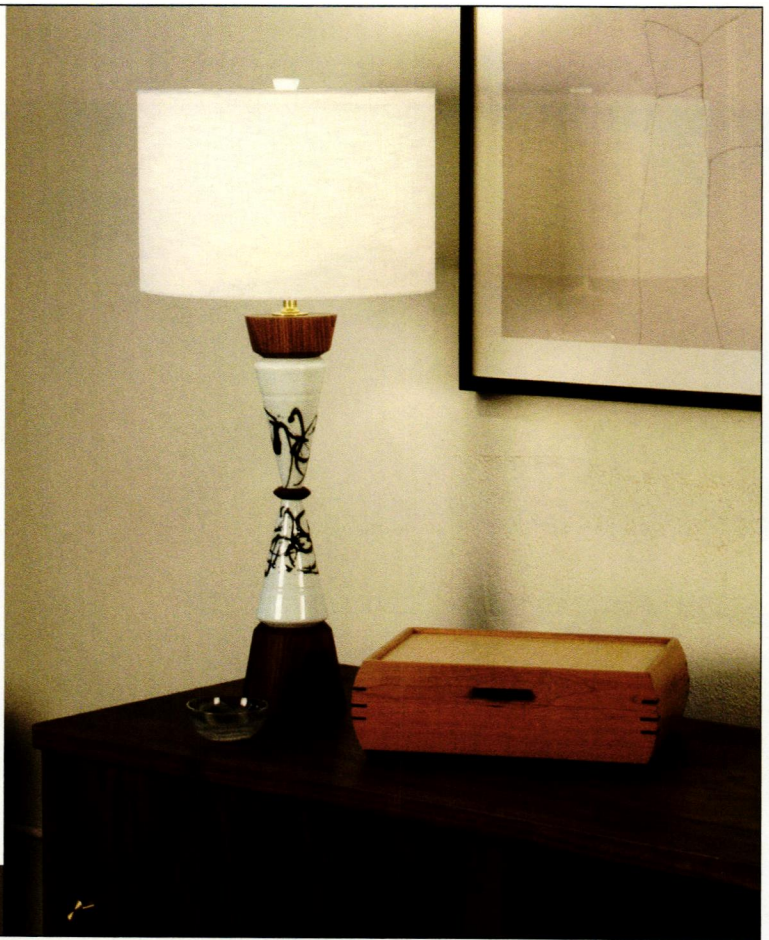
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MINI ME MID CENTURY

A fun and vibrant ode to classic MCM design, our Project House Austin casita is ready to be revealed.

By **Kristin Dowding** | Photography by **Chase Daniels** | Interior design by **Christine Turknnett**
Styling by **Christine Turknnett & Whitney Smelser**

TOP: THE CLIFF MAY RANCHOS INSPIRED MICHAEL'S STRUCTURAL DESIGN FOR THE CASITA. THE ROOF PROVIDES AN OVERHANG FOR THE FRONT PATIO WITH A NATURAL PINE TONGUE-AND-GROOVE CEILING. "I LOVE THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE BLACK AND NATURAL PINE," SAYS MICHAEL. "IT GIVES IT A DISTINCTIVE LOOK."

RIGHT: FLOOR-TO-CEILING WINDOWS MAKE THE SMALL CASITA SEEM LARGER, OPENING UP THE LIVING ROOM TO THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE. "THE CLASSIC EICHLER CLERESTORY WINDOWS ARE A STAPLE OF THE PERIOD," SAYS MICHAEL. "THEY BRING INDIRECT LIGHT INTO THE LIVING AREA, WHICH BOUNCES OFF THE CEILING AND PROVIDES A NICE AMBIENCE FOR THE INTERIORS."

BELOW: THINLINE WOOD PANELING FROM EICHLER SIDING ADDS WARMTH TO THE FRONT PATIO. "WE DECIDED TO GO WITH A DARKER STAIN THAN WE HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED BECAUSE WE WANTED IT TO CONTRAST WITH THE WHITE STUCCO," SAYS MICHAEL. THE ESCON DOOR WAS PAINTED BLUE TO ADD A POP OF COLOR AS YOU ENTER THE CASITA.



LEARN MORE ABOUT BREATHE DESIGN STUDIO'S SIGNATURE STYLE ONLINE AT [ATOMIC-RANCH.COM](http://atomic-ranch.com).

Project House Austin's first reveal is here!

Builder Michael Wray, owner and founder of MidCentury Custom Homes, LLC, and designer Christine Turknnett of Breathe Design Studio have been collaborating to bring the vision of a retro, Mid Century Modern-inspired casita to life.

"It's punchy, vibrant and playful," says Christine. "With the help of vintage-inspired décor, classic patterns and iconic designs, this new build has all the charm of an authentic period home."

MULTIPURPOSE BUILD

Just off the main house, this casita can serve a few different functions. "It's more than just a guest house," says Christine. "Ever since Covid, Michael has been imagining it as a





work-from-home office too." The bedroom is outfitted with a desk, and the living room and bedroom both have daybeds that can be used for sleeping or simply relaxing with a book.

This hybrid office/guest house is small at 512 square feet, but the floor-to-ceiling windows and abundance of natural light make it feel more spacious. "Particularly for smaller spaces, floor-to-ceiling windows create a much more open living experience," says Michael. And, of course, they capture the indoor-outdoor relationship found in most mid century homes.

POST AND BEAM

But that's not the only nod to bringing the outdoors in. Michael added tongue-and-groove paneling to the underside of the roof's exterior as well as the interior ceiling to create that seamless transition. And he decided on a traditional post-and-beam structure inspired by the Cliff May Ranchos. "Black post and beam is a classic mid century look that happens to be fairly on trend," says Michael. "Where classic and trendy intersect, it's a good place to be."

The roof creates an overhang for the extended patio, where a number of materials are at play. The white stucco walls and black wood beams are a stark contrast to the warmth of the Thinline paneling from Eichler Siding surrounding the Escon front door. "I struggled with choosing a color for the front door," says Christine. "I ended up finding inspiration from a book by William Krisel and noticed a baby-blue shade that I liked. I don't normally associate that color with Mid Century Modern, but you see a lot of turquoise, so I thought I'd choose a color in between the two that hasn't been seen yet."

THE LIVING ROOM HAS A CLASSIC MCM VIBE WITH A BRIGHT-YELLOW WOMB CHAIR-INSPIRED CHAIR FROM KARDIEL AND A STARBURST-PATTERNED RUG FROM FLOR. CHRISTINE CHOSE A NEUTRAL DAYBED SOFA FROM KARDIEL TO BALANCE THE BOLD COLORS IN THE SPACE. A CLASSIC GEORGE NELSON SAUCER BUBBLE PENDANT FROM LUMENS HANGS IN BETWEEN THE LIVING ROOM AND THE KITCHEN.

OPPOSITE: THE KARDIEL SIDEBOARD INSPIRED BY THE DESIGNS OF FINN JUHL IS ANOTHER FUN AREA OF COLOR IN THE LIVING ROOM. YOU CAN COVER THE INTERIOR DRAWERS FOR A SUBTLE LOOK OR KEEP THE SLIDING DOOR OPEN TO REVEAL THE BLUE OMBRÉ EFFECT. "I WANTED TO HAVE DIFFERENT SHADES OF BLUE IN THE ROOM," SAYS CHRISTINE.

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 88.



1950s FUN

Compared to the main house that has an MCM blend, the casita pulls from classic retro style, featuring iconic mid century pieces, patterns and colors. "We were trying to think about the use of the space and match that spirit and vibe," says Jackie Torres, editor of *Atomic Ranch*. "It was a fun opportunity to be more lighthearted, vibrant and fanciful, which felt like an appropriate direction for this kind of structure."

Committing to the idea of a more saturated color palette, they incorporated a bright yellow Womb Chair-inspired chair and a multicolored sideboard from Kardiel, robin's egg-blue kitchen appliances by Elmira Stove Works and a custom backsplash inspired by the George Nelson ball clock. "I saw the tile and was happy to make the connection and have the backsplash reminiscent of such an iconic clock from that period," says Christine.

But she took care to balance the more vibrant pieces with neutrals. "I wanted a neutral sofa and rug, because the furniture pieces I chose were pretty bold," she says. The chrome features in the legs, the range and the cabinet hardware also aided in toning down the brighter hues. "I needed to show some restraint because it's one big room," says Christine. And that line of thinking applied to the kitchen as well. "I thought about making all of the appliances blue, but I thought it would be too much," she says. "I wanted the refrigerator to be the star, and I didn't want anything competing with the tile."

With the perfect balance of retro and modern, the casita successfully brings mid century style into the present, allowing us to appreciate the past while enjoying modern comforts. 🌀

COLORFUL KITCHENS

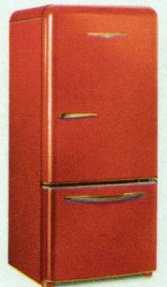
Elmira Stove Works offers a variety of colors for their Northstar collection of retro-inspired appliances. "The colors are modeled after 1950s cars," says Tony Dowling, vice president of sales and marketing at Elmira Stove Works. "They take us back to a simpler time." Here are the colors you can choose from, but note that they also offer color matching for custom colors:

1



Buttercup Yellow

2



Candy Red

3



Robin's Egg Blue

4



Tropical Blue

5



Mint Green

6



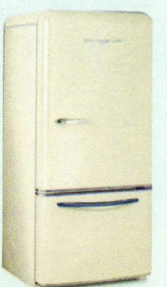
Black

7



White

8



Bisque



ABOVE, LEFT: CHRISTINE BALANCED THE WHITE KITCHEN WITH ROBIN'S EGG-BLUE APPLIANCES FROM ELMIRA STOVE WORKS. "THE CLASSIC WHITE SLAB CABINETS ALLOW THE APPLIANCES TO BE THE STAR OF THE SHOW," SAYS MICHAEL. THEIR RETRO BLUE COLOR AND STYLE COMPLEMENT THE CUSTOM BACKSPASH TILES. "THE TILE COLORS ARE INSPIRED BY THE ICONIC GEORGE NELSON BALL CLOCK," SAYS CHRISTINE. "IT WAS A TILE IN BLACK AND WHITE, AND I WAS ABLE TO CUSTOMIZE TWO OF THE COLORS."

ABOVE, RIGHT: THE BEDROOM CAN SERVE AS A PLACE TO REST OR A PLACE TO WORK. WITH A FUNCTIONAL DESK AGAINST THE WALL AND A DAYBED FROM KARDIEL, THIS VERSATILE SPACE CAN BE USED FOR ANY NEED. THE MATTHEWS FAN COMPANY CEILING FAN KEEPS THE ROOM COOL, AND THE SLIDING GLASS DOORS AND CLERESTORY WINDOWS ALLOW IN PLENTY OF NATURAL LIGHT.



HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT TILE FOR YOUR HOME

B&W Tile has kept the retro colors of the 1950s alive and well in their collection. With both bright and moody, simple and ornate styles to choose from, it can be overwhelming to select the right choice. Here are our tips to help you narrow down your options.

STYLE

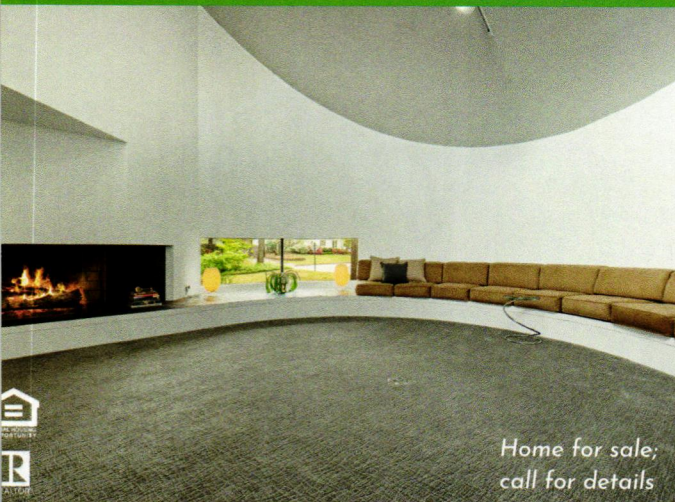
You can never go wrong with a classic square or rectangle tile, but if the room is in need of some texture, choosing a hex or Certosa shape can add intrigue and movement to the space. "Choose a color or style that will make you smile when you walk into the room," says Alex Vassaux, managing director at B&W Tile.

COLOR

Ultimately, it comes down to which colors will work best with your existing palette, but in general, stick to lighter colors in a smaller space to keep it open. You can get away with darker colors in a larger space for a moody or bold look. "With our color-matching program, the choices are endless," says Alex.

TO NAIL THE VINTAGE BATHROOM LOOK, CHRISTINE SPENT A LOT OF TIME RESEARCHING. "IN AUTHENTIC MCM HOMES, YOU SEE TILE UP TO A CERTAIN POINT ON A WALL AND THEN WHITE ABOVE IT," SAYS CHRISTINE. "I WANTED TO KEEP THAT SAME COLOR BLOCKING AND DO IT WITH FLOOR-TO-CEILING TILES." SHE EMULATED THIS LOOK WITH VINTAGE-INSPIRED BLUE AND WHITE TILES FROM B&W TILE. LIKE ANY HOME PROJECT, THIS BATHROOM HIT A SNAG: THERE WEREN'T ENOUGH TILES TO COMPLETE THE COLOR BLOCK DESIGN ON ALL WALLS AS CHRISTINE HAD PLANNED. SO THEY PAINTED THE WALLS TO MATCH AND WILL COMPLETE THE INSTALL WHEN THE TILES ARRIVE.

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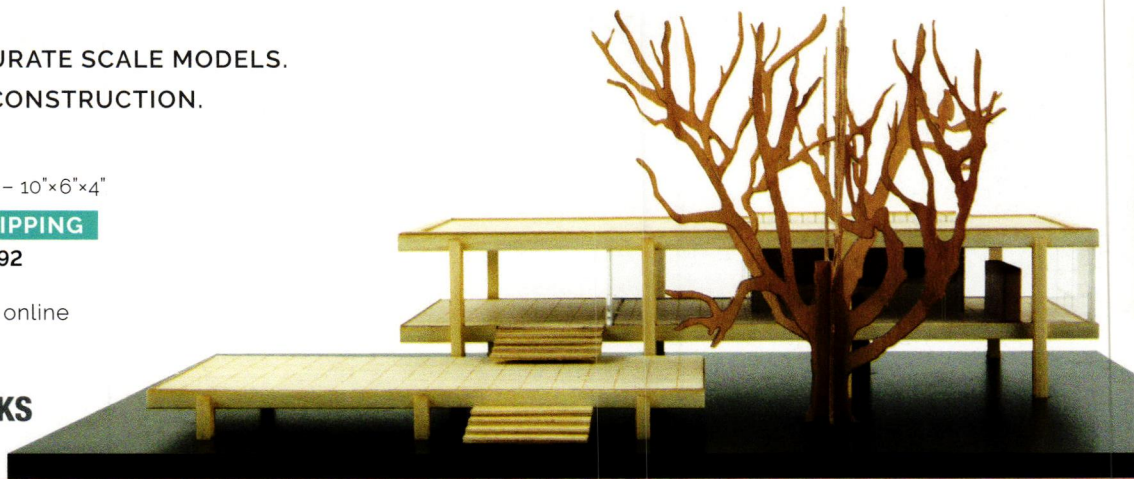
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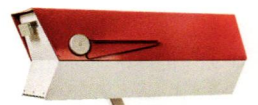
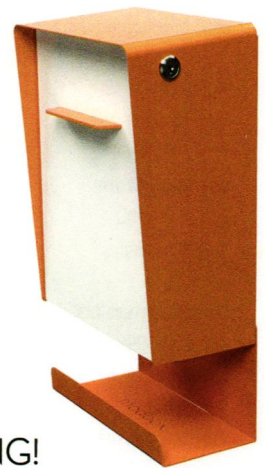
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Atomic Kitchens

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Design company: C&R Design Remodel. (503) 363-1343 or crdesignremodel.com or follow them on Instagram @cr_remodeling.

Lower backsplash: Daltile. (800) 449-3591 or daltile.com.

Pendant light: Design Within Reach. (800) 944-2233 or dwr.com.

Upper backsplash: Ann Sacks. (949) 831-3333 or annsacks.com.

Second Act

Page 26

To see more of the home, visit it on Instagram @this_mid_century.

Contractor for main house: Marinelli Brothers Construction. 914-403-3156 or marinellibrothers.com.

Contractor for studio: Marcello Osso. Visit Instagram @woodmastersandson.

Outdoor:

Red sculpture: Dennis Leri, dennisleri.com.

Blue front door: Baldwin, baldwinhardware.com.

Garage doors: Ed's Garage Doors, edsgaragedoor.com.

Windows and sliding doors: Western Windows. Series 600, satin anodized or bronze anodized, westernwindowssystem.com.

Reflecting pool renovation: Stone steppers and lighting by Arborscape, arborscape.com.

Cauldron on deck: Cowboy Cauldron, cowboycauldron.com.

Living Room:

Tile floor: Sam's Ceramic and Tile, samstilewp.com.

Bookshelves by fireplace: Silva Cabinetry, (914)737-7697 or silvacabinetryandstone.com.

Entry rug: Safavieh, safavieh.com.

Skylights: Custom Barrel Vault, starlightskylights.com.

Blue sofa: West Coast Modern LA, westcoastmodernla.com.

Two chairs: Soto chair, joybird.com.

Coffee tables: Vintage Greta Jalk (wood, no glass).

Nelson fireplace tool, Eames walnut stool, Saarinen side table: Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

Picasso pillow: Moma, store.moma.org.

Green rug: Solo Rugs, solorugs.com.

Swan: Artist Todd Murphy, toddmurphy.com.

Lighting: Monorail Kit by Tech Lighting, ylighting.com.

Runner: Samson Runner by Dash and Albert, wayfair.com.

Dining Room:

Dining table: Gather table, dwr.com.

Dining chairs: Classic café upholstered dining, westelm.com.

Bar: Custom Hedge House Furniture, hedgehousefurniture.com.

Study:

Adjustable hand-crank table: Custom, stonecountyironworks.com.

Desk chair: Eames Soft Pad Chair, hermanmiller.com.

Artwork: Chicago Stock exchange by lit artwork, wright20.com.

Den:

Sofa, Noguchi coffee table: Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

Ceiling/roof: Douglas fir double T&G Roof Decking. J. Gibson Mcllvain Company. (410) 335-9600 or mcilvain.com.

Rug: STARK Carpet & Rug, starkcarpet.com.

Surfboard: Greg Noll, nollsurfboards.com.

Cabinetry: Silva Cabinetry, (914)737-7697 or silvacabinetryandstone.com.

Bathroom:

Vanity: Wood Masters & Son Inc., (917) 882-5014 or @woodmastersandson.

Countertop: Sam's Ceramic and Tile, samstilewp.com.

Toilet: Toto, totousa.com.

Wall fixture: Sonneman, ylighting.com.

Skylights: Velux flat roof, veluxusa.com.

Kitchen:

Refrigerator, ranch, hood, oven microwave: Subzero Wolf, subzero-wolf.com.

Countertop: Unique Calacatta, us.compac.es.

Faucet: California Faucets, calfaucets.com.

Barstools: Eames molded plywood stool in Walnut, dwr.com.

Powder Room:

Faucet: Porcelanosa, porcelanosa-usa.com.

Backlit mirror: Y Lighting, ylighting.com.

Sink: LaCava, lacava.com.

Cabinetry: Silva Cabinetry, (914)737-7697 or silvacabinetryandstone.com.

Tile: Sam's Ceramic and Tile, samstilewp.com.

Mid Century Rarity

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Dining chair: Eames, shop.eamesoffice.com.

Four-legged stool: Artek Alvar, Aalto Furniture, aaltousa.com.

Bertoncini "Min" bed: Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

Mini Me Mid Century

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For more on Christine, visit breathedesigstudio.com or follow her on Instagram @breathedesig.

For more on Michael, visit midcenturycustomhomes.com or follow him on Instagram @midcenturycustomhomes.

Backsplash and patio tile: Clay Imports, (512) 836-8500 or clayimports.com.

Bathroom faucet: Ferguson Enterprises, (800) 721-2590 or ferguson.com.

Bathroom tile: B&W Tile, (310) 538-9579 or bwtile.com.

Bedroom mirrors, patio chairs, orange pillow: World Market, (877) 967-5362 or worldmarket.com.

Black and wood side table: IKEA, (888) 888-4532 or ikea.com.

Black side table: Hay, (833) 849-3025 or us.hay.com.

Cabinets: Kent Moore, kmc.net.

Cabinet hardware, bathroom mirror: Rejuvenation, (888) 401-1900 or rejuvenation.com.

Ceiling fan: Matthew's Fan Company, (847) 680-9043 or matthewsfanco.com.

Door: Escon Doors. (800) 368-7850 or escondoor.com.

Exterior wood panels: Eichler Siding, (415) 883-5300 or eichlersiding.com.

Furniture (sofa, Womb chair, coffee table, sideboard, daybed): Kardiel, (877) 844-4988 or kardiel.com.

Kitchen appliances (refrigerator, range, dishwasher, microwave): Elmira Stove Works, (519) 669-1281 or elmirastoveworks.com.

Kitchen artwork, patio artwork: HomeGoods, homegoods.com.

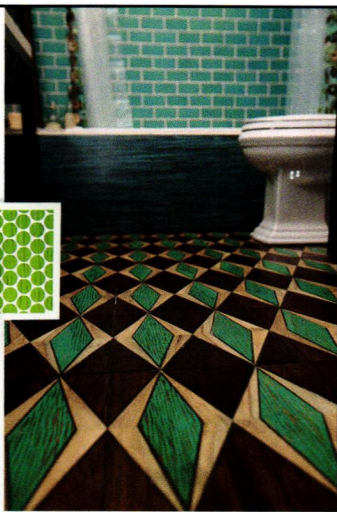
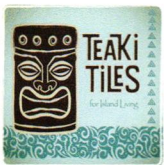
Lighting: Lumens, (888) 532-2974 or lumens.com.

Pillows (blue, black and white): Crate & Barrel, (312) 779-1979 or crateandbarrel.com.

Rugs: FLOR, (866) 952-4093 or flor.com.

Sideboard artwork: Four Hands Marketplace, marketplace.fourhands.com.

Wallpaper: Abnormals Anonymous, (206) 717-4999 or abnormalsanonymous.com.



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In 1938, famed Japanese-American sculptor, architect and industrial designer Isamu Noguchi submitted a proposal for a 22-foot-tall, stainless steel bas-relief sculpture to adorn the entrance of the Associated Press Building in New York City. The sculpture, to be called "News," would depict five journalists riding the newswire, wielding the tools of their craft: a notepad, telephone, camera and wirephoto.

Two years later in 1940, the frieze was unveiled and could not have been timelier. Noguchi's work honored the endeavor of news gathering and exalted American journalists as larger-than-life heroes and the protectors of an informed public. He depicted a free press as the necessary "fourth branch" of any democracy.

But in February of 1942, in the wake of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation that created internment camps up

and down the West Coast designed to imprison over 125,000 Japanese immigrants and their descendants. This historic civil-rights injustice came about, in part, because of pressure from the American people fueled by anti-Japanese editorials and propaganda published by the American press.

For the next few years, Noguchi advocated for Japanese-Americans through protests, art and essays. He even voluntarily admitted himself to the Poston internment camp in Arizona, where he tried to better the living conditions of those imprisoned there. But in the camp, he found his efforts to be futile and his presence unsettling for all parties. When the camps closed in 1946, Noguchi moved back to New York to focus on his art, while still being monitored by the FBI.

Then, of course, in 1947, he went on to design the quintessential modernist coffee table.



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