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THE
DESIGN
ISSUE
A RETROSPECTIVE

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of **MOD**



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Looking Back to Look Ahead

BY THE TIME THIS ISSUE ARRIVES AT YOUR DOORSTEPS and hits the stands, we will all be entering the busy holiday season and putting yet another year behind us.

The past year might have been a time of great change and challenge, adaptation and growth, clarification—and perhaps, even opportunity. As we reflect on “the year that was,” with all the good, bad and the ugly, our perspectives gain a richness and depth as we approach the year to come.

Atomic Ranch's annual Design issue is meant to be “retrospective” in the truest sense; that is, taking time and space to reflect on the history and evolution of the various elements of Mid Century Modern design. In this issue, my team and I have striven to provide a collection of “old” and “new” approaches to MCM in the hopes that we can gather something from the many different expressions of this unique and multi-faceted style to take with us in the year (and years) to come.

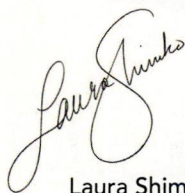
Additionally, we included a few features on futurism and space-age design to show how our idealized visions of the “future” impact our present in profound ways.

As I, in turn, reflect on my time as executive editor for *Atomic Ranch* over the past six months, I am so grateful to have been entrusted with the gift of delving deeply into so many different aspects of Mid Century Modern. It was truly an honor to take on a new role while our beloved editor, Jackie, enjoyed time to be with her growing family.

As my team and I put together each issue, I grew an even deeper respect and appreciation for the history and evolution of this design style, as well as for the passionate architects, designers, homeowners and readers—and my colleagues here, at the publication. Each one of these design professionals earnestly seeks to present and preserve this movement and all it entails.


Thank you, and cheers to an amazing production team and an inspiring community of MCM enthusiasts.

And so, may we always keep one eye of gratitude on the visionaries and pioneers of the past as we forge ahead toward all the exciting possibilities of the future!



Laura Shimko

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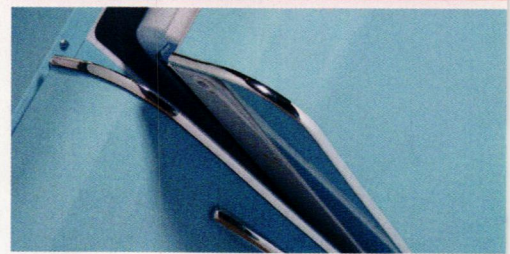
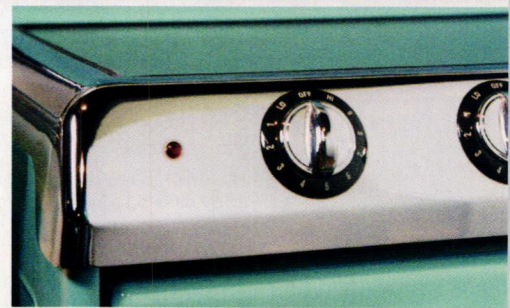
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THE DESIGN ISSUE

A RETROSPECTIVE



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EDITOR'S NOTE: in our Winter issue, we mistakenly published that the Miller House is located in Columbus, Ohio. It is located in Columbus, Indiana. We regret the error.

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COVER DESIGN BY GABBY OH

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PHOTO BY TRUJILLO STUDIOS; DESIGN BY JAMES JUDGE



HOUSE TOUR: JAMES JUDGE'S MID-CENTURY RENOVATION IN ARIZONA

See how designer James Judge amplified the MCM elements in this downtown Phoenix condo.

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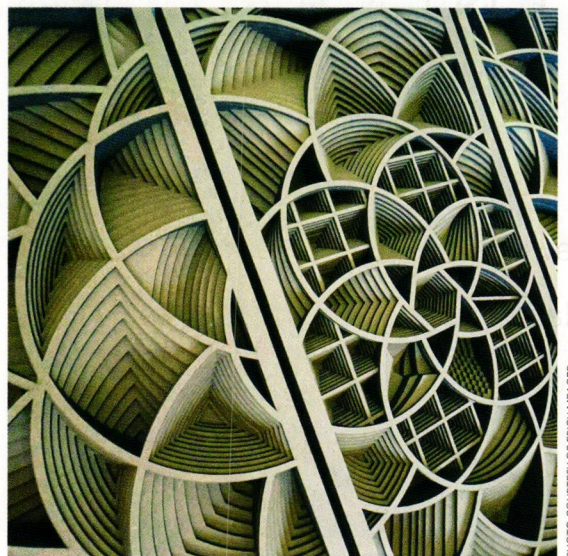
PHOTO BY MARTIN MCGEE



BRINGING BACK THE SPACE AGE'S FUTURISTIC ARTIFACTS

The space age had an influence on design, and Martin McGeer has been working to unearth what this era has to offer. He's become a collector and a dealer, and his collections have formed exhibitions.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICH MEAGER



COOL STUFF: BREEZE BLOCK-INSPIRED ARTWORK

Artist Erich Meager offers several collections of carefully crafted MCM shadow tile art that draw inspiration from Palm Springs breeze blocks.



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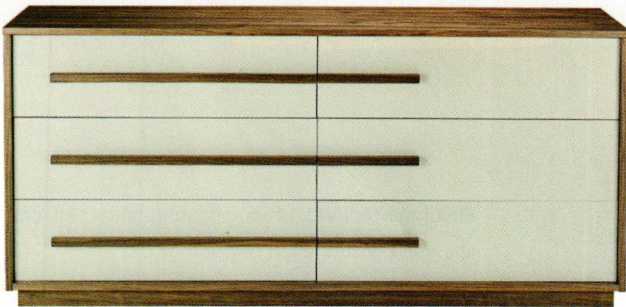
By IAN MCMASTER

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Bookshelves, Dressers and Beds—Oh, My!

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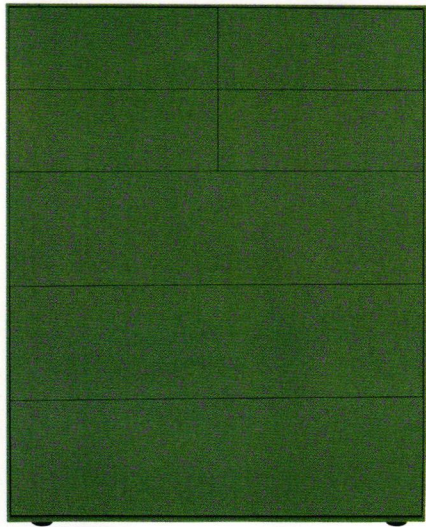


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6. "Dream" (39-inch drawers), \$1,497; kardiell.com
7. BDI "Eileen" bookshelf, \$1,099; kasala.com
8. "Grove" bed, \$1,999; roomandboard.com
9. "Tomato" bed, starting at \$1,695; us.hay.com

/ TAKE IT HOME /



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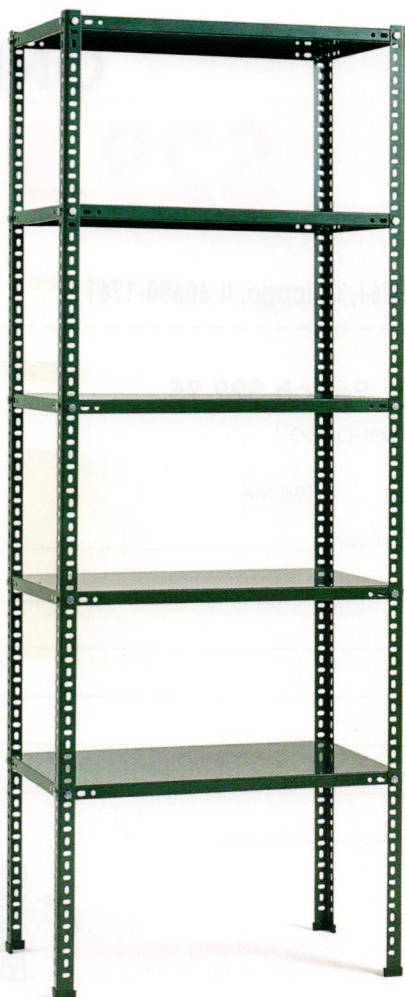
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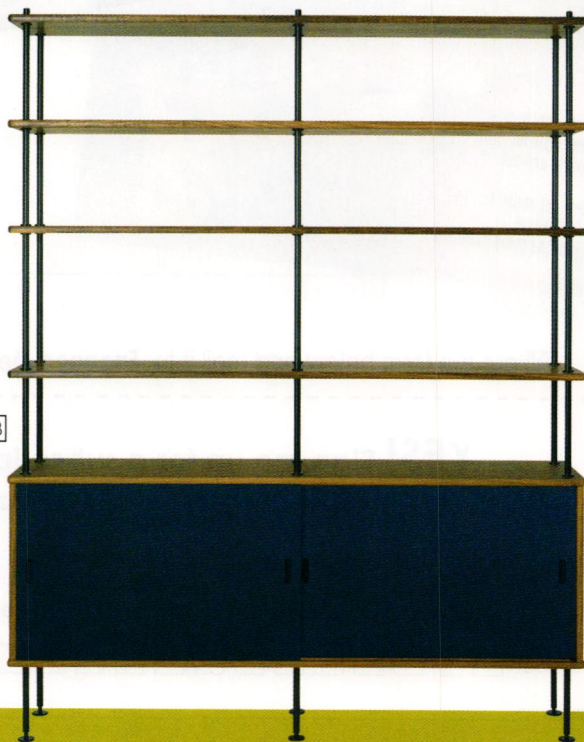
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- 10. "Lauki" tall dresser, \$2,120.75; dwr.com
- 11. "Dream" 50-inch bookshelf, \$947; kardiel.com
- 12. "Nelson" thin-edge bed, \$3,795; dwr.com
- 13. "New Order" bookshelf, \$2,375.75; us.hay.com
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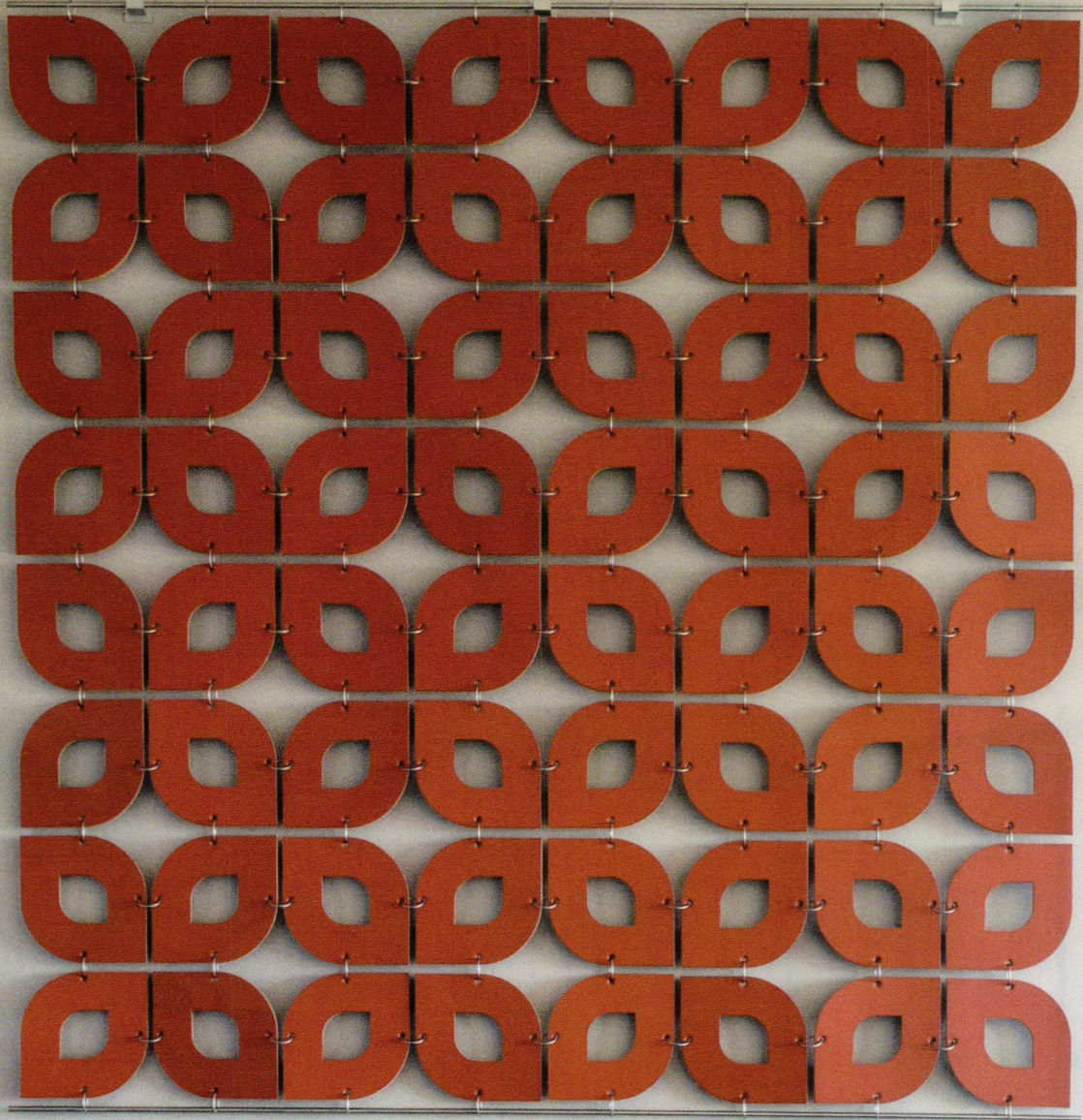
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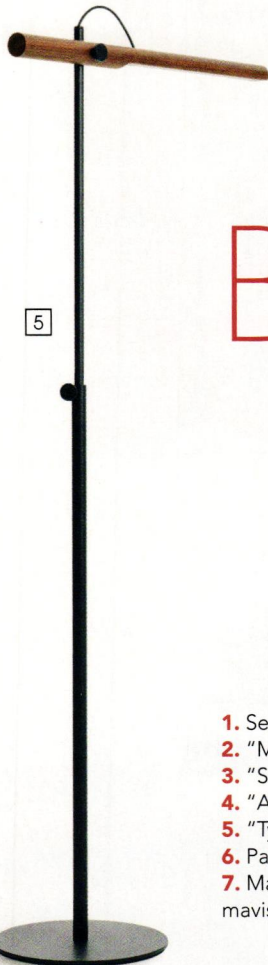
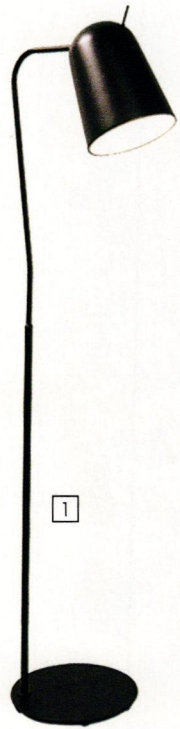


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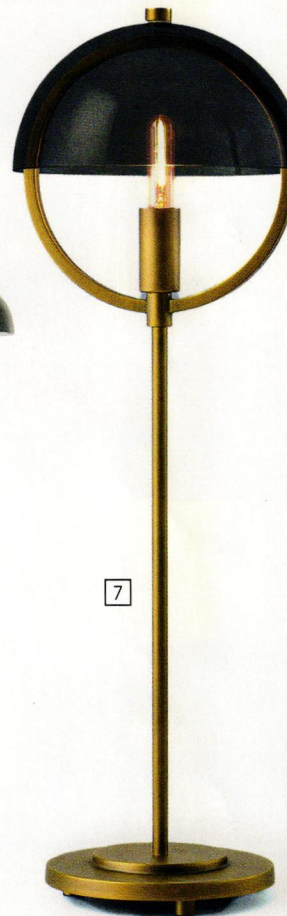
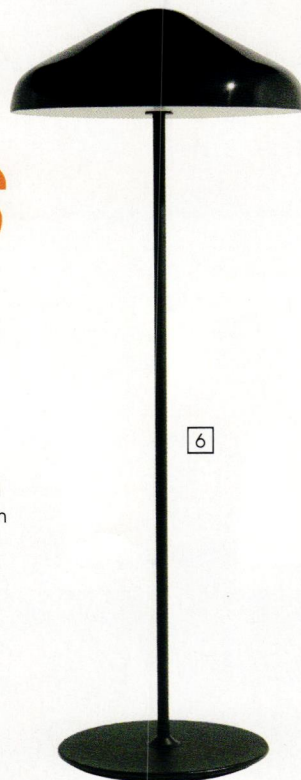


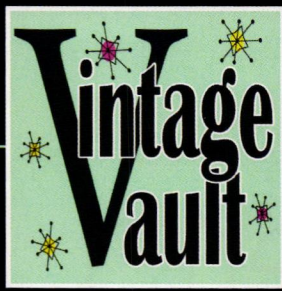
Bright Ideas

Design-focused lighting
to make any room shine

By IAN MCMASTER

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2. "Matin" table lamp, starting at \$165.75; us.hay.com
3. "Setty" floor lamp, \$570; modilumi.com
4. "ATOMIC" lamp in orange, \$295; tedstuff.com
5. "Type A" task floor lamp, \$450; bludot.com
6. Pao steel floor lamp, \$381.65; us.hay.com
7. Mavisten Edition "Copernia" table lamp, \$420; mavistenedition.com





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/ DESIGN ICON /

Eero Aarnio

His use of bold colors, organic forms and a plethora of materials changed furniture design.

By Ian McMaster

Photography courtesy of Eero Aarnio Archive

EERO AARNIO WAS BORN ON JULY 21, 1932, in the Kallio district of Helsinki, Finland. While his childhood was marked by the struggles of World War II (Kallio was one of the most bombarded districts in Helsinki), Aarnio's need to create was relentless.

Pencil drawings on carefully unwrapped packing paper, as well as homemade clay toys and model planes made of firewood, were Aarnio's initial works of art. This interest in, and ability to work with, different materials would eventually help define Aarnio's legacy as one of the great innovators of modern furniture design.

After a stint in the offices of architect Heikki Sysimetsä, where he was encouraged to pursue interior architecture, Aarnio studied at the Institute of Industrial Arts in Helsinki. While in school, Aarnio worked for two "fathers" of modern Finnish design: Ilmari Tapiovaara and Antti Nurmesniemi.

Upon graduating, Aarnio became an in-house designer for Asko Oy. After just two years, he was ready to make his own way and officially started his design office in 1962.

(OPPOSITE, TOP) DESIGNED IN 1968, THE "BUBBLE" CHAIR IS CREATED THE SAME WAY DOME-SHAPED SKYLIGHTS WERE MADE AT THE TIME—BY HEATING ACRYLIC AND BLOWING IT INTO SHAPE.



THE "PARABEL" TABLE WAS DESIGNED IN 1994 AND WAS MADE OF FIBERGLASS.

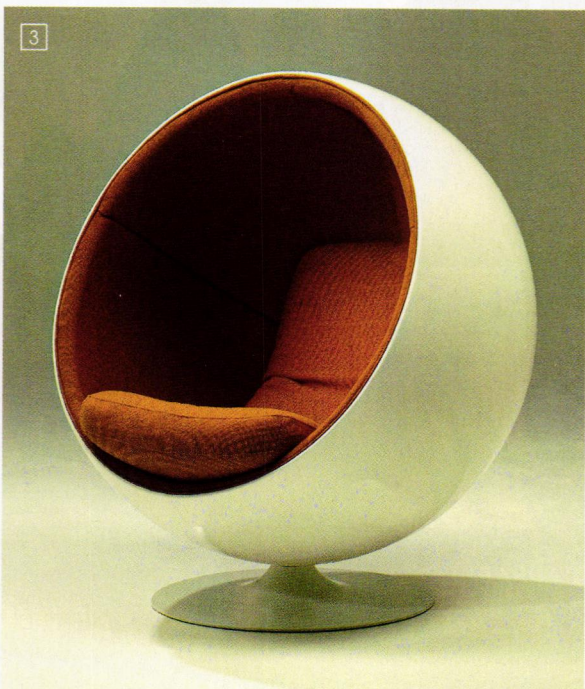
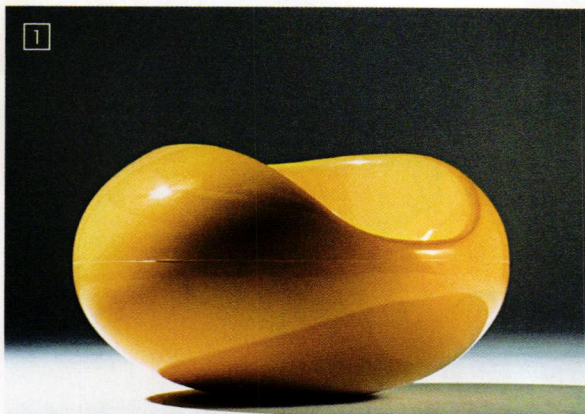


Over the next 60 years, Aarnio would produce some of the most iconic furniture of the modern era. Using bold colors, organic forms and a variety of different materials—including plastic, fiberglass and foam plastic—he changed the way the world looks at furniture design.

Today, Aarnio's creations live in some of the most prestigious museums in the world, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and, of course, the Design Museum in Helsinki.

1. THE "PASTIL" CHAIR WAS DESIGNED IN 1967 AND LATER WON AARNIO THE INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AWARD OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS IN 1968. IT WAS MADE FOR BOTH INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPACES, WAS ERGONOMICALLY DESIGNED TO BE USED WITHOUT CUSHIONS AND COULD MIRACULOUSLY FLOAT ON WATER.

2. TO THIS DAY, AARNIO DESIGNS PRODUCTS IN HIS STUDIO IN FINLAND. HERE, HE IS SEEN WITH "KISU," A DECORATIVE PIECE RELEASED IN 2020. THE BLACK KISU IS MADE OF REGENERATED POLYETHYLENE FROM DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS AND WASTE MATERIAL WITHIN A FACTORY.



3. ORIGINALLY DESIGNED IN 1963, THE "BALL" CHAIR MADE ITS INTERNATIONAL DEBUT IN 1966 AT THE COLOGNE FURNITURE FAIR, QUICKLY LAUNCHING AARNIO INTO THE SPOTLIGHT.

4. "A CHAIR IS A CHAIR, IS A CHAIR ... BUT A SEAT DOES NOT NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE A CHAIR. IT CAN BE ANYTHING, AS LONG AS IT IS ERGONOMICALLY CORRECT. A SEAT COULD EVEN BE A SMALL AND SOFT PONY ON WHICH YOU CAN RIDE OR SIT SIDWAYS." —EERO AARNIO



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Beauty Risen From the Ashes

After tragedy struck this mid-century home in Chevy Chase, Maryland, an amazing transformation began.



Architectural Terms You Should Know

- **Butterfly roof:** This unique roofline has two gables that slope toward the center, resembling the wings of its namesake. Although American architect William Krisel didn't conceptualize the inverted design, he popularized it through his 1957 neighborhood in Palm Springs, California.
- **Split-level:** This type of home has multiple levels that are connected by short sets of stairs. In the Chevy Chase home, the main floor has a single story, but the back has two stories. "The kitchen/dining level is down half a flight from the main level, and the bedrooms are up half a flight," architect Lou Balodemas explains.

WHEN OLD WIRING CAUSED A FIRE in this 1955 build, the homeowners escaped without injury, but the structure was severely damaged.

"Perimeter masonry walls and fire department efforts kept the entire house from being destroyed," says Lou Balodemas, AIA, of Balodemas Architects.

He and Veena Shahsavarian worked on the project together.

"We were hired immediately after the fire and helped our clients through the claim process while simultaneously designing the renovation," Lou says.

Besides the front and left exterior walls, the first-floor framing and the chimney, everything about the split-level home is brand-new.

"The insurance company only covered the cost to rebuild and refurnish the house as it was. Our clients committed the balance for the addition, alterations and upgrades," Lou notes.

Because the original home had very little curb appeal, Lou and Veena added half a story in height to the front, giving it greater presence.

"The butterfly-shaped porch roof adds character and makes the entry inviting, and the window pattern is intentionally eye-catching," Lou notes.

They also included large, circular skylights in the foyer and stair hall, as well as large windows in the living room, to bring more daylight into the home.

"We think the home now blends in with its setting and has a calm appearance; maybe a little striking. It sits at the end of a short block that has several mid-century houses similar to what this one was before the renovation. None of them has been modernized to this extent, and there's nothing like this renovation in the greater neighborhood," Lou points out.

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/ TAKE A SEAT /

Stepping Into the Space Age

This futuristic chair featured in television's "Star Trek" represents the best of the sleek, minimalist elements of Mid Century Modern furniture design.

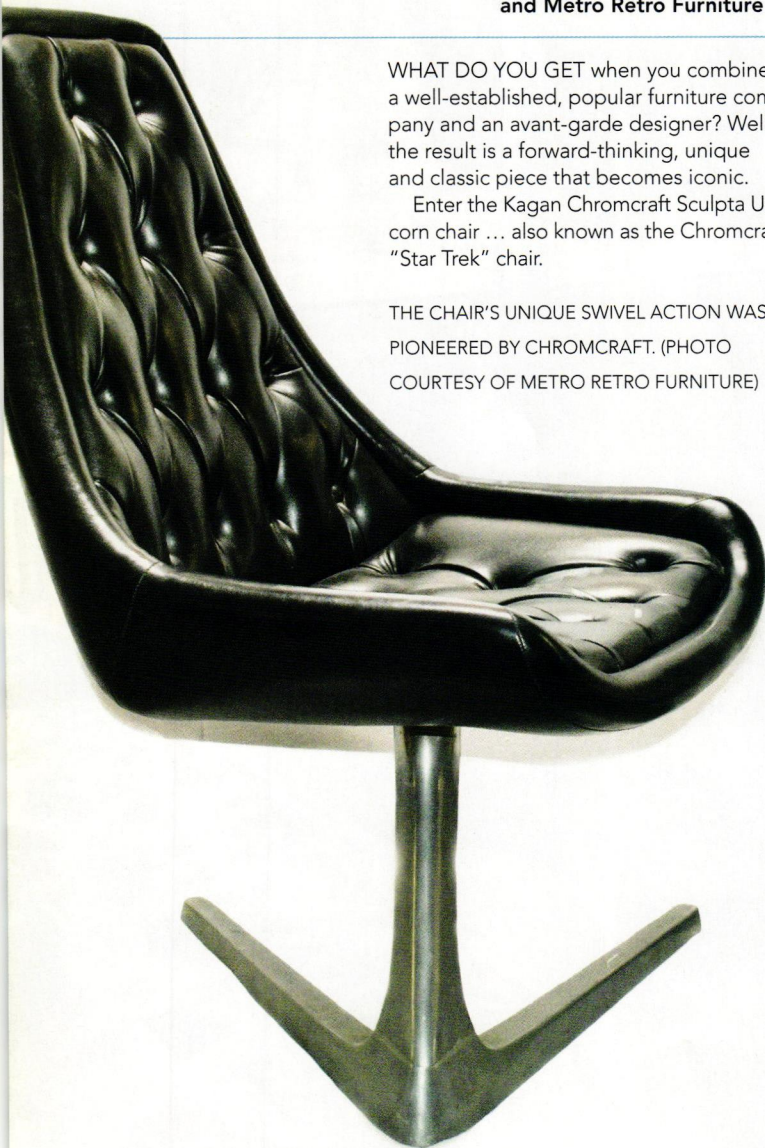
Written by **Laura Shimko**

Photos courtesy of **Chromcraft Home**
and **Metro Retro Furniture**

WHAT DO YOU GET when you combine a well-established, popular furniture company and an avant-garde designer? Well, the result is a forward-thinking, unique and classic piece that becomes iconic.

Enter the Kagan Chromcraft Sculpta Unicorn chair ... also known as the Chromcraft "Star Trek" chair.

THE CHAIR'S UNIQUE SWIVEL ACTION WAS PIONEERED BY CHROMCRAFT. (PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO RETRO FURNITURE)



THIS ADVERTISEMENT SHOWCASES THE SCULPTA AND ITS "ACTIVE" DESIGN. (PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO RETRO FURNITURE)



CHROMCRAFT'S PROMINENCE AS A "DINETTE" FURNITURE MANUFACTURER GREW IN THE POST-WORLD WAR II PERIOD. (PHOTO COURTESY OF CHROMCRAFT HOME)

Chromcraft first introduced this chair in 1966 as the company was taking off with its popular "dinettes" furniture sets. Established in 1908, Chromcraft had become the go-to company for many mid-century families looking to purchase affordable, yet quality, dinette pieces and was rapidly expanding its manufacturing capabilities to meet the boom in demand.

In a collaboration with Vladimir Kagan, a renowned furniture designer known especially for wood-framed chairs, Chromcraft created the Sculpta dinette set, which featured these futuristic chairs. The most striking aspect is perhaps their aluminum "V" base, lending itself to the "unicorn" nickname. It gives the chair the appearance of movement—a sort of pushing forward into the future—which is perhaps why it was so appealing to the set designers of the original "Star Trek" television show.

FOR MORE ON THIS TURN TO PAGE 110

Featured in a few episodes, including one of the most famous ("The Trouble with Tribbles"), the chair fits in perfectly with the space age aesthetic of the show because of its sleek lines and unique profile. "Star Trek's" use of this chair helped propel the Chromcraft brand into a household name.

The chair has more to offer than just its looks: The durable quality of its materials—the button-tufted vinyl upholstery and laminate-and-cast aluminum base—makes it a practical option for a dining chair. It also has a swivel-tilt mechanism created by Chromcraft that allows the seat to turn around and then automatically return to its forward-facing position.

It's no wonder this chair became an icon, not only of the space-age aesthetic that characterizes a portion of Mid Century Modern design, but also of an era that celebrated all the possibilities and new horizons of the future. ☼

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/ ATOMIC KITCHENS /

Back to the Future



TO KEEP THE KITCHEN BOTH LOW COST AND AESTHETICALLY PLEASING, THE COUPLE CHOSE AN IKEA KITCHEN AND ORDERED WALNUT CABINET FRONTS FROM SEMIHANDMADE. "EVEN THOUGH WALNUT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ORIGINAL TO AN EICHLER, MANY MID-CENTURY HOMES HAD SLAB WOOD CABINETRY," KAREN EXPLAINS.

Written by **Lauren Hofer**
Photographed by **John Shum**
Designed by **Karen Nepacena**

TAKING THIS EICHLER KITCHEN
BACK TO ITS MID-CENTURY
ROOTS HELPED HOMEOWNER
AND DESIGNER KAREN
NEPACENA DISCOVER A NEW
CAREER PATH.





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WHEN KAREN NEPACENA AND HER FAMILY purchased this 1959 Eichler in Walnut Creek, California, the state of the kitchen did not resemble anything “Eichler-esque” at all.

“Our kitchen and home had already had a few owners,” Karen says. “We were trying to bring it back to mid-century, because it had turned into a more-traditional home.”

Before even starting their renovations, Karen and her family moved into the space to “feel it out.”

(TOP) WHILE THE HOMEOWNERS DIDN'T MOVE ANY PLUMBING, THEY REORIENTED THE SPACE ENTIRELY AND MOVED THE KITCHEN FROM THE CENTER OF THE HOUSE TO ONE SIDE. “WE NOW HAVE A FAIRLY OPEN PLAN. IT'S OPEN TO A CONNECTED DINING ROOM, AND IT OVERLOOKS OUR FAMILY ROOM.”

(LEFT) KAREN AND HER HUSBAND HAND-POURED THESE COUNTERS THEMSELVES. “A LOT OF THESE HOMES WOULD HAVE HAD LAMINATE COUNTERTOPS WITH A LITTLE BIT OF A FLECK IN THEM. WE WERE TRYING TO SAVE MONEY WHERE WE COULD, SO WE ACTUALLY MADE CONCRETE COUNTERTOPS IN OUR BACKYARD INSTEAD.” THE RESULT GROUNDS THE KITCHEN WITH ORGANIC TEXTURE. “THERE ARE NICE IMPERFECTIONS IN THE COUNTERTOP, AND IT HAS KIND OF JUST EVOLVED WITH US AS WE'VE USED THE KITCHEN AND GROWN INTO THE HOUSE,” KAREN SAYS.



(ABOVE, RIGHT) "OUR FLOORS ARE VINYL COMPOSITE TILE (VCT). IT'S ACTUALLY A MATERIAL THAT'S ORIGINAL TO A LOT OF EICHLER HOME BUILDS," KAREN POINTS OUT. WHEN THE FAMILY BOUGHT THE HOME, IT HAD CARPET AND SALMON-PINK TILE. "WE BROUGHT BACK AN ORIGINAL MATERIAL JUST TO HAVE A NICE, BRIGHT FLOOR," SHE SAYS.

That Mid-Century Spirit

"At the time, Mid Century Modern was kind of new to us," she explains. "We ended up doing so much research to try and bring in these elements."

They wanted to capture the heart of mid-century design while bringing the space into the 21st century. "We wanted a new, modern touch," Karen says.

The kitchen had also been laid out differently in the past. While the homeowners didn't actually move any plumbing, they reoriented the space so the previously L-shaped kitchen that was in the middle of the house was moved to one side.

Karen and her husband, John, accomplished the design and renovations almost entirely by themselves—right down to the concrete countertops they, themselves, poured in the backyard.

"We were very budget-minded, because this project was mostly DIY," Karen points out.

Renovation Station

Giving your mid-mod home a refresh can feel daunting—especially when you truly want to honor the original design and architecture.

Designer Karen Nepacena offers some important considerations to think about when bringing your mid-century home back to a mid-century aesthetic:

1. Get to know the space. Karen recommends living in your space for a while before beginning the renovation process. "Often, clients think they know what they don't like. But then, after living in the space for a couple weeks, months or years, they realize that their needs for the space are completely different than what they thought when they first moved in."

2. Find a centerpiece. "I think it's really important to find something that's really inspiring to you. You can then use that as the centerpiece to design the rest of the space around it," Karen says. In her space, it was the blue diamond backsplash, but it could be cabinetry or a paint color.

3. Take it slow. Don't rush the process or feel as if you need everything figured out or decided on "today." "Renovations are quite overwhelming to people, but if you take it one step at a time, it eventually will all come together," Karen points out.



(ABOVE) THE INSIDE OF THE PENDANT LIGHTS IS HAMMERED BRASS—A MODERN TOUCH KAREN ESPECIALLY LOVES. “THERE’S THIS REALLY BEAUTIFUL GLINT AND DETAIL WHEN YOU’RE SITTING AT THE ISLAND AT NIGHT. BRINGING IN SOME METAL IS A NICE WAY TO BALANCE OUT THE SPACE AND MAKE IT A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT.”

(BELOW) WHILE THIS BLUE DIAMOND TILE “MAKES” THE KITCHEN, IT WASN’T KAREN’S FIRST CHOICE. “MY FIRST DESIGN IDEA WAS TO HAVE AN ORANGE ACCENT OF SOME SORT,” SAYS KAREN. “WE WENT TO FIRECLAY STUDIOS IN SAN FRANCISCO. WE WERE LOOKING AT ALL THE GLAZES, AND THAT BLUE JUST REALLY POPPED OUT AT US.”

They started with an IKEA kitchen setup as a base and went from there. While walnut cabinet fronts wouldn’t have been original to an Eichler, Karen and John liked the nod to classic mid-century design and purchased the fronts from Semihandmade (semihandmade.com) to add texture.

“For us, that was a nice way to bring simple materials into the space, but in the spirit of mid-century,” Karen says.

Making a (Back)Splash

Originally looking for an orange accent, Karen fell in love with the blue backsplash tile from Fireclay Studios (fireclaytiles.com).

“We decided last minute to go with a specific diamond pattern in a specific blue color. It’s our favorite part of the kitchen; it really just makes the space.” (And Karen installed the tile herself.)

An unexpected result of the research and work Karen did to understand Eichler’s design, as well as MCM homes in general, resulted in an entire career shift.

“What we learned through our process has really helped me decide that I love doing this!” she says.

For her, mid-mod renovations involve a balance of old and new, along with keeping the classic materials in some places and, in other places, choosing inspiring, new ones.

“We’re so proud to be able to enjoy our space every day,” Karen says. ☼



SEE SOURCES, PAGE 129.



TO BALANCE THE ROOM, KAREN DECIDED TO BREAK UP THE SPACE BY USING DIFFERENT MATERIALS FOR THE CABINETS. "I DIDN'T WANT TO OVERWHELM THE SPACE WITH TOO MUCH WALNUT," SHE SAYS. "YOU WANT TO FIND THAT POINT AT WHICH IT'S NOT TOO MUCH OF ONE THING AND NOT TOO LITTLE. THAT'S WHAT WE WERE TRYING TO ACHIEVE."

A well-designed home should have well-designed lighting.

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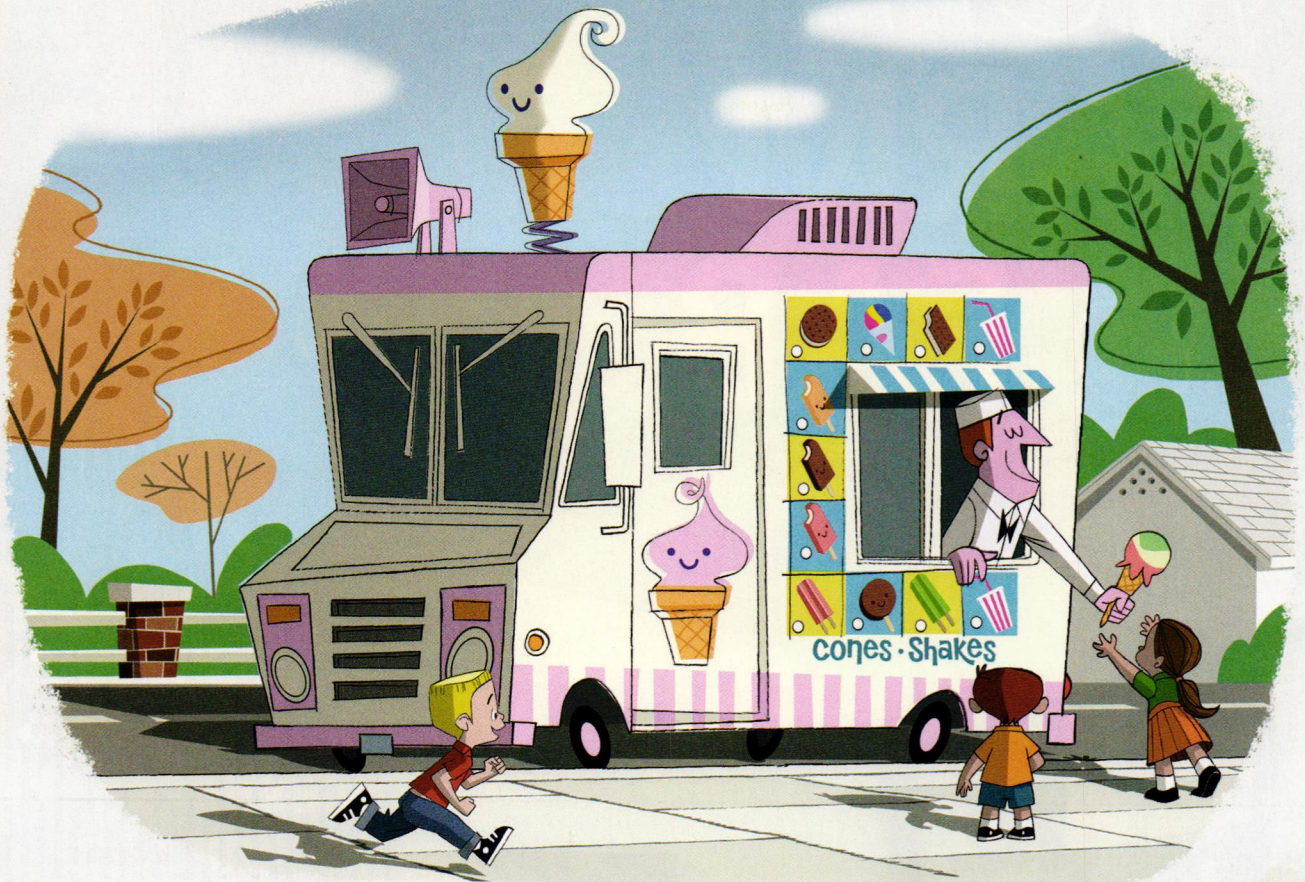
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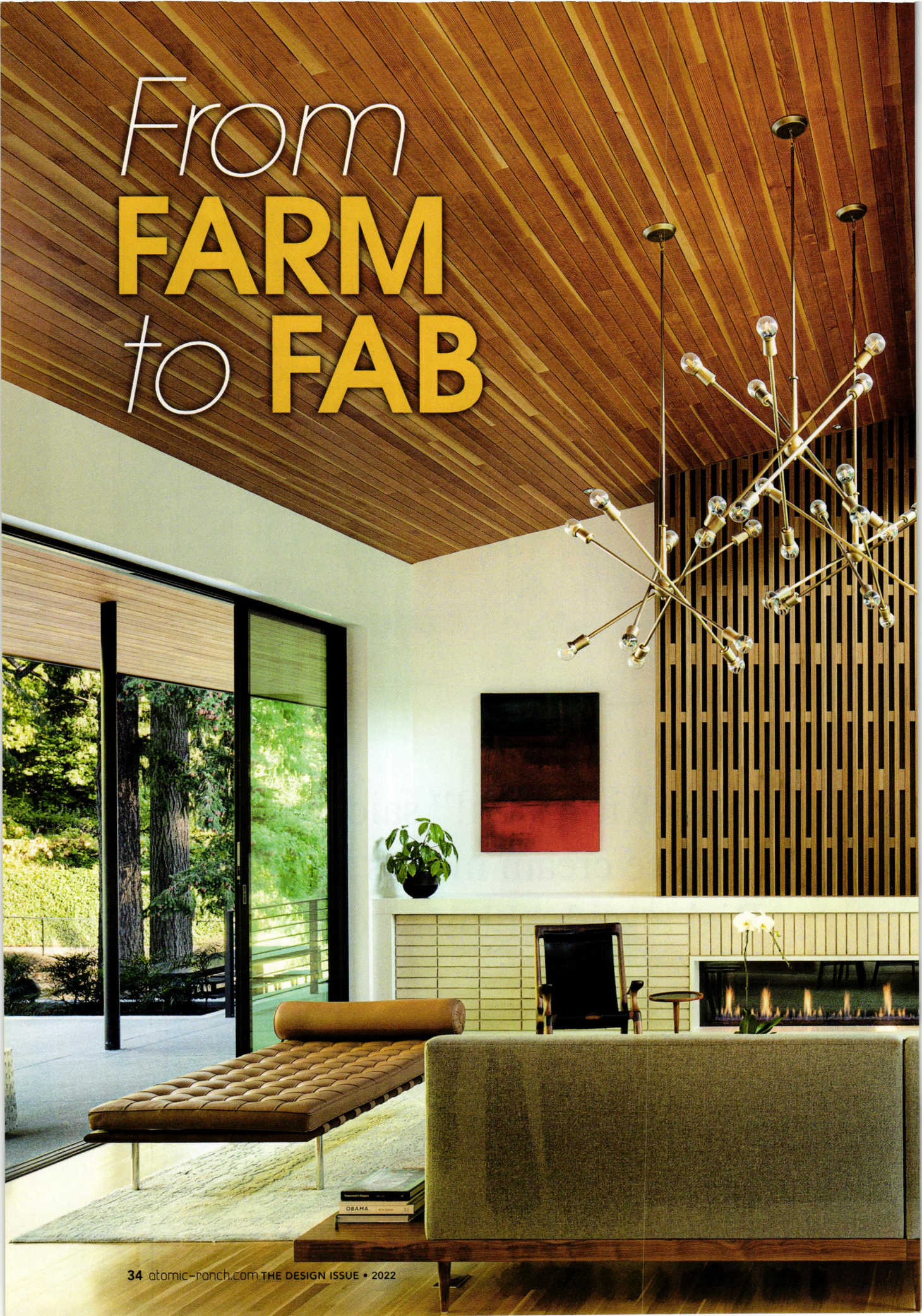
“Run Ricky run!” said Beth.
The ice cream man is here.
Ricky said, “I love ice cream!”

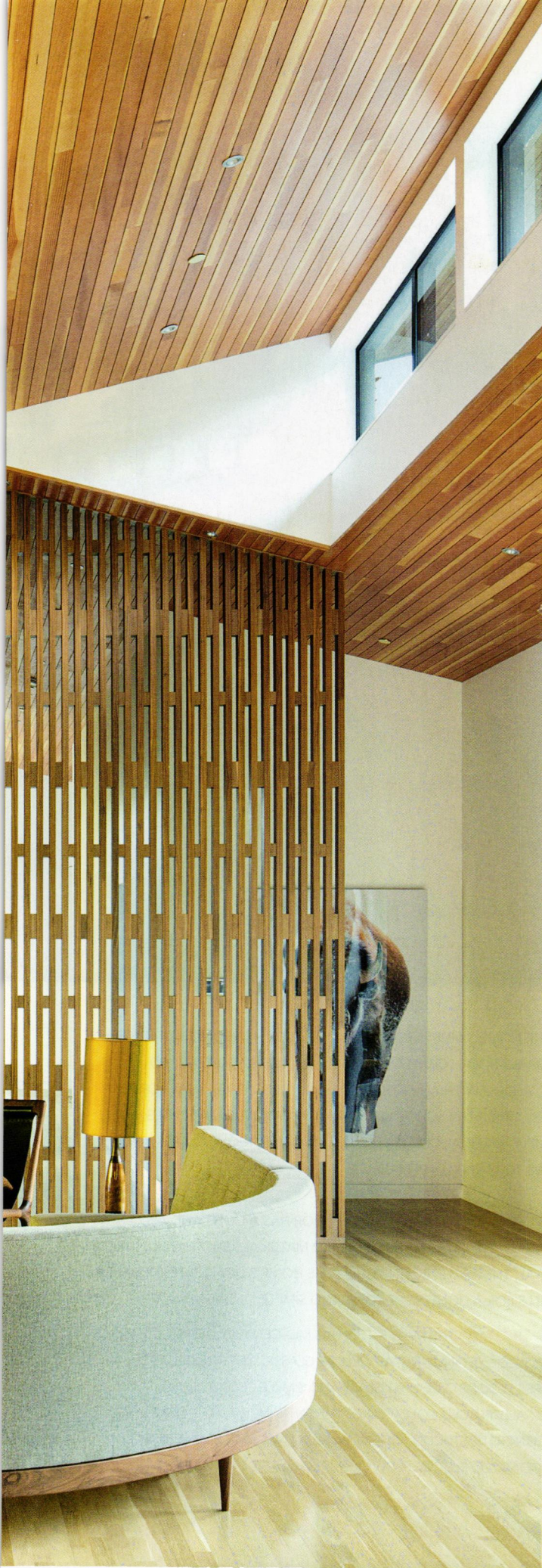
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From FARM to FAB





ARCHITECTS USE
MID-CENTURY
ELEMENTS TO
ACHIEVE A
COHESIVE LOOK
BETWEEN TWO
DISPARATE
HOMES IN THIS
NEW-BUILD
PROJECT.

Written by
MERYL SCHOENBAUM
Photographed by **JEREMY
BITTERMAN**
Architects: **TIMOTHY
SCHOUTEN AND JAKE
WEBER, GIULIETTI SCHOUTEN
WEBER ARCHITECTS**



What does an architect do

when tasked with planning designs for two vastly different homes—built 100 years apart—that will coexist on the same property?

That was the challenge presented to Timothy Schouten, design principal, and Jake Weber, project architect, of Giulietti Schouten Weber Architects (GSWArchitects.net). Timothy Schouten shares the creative ways they made the two buildings seem seamless.

“The project included designing a new main house and converting a deteriorated, 100-year-old farmhouse to a new guesthouse in the same ‘vocabulary’ as the main house,” he explains.

(TOP) “THE HOME’S MCM ARCHITECTURE WAS DESIGNED WITH A LONG, SIMPLE GABLE ROOF FORM FOR THE MAIN HOUSE AND ATTACHED GARAGE, ALONG WITH AN ENCLOSED GLASS BREEZEWAY THAT FORMS THE ENTRY,” TIMOTHY SCHOUTEN SAYS. IT WAS BUILT ON A SINGLE LEVEL, WITH SIMPLE VERTICAL CEDAR SIDING AND CONTINUOUS CLERESTORY WINDOWS TO MAINTAIN PRIVACY.

(OPPOSITE, TOP) THIS VIEW OF THE EXTERIOR HAS A LIGHT AND AIRY APPEARANCE—DESPITE THE USE OF HARD MATERIALS SUCH AS CONCRETE AND METAL. THE ARCHITECTS ETCHED THE HOME’S CONCRETE TERRACES AND WALLS FOR A LIGHT, SOFT TONE AND SIMPLE FINISH.

(OPPOSITE, BOTTOM) THE MAIN ENTRY HAS MID-CENTURY DESIGN ELEMENTS THAT ARE SLEEK, YET INVITING, AS WELL AS CLASSIC, YET UNEXPECTED. IT FEATURES FLOOR-TO-CEILING GLASS AND SIMPLE CEDAR SIDING. STRATEGICALLY PLACED COLOR TAKES THE ENTRANCE TO THE NEXT LEVEL WITH A CONCRETE/STUCCO ACCENT WALL AND WARM CEDAR CEILING. CLASSIC TERRAZZO FLOORS FLOW FROM THE OUTSIDE INTO THE ENTRY.





THE HOME WAS DESIGNED TO LOOK ORGANIC AND SEAMLESS WITH ITS SURROUNDINGS, AND IT BRINGS THE OUTSIDE'S NATURAL COLORS AND MATERIALS INDOORS. THIS SPACE, WITH ITS LARGE WINDOWS, CLEARLY ILLUSTRATES THE CONCEPT, WITH THE ABUNDANT USE OF WOOD FROM FLOOR TO CEILING.

RUSTIC LOCATION

The site is an old, 3-acre sheep farm in Southwest Hills, Portland, Oregon, that features a small, 100-year-old farmhouse, mature nut trees, a small vineyard, forested ravine and a small stream, Schouten notes. The center of the property has two established wetlands that couldn't be built on.

"The project called for a new, four-bedroom, single-level house carefully sited between the two wetlands. The old farmhouse conversion used only the existing foundation, with a whole new floor plan above it," he explains.

Given the landscape limitations, the architects had to think out of the box to put the pieces of the construction "puzzle" together.

"Once we determined how limited the 3 acres actually were, we looked at creative ways to fit the programmed areas on the site between the upper and lower wetlands while maintaining the location of the old farmhouse as the new guesthouse," Schouten points out. "The design concept was to use a gable form with wide, protective eaves and public areas closest to the street, with the opposing bedroom wing and pool/terrace behind and screened from the street. The bedroom wing and pool terrace sit between the upper and lower wetlands."

MID-CENTURY MINDSET

It was the architects' first project with homeowners Pam Hroza and Mike Horton, who are friends with interior designer Betsy Brandenburg Hurst of Brandenburg Studios Design (brandenburgstudios.com), with whom the architects worked on this home, as well as others.



THE DINING ROOM IS ADJACENT TO THE OPEN KITCHEN AND OFFERS DIRECT ACCESS TO THE POOL TERRACE OR LIVING AREA. "A LONG SEATING AREA AND A WORK ISLAND SEPARATE THE KITCHEN FROM THE DINING ROOM AND REINFORCE THE LONG PROPORTIONS OF THE LIVING ROOM," SCHOUTEN SAYS. "WE LOWERED THE CEILING FOR A MORE INTIMATE DINING EXPERIENCE."

"The clients requested an architectural style reminiscent of Mid Century Modern homes. Thus, the house comprises long, low-sloping, gable roof forms, vertical cedar siding, and warm interior wood finishes, including cedar ceilings, and oak and walnut built-ins throughout," Schouten says.

Schouten elaborated on how the architects infused the new build with MCM elements:


"We chose a classic, low-sloping gable roof as the dominant feature of the house and broad, protective eaves in a classic cruciform plan," he explains. "Keeping the exterior of the house simple and increasing the height of the main living areas created a more modern version of MCM style. Sometimes, less is more; and, in this case, simplifying the form and plan helped achieve a more modern feel. Adding the natural cedar accents warmed up the MCM feel, which is especially important here in the Pacific Northwest."

THINKING GREEN

To protect the scenic surroundings, the architects not only used locally sourced, natural building materials for the project, they also made environmentally responsible design decisions throughout the process.

"It's not as much a material choice; more importantly, it's a design choice, which was to protect the two wetlands and maintain a protective buffer around the wetlands as a sustainable strategy to forever maintain the natural watercourse," Schouten says.





“Sometimes, less is more; and, in this case, simplifying the form and plan helped achieve a more modern feel. Adding the natural cedar accents warmed up the MCM feel, which is especially important here in the Pacific Northwest.”



(LEFT) THE LIVING ROOM IS A “SYMPHONY” OF MIXED MATERIALS, SHAPES AND TEXTURES THAT FLOW TOGETHER IN A LIGHT AND AIRY DESIGN. “WE KEPT THE OUTSIDE EAVES HIGH VIA A HIGH, CENTRAL, VAULTED CEILING TO MAXIMIZE DAYLIGHT AND USED CLASSIC NATURAL CEDAR WITH AN EXPOSED, DEEP-RIDGED BEAM ON THE CEILING,” SCHOUTEN SAYS. THE LOW, RECTANGULAR DESIGN OF THE FIREPLACE MIRRORS THE HOME’S ARCHITECTURE.

(OPPOSITE, TOP) THE USE OF WOOD ON THE CLOSET DOORS AND SHELVES IS STYLISH AND CONSISTENT WITH THE ABUNDANT USE OF WOOD THROUGHOUT THE HOME.



“Material-wise, locally sourced, natural cedar siding was selected as the main siding material. The guesthouse uses the existing footprint of the original farmhouse, and all the farmhouse material was deconstructed and donated to the Re-Building Center in Portland. The guesthouse foundation was eventually replaced with ICF (“insulated concrete form”) blocks that are environmentally friendly. The walnut screen wall is laminated walnut veneer instead of solid walnut. Stormwater is filtered through stormwater planters to the natural stream onsite. The thermal envelope of the house was over-insulated and exceeded code minimums by 20 percent. All the electrical fixtures are now efficient LED lighting.”

FROM FARMHOUSE TO GUESTHOUSE

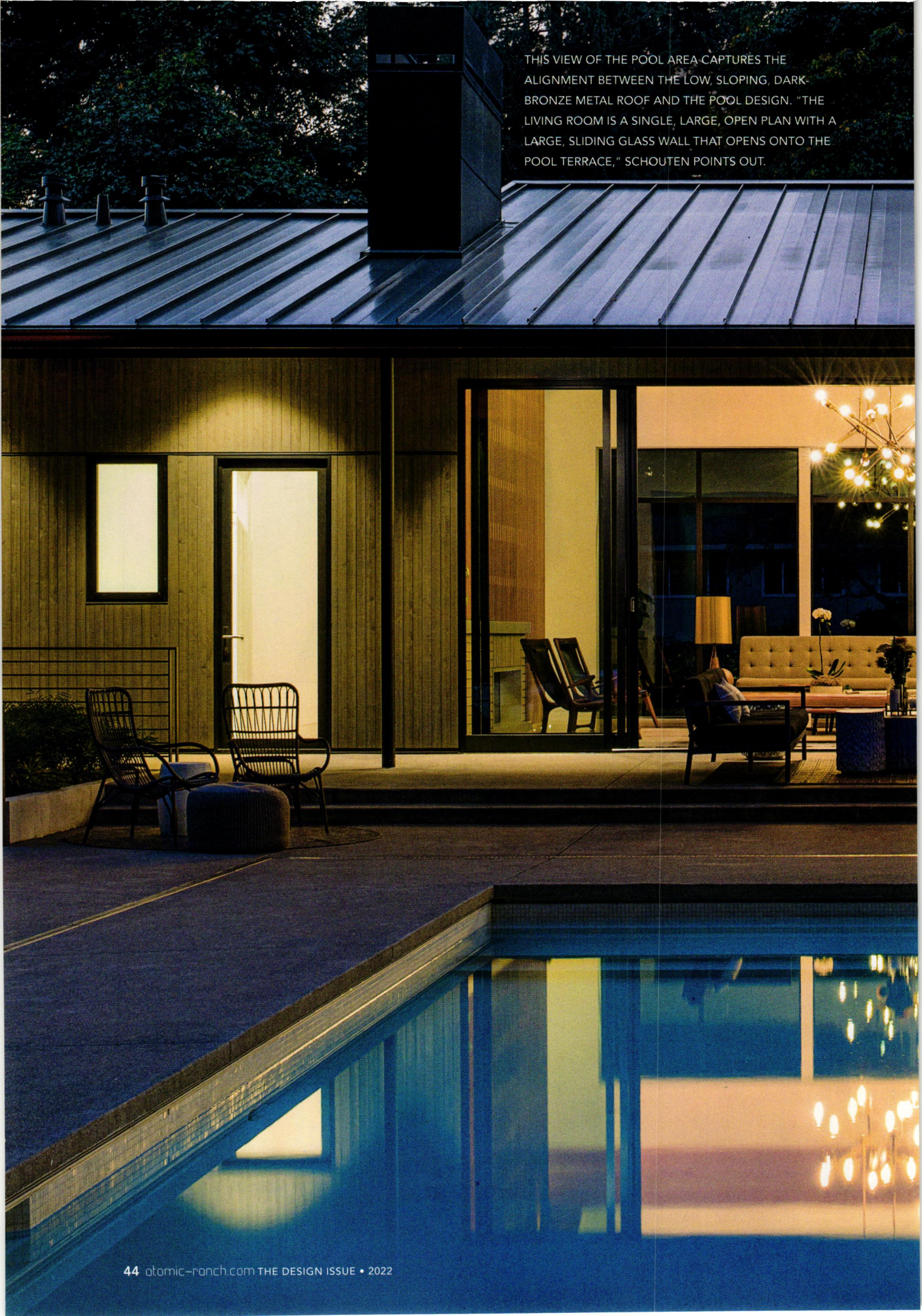
The century-old farmhouse on the property was reimaged and redesigned by the architects as a guesthouse that mirrors the main house via its mid-century elements.

“It’s basically a smaller version of the main house, with similar deep eaves and matching roof/siding and windows,” Schouten points out. “It was converted to two levels, with the lower level as a garage/workshop and the main level as a one-bedroom with separate living room, dining room, kitchen and covered porch.”

When asked what the architects consider the highlight of the project, Schouten said, “One of our favorite parts of the house is the view from the front, where one is able to view through the house to the guesthouse and wetlands beyond—but not into the home. We intentionally brought the scale and height of the entry down to increase the drama of entering the central great room.” ☼



(ABOVE) THIS SINK VANITY SPACE IS SMALL BUT FEATURES SEVERAL MCM DESIGNS, INCLUDING PENDANT LIGHT FIXTURES, STYLISH WALL TILES AND A ROUND MIRROR TO REFLECT LIGHT INTO THE AREA.

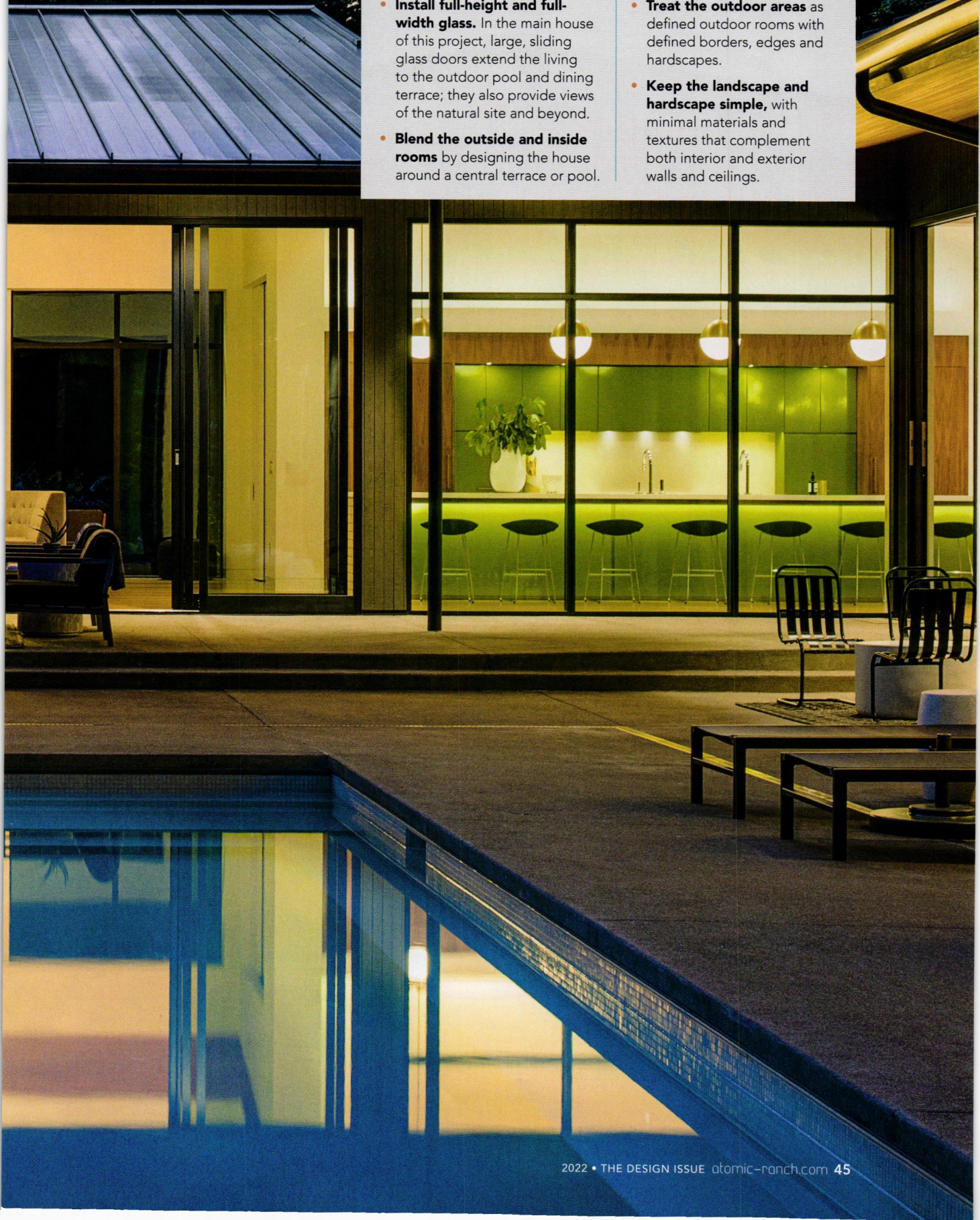


THIS VIEW OF THE POOL AREA CAPTURES THE ALIGNMENT BETWEEN THE LOW, SLOPING, DARK-BRONZE METAL ROOF AND THE POOL DESIGN. "THE LIVING ROOM IS A SINGLE, LARGE, OPEN PLAN WITH A LARGE, SLIDING GLASS WALL THAT OPENS ONTO THE POOL TERRACE," SCHOUTEN POINTS OUT.

Inside Looking Out

ARCHITECT TIMOTHY SCHOUTEN SHARES DESIGN TIPS ON BLENDING INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPACES:

- **Install full-height and full-width glass.** In the main house of this project, large, sliding glass doors extend the living to the outdoor pool and dining terrace; they also provide views of the natural site and beyond.
- **Blend the outside and inside rooms** by designing the house around a central terrace or pool.
- **Treat the outdoor areas** as defined outdoor rooms with defined borders, edges and hardscapes.
- **Keep the landscape and hardscape simple,** with minimal materials and textures that complement both interior and exterior walls and ceilings.



AS THE SUN BEGINS TO SET, THE HOME'S FLOOR-TO-CEILING WINDOWS GIVE IT A MAGICAL LOOK, PROVIDING AN EXCELLENT VIEW FOR LATE-NIGHT POOL "HANGS." IN THE EVENING, "AS YOU'RE APPROACHING THE FRONT DOOR, EVERYTHING—ESPECIALLY AT DUSK—IS ILLUMINATED; IT JUST GLOWS LIKE A LANTERN," ARCHITECT PAX CHAGNON POINTS OUT.



Sunshine in Central TEXAS

THIS NEW BUILD
SEAMLESSLY INTEGRATES
INDOOR AND OUTDOOR
SPACES BY UTILIZING AN
ABUNDANCE OF NATURAL
LIGHT AND KEY MCM
FEATURES.

Written by **RABEKAH HENDERSON**

Photographed by **DROR BALDINGER, FAIA**

Architect: **PAX CHAGNON**



“Around here, this is fairly unique,” admits architect and builder Pax Chagnon of the three-bedroom, four-bathroom, Mid Century Modern-inspired home in central Texas. “It’s not built in the conventional way that most houses are.”

But that distinctive look makes this home shine all the more.

The home was built in 2020 and is located on a wooded, 20-acre plot west of San Marcos, Texas, in an area of the state referred to as “Texas Hill Country.”

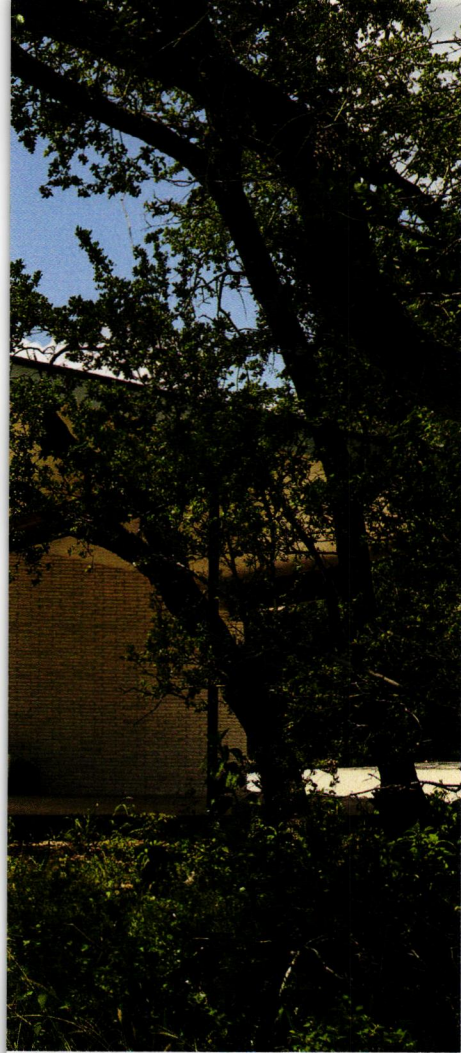
One of the home’s defining features is its inviting courtyard, which holds a pool and multiple spaces for lounging and entertaining. The courtyard sits at the front of the home, but it still feels quite private—thanks to a surrounding wall and gate.

“The concrete wall and the metal screen support the ‘sequence of entry’ so you don’t necessarily see everything right away,” Chagnon points out.

(TOP) WHEN ENTERING THE WOODED, 20-ACRE PROPERTY FROM THE ROAD, ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS YOU NOTICE IS THE SLEEK, MID-CENTURY SILHOUETTE OF THIS CENTRAL TEXAS HOME. “AROUND HERE, THIS IS PRETTY UNIQUE,” SAYS CHAGNON.

(OPPOSITE, TOP) THE GEOMETRIC METAL SCREEN AND GATE PROVIDE THE FIRST—AND LIMITED—GLIMPSE OF WHAT LIES INSIDE. ONLY AFTER WALKING THROUGH THEM DOES THE ENTIRETY OF THE HOME BEGIN TO BE REVEALED, AND YOU SEE THE COURTYARD, POOL AND THE FLOOR-TO-CEILING WINDOWS OF THE HOME.

(OPPOSITE, BOTTOM) THE COURTYARD IS SURROUNDED BY AN ELEVATED WALKWAY, WHICH PROVIDES SPACE FOR SEATING AND ENTERTAINING AND ACTS AS A “HALLWAY” TO STEP DOWN INTO THE MAIN POOL AREA. PAX SAYS IT MIMICS THE LOOK OF THE SUNKEN LIVING ROOMS THAT WERE POPULAR IN MID-MOD HOMES DECADES AGO.







THE BOLD SAARINEN TABLE PROVIDES A FITTING CENTERPIECE TO THE HOME'S DINING AREA AND FURTHER ADDS TO ITS MID-CENTURY LOOK. WHEN ADDING THE FINISHING TOUCHES TO THE HOME, PAX LAUGHS AS HE RECALLS STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS TEAM ABOUT NOT PLACING ANY TOOL OR ODDS AND ENDS ON THE PRISTINE TABLE: "WE TOLD EVERYONE, 'DO NOT SET ANYTHING ON THE SAARINEN TABLE. DON'T EVEN LOOK AT IT!'"

Instead, you're rewarded with a slow unveiling of the home. After exiting your car in the nearby carport, you walk up to the concrete wall and geometric metal screen and enter through the gate. Then, the sun-filled courtyard and pool are suddenly revealed. Even so, you must continue to walk along the elevated walkway bordering the courtyard to enter inside and see the home's equally daylight-filled indoor space.

BRING IN THE LIGHT

Daylight was one of the key considerations of the central Texas home's design process. The orientation of the house (which sits perfectly on the north-south axis) was purposely chosen to take advantage of the sunshine: Once the sun hits the courtyard around midmorning, it receives uninterrupted, shadow-free light until the sun finally begins to set later in the day.

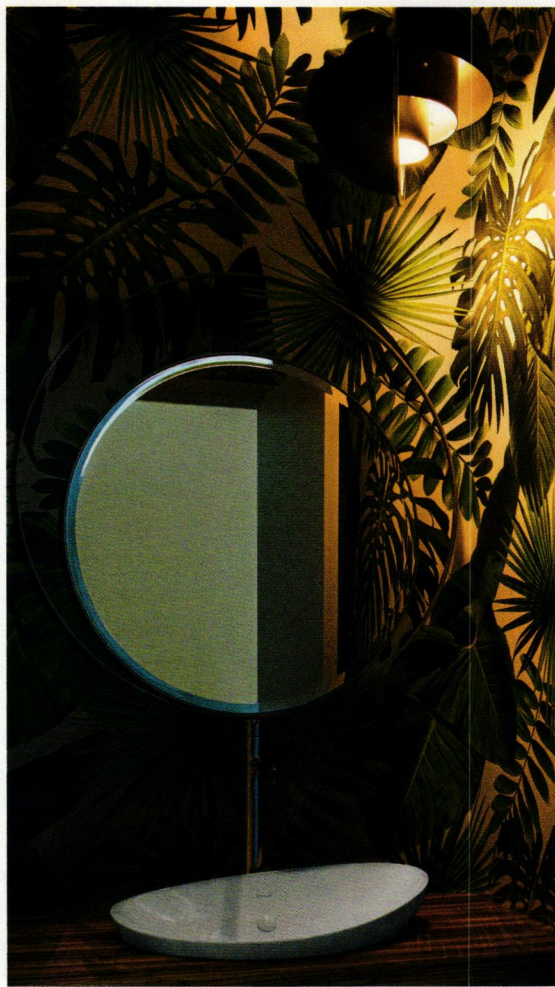
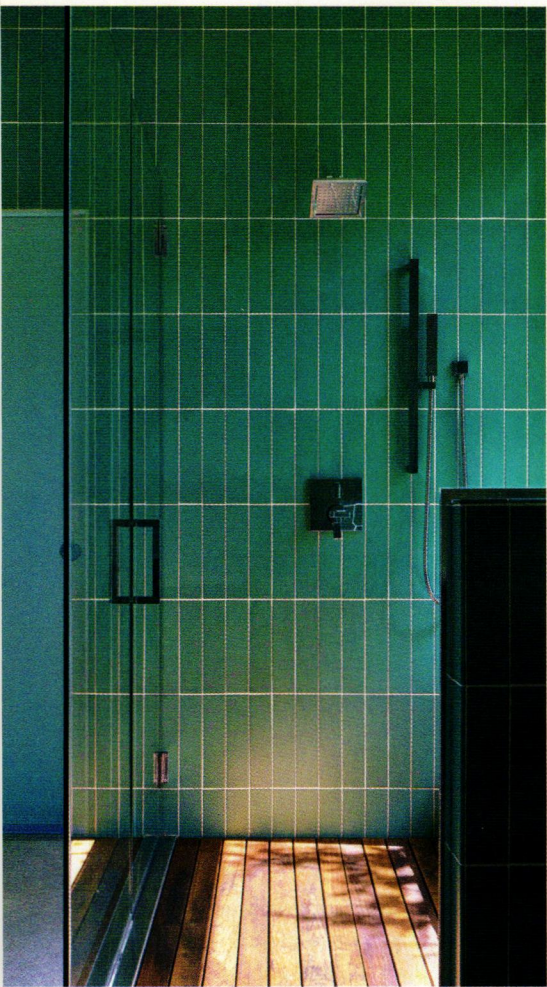
"The whole house is designed around the pool, and it was something that was important to the owners," Pax explains. "The lady of the house really wanted to be able to sit out by the pool and soak up the sun—of which there's plenty in central Texas!"

Inside, daylight plays an equally important and carefully crafted role. The large, south-facing glass windows that surround the courtyard are protected from hot, direct sunlight by a 13-foot roof overhang. This allows light to still flood the space without having to worry about the daylight's accompanying heat. The purposeful use of sunlight in the exterior and interior demonstrates Pax's careful attention to detail.

"The solar exposure... and daylighting design in this home were aspects that we studied and calculated."

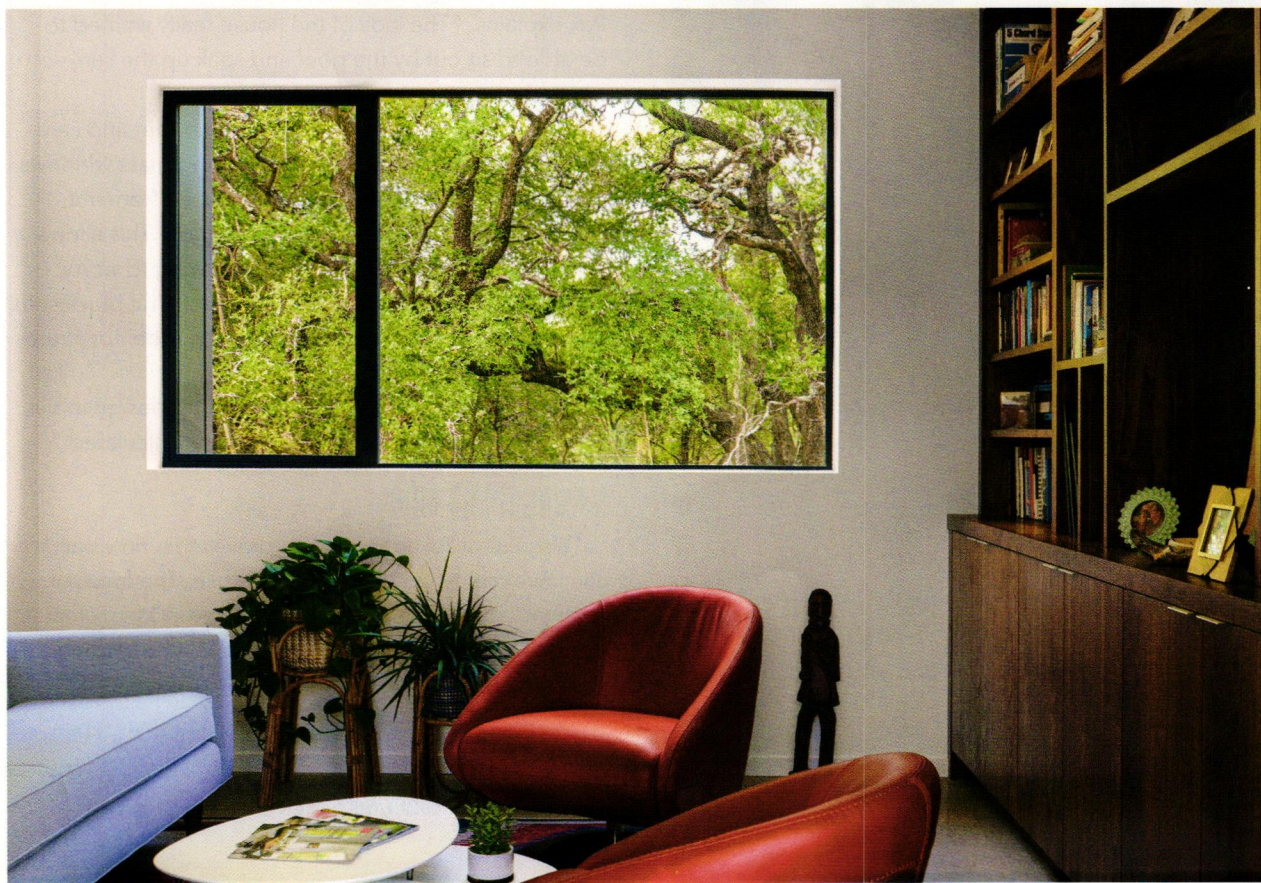
MAKING IT MID-MOD

This central Texas home also proves that new builds can have plenty of standout MCM style. The focus of sunlight, as well as the floor-to-ceiling windows, create a strong sense of indoor-outdoor living, blurring the border between what's inside and what's not.



(LEFT) THE HOME'S POOL BATHROOM FEATURES ANOTHER UNIQUE SOURCE OF LIGHT—A SHOWSTOPPING LIGHT FIXTURE. ALTHOUGH THIS BATHROOM IS A SMALL SPACE, PAX STILL SOUGHT TO BRING IN CURATED DETAILS THAT TOOK IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

(ABOVE, LEFT) THE HOME'S PRIMARY BATHROOM CONTINUES THE THEME OF PLACING A HIGH EMPHASIS ON NATURAL LIGHT VIA ITS SHOWER WINDOW. THE BATHROOM WINDOW LOOKS OUT ONTO THE 20 ACRES, BUT IT OFFERS PLENTY OF PRIVACY, BECAUSE THE HOME IS "IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE. THERE ARE A LOT OF DEER WANDERING AROUND, BUT THAT'S ABOUT IT," PAX SAYS.





(ABOVE) THIS CENTRAL TEXAS HOME FEATURES A BAR AREA NEAR THE LIVING ROOM—PERFECT FOR ENTERTAINING AND A FUN HOMAGE TO RETRO HOMES OF OLD. “THE VIBE OF HAVING A BAR IN YOUR LIVING ROOM IS KIND OF FUN, AND IT RELATES TO THE MCM ERA A LITTLE BIT,” PAX OFFERS.

(OPPOSITE, BOTTOM) THE HOME SITS ON 20 ACRES OF BEAUTIFULLY WOODED LAND IN “TEXAS HILL COUNTRY.” THE HOME OFFICE HAS A PEACEFUL, NORTH-FACING VIEW OF THE SECLUDED WOODLAND. INSIDE THE OFFICE, WHICH ACTS MORE AS AN OVERFLOW OFFICE FOR THE OWNERS (WHO HAVE THEIR OWN OFFICES ELSEWHERE), THERE’S “STORAGE FOR FILES AND A HIDDEN WIRELESS PRINTER, BUT IT’S NOT REALLY A WORKING OFFICE AT THIS POINT,” ACCORDING TO PAX.

The post-and-beam structure of the home adds to its “throwback” look. Richly toned glulam beams run perfectly north-south along the ceiling. (The installation of the beams involved a unique process: “A crane flew the beams in,” Pax says. “This doesn’t happen around here too much. It was a fun process.”)

The selection of the furniture inside provides additional MCM details. One of the most notable pieces is the stunning Saarinen table in the dining area. Nearby, a Zircon fireplace from Malm celebrates retro style and is the ideal finishing touch to the living area ... despite the challenges of getting the fireplace from California to Texas in the middle of the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Pax.





(LEFT) THE STUNNING KITCHEN IS SLIGHTLY TUCKED AWAY FROM THE MAIN LIVING AREA OF THE HOME, ALLOWING FOR BETTER DEFINITION OF SPACE AND ENCOURAGING THE COURTYARD AND POOL TO BE THE MAIN GATHERING SPACES OF THE HOME. "WE WERE TRYING TO CREATE A BALANCE VIA WHICH THE KITCHEN IS STILL ACCESSIBLE. EVEN SO, IT DOESN'T TRY TO 'STEAL THE SHOW' FROM THE COURTYARD," PAX SAYS. "THE KITCHEN IS NOT THE CENTER OF ATTENTION AS IT IS IN MANY HOMES TODAY."

When reflecting on the design and build processes of this home, one of the biggest takeaways for Pax was how carefully the exterior space was shaped and created in relation to the interior.

"Throughout the design process, attention to design was given equally to the interior and exterior experiences," he notes.

This balanced approach certainly paid off! 🍷

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 129.





Designing With Daylight

WHEN CREATING AND DESIGNING SPACES IN YOUR HOME, DON'T FORGET ABOUT SUNLIGHT! ALLOWING FOR NATURAL LIGHT IS A POWERFUL TOOL THAT CAN SET THE MOOD AND HIGHLIGHT KEY FEATURES IN YOUR SPACE.

Here are three aspects to think about when considering sunlight and your home design:

- 1. Chasing Shadows.** Do a “shadow study” of sorts: Look at how light hits and reflects a certain part of your home throughout the day, and take note of what shadows are cast from the outside.
- 2. Think Green.** Consider how to provide light without sacrificing energy efficiency. You can build large overhangs such as architect Pax Chagnon did in this central Texas home. Alternatively, you can opt for a more user-friendly solution with strategically planted trees, which can create shade, or via semi-opaque white window shades that let in muted, indirect sunlight.
- 3. Keeping Privacy.** Large windows are great for daylight, but they can create privacy issues as the sun begins to set. This can be prevented with sleek, hidden window shades that come down at night; or, you can use tinted windows for a similar effect.

THE INDOOR LIVING AREA PROVIDES A NEARLY SEAMLESS VIEW OF THE OUTDOOR COURTYARD. THE DOORS OPEN UP TO ALLOW EASY ACCESS TO THE POOL AND FURTHER THE HOME'S INDOOR-OUTDOOR LIVING. THE GLASS WALL BRINGS IN PLENTY OF LIGHT, BUT IT'S PROTECTED FROM ANY HARSH, DIRECT SUNLIGHT—THANKS TO THE 13-FOOT ROOF OVERHANG ABOVE IT. “THE PORCH HAS A 13-FOOT OVERHANG THAT SHADES ALL THAT GLASS. THE EXTERIOR SPACE AND PORCHES PROTECT THE INTERIOR SPACE,” PAX POINTS OUT.

Restoration in **Old Las Palmas**



A 1950S RAMBLING RANCH HOUSE IN A HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD RECEIVES A RESPECTFUL UPDATE HONORING ITS ORIGINS.

Written by **AUTUMN KRAUSE**

Photographed by **DAN CHAVKIN**





(ABOVE) "BECAUSE IT WORKED WELL WITHIN THE HOME, THE DINING ROOM WAS KEPT MOSTLY INTACT," H3K'S HOWARD HAWKES EXPLAINS. THE DINING TABLE AND CHAIRS ARE ORIGINAL AND WERE CUSTOM-MADE FOR THIS HOUSE BY DECORATOR, COLOR CONSULTANT AND CERAMICIST WILLIAM MANKER. HE OVERSAW MOST OF THE ORIGINAL DECORATING OF THE HOUSE.

Southern California's Old Las Palmas is a storied Palm Springs neighborhood. In the 1920s, Hollywood movie stars such as Elizabeth Taylor, Judy Garland and Cary Grant flocked to this area in droves, snapping up the Spanish Colonial and modernist homes that sit against the majestic backdrop of the San Jacinto Mountains.

Currently, Old Las Palmas' offerings, from art galleries to tiki bars, along with its historic architecture, draw Mid Century Modern lovers. Estates in the area are enhanced and updated with careful consideration for their pasts.

Few designers do this better than Howard Hawkes and Kevin Kemper, founders and partners of H3K Home + Design. They, themselves, are huge fans of Old Las Palmas and Palm Springs.

"We love that Palm Springs has a small-home-town feel but is also quite cosmopolitan in the way that its visitors and part-time residents are from all around the world," Howard says. "One never gets bored with the scenery, weather and, of course, the architecture."

A recent H3K Home + Design project in Old Las Palmas embodies this.



AN INDOOR PLANTER BLURS THE LINES BETWEEN INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR SPACES.

(RIGHT) LIFE OUTDOORS IS A GIVEN WITH SUCH A BEAUTIFUL BACKYARD. IN ADDITION TO THE WORK ON THE POOL, HOWARD AND KEVIN REPLACED AND REDESIGNED THE CONCRETE LAYOUT AND ADDED AN ADDITIONAL BBQ AREA AND COVER.

"THE CONCRETE INCLUDES A DIAGONAL DESIGN THAT WAS INSPIRED BY ONE OF THE ORIGINAL DRAWINGS FOR THE HOUSE BY FAMED LANDSCAPE DESIGNER TOMMY TOMSON.





(TOP) THE POURED TERRAZZO FIREPLACE IS ORIGINAL TO THE HOME, AS IS THE WARM WOOD PANELING.

(BOTTOM) A U-SHAPED SOFA CURVES BEGUILINGLY AROUND THE FIREPLACE IN THE LIVING ROOM AND IS THE SAME STYLE AS THE PREVIOUS ONE THAT USED TO OCCUPY THIS SPACE. HOWARD AND KEVIN FOUND AN INCREDIBLE FABRIC IN A RETRO MOTIF THAT WAS THE PERFECT COLOR TO ANCHOR THE ROOM.



(ABOVE) SLIDING GLASS WALLS ALLOW FOR CONNECTION BETWEEN INDOOR AND OUTDOOR LIVING AREAS.

"We were hired to restore a 1950s rambling ranch house and also create a new kitchen," Kevin explains.

The clients wanted to be sensitive to the original design and features of the house, but they also wanted to adapt it their 21st-century lifestyle. H3K Home + Design was just the team with spirit and vision to tackle the renovation.

PERFECT PARTNERS

Howard and Kevin met in college and have been together ever since. After a few years pursuing various careers, they became active in home restorations and renovations in Santa Barbara, California.

In 2004, they purchased a home in Palm Springs and fell in love with the abundant examples of MCM architecture peppering the area. Shortly afterward, they purchased a rundown MCM property that needed a little "love." They restored and resold it.

BERTOIA-ESQUE STOOLS LINE THE ISLAND AND WERE CHOSEN BECAUSE OF THEIR SLIGHT SILHOUETTE AND SIZE. THEY WERE CUSTOM-ORDERED WITH SEAT AND BACK CUSHIONS. THE ISLAND HAS ALREADY BECOME THE HUB OF THE HOUSE; IT'S USED TO DO EVERYTHING FROM HOMEWORK TO FOOD PREP OR LAYING OUT A MASSIVE, TWO-SIDED BUFFET.





(BELOW) FEATURING A BAR TOP IN FORMICA, THE BAR IS ORIGINAL TO THE HOME, ALONG WITH THE STOOLS. ALL WERE IN SUCH PRISTINE CONDITION THAT THEY WERE LEFT UNTOUCHED. HOWEVER, THE GLASS DIVIDER WALL HAD BEEN REPLACED IN THE 1990S, SO KEVIN AND HOWARD OPTED TO PUT IN A MORE MCM-ERA STYLE OF GLASS. "NOT ALL THE SQUARES IN THE DIVIDER HAVE GLASS IN THEM, AND WE DID THIS, BECAUSE IT ALLOWS YOU TO GET A PEEK OF THE BACKYARD AND POOL AS YOU ENTER THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR," KEVIN POINTS OUT.



(ABOVE, RIGHT) AFTER RECEIVING THE BULK OF THE RENOVATION, THE KITCHEN IS A MASTERPIECE THAT COMBINES FUNCTIONALITY WITH THE MCM AESTHETIC. SELECTIONS WERE CAREFULLY MADE TO GIVE THE KITCHEN AN UPDATED, YET PERIOD-ACCURATE, FEEL. "FOR EXAMPLE, THE TILE FEELS MODERN, BUT IT ALSO HAS A MID-CENTURY FLAIR TO IT," HOWARD SAYS.







(ABOVE, LEFT) IN KEEPING WITH THE POOLSIDE THEME, THIS CLASSIC BLUE BATHROOM MAINTAINS A TIMELESS “RETRO” FEEL.

(ABOVE, RIGHT) KEEPING ORIGINAL MATERIALS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IS A KEY PART OF A RESPECTFUL RESTORATION. IN THIS TWIN BEDROOM, THE ORIGINAL FORMICA COUNTER WAS KEPT.

(OPPOSITE, TOP) IN HONOR OF THE ORIGINAL OWNER’S STAFF MEMBER WHO LIVED HERE, THIS BEDROOM IS AFFECTIONATELY DUBBED “EARNESTINE’S ROOM.” IT’S FOUND IN ONE OF THE CASITAS AND OPERATES AS A GUEST COTTAGE. IT FEATURES A HEADBOARD THAT WAS RELOCATED FROM THE PRIMARY BEDROOM. (THIS HEADBOARD IS ITS OWN PIECE OF HISTORY: IT WAS CUSTOM-BUILT FOR THE OLD PRIMARY BEDROOM AND HAS ITS OWN BUILDING PLANS BY WILLIAM MANKER).

(OPPOSITE, BOTTOM) BRIGHT HUES OF BLUE ENVELOP ONE OF THE BEDROOMS IN THE TWO-BEDROOM CASITA. IT MIRRORS THE BRILLIANT BLUE OF THE POOL, WHICH IS ONLY A FEW FEET AWAY. “WE ALL DECIDED THAT THE BLUE WOULD BE A SOOTHING COLOR TO COMPLEMENT THE POOL RIGHT OUTSIDE THE DOOR,” HOWARD SAYS.



“It was a success!” Howard says. “Soon, we began to work with clients who were in the process of renovating and restoring their homes.”

In 2017, Howard and Kevin opened their flagship Home Furnishings and Décor store in downtown Palm Springs, thereby adding their own “voice” to Palm Springs’ MCM style.

KITCHEN REDESIGN

For this project, the home was like a family heirloom—passed down from one generation to the next. It was originally owned by the client’s grandfather, and it boasts a rich history. He had hired Edward Fickett to design it in 1952. It offers two bedrooms and three bathrooms in the main house and an additional three bedrooms and three bathrooms in two surrounding casitas.

The plan was to restore most of the house.

“We appreciate MCM architecture and design for its clean lines and enjoy the frequent use of organic materials paired with new synthetic or man-made products and architectural elements,” Kevin points out.



(LEFT) MULTIPLE DOORS ALLOW FOR EASY ACCESS FROM THE BEDROOMS TO THE EXTERIOR OF THE HOME.

(BOTTOM) THIS PRIVATE AND COZY TWIN BEDROOM IS NESTLED WITHIN ONE OF THE TWO SURROUNDING CASITAS. THE ROOM HAD THE CASEMENT WINDOWS REPLACED WITH SIMILAR WINDOWS, AND A BUILT-IN BUREAU WITH ORIGINAL "BOOMERANG" FORMICA ON TOP WAS PLACED ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE.

The home's original features acted as a blueprint for the new plans and dictated a lot of the choices. An example of this is the fireplace in the living room, which is made of the original poured terrazzo surrounded by the original wood paneling.

One of the biggest parts of the renovation was the kitchen. The original kitchen was large but sectioned off from the house. A new one was created to be open to the dining room and the pool and patio beyond, giving inviting glimpses of plants and water. The new dimensions allowed for the addition of a 60-inch-wide range and 60-inch-wide refrigerator, making the kitchen a chef's dream. Stunning trapezoidal porcelain tiles in hues of green and white were used, along with walnut cabinets (walnut was often used in mid-century furniture and cabinetry).





(ABOVE) A BOLD PALETTE BALANCED WITH WARM WOOD ACCENTS AND GROUNDING NEUTRALS BLEND TOGETHER EXPERTLY IN EVERY ROOM THROUGHOUT THE HOME.

(RIGHT) SOFT PINK SINKS ADD A FUN TOUCH TO THE PRIMARY BEDROOM'S EN SUITE BATHROOM. "WE SALVAGED THE ORIGINAL DOUBLE VANITY AND ADDED ON ABOUT 4 OR 5 INCHES IN HEIGHT TO MAKE THE SINKS MORE USER-FRIENDLY," HOWARD EXPLAINS. "IN ADDITION, WE SELECTED A NEW FORMICA COUNTERTOP THAT WOULD CONTRAST AND COMPLEMENT THE PINK BASINS."

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

Another area that showcases H3K Home + Design's vision and attention is one of the bathrooms, which the team ensured was sourced with historically accurate pieces. The bathroom is brand-new and is created out of space that existed near the back door and laundry area.

"The bathroom doubles as a guest bathroom, as well as a pool bath, via an entrance to the outside," Kevin notes. "Howard and I searched the Internet for an original Crane sink and faucet hardware."

They found one in a suburb of Chicago and had it personally delivered to Palm Springs via courier.





"Then, we sourced an original Crane sink basin stand and towel holder. It was brand-new in the box from the Early 1950s—a fun find!" Howard says. The authentic pieces are right at home.

The residence, thanks to Howard and Kevin, is a wonderful addition to Old Las Palmas' architectural canon and has all the amenities for modern life, along with all the old soul of a true MCM home. 🏡

TO SEE MORE OF H3K HOME + DESIGN'S WORK,
VISIT INSTAGRAM: @H3KDESIGN.

SEE SOURCES PAGE 126.

(LEFT) "WE REFURBISHED THE LOW-VOLTAGE-LIT, SOLID BRASS ADDRESS SIGN TO THE LEFT OF THE FRONT DOOR," HOWARD SAYS. IT WAS A FUN SURPRISE TO THE HOMEOWNERS TO SEE THAT LOW-VOLTAGE LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY WAS INCORPORATED INTO THIS TINY MARKER SIGN THAT WAS ADDED IN 1952.

(BELOW) BECAUSE THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE NEVER HAD AN "OFFICIAL" ENTRANCE FROM THE STREET, THE ONLY WAY TO THE FRONT DOOR WAS OFF THE DRIVEWAY. A NEW ENTRANCE WAS CREATED AND IS A BIT MORE GRAND AND FORMAL, PROVIDING NICER CURB APPEAL. "WE CREATED NEW, LARGE, CONCRETE STEPPING STONES AND INTEGRATED THE ORIGINAL SMALLER STEPPING STONES RIGHT INTO THE NEW CONCRETE TO PAY HOMAGE TO THE ORIGINAL FRAGMENTED PATH," HOWARD SAYS.





(ABOVE) THE BOOMERANG-SHAPED POOL WAS RETILED AND REPLASTERED, AND A WATERFALL JACUZZI SPA WAS REMOVED. THEY REPLACED IT WITH A NEW, SEPARATE JACUZZI SPA THAT IMITATES THE POOL'S BOOMERANG SHAPE. A LONG, SLATTED WOOD BENCH WAS ADDED FOR ADDITIONAL POOLSIDE SEATING.

(BELOW) "THE PLANTS AND GROUND COVER WERE ALSO INSPIRED BY THE ORIGINAL LANDSCAPING DESIGNED BY MR. TOMSON," KEVIN NOTES. KEVIN AND HOWARD WERE ABLE TO SAVE SOME OF THE ORIGINAL FOLIAGE, INCLUDING A VERY OLD OLEANDER TREE—AND, OF COURSE, MANY PALM TREES.





COLORFUL KRISEL



THIS 1958 PALM SPRINGS HOME RECEIVED A COMPLETE MAKEOVER THAT BRINGS TOGETHER CONTEMPORARY AND AUTHENTIC MID CENTURY MODERN DESIGN FEATURES, AN INVITING PALETTE AND PLAYFUL DETAILS.

Written by **LAURA SHIMKO** | Photographed by **DAN CHAVKIN**

Designed by **MICHELLE BOUDREAU** | Project Manager and Construction: **STEVEN SHIELDS**



IN THIS BRIGHT AND BREEZY ENTRYWAY, NATURAL LIGHT SPILLS IN THROUGH THE WINDOW AND GLASS DOORS, PLAYING OFF THE WOOD CEILINGS AND TERRAZZO FLOORING. "IT REALLY HIGHLIGHTS THE INCREDIBLE VIEW OF THE MOUNTAINS OF VISTA LAS PALMAS," STEVEN SAYS.



(ABOVE) HOMEOWNERS MIKE AND SAMEER SHARE THEIR PASSION FOR MID CENTURY MODERN DESIGN BY HOSTING FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN THEIR BEAUTIFULLY AND RESPECTFULLY RENOVATED HOME. "THEY WERE INCREDIBLE PEOPLE FOR OUR TEAM TO SERVE," STEVEN SAYS.

Respect and passion for MCM design are essential when remodeling a mid-century home.

When the homeowners of this Las Palmas Krisel gem in Palm Springs, California, decided to pull the trigger on a long-planned home remodel, they sought out experienced home builder Steven Shields of Shields Residential. The goal: to balance the work of the original designer with contemporary functionality. This meant a thorough overhaul of the interior and exterior of the house.

"It's 100 percent brand-new," Steven says. "We built everything—from a new sewer to a new roof system—with intentional respect for all that William Krisel created as our master template."

For the interior design, Michelle Boudreau of Michelle Boudreau Design was brought in. She was able to bring the aesthetic vision to life. The result is a welcoming, vibrant take on Krisel's original design that celebrates color, gathering and the best of Mid Century Modern design.



A NEW VISION

After years spent building production residential homes for a large homebuilder, Steven decided to take his expertise and center it around building and restoring homes with careful consideration of the needs of the homeowners.

“With a focus on giving them a real road map to a successful remodeling of their mid-century treasures, we’ve been able to restore some truly amazing places in California’s Coachella Valley,” he says.

For this project, the remodel process started with Steven creating a 3D model of the property and working with the homeowners to determine their wants and needs.

“We then proceeded to create a new layout that celebrates William Krisel’s vision—but in the context of the way they live their life in Palm Springs today,” he explains.

(BELOW) COZY DETAILS AND ARTISTIC FEATURES MAKE THE TV AREA IN THE LIVING ROOM BOTH INVITING AND VISUALLY INTERESTING. A VINTAGE SAARINEN TULIP TABLE AND CUSTOM-UPHOLSTERED PLATNER CHAIRS ARE FROM THE HOMEOWNERS’ COLLECTION AND ARE MIXED IN WITH CONTEMPORARY PIECES.



(RIGHT) "CUSTOM DECORATIVE SCREENS WERE DESIGNED TO CREATIVELY DIVIDE THE OPEN AREAS IN ORDER TO CREATE COMFORTABLE SEATING AREAS AND A NOD TO THE MID CENTURY MODERN ERA'S DESIGN DETAILS," MICHELLE POINTS OUT. "I USED THE CIRCLE AS A THEMATIC SHAPE FOR THE SCREEN DESIGN, APPLYING GRAPHIC DIMENSION AND SEMICIRCLE CUT-THROUGHS TO LET THE SUNLIGHT THROUGH."



This involved reenvisioning the layout to meet the homeowners' goals: They wanted four bedrooms, each with an en suite bathroom, and intentional, open spaces indoors and out for hosting.

"When we came to the home the first time, it was already beautiful, tastefully decorated and loved for years before," Steven says. "The journey the clients embarked on was about creating something truly special."

In addition to rebuilding everything from the ground up, Steven also expanded openings for sliding glass doors, thereby accentuating the mid-mod hallmark of indoor and outdoor connection, and extended room square footage for both function and style.

"These were major structural changes, but they were fun to navigate ... with the hope that it seems as if it was always there from 1958," he notes.



COLLECTED COHESION

Once the layout and construction of the home were complete, Michelle Boudreau stepped in to give a warm, welcoming mid-mod style to the interior. The challenge was to make the interior design seamlessly bring together old and new with vintage and contemporary pieces, as well as functional features to accommodate modern living.

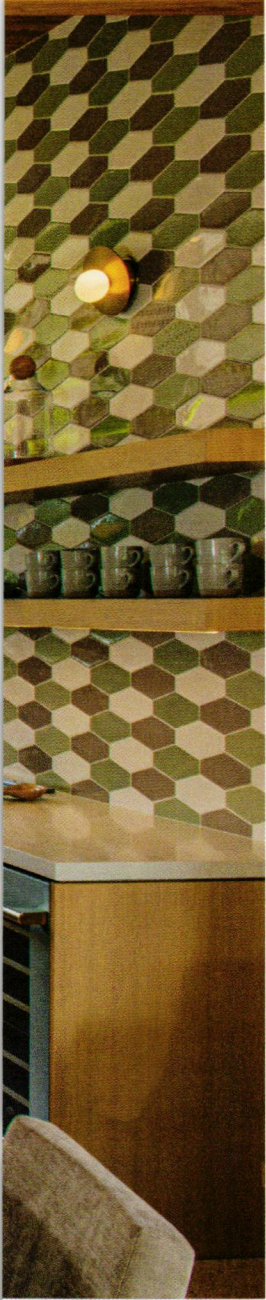
"I wanted to bring the clients' vision to life with a calming, inviting vibe and layer in the interesting shapes and patterns in a cohesive way that threaded throughout the home," she explains.

One of the consistent and standout features throughout the home are the original tongue-and-groove ceilings.

"We enhanced them and pushed them further with respect and thoughtful consideration," Michelle says.

(ABOVE) THE FLOOR PLAN OF THE KITCHEN WAS EXPANDED, AND AN ADDITIONAL SINK AND DISHWASHING STATION WERE ADDED IN ORDER TO FULFILL THE HOMEOWNERS' DESIRE FOR A FUNCTIONAL SPACE FOR ENTERTAINING. MULTIPLE LIGHT FIXTURES ADD INTEREST AND MCM CHARACTER. "LIGHTING IS LIKE JEWELRY TO ME," MICHELLE SAYS. "THEY WERE SELECTED BECAUSE THEY HAVE A COMMON THREAD OF BRASS FINISHES AND ROUND AND CURVED SHAPES—COMMON TRAITS WITH A UNIQUE, INTERESTING TWIST."

(OPPOSITE, TOP) MICHELLE USED NATURAL WHITEWASHED OAK TO BRIGHTEN THE LOOK OF THE SPACE, ALONG WITH THE "GOLDEN QUARTZ" COUNTERTOPS' PURE SURFACES.





(ABOVE, LEFT) CUSTOMIZATION WAS KEY IN THE DESIGN FOR EACH ROOM IN MIKE AND SAMEER'S HOME. IN THE ORANGE GUEST BEDROOM, VIBRANT WALLPAPER SETS THE TONE ALONGSIDE RETRO DETAILS. "GENERAL LIGHTING WAS FORSAKEN THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE IN LIEU OF AREA-SPECIFIC DECORATIVE LIGHTING," STEVEN SAYS.

(ABOVE, RIGHT) A WICKER EGG CHAIR ADDS TEXTURE NEXT TO A TULIP SIDE TABLE. LARGE WINDOWS PROVIDE A CONNECTION BETWEEN INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPACES.

"The owners wanted to embrace the original architecture and bring it to life with a modern, calm and inviting place to retreat and entertain guests."

In addition to this original detail, Michelle worked to incorporate pieces from the clients' collection.

"They had some amazing vintage furnishings for which they wanted me to find new ways to mix into the design," she says.

The combination creates a seamless flow between past and present ... all the while crafting a new, unique take on MCM style.





(ABOVE) IN THE PINK GUEST BEDROOM, MICHELLE UTILIZED A BOLD GEOMETRIC WALLPAPER TO CREATE A STATEMENT. A WALL OF WINDOWS PROVIDES AMPLE VIEWS OF THE MOUNTAINS, AS WELL AS AN ABUNDANCE OF NATURAL LIGHT.

(OPPOSITE, BOTTOM) THIS GUEST BATHROOM IS A PLAY ON THE QUINTESSENTIAL MID CENTURY MODERN "PINK BATHROOM," BUT WITH A MORE UPDATED FEEL. A FLOATING VANITY AND SKYLIGHT ADD A CONTEMPORARY FEEL, WHILE TERRAZZO FLOORS TIE THE SPACE TO THE REST OF THE HOME.

Bring in the Color: Palette Tips for Your Remodel

We all love a good splash of color in our homes, but it can be challenging to figure out the best way to "shake up" your palette while also maintaining a cohesive overall design. Consider designer Michelle Boudreau's tips on using color in your home design:

- **Select a theme.** "Try to choose one main color palette to thread throughout the home to give it a consistent mood," Michelle says. You can use furniture, artwork and other accent pieces as a way to repeat your key colors in every space.
- **Don't overwhelm.** "If you are using a soft main palette, try not to mix it with strong colors—and vice versa," Michelle says. Look for pieces that complement the color theme you've selected. Using neutrals is another way to balance the overall design.
- **Mix it up.** "I stay with a minimal amount of colors and mix in patterns within that palette to create interest and personality," Michelle points out. Pillows, wall art and wallpaper are easy ways to incorporate patterns and textures to add character to any space.

"I wanted to bring the clients' vision to life with a calming, inviting vibe and layer in the interesting shapes and patterns in a cohesive way that threaded throughout the home."

DYNAMIC DETAILS

Getting the details right is always key to any successful home design.

For this project, Steven and Michelle worked with the homeowners to create a look and feel that borrows from hallmarks of MCM style while also creating a unique, personalized and cohesive design.

One of the ways they accomplished this was by using classic, hand-poured terrazzo as flooring throughout the entire home.

"For the many, many times we have discussed terrazzo floors with clients, homeowners Mike and Sameer were the first to commit thoroughly to this detail," Steven says. "It brings unbelievable credibility to the finishes of the home."

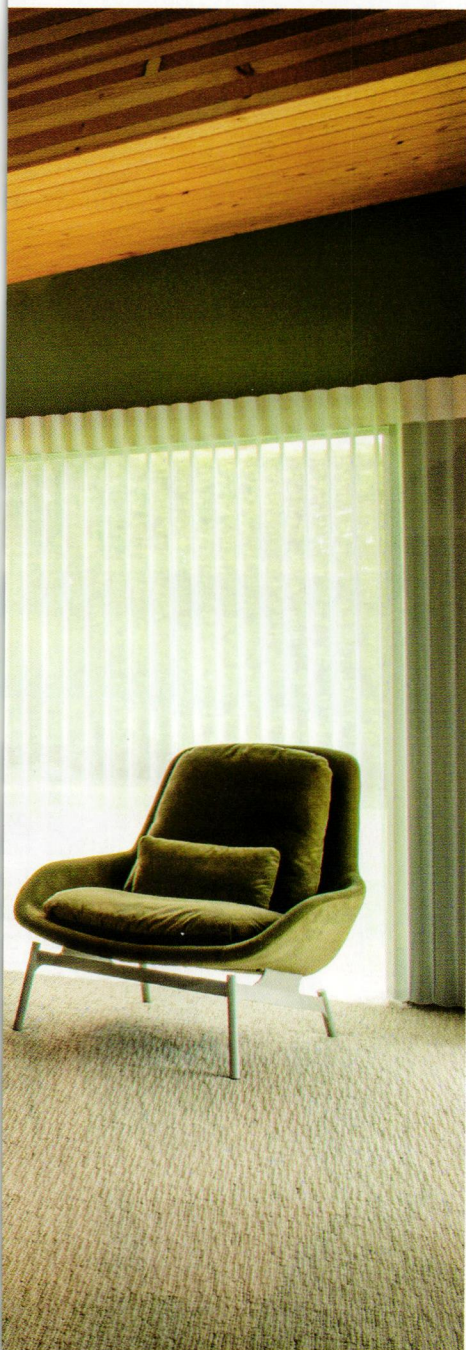
Additionally, Michelle's palette choices create a theme in each space while also tying the entire home together with consistent colors. The abundance of glass walls and windows, in combination with reflective color choices, pushes the connection to include interior and exterior spaces.

"The open-plan living room, dining room and kitchen are wrapped in a serene, neutral color palette, with a mixture of soft greens pulled from the outdoor landscape as a natural transition between the indoor and outdoor living," Michelle says.



(RIGHT) EACH GUEST BEDROOM HAS A MATCHING, CORRESPONDING GUEST BATHROOM. HERE, IN THE "CAPRI SUITE," THE BLUE TILE ENVELOPES THE SPACE WITH A DISTINCT COASTAL FEEL.

(BELOW) IN THE PRIMARY BEDROOM, THE PALETTE AND TEXTURES CREATE A QUIET, INVITING FEEL WHERE OLD AND NEW ARE INTERWOVEN. "THE OWNERS WANTED TO BE WELCOMED INTO THEIR BEDROOM WITH A SENSE OF CALM," MICHELLE NOTES. "I CONTINUED THE SERENE VIBE OF THE GREENS-AND-NEUTRALS PALETTE AND LAYERED IN NATURAL TEXTURES WITH GRASS CLOTH WALLPAPERS AND THE OWNERS' OWN SPECIAL VINTAGE PIECES."

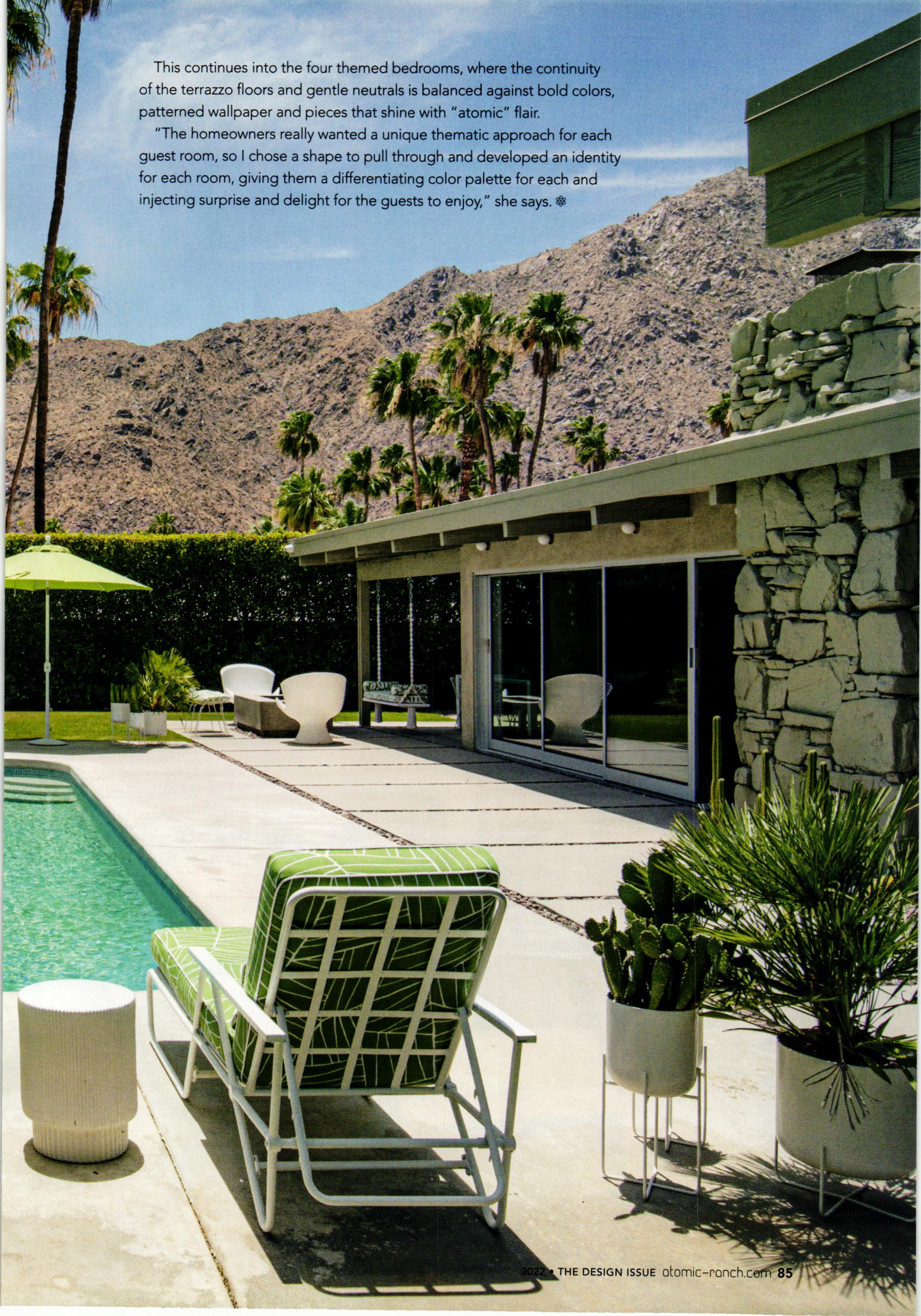


PALM TREES, VIEWS OF SAN JACINTO AND
MANICURED WALLS OF GREENERY ENCLOSE
THIS POOLSIDE PARADISE—A HALLMARK OF
PALM SPRINGS MCM HOMES.



This continues into the four themed bedrooms, where the continuity of the terrazzo floors and gentle neutrals is balanced against bold colors, patterned wallpaper and pieces that shine with “atomic” flair.

“The homeowners really wanted a unique thematic approach for each guest room, so I chose a shape to pull through and developed an identity for each room, giving them a differentiating color palette for each and injecting surprise and delight for the guests to enjoy,” she says. ☼



Modern Makers

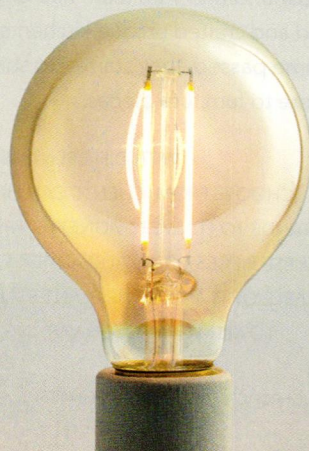
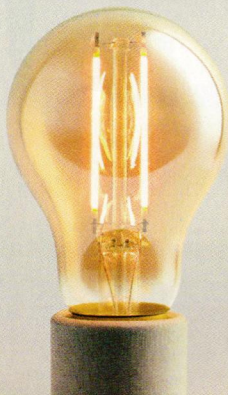
THESE INNOVATIVE ARTISANS ARE KEEPING THE TRADITIONS OF MID CENTURY MODERN DESIGN ALIVE AND THRIVING. By Michelle Mastro

The best Mid Century Modern design follows a few basic principles: the creative use of quality materials, a focus on functionality and, above all else, a sense of timelessness. Moreover, concerns such as sustainability and environmental impact have become additional influences on current MCM design. With all of this in mind, our modern makers stay true to the hallmarks of mid-mod design while looking forward and incorporating contemporary elements for a lasting impact.





THESE BULBS ARE MADE TO SHINE WITH A "GLOWY" AMBIENCE.





(LEFT) THE ENTIRE TEAM AT THE WOODWORKING SHOP INCLUDES HUSBAND, WIFE AND CHILDREN—KEEPING THE LOVE OF MCM ALL IN THE FAMILY.

“We had always loved MCM style,” David says, “and one day, Rau asked if I could design something that eventually became the plant stand.”

Because MCM often pulls from nature, choosing walnut wood for their plant stands made sense.

“We wanted to use the highest quality,” David explains. “We chose walnut for its dark tones.”

They designed their first piece ... and then discovered a market.

“We thought, ‘These are nice. Maybe we can sell a few.’ But now, we are selling thousands,” he says.

With long, clean lines and beautiful, yet subtle, curves, the plant stands look great alongside more obvious MCM pieces. Plus, their varying heights offer a nice contrast to an Eames chair or a shorter, mid-mod credenza.

David and Rau

These modern makers in Canada craft handmade walnut plant stands beloved for their mid-mod appeal. Photography by DAVID EDGERTON

MAKERS OF FINE WOOD HOME DÉCOR, David and Rau Edgerton (davidandrau.ca) of Weyburn, Canada, make plant stands inspired by Mid Century Modern styles.

The husband-and-wife team had originally designed and crafted unique kitchen cabinetry but, as time passed, they started to shift their focus more to furniture pieces.

(RIGHT) WITH DIFFERENT HEIGHTS TO CHOOSE FROM, CLIENTS CAN FIND PLANT STANDS TO FIT EVERY VIGNETTE. TRY ADDING THESE PIECES TO AN ALREADY-EXISTING SIDE TABLE OR PLACING THE PLANT STANDS NEXT TO MCM CHAIRS FOR VARYING HEIGHTS.





(LEFT) ALTHOUGH DAVID AND RAU'S DESIGNS HAVE CAPTURED THE INTEREST OF MANY FANS, THEY SAY THEY ARE NOT SURE IF THEY WILL EVER SWITCH TO A WHOLE-SALE BUSINESS MODEL. "WE LIKE MAKING OUR ITEMS BY HAND AND HAVING THE CONNECTION WITH CLIENTS THAT ALLOWS FOR OPEN COMMUNICATION AND CREATING SOMETHING THEY WILL LOVE," DAVID SAYS.

"We have a whole range of heights, and we are adding in new wood tones," David notes.

For the near future, David and Rau are working on speaker stands, side tables, nightstands and other small accent pieces with the same style as their plant stands.

"Clients can then have a whole set of our work."

Mid-Mod Inspiration

Crafting beautiful furniture is one thing; incorporating Mid Century Modern design elements is another.

For David and Rau, there are two aspects of their planters that especially showcase MCM's influence on their designs:

- **Rich Walnut.** While they initially considered teak wood for their first designs, they ultimately chose walnut for its rich graining and deep, earthy connection to mid-mod looks.
- **Subtle Curves.** A delicate curve in the legs of the plant stands offers a stylish take on the otherwise long, straight lines of the pieces, combining the two standard features of MCM most often repeated in traditional atomic-era homes.



(ABOVE) DAVID AND RAU CHOSE WOOD FOR ITS CONNECTION TO NATURE—A THEME THAT'S CELEBRATED IN MCM DESIGN. "WE WANTED OUR PIECES TO FIT RIGHT IN WITH OTHER CLASSIC MCM FURNITURE," RAU POINTS OUT.



(ABOVE) THESE UNFINISHED PIECES IN THE WOODWORKING SHOP WILL BECOME THE LEGS OF THE TEAM'S PLANT STANDS, WHICH ARE PRIZED FOR THEIR AUTHENTIC FEEL AND HANDMADE CRAFTSMANSHIP.

Moku Artisan

A reverence for nature drives these modern makers to construct standout furniture pieces that transform a home into a sanctuary. Photography courtesy of MOKU ARTISAN



MOKU ARTISAN (mokuartisan.com) crafts furniture pieces referencing the classic motif of nature in MCM design.

"I believe atomic-era design is timeless because of its connection to clean lines, but especially to natural forms, and our goal is to create furniture that will last generations," says co-owner, founder and CEO Slobodan Todorovic. "We wanted to make furniture to truly transform our homes. We need to get back more with nature, and these pieces bring that."

Forwarding the brand's mission to invite nature back into the home, the Moku Artisan team turns to rich woods such as walnut, oak, cherry or ash. Additionally, many of the pieces are made-to-order.

"Thirty percent of the work is customized to what the client wants," Slobodan points out. "At the center of our business is our client. But we wanted to keep prices low for these high-end products. We want to do inclusivity over exclusivity."

From beautiful chairs to amazing credenzas, these pieces change the whole energy of a room ... and that's the point, Slobodan explains.

"We want to make home a sanctuary to keep us grounded during our otherwise busy everyday lives, and the timeless style of Mid Century Modern, with its connection to nature, makes that possible."



(LEFT) MANY OF THE PIECES MOKU MAKES, EVEN THOSE WITH THINNER LEGS, HIGHLIGHT THE GRAINING IN THEIR PIECES. "IT ALL GOES BACK TO THAT CONNECTION WITH NATURE," SLOBODAN SAYS. PICTURED HERE IS THE "SIMONA" DAYBED.



(LEFT) BUILT TO LAST, MOKU'S "YORICK" TABLE IS MORE THAN JUST A GATHERING PLACE. IT HAS QUICKLY BECOME A TREASURED FAMILY HEIRLOOM. "PERHAPS ONE OF THE BEST COMPLIMENTS WE RECEIVED CAME FROM A WOMAN WHO SAID SHE WAS HAPPY TO PASS ON HER MOKU ITEMS TO HER DESCENDANTS," SLOBODAN SAYS.

(BELOW, RIGHT) THE GRAINING OF THE "LUBA" TV STAND MAKES THIS PIECE A SIMPLE—YET BEAUTIFULLY STANDOUT—ITEM THAT'S PERFECT TO SET BESIDE MORE-VIBRANT WORKS WITHOUT DETRACTING FROM THEM OR EVEN ITS OWN STUNNING WOODWORK.



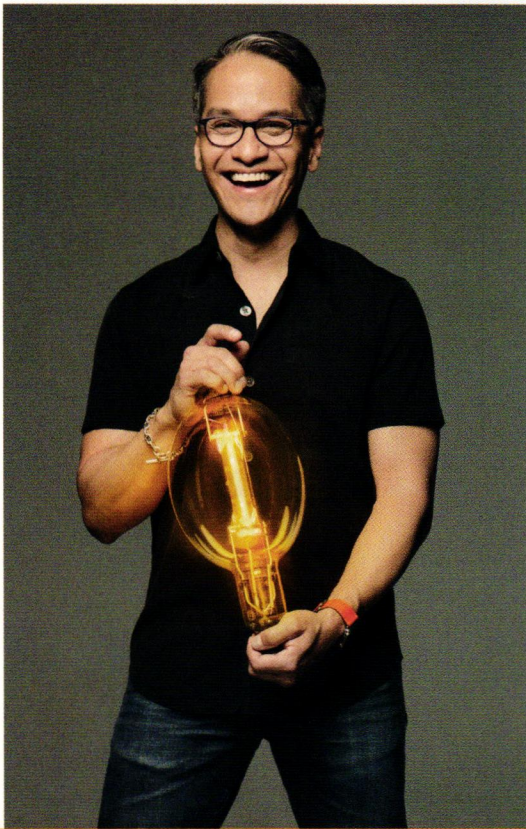
(ABOVE) A STATEMENT PIECE, THE MOKU "MARINA" CHAIR CAN ALTER THE VIBE OF A ROOM, BRINGING IN A LAID-BACK ENERGY THAT SIMULTANEOUSLY REAFFIRMS A CONNECTION TO NATURE. THE PIECES FIT RIGHT IN WITH EXISTING ARTWORK, HOUSEPLANTS AND OTHER PIECES THAT PROVIDE A LIVED-IN FEEL.



Keeping it Environmentally Friendly

The craftsmen at Moku Artisan are committed to making pieces that reflect Mid Mod design in an environmentally friendly way. The following two elements highlight this commitment and shine a light on how to craft sustainable wood furniture:

- **The Wood.** The brand uses a variety of different woods and customizes its furniture per the client's preferences. However, the Moku team often chooses walnut—in true MCM fashion. "Walnut is one of the best woods to work with, because it tells a story. The graining is just perfect," Slobodan says.
- **Au Naturel.** To preserve the wood used in its pieces, Moku never relies on harsh chemicals. "We really approach the wood with respect," Slobodan says. Instead, natural oils are used to highlight the graining. In addition, "For every piece we sell, we also plant a tree—a walnut tree—to give back to nature," he notes.



Mavisten Edition

A modern maker in San Francisco looks to classic MCM pieces and tailors them to fit today's aesthetics and environmental concerns.

Photography by JAMES DOUGLAS

MAVISTEN EDITION (mavistenedition.com) crafts unbelievably beautiful lamps and other light fixtures that harken back to the atomic era. Eichler homes, in particular, are some of this company's bigger touchstones for designing MCM-inspired lighting.

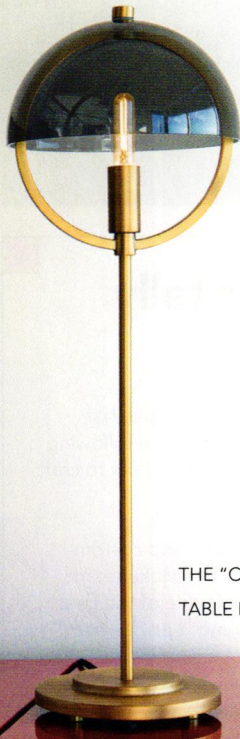
"A lot of those homes are at the stage of needing to be remodeled," says Michael J. Almodova, CEO of Mavisten Edition. "When I was looking at these homes on Eichler Drive in Sunnyvale, California, I stopped to talk to some of the homeowners, who said they loved their homes but had such a hard time with the lighting," he explains.

The residents didn't have many light fixture options to install in their homes as they remodeled them. The original fixtures had been MCM white globe lights, each having just a white glass ball hanging on a cord from the ceiling.

Michael took the format of the globe and brought it into modern times with the brand's popular "Copernica" collection.

"I changed the white glass to smoke for a sexy look and also cut the sphere in half," he explains. "I mixed it up with tube bulbs for a slightly irreverent, playful touch."

(ABOVE) CEO OF MAVISTEN EDITION, MICHAEL J. ALMODOVA STANDS WITH THE LIGHT BULBS HE HELPED DESIGN. THE "EMBERLINE" LIGHT BULB HAS A ROMANTIC, ORANGEY COLOR, OFFERING A DIFFERENT FEELING FROM THE TYPICAL, "TOO-BRIGHT-AND-COLD-LIGHTING" OF TRADITIONAL LED LIGHTS.



THE "COPERNICA"
TABLE LAMP

Style and Function

Lighting can make or break your home design. Not only is it essential on a practical level, fixtures also go a long way to elevate the look of any space.

Michael incorporates the following two elements in every piece he crafts:

- **Everlasting Style.** Michael wanted the light fixtures to follow the timeless quality of atomic-era homes. "We wanted clients to choose to hold onto these for the lights to last and endure in terms of style," he says. Mavisten Edition follows an Epicurean philosophy: "You might not bring a lot into your home, but you cherish what you do bring in. These are not 'fast' fashion pieces. They're something meant to be held onto."
- **Quality-Made Items.** Helping ensure the pieces last, Michael opted for all the lighting to be built with quality in mind. "All our sockets are porcelain sockets, for example, and all the materials are premium for an elevated look."



(TOP, LEFT) THE "AMPLITUDE" PENDANT ALSO PLAYS WITH VIEWER EXPECTATIONS. "MOST LAMPSHADES POINT DOWN," MICHAEL NOTES. "WE WANTED IT TO POINT OUTWARD TO MAKE THE LIGHTS LOOK LIKE THEY WERE BLASTING LIGHT IN THE SAME WAY SPEAKERS MIGHT SEND SOUND WAVES."

(LEFT) AN UPDATED TAKE ON THE MCM WHITE GLOBE LIGHT, THE "COPERNICA" PENDANT TAKES THE PIECE'S CLASSIC SHAPE AND INFLECTS ADDITIONAL CELESTIAL MOTIFS. "WE ADDED THE RING AS A REFERENCE TO THE PLANET SATURN," HE SAYS.

(BELOW) THE "FAR" PENDANT WAS INSPIRED BY THE ROYAL AIR FORCE'S AIRCRAFT HANGAR LAMP, WHICH THE BRAND UPDATED AND BROUGHT INTO MODERN TIMES. INFUSED WITH LED BULBS AND OLDER STYLES, THIS PIECE OFFERS A CLEAR, YET PLAYFUL, TENSION BETWEEN OLD AND NEW.



But these lights aren't just for those renovating their "atomic" abodes. Those who want energy-efficient lights without sacrificing aesthetics will love them too.

"In California, we're really pushing for LED lights and energy efficiency—but a lot of those LED lights came across as cold and stark," Michael notes. "So, I designed the 'Emberline.'"

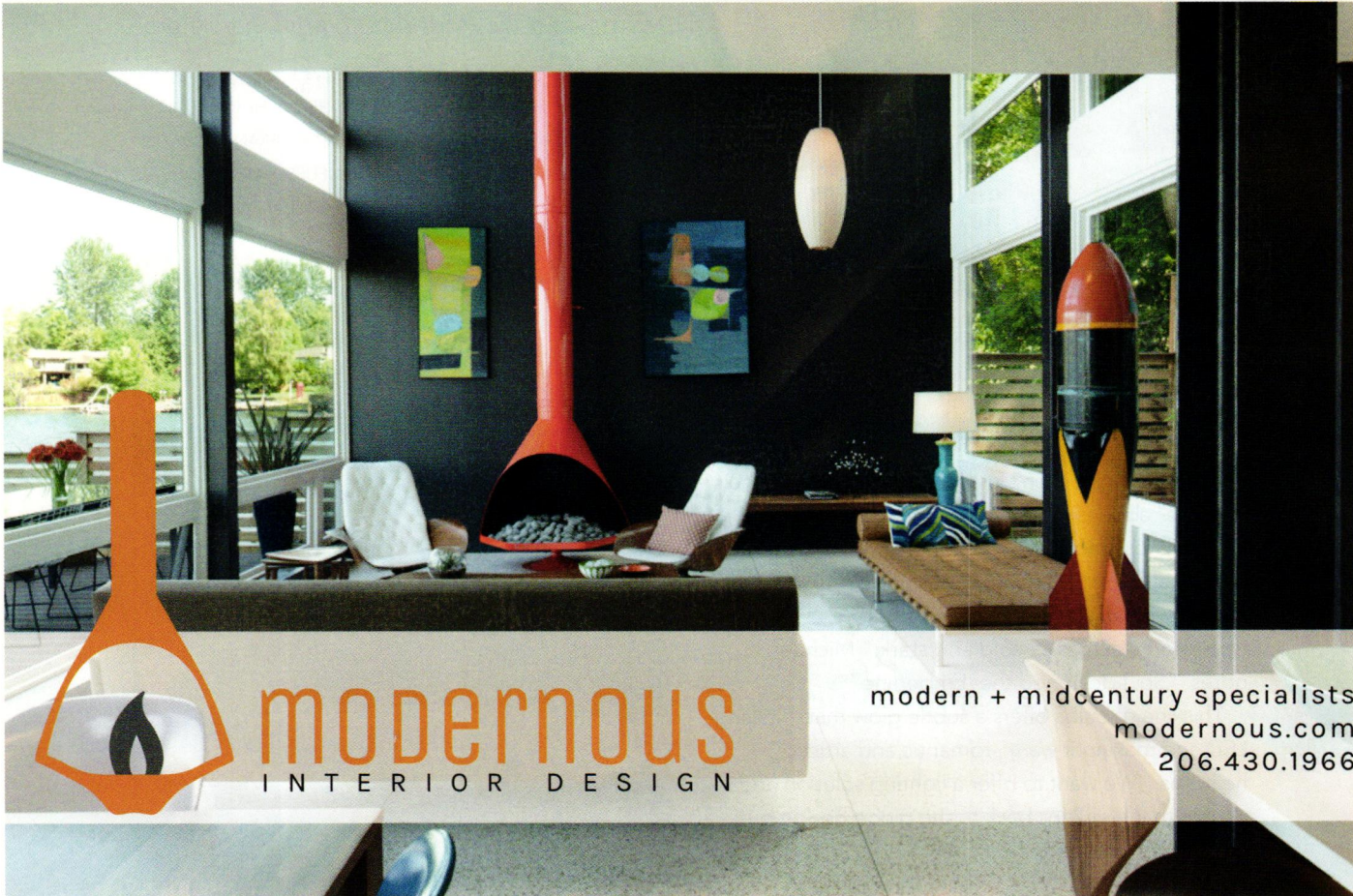
This line of bulbs offers a subtle glow that's "taking LED and making it warm, romantic and artistic," he notes. "We want to offer a lighting solution and design that hearkens back to the globe design but brings it into modern times." ❀



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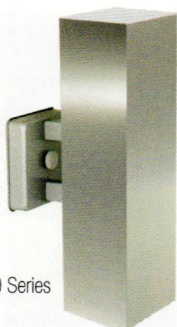
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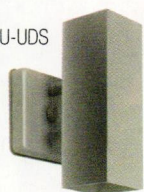


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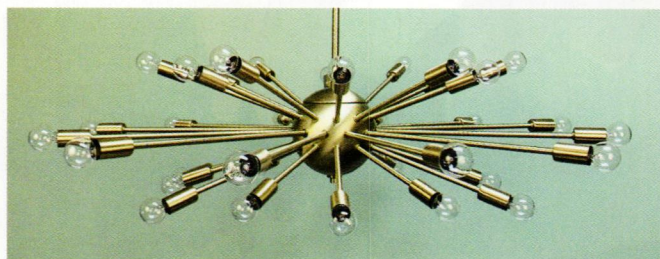


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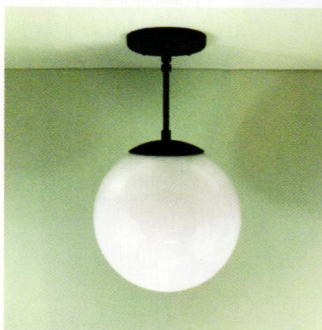
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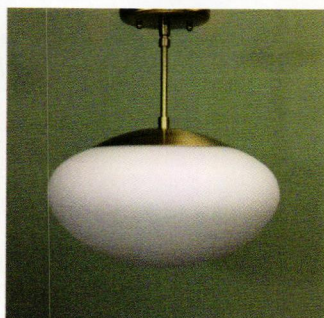
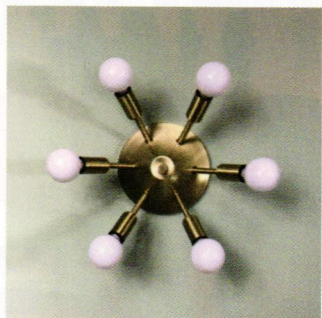
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THE FINISHED LIVING ROOM SHOWS LISA WOLFE'S DESIGN AS A BRIGHT, COLORFUL MIX OF OLD AND NEW. THE "BUBBLE" SOFA IS A NEW PIECE. FOR A PLEASING CONTRAST OF PAST AND PRESENT, THE LUCITE-AND-BRASS COFFEE TABLE IS AUTHENTIC VINTAGE, AS IS THE CURVED, BLACK-AND-WHITE GLOBE FLOOR LAMP. LISA SAYS HER CLIENTS WERE PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS, WHICH SHE DESCRIBES AS "MID CENTURY MODERN ON STEROIDS."



Getting the Groove Back

POP ART AND BOLD COLORS COME TOGETHER TO CREATE A VIBRANT SPACE IN THIS 850-SQUARE-FOOT MID-MOD CONDO REDESIGN.

Written by **Charles Winkler** | Photographed by **Michael Alan Kaskel** | Designed by **Lisa Wolfe**





(ABOVE) MARINA TOWERS FEATURES EXTERIOR BALCONIES. IN THIS CONDO, SEPARATE DOORS FROM THE BEDROOM AND LIVING ROOM OPEN ONTO TWO WIDE, PRIVATE BALCONIES. LISA SAYS SHE WAS ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE “INCREDIBLY DEEP” BALCONY SPACE TO PUT IN BIG, NEW, “FUNKY-COLORED,” CHAIRS AND COFFEE TABLES RATHER THAN “BABY-SCALE FURNITURE” FOR THE NARROW, TIGHT BALCONIES SEEN IN MANY OTHER BUILDINGS. SHE CAREFULLY SELECTED THE FURNITURE FOR A CLASSIC 1960S LOOK.

WHAT IS POP ART? According to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, pop art was born in the 1950s and flourished through the '60s. It's defined as “a diverse response to the postwar era's commodity-driven values, often using commonplace objects (such as comic strips, soup cans, road signs and hamburgers) as subject matter or as part of the work.” Think Andy Warhol's colorized Marilyn Monroe faces, Roy Lichtenstein's comic book panels or Peter Max's “Cosmic Runner.”

You can find pop art examples online, at art shops or in your handy stack of *Atomic Ranch* back issues. But pop art doesn't have to be formal art. It can include common objects, images and even textures.

In 1968, Andy Warhol created his “Campbell's Soup Can” screen print series; Roy Lichtenstein drew Bobby Kennedy as a superhero on “Time's” cover; and architect Bertrand Goldberg saw his Marina Towers masterpiece completed in Chicago. A half-century later, designer Lisa Wolfe channeled all that together for an inspired Mid Century Modern condo renovation.

DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC, Marina Towers condo owners hired Lisa Wolfe of Lisa Wolfe Designs in nearby Lake Forest, Illinois, for the job. The one bedroom, one-bath condominium was originally purchased for the owners' son, who was attending college downtown. Once he graduated, the owners decided to convert the condo into their mid-mod-themed weekend getaway. The owners are music-loving “baby boomers” who grew up in the 1960s and still dig that era's “groovy” vibe.

(OPPOSITE, BOTTOM) IN THIS RELATIVELY SMALL CONDO OF ABOUT 850 SQUARE FEET, YOU CAN STAND IN THE MIDDLE OF IT AND SEE EVERY PART OF THE RESIDENCE, LISA SAYS. CONSEQUENTLY, ALL PARTS HAVE TO HARMONIZE. EVERY INCH OF THE CONDO IS IN BRIGHT COLORS—PER THE 1960S PERIOD EVOKED—ALONG WITH THE CLIENTS' DESIRES AND LISA'S OWN VISION. “WE PAINTED THE BACK OF THE FRONT DOOR A HIGH-GLOSS RASPBERRY. BECAUSE ... WHY NOT?” SHE ADDS.



(ABOVE) DESIGNER LISA WOLFE CALLS THE CUSTOM WHITE SHEEPSKIN RUG IN THE LIVING ROOM THE SINGLE MOST CHALLENGING PIECE OF THE REDESIGN. AFTER THE SPACE WAS CAREFULLY MEASURED, THE VENDOR SEWED SEVERAL SHEEPSKINS TOGETHER FOR THE LARGE, UNIQUE FINAL PRODUCT. "IN DOING PROJECTS, THERE ARE PLACES TO SPLURGE AND PLACES TO PULL BACK. I SPLURGED ON THE SHEEPSKIN RUG IN THE LIVING ROOM," SHE NOTES. "IT'S THE REAL DEAL. IT'S AS SOFT AS IT LOOKS. IT FEELS AS IF YOU'RE WALKING ON A CLOUD." BY THE WAY, THIS TYPE OF RUG ISN'T VACUUMED; IT HAS TO BE RAKED.





(LEFT) ALTHOUGH THE LIVING ROOM "POP WALL" MURAL MARKED THE START OF THE ACTUAL REDESIGN, LISA SAYS THE VERY FIRST THING SHE BOUGHT FOR THE CONDO PROJECT WAS THE PRINTMAKERS TRAY THAT NOW GRACES THE WALL ABOVE THE BED. ALTHOUGH SHE USUALLY PREFERS TO GET A SIGN-OFF FROM HER CLIENTS BEFORE BUYING HIGH-PROFILE PIECES, THIS TIME, SHE SAW THE TRAY, FELL IN LOVE WITH IT AND ASKED THE CONDO OWNERS TO TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH. "I TOLD THEM, 'YOU'RE GOING TO JUST HAVE TO TRUST ME.' WHEN I DO A DESIGN, I'M LOOKING FOR THAT ONE OR TWO THINGS THAT WILL SET ME IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION."



(BOTTOM, FAR LEFT) MIXING COLOR, LIGHT AND TEXTURE WAS VITAL IN CREATING THIS MID-MOD "MASHUP," AS SHOWN BY THESE ATTENTION-GRABBING, VINTAGE, WHITE PEDESTAL FOOT STOOLS. "I'M INTO BOLDNESS, GRAPHIC ELEMENTS AND COLOR," LISA SAYS. "LIGHT FIXTURES, FABRICS AND COLORS. THAT'S MY THING."

(BOTTOM, NEAR LEFT) MANY "BABY BOOMERS" GOT THEIR FIRST LOOK AT AN EGG CHAIR IN THE FUTURISTIC 1960S SPY SHOW, "THE PRISONER." THIS EGG CHAIR, BY ETERNITY MODERN, WAS PURCHASED NEW. LISA FELL IN LOVE WITH THE CHAIR BUT COULD ONLY HOPE THAT HER CLIENTS FELT THE SAME WAY. "THEY TOOK ONE LOOK AT IT AND SAID, 'YES!'" SHE SAYS. THE EGG CHAIR ALSO SWIVELS. "IT'S A BIG PIECE; YOU CAN CURL UP IN THAT THING AND BE ON YOUR TABLET OR YOUR PHONE AND LOOK OUT OVER THE CITY," SHE SAYS. "IT'S LIKE BEING IN A CAVE. IT HAS A SOUNDPROOF WALL, TOO. IT'S A COCOON."



(ABOVE) LISA SAYS THAT BEFORE THE OWNERS HIRED HER, THEY HAD A CONTRACTOR PLACE A CALM, NEUTRAL SUBWAY TILE BACKSPLASH IN THE KITCHEN. HOWEVER, SHE WANTED BRIGHT, VIBRANT COLORS TO MATCH THE MID-MOD VIBE OF HER REDESIGN. HER CLIENTS HAD JUST INSTALLED THE TILE, BUT LISA WANTED THEM TO BE COMPLETELY REDONE. "I FINALLY LOOKED AT THEM AND ASKED IF THEY WOULD CONSIDER DOING IT DIFFERENTLY. THEY SAID, 'SURE!' I WAS THRILLED THEY WOULD TRUST ME WITH THAT DECISION."

(RIGHT) THE BATHROOM PICKS UP BLUE ACCENTS FROM THE REST OF THE CONDO. THE MURAL, WHICH LISA SAYS WAS "A PIECE OF CAKE," FEATURES LINES AND CURLICUES TO ATTRACT AND RELAX THE EYE.

"The owners want something Andy Warhol inspired," Lisa says.

Marina Towers comprise two 587-foot, 65-story towers with scalloped balconies. The condos on each circular floor radiate from a central core.

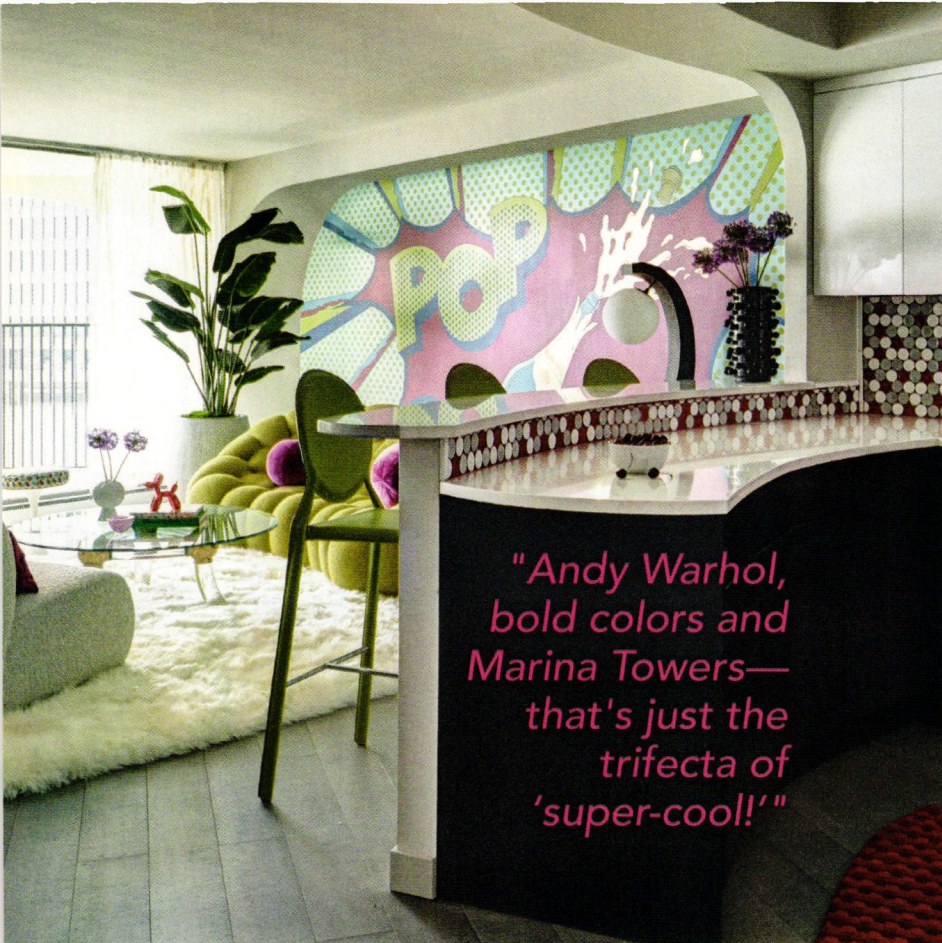
"In Marina Towers, there are no 90-degree corners. If you picture a pizza, every condo is a slice," Lisa says.

The project suited her perfectly: "Andy Warhol, bold colors and Marina Towers—that's just the trifecta of 'super-cool!'"

Redesigning the Condo

Before the nine-month project, the owners cleaned out college furniture and then called Lisa. The redesign started with the living room wall. Lisa's research led to Roy Lichtenstein, whose pop art features comic book panel motifs.





"Andy Warhol, bold colors and Marina Towers—that's just the trifecta of 'super-cool!'"

(LEFT) LOOKING FROM THE NARROW KITCHEN OUT PAST THE LIVING ROOM TOWARD THE WIDER BALCONY ILLUSTRATES THE UNUSUAL TRIANGULAR SHAPE OF THE CONDO. THAT SHAPE WAS A CHALLENGE TO DESIGN AROUND AND WAS THE REASON LISA SAYS SHE STARTED WITH THE WALL MURALS. THE CONDO FLOORS ARE SERVED BY CENTRAL ELEVATORS THAT RUN UP THE CORE OF THE TOWERS.

"That ended up being the inspiration for our mural," she explains.

The condo owners had a favorite champagne, so Lisa used that label for the mural, made by artist Danya Elbaridi of Studio Lunar, who helped create all three murals in the condo. The redesign called for harmonizing everything in a small space.

"If you stand in the middle of the condo and spin around, you can see every, single thing, so we had to make sure these murals balanced each other out," Lisa says.

Bright, Funky and Bold

Next came the bedroom. For that mural, Lisa selected a softer mood. The result is a series of delicately traced faces inspired by Henri Matisse. Filling out the room are an MCM-style chair, funky vintage mushroom lamps and a new, three-tiered marble table. Above everything is a mounted wooden printmakers tray—the very first project piece Lisa purchased.

The bathroom design features a mural with a pleasing mix of lines and curls, like a blue grotto. Then followed the kitchen with an unusual challenge: The owners had installed neutral subway tile backsplash. Lisa convinced them to completely redo it. The same contractor who had installed the tiles came back, ripped them out and installed polka dots. In addition to the murals and backsplash, Lisa slowly filled the condo with old and new pieces with materials that range from leather, wood and marble to sheepskin wool, plastic and Lucite.



THE LIVING ROOM FEATURES A NEW AND VERY "GROOVY" JONATHAN ADLER CABINET. THE PIECE WAS AN EASY SELL WHEN LISA SHOWED IT TO HER CLIENTS. "YOU DON'T COME ACROSS MANY CABINETS LIKE THAT. NOW, IT'S DOUBLING AS A BAR CABINET," SHE SAYS. "IT JUST SCREAMS, 'FUNKY MID CENTURY MODERN!'"



THE SECOND MAJOR PART OF THE REDESIGN WAS THE BEDROOM, WHICH LISA CALLS HER MOST SATISFYING AND REPRESENTATIVE PART OF THE PROJECT. THE MURAL ON THIS WALL TAKES ITS CUE FROM MODERNIST ART. "THE POP MURAL WALL WAS SO PRECISE AND PRISTINE, SO I WANTED THIS TO BE A LITTLE LOOSER," LISA SAYS. "WE USED A MATISSE-INSPIRED FACE WITH LIPS. THE LIPS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE A LITTLE SEXY."

Finally, there was the balcony. Marina Towers' wide, deep balconies gave Lisa the room to purchase large, mid-century-style outdoor pieces.

"That's what this whole project was all about—bright colors, funky, bright and bold," she says. ☺

Picking Out a Pop Art Accent

In a mid-mod mood? You don't have to own a luxury condo to add mid-century dash to your living room, office or favorite corner. Just think ... pop art. All you need are a knowledge of popular media, products and celebrities, some boldness and sense of fun. Get adventurous!

Here are some ideas:

- **Shop local.** Visit your local antique shops and thrift stores for mid-century pieces from back in the day.
- **Support the artist community** at local co-ops and online at sites such as Etsy. You never know what you'll find. Enjoy the journey!
- **Check your bookshelves and attic.** You might find old snapshots, comic books, paperbacks or magazines for creative framing.
- **Remember those "groovy" LP record covers** that ranged from psychedelic to surreal? They make fine wall art, as do the black vinyl records they contain.

Mid-Century Pop!

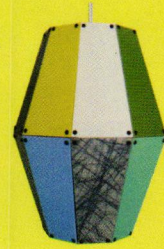
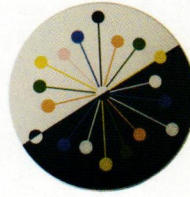


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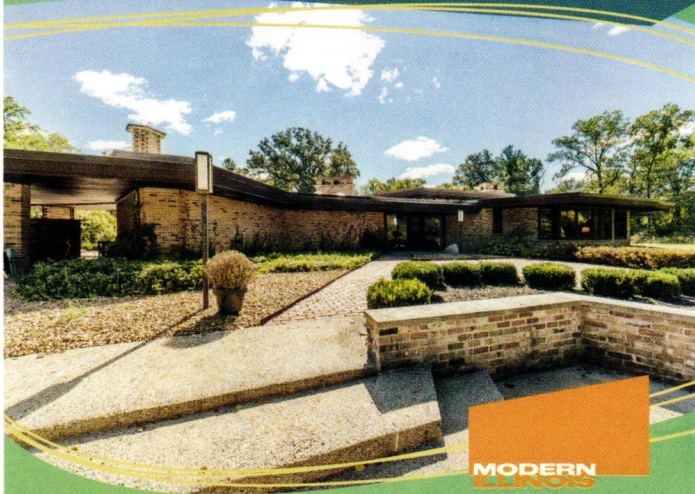
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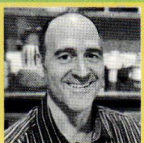
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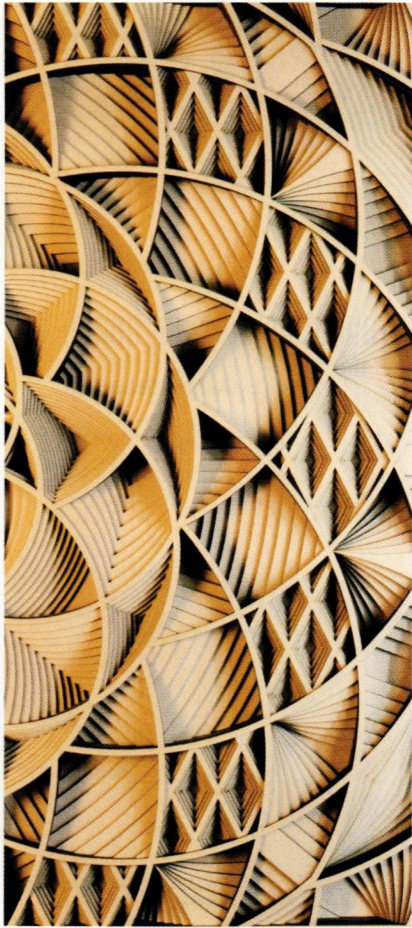
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A large, green, futuristic house shaped like a UFO, known as the Aqua Futuro. It has three large, oval-shaped windows that reflect the surrounding landscape. The house is elevated on a metal structure, and the background shows a vast, blue body of water under a clear sky.

Plastic Paradise

A short history about an unusual home.

Written by **Ashley Steenson**

THIS AQUA FUTURO HOME LOCATED IN FINLAND TAKES IN A LOVELY WATERSIDE VIEW. (PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY)

“THERE’S A GREAT FUTURE IN PLASTICS.” That’s what actor Walter Brooke’s character, Mr. Maguire, told Dustin Hoffman’s character, Ben, in the 1967 film, “The Graduate.”

In the late 1960s, the oil that was required to manufacture plastic was cheap, and architects drew inspiration from the material.

After a friend requested a ski chalet, Finnish architect Matti Suuronen (1933–2013) designed the fiberglass-reinforced polyester plastic “Futuro House” in 1968. Shaped like a UFO, the house had a diameter of 26 feet and square footage of 538.

While plastic isn’t environmentally friendly, the prefabricated Futuro could be placed almost anywhere without altering the terrain. Intended as a second home that could be transported by helicopter, the Futuro was advertised in *Playboy* magazine as a “portable playhouse” that “looks more like a spaceship than a weekend pied-à-terre.”

The Futuro reflected the optimism of the space age. Futurism’s mid-century iteration was distinguishable through artists’ use of materials such as plastic and concrete, as well as their interest in technological progress and space travel.

Science & Mechanics called it an “instant leisure

home”—wrongly predicting that 10,000 would be produced in the United States in 1970. However, production stopped with the 1973 oil crisis, when the price of materials skyrocketed.

The Pensacola Beach, Florida, Futuro was built in 1970, with a ramp inspired by the 1951 film, “The Day the Earth Stood Still.” Originally gold (but now white), the home was owned by regional Futuro dealer William Rundles. In keeping with regulations requiring 900 feet of living space, Rundles placed the pod on another structure, which enhanced views of the water.

The Clarkin family currently owns the Futuro, and they and neighbors ask that visitors take photos behind the gate and do not board the ramp.

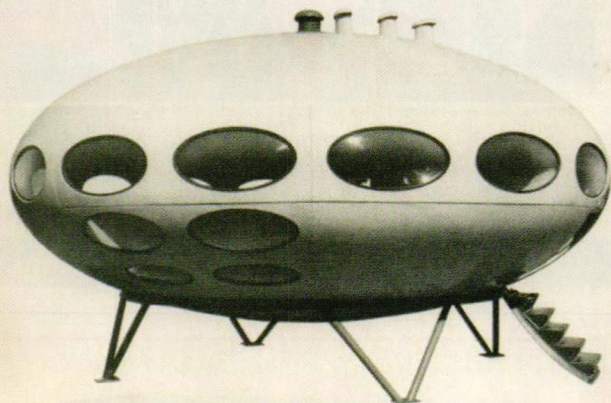
There was a lot of backlash against the Futuro, and unfortunately, many were destroyed. Around 68 survive, with approximately 20 in the United States (only 100 were manufactured). While there is only one book about the Futuro, Simon Robson has compiled an archive (visit thefuturohouse.com).

Despite Mr. Maguire’s predictions, plastic fell out of fashion as a house-building material, but the modernism and positivity of Matti Suuronen’s designs endure to this day. ☼

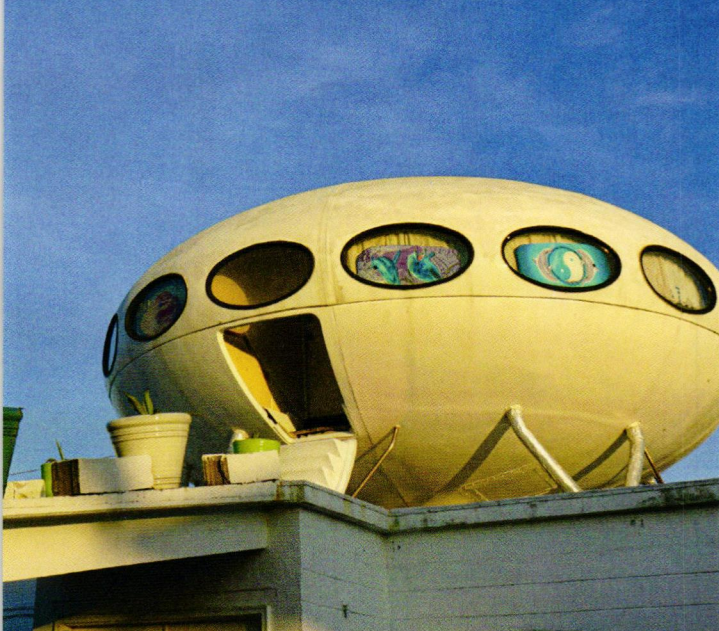
(RIGHT) LOCATED IN LES PUCES DE PARIS IN FRANCE, THE LARGEST ANTIQUES MARKET IN THE WORLD, THIS BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL FUTURO CREATES A BOLD VISUAL STATEMENT THAT REMAINS JUST AS FORWARD-LOOKING AS IT DID IN ITS HEYDAY. (PHOTO: ISTOCK)

(BELOW) THIS VINTAGE AD MAKES AN APPEAL TO MID-CENTURY BUYERS: "THE FUTURE IS NOW." (PHOTO: PUBLIC DOMAIN)

'Futuro' Down to earth living.



THE PENSACOLA BEACH FUTURO CASTS A STRIKING PROFILE ATOP ANOTHER STRUCTURE—IN KEEPING WITH LOCAL BUILDING CODES. (PHOTO COURTESY OF ASHLEY STEENSON)



Design Details

IN ADDITION TO THE FUTURO'S DISTINCTIVE LOOK AND PLASTIC CONSTRUCTION, HERE ARE A FEW OTHER FEATURES THAT SET THIS "FUNKY" HOME APART:

- **Portable and adaptable.** To preserve the natural terrain, Suuronen designed the Futuro's base as a steel ring with "V"-shaped legs atop concrete piers. The homes were mobile, as well as environmentally friendly, because they could be constructed onsite or transported completely intact.
- **Keeping it mid-mod.** Futuros had built-in furniture, shag carpets and hooded fireplaces (furnished models cost around \$14,000 in the United States). They came in colors such as green, blue, gold and silver.
- **Futuro in Florida.** The Pensacola Beach Futuro featured Formica surfaces, plastic chairs and dimmers. While Futuros were insulated by foam for cooler climates, air conditioning was available for warmer locales. Another Futuro was placed on top of a nightclub in Tampa.

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Written by **Marissa Moldoch**

TWENTY-FOUR MATCHING ORIGAMI CHAIRS, DESIGNED BY PAUL MCCOBB AND APTLY NAMED FOR THEIR ANGULAR SHAPES, WERE FEATURED IN A "STAR TREK" EPISODE TITLED "THE TROUBLE WITH TRIBBLES." (BECAUSE THE SET DECORATOR HAD BORROWED THE CHAIRS FROM STORES ACROSS LOS ANGELES COUNTY, THE ACTORS HAD TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO DAMAGE THEM WHILE FILMING A FIGHT SCENE!)

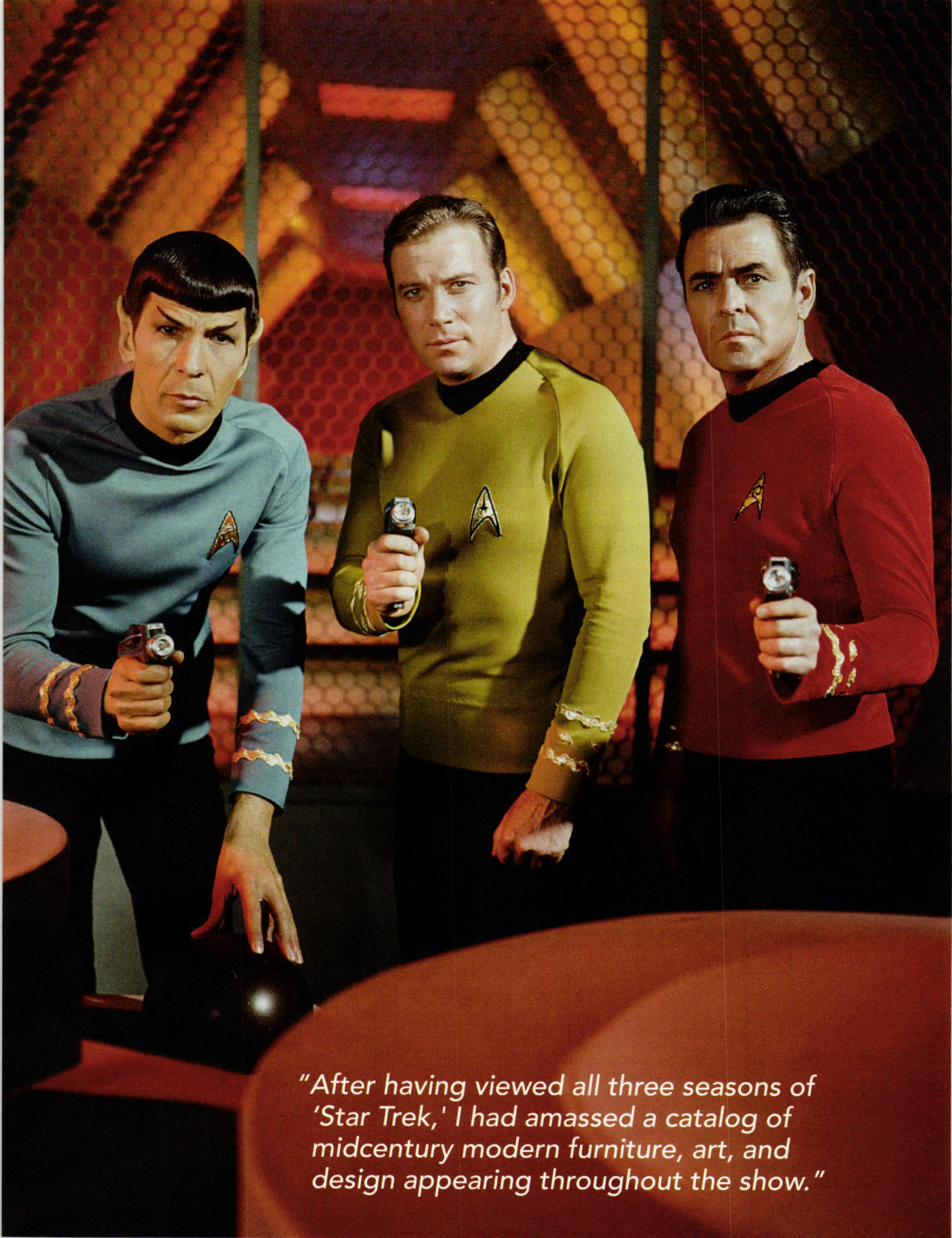
WHILE WATCHING THE FIRST SEASON OF "STAR TREK," author and photographer Dan Chavkin noticed something that piqued his interest.

"I spotted, during the episode, 'The Man Trap,' a piece of midcentury modern design—an Architectural Pottery planter by designer John Follis," he writes.

As an MCM enthusiast, Chavkin excitedly binge-watched the rest of the sci-fi show with a new "lens," hoping to discover more hidden gems.

What Chavkin didn't yet realize was that the show's production designer, Matt Jeffries, very intentionally used the MCM style to align with creator Gene Roddenberry's vision.





"After having viewed all three seasons of 'Star Trek,' I had amassed a catalog of midcentury modern furniture, art, and design appearing throughout the show."

SPOCK, KIRK AND SCOTTY STAND WITH THEIR PHASERS AT THE READY IN FRONT OF A HEXAGONAL METAL GRILLE IN THE ENGINEERING ROOM OF THE STARSHIP ENTERPRISE.



DURING THIS SCENE OF THE EPISODE, "THE TROUBLE WITH TRIBBLES," A STYLISH SCULPTA CHAIR BY CHROMCRAFT STANDS BETWEEN KIRK AND KLINGON CAPTAIN KOLOTH. "THE FUTURISTIC-LOOKING CHEVRON SHAPE SEEMS TO PROPEL THE CHAIR FORWARD," WRITE THE AUTHORS.

CHROMCRAFT, INC., Senatobia, Mississippi

IN 1966, CHROMCRAFT PLACED THIS ADVERTISEMENT FOR ITS LATEST CREATION, THE SCULPTA CHAIR. THE FIRST FEW LINES READ, "GO AHEAD. LOOK AGAIN. SCULPTA BY CHROMCRAFT HAS SUCH SHEER BEAUTY IN ITS ACTIVE DESIGN, IT SEEMS TO HYPNOTIZE."

FOR A DEEPER DIVE INTO THIS CHAIR'S HISTORY GO TO PAGE 24

"Gene Roddenberry defined the 'Star Trek' design ethic as 'Technology Unchained,' where form does not necessarily always follow function, and that it is also driven by emotion, beauty, and the distinctly human predilection for bending the rules. This is the very definition of Midcentury Modern design," writes Doug Drexler, "Star Trek's" visual effects artist, in the foreword of "Star Trek: Designing the Final Frontier—How Midcentury Modernism Shaped Our View of the Future," co-written by Brian McGuire.

Before long, Chavkin observed a multitude of MCM elements, such as chairs, coffee tables, and even salt and pepper shakers.

"I devoted myself to the task of documenting anything on the program identifiable from the midcentury modern genre," he says. "Finally, after having viewed all three seasons of 'Star Trek,' I had amassed a catalog of midcentury modern furniture, art, and design appearing throughout the show."

Not wanting to keep his findings to himself, Chavkin partnered with McGuire to write the book.

"Trekkies" who've fallen in love with the show's imaginative, out-of-the-box ideas will appreciate that the show's designers purposefully picked furnishings that personify futurism, boldness and courageousness.

LOOKING TO THE PAST FOR INSPIRATION

Although it might come as a surprise to learn that the retro MCM style appears in a show about the future, McGuire believes it makes sense.

"For the majority of Middle American households [in the mid-1940s into the 1970s], Midcentury Modernism was strange, cold, somewhat unsettling, and just too futuristic-looking—certainly

IN THIS SCENE, LIEUTENANT UHURA STANDS NEXT TO TULIP-STYLE CHAIRS THAT WERE DESIGNED BY MAURICE BURKE AND MODIFIED BY "STAR TREK'S" PROP DEPARTMENT.



not a style for everyday living," he writes. "Hence, for them at least, it had an alien look, which made it the ideal style as a backdrop for science fiction. And through its inherent forward-looking feel, it never appears dated."

Disagreeing with McGuire would be "highly illogical," because he seems to know what he's talking about when it comes to MCM's timelessness.

EPISODE GUIDES

To fans' delight, Chavkin and McGuire analyze every episode of "Star Trek" that features MCM furniture or décor.

First, they provide a brief episode synopsis to jog your memory and place you in the scene. Next, they point out how

and where the furnishings were used in the episode. Then, they discuss who designed the furnishings, where and when they were produced, and how they might have been modified to better fit the show's aesthetic.

For instance, after describing an episode called "The Cage," the authors show a picture of Captain Pike in his quarters.

"As he passes through his living area to flop down on his bed, we see a sharp, futuristic-looking chair by midcentury designer Arthur Umanoff," Chavkin and McGuire say before revealing additional information about the chair and its creator. (Even the Klingons would initiate a cease-fire to get their hands on this inside scoop!)

MORE TO LOVE

Besides the episode guides, Chavkin and McGuire also highlight other aspects of the show, such as its futuristic architecture, set decoration, props and fashion.

"In addition to the wealth of midcentury modern furniture found in key episodes featured in this book, we noticed numerous miscellaneous objects in other episodes throughout the three seasons of 'Star Trek' that we could not ignore," they say.

Toward the end of the book, the authors provide a detailed list of the many items they examined.

Needless to say, if you love all things MCM and smile when you hear the phrase, "Live long and prosper," you won't want to miss this new offering. ☼

/ The **Vibe** /

Let the Games Begin

Written and photographed
by Robert Maurer

A successful
board-gaming session
at home requires great
food and drinks for
you and your guests.



AS THE HOLIDAYS PASS AND WINTER MONTHS COAST BY, the time is right for relaxing indoors. Some of my favorite pastimes during this time of year are casual gatherings for board game nights, snacking and cocktail-making.

Of course, a setup of this nature is deserving of cozy vintage style. In this issue, we celebrate mid-century design in its many inspiring forms—from games to glassware and everything in between.

So, kick off the new year with a few friends, fantastic finds and these inviting vintage vibes.

Inside and Out

Collecting board games has been a hobby of mine since I was 12 years old. What started as an obsession with various Monopoly sets evolved into acquiring library-style games, chess sets and beyond. While the contents of a game and how it plays are of great importance, it's often the packaging design and graphics that have drawn me in.

Some of my favorite games were produced by the 3M Corporation between 1970 and 1971. One of them, a set of nine "gamettes," features modernist artwork comprising simple shapes, sharp-serifed fonts and vibrant vintage colors. Inside the box of each game is a smart construction of pieces and parts ranging from metal pawns, illustrative cards, dice and even integrated hourglass stands. When I first discovered these games, I was surprised they were produced by 3M but, after examining all the details, it's no wonder brilliant engineering and designing minds were behind them.

Medieval Masterpiece

Part of the fun of collecting vintage items is researching and learning about the items we collect.

An oversized ceramic chess set is one of those items I knew nothing about when I found it, but the simplified style and rich glazes immediately caught my attention.

Through a series of online searches, I was able to find that this set was produced by Duncan Ceramic Products in the 1960s and 1970s. From what I've found, these sets were offered as bisque pieces, allowing the consumer to apply their own personalized topcoat.

For this set, someone chose wisely when they glazed it back in the day, because its rich mustard and avocado hues create depth and timeless elegance in each figure.

(OPPOSITE) VINTAGE LIBRARY-STYLE GAMES SUCH AS THESE FROM 3M OFFER A CONDENSED, SPACE-SAVING APPROACH TO COLLECTING ... WITHOUT SACRIFICING ANY OF THE FUN. (BELOW) BOLD, CONTRASTING COLORS, SIMPLIFIED LINE ART AND PLAYFUL FONTS SHOWCASE DISTINCT VINTAGE STYLE IN THIS CLEVERLY DESIGNED 1960S BINGO PARTY SET.





(LEFT) FINDING A CHESSBOARD LARGE ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE THIS VINTAGE DUNCAN CERAMICS SET PROVED TO BE CHALLENGING, SO THE AUTHOR HAD A CUSTOM BOARD MADE IN WALNUT AND BLACK LACQUER.

(BELOW) AN IMPRESSIVE CERAMIC MURAL IN BRUTALIST STYLE BY MID-CENTURY ARTIST STAN BITTERS PROUDLY ADORNS THE EXTERIOR OF DUNCAN CERAMIC PRODUCTS IN FRESNO, CALIFORNIA.



DIY Euro Pillow Sham Cover

Makes one 26x26-inch Euro pillow sham cover

Materials

Euro pillow insert (26x26 inches)
 1 yard upholstery fabric (front)
 1¼ yards upholstery fabric (back)
 Fabric scissors
 Stick pins
 Cotton thread
 Sewing machine

Directions

1. Cut the front fabric to 28x28 inches.
2. Cut two pieces of the back fabric to 21x 28 inches.
3. Sew a 1-inch hem along the long edge of both pieces of the back fabric.
4. Place the front fabric face up.
5. Align one piece of the back fabric face down on the front fabric with the hem closest to the center.
6. Align the remaining piece of back fabric face down with the hem closest to the center. **Important:** The finished sides of the fabric must be facing inward at this step. The center edges should overlap by 6 inches.
7. Fasten the outer edges of the sham with stick pins every 3 to 5 inches.
8. Thread your sewing machine with coordinating colored thread.
9. Sew the outer edges of the sham with a ¾-inch hem, removing the stick pins as you go.
10. Turn the sham inside out.
11. Push the corners with the scissors from inside the sham to create crisp points.
12. Fill the cover with the Euro insert and fluff the pillow.



Duncan Ceramic Products was founded in 1946 in Fresno, California. Its iconic campus building opened in 1961 and features 600 feet of stunning tile murals designed by the legendary Stan Bitters. If you have the opportunity to visit this campus, you'll undoubtedly be mesmerized by the beauty, color, texture and sheer scale of the exterior installations. Knowing that this vintage chess set came from such a stunning historical location makes me love and appreciate it even more.



Smokin'-Sweet Snack Mix

Serves 6–8

Ingredients

4 Tbsp. butter
2 Tbsp. brown sugar
1 Tbsp. smoked paprika
½ tsp. cayenne pepper
½ tsp. ground cinnamon
3 cups round pretzel bites
2 cups salted mixed nuts
½ tsp. fine-grain smoked sea salt

Directions

Preheat your oven to 325 degrees (F). Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil and evenly distribute the pretzel bites and nuts. Melt the butter, brown sugar, paprika, cayenne and cinnamon over low heat in a small saucepan. Pour the melted mixture over the pretzels and nuts. Toss to combine. Bake for 20 minutes. Gently toss the pretzels and nuts with a spatula and sprinkle with the sea salt. Serve the snack mix warm. Store it in an airtight container for up to one week.

Perfect Pear Highball

Makes 1 highball

Ingredients

1.5 oz. bourbon
1 oz. fresh lemon juice
½ oz. pear liqueur
Sparkling pear water
Red pear slice and lemon peel for garnish

Directions

Combine the bourbon, lemon juice and pear liqueur into an ice-filled collins glass. Stir to chill. Top the drink with sparkling pear water. Garnish the highball with a pear slice and a lemon peel.



THESE ARE EXAMPLES OF VINTAGE GLASSWARE BY VARIOUS DESIGNERS, INCLUDING FRANK MAIETTA, LIBBEY, ANCHOR HOCKING AND ROYAL CHINA.

Floor Décor

Creating a comfortable and cozy environment for gaming doesn't have to be complicated. When I was a child, my grandmother had giant floor pillows for us kids in the family room. They were a fun and easy way to lie by the fire, play games, build card houses and converse. For me, large floor pillows still offer an invitation to make guests settle in and feel at home.

Try your hand at making a floor pillow sham using plush, designer upholstery fabric (see page 116 for the DIY instructions). The pocket-style design gives you the flexibility to change colors and patterns as the seasons change. A heavy corduroy or velvet is an excellent choice for winter months, while a breathable cotton or microfiber is better suited for warmer weather. ☺

Glorious Glassware

Cocktails are arguably as essential to board-gaming as dice! The perfect drink in a delightful glass goes a long way in hosting a fun-filled evening at home.

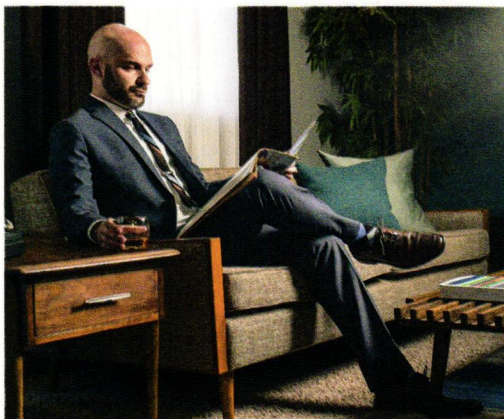
Of all the vintage items I collect, glassware is most certainly my "kryptonite." The 1960s offered some truly unique, gorgeous patterns and prints that were often embellished with gilded accents, bold graphics and vibrant colors. If you're looking to build your vintage glassware collection, consider the following guidelines:

Shape. What type of glass is going to be the most useful to you? If you're just beginning your collection, I recommend acquiring a few of the glassware staples—old-fashioned, collins, rocks and coupe—to start.

Identification. Glassware designers of the mid-20th century aren't always easily identified, but some of the more popular brands will have a maker's mark. Look on the bottom of the glassware for an imprint (such as a cursive "L" for Libbey or an anchor icon for Anchor Hocking). Both companies produced charming vintage designs that are still plentiful today.

Care. Are you comfortable with hand-washing your glassware? Vintage glassware requires a delicate touch, and most pieces shouldn't be washed in the dishwasher. Glasses with gilding and silver designs are particularly sensitive. Before starting your collection, consider this aspect, because special care will be required to ensure your glassware's luster for years to come.

FIND MORE PROJECT INSPIRATION, DESIGN AND RECIPES AT MIDCENTURYMAURER.COM.



ROBERT MAURER IS THE CREATIVE DIRECTOR AND RESIDENTIAL DESIGNER AT COMMUTER INDUSTRIES. AS AN EXTENSION OF HIS BLOG, MIDCENTURYMAURER.COM, *ATOMIC RANCH* HAS PARTNERED TO GIVE YOU "THE VIBE." IN THIS RECURRING COLUMN, HE SHARES HIGHLIGHTS FROM HIS HOME THAT ARE GEARED TOWARD DESIGN, ENTERTAINING, RESTORATIONS, HOME IMPROVEMENTS, RECIPES, DÉCOR AND MORE. WE HOPE YOU'LL FIND INSPIRATION IN THESE FEATURES THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN MID-CENTURY HOME AND WAY OF LIFE.

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Calm out of Clutter

A photograph of a modern kitchen interior. The focal point is a large, white-topped island with a wooden base. Two black bar stools with chrome legs are tucked under the island. On the island, there is a small potted plant in a dark, rounded pot. In the background, a kitchen counter with a white backsplash and a window with a view of greenery is visible. The walls and cabinets are finished with a rich, dark wood. The floor is made of large, light-colored tiles.

"A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING AND EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE" CONTINUES TO RING TRUE," AMANDA SAYS. HOWEVER, MOST ROOMS DON'T NATURALLY HAVE PLACES FOR EVERYTHING—SO THAT'S WHERE AMANDA COMES IN. "I CREATE A SPACE FOR EVERYTHING," SHE SAYS.

A RECENTLY REMODELED KITCHEN INSPIRED BY EICHLER-STYLE DESIGN GETS HELP FROM A PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZER TO MAXIMIZE THE SPACE.

Written by **Autumn Krause**
Photographed by **Bret Gum**
Styling by **Jickie Torres**





(LEFT) ORGANIZING BY COLOR IS REWARDING. "I ORGANIZE BY COLOR WHENEVER I CAN—BOOKS, BOARD GAMES, EVEN CANNED FOOD," AMANDA SAYS. IT'S VISUALLY APPEALING, AND OFTEN, AREAS STAY ORGANIZED LONGER: THE COLOR CODING ACTS AS A REMINDER OF WHERE ITEMS SHOULD GO. "IT'S ALSO EASIER TO TELL WHEN YOU RUN OUT OF SOMETHING," SHE ADDS. "NO MORE ORANGE CANS? TIME TO BUY MORE SWEET POTATO SOUP."



(ABOVE, RIGHT) "FOR THIS DRAWER, I SELECTED A BAMBOO INSERT," AMANDA NOTES. "THIS CONFIGURATION WAS CHOSEN TO BEST ORGANIZE THE DRINK ACCESSORIES THE CLIENTS HAVE." SHE ENJOYS USING SUSTAINABLE BAMBOO BECAUSE IT LOOKS AS THOUGH IT'S BUILT IN, AND IT'S MUCH MORE AFFORDABLE THAN CREATING SOMETHING CUSTOM. (LEFT) EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY USES THIS DRAWER MULTIPLE TIMES A DAY, BECAUSE IT STORES DAILY GLASSES AND PLATES. "THE EXPANDABLE DRAWER DIVIDERS KEEP EACH TYPE OF GLASS AND PLATE SEPARATE AND TIDY," AMANDA EXPLAINS.



AMANDA CLARK IS THE "QUEEN OF BLESS THIS MESS." As a professional home organizer and the owner of Ever So Organized in Orange County, California, her job description entails making calm out of chaos for her clients. And, she doesn't simply organize; she teaches her clients how to implement organizational systems so they can maintain and enjoy their homes long after she's left.

"Organization is a learnable skill," she says.

Recently, she was hired by her neighbors, Chris and Jeanine, who had just remodeled their kitchen and also have a deep passion for Mid Century Modern aesthetics. Amanda was the perfect person to hire.

"Not only did I grow up in an Eichler in Orange County, but I now own one of my own," she says. "I relish the challenge of organizing an MCM home."


Chris and Jeanine, who are California transplants via the Pacific Northwest, are true MCM *aficionados*.

Top Tips for Organizational Items

ORGANIZATIONAL PIECES SUCH AS BINS AND DRAWER DIVIDERS MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE IN CREATING ORDER IN YOUR HOME AND PREVENTING CLUTTER.

Here are Amanda's top tips for selecting these items:

- **The Simple Life.** "Simple, sturdy and versatile" are what Amanda looks for in her containers and organizational accessories. "In particular, I especially like using sustainable bamboo products," she says.
- **Matchy-Matchy.** If you aren't willing to invest in matching containers, or you find yourself with a bunch of different ones, use matching labels to tie the look together.
- **Hold Your Horses.** Categorize, declutter and create zones *before* you buy the containers. Most people want to buy containers first. "I get it," Amanda says. "Shopping for containers makes you feel as if you're already organized. Nevertheless, the problem is that people don't know where to use the bins and baskets and are left with even more clutter."
- **Way of Life.** When creating zones and reviewing what you need containers for, consider how you live life and what activities you engage in every day. You might not need that tea organizer if you realize you rarely drink tea and that you don't really need an entire container for it.



LAZY SUSANS ARE SOME OF AMANDA'S GO-TO ORGANIZATIONAL TOOLS. HERE, SHE USES AN ACRYLIC ONES TO MAKE SURE ALL THE BOTTLES ARE ACCESSIBLE. THE ACRYLIC ALSO ALLOWS THE FOCUS TO REMAIN ON THE CABINET'S BEAUTIFUL WOODWORK.



"Since moving to SoCal, we've owned and remodeled four homes—all in the MCM style. Two of them have been Eichler homes, and two are traditional ranch homes," Jeanine says. "We love being students of MCM style!"

Their kitchen is remodeled to be modern, functional and reflect a definite nod to Eichler-style homes. They restored the lighting and windows and brought back the wood paneling, which had been removed and covered with terrible "orange peel" and paint.

Amanda was enlisted to help the couple find the best way to use the kitchen.

First Step: Decluttering

"The space was great, but it needed to be optimized," she says.

First, she made sure the homeowners didn't have superfluous items that would just "hang around" and take up room.



(ABOVE, LEFT) "EVERY MODERN FAMILY NEEDS A PLACE TO CORRAL ELECTRONICS AND FACE MASKS," AMANDA SAYS. PLACING THESE ITEMS IN CLEAR, LABELED BINS HELPS EVERYONE SEE EACH ITEM. A WOODEN DOOR HIDES THEM WHEN THEY'RE NOT IN USE.



(ABOVE, RIGHT) THIS HIDDEN CABINET UNDER THE ISLAND IS A PERFECT PLACE TO STORE GAMES, CRAFTS AND ART SUPPLIES. THE WHITE BINS CAN BE PLACED ON THE COUNTERTOP SO THAT THE KIDS CAN GRAB WHAT THEY NEED. "IT'S ALSO EASY FOR THEM TO PUT ITEMS BACK IN THE BINS WHEN CLEANING UP," AMANDA SAYS. "LABELING ENSURES EVERYTHING IS EASY TO FIND, AS WELL AS MAKING SURE IT GETS RETURNED TO THE RIGHT PLACE."



(ABOVE) A "FILE FOLD" ALLOWS YOU TO SEE ALL THESE APRONS. "EACH APRON HOLDS MEMORIES FOR THE FAMILY MEMBERS," AMANDA SAYS. THEY COULDN'T SEE THE APRONS WHEN THEY WERE STACKED ON TOP OF ONE ANOTHER. AMANDA FOLDED EACH APRON TO MATCH THE WIDTH OF THE DRAWER AND SET THEM ON THEIR SIDE. THIS TECHNIQUE IS PERFECT FOR TEA TOWELS AND PLACE MATS AS WELL.

"Decluttering is always the first step," she says. "For instance, most clients somehow collect multiple spatulas. They don't usually need all of them. In addition, invest in kitchen tools that are well-made and will last."

Second Step: Organizing

When it came to organizing the kitchen, Amanda used dividers to separate items and risers to enable the couple to see cans in the back of the cupboards. She also brought in baskets to hold granola bars and snacks. Spring-loaded dividers adjust to the size of the drawers, while clear containers allow food to be easily seen and decanted.

"Packaging looks messy and uses up a lot of space," Amanda points out. "All you need to do is cut out the expiration date and tape it to the back of the container."

Levels, minimal packaging, clear containers and drawers divided to artfully contain items worked together to transform the couple's kitchen—but *behind* the scenes. By keeping the space efficient and organized, the kitchen's glamorous MCM design now takes center stage. ☁

TO SEE MORE OF AMANDA'S WORK, VISIT HER ON INSTAGRAM:
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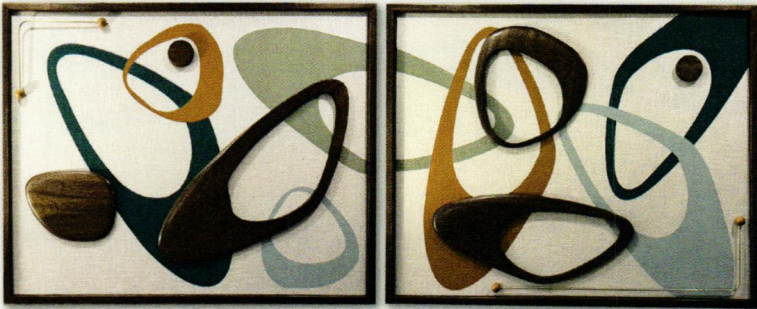
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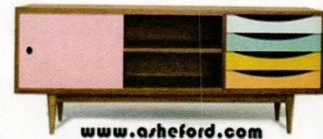
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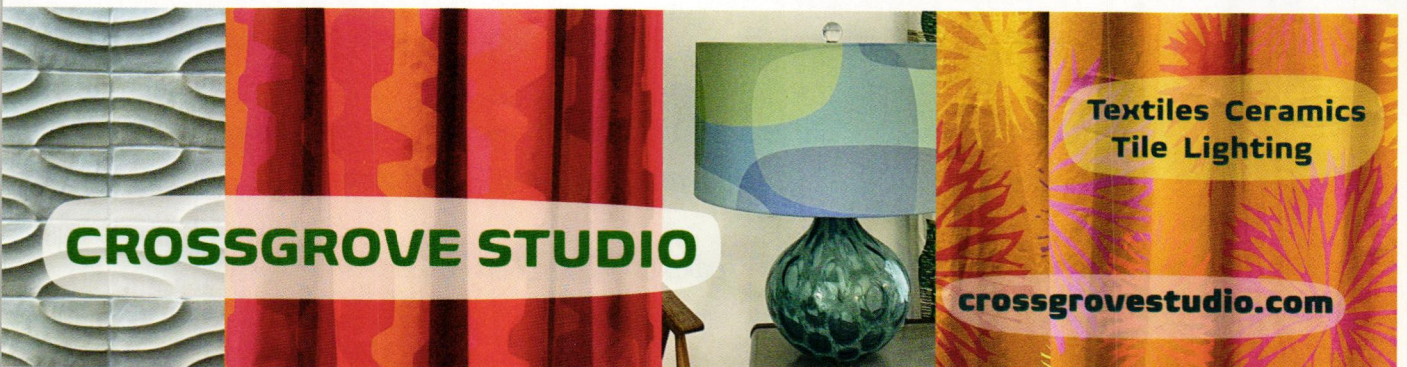
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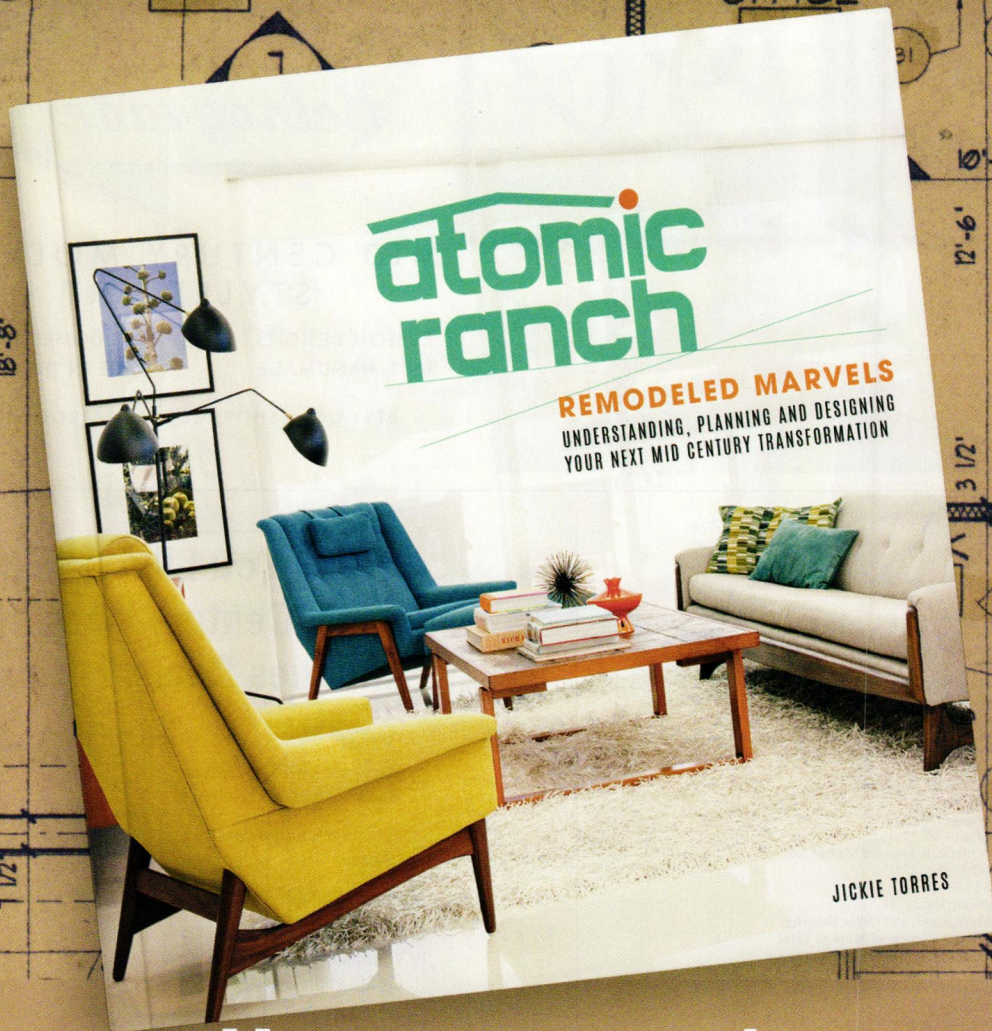
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BACK TO THE FUTURE

Page 26

Tom Dixon "Beat" light: Lumens; lumens.com

Faucet: Build with Ferguson; build.com

Counter stools: Modernica; modernica.net

Vinyl composite tile floor: Armstrong Flooring; armstrongflooring.com

Backsplash: Fireclay Tile; fireclaytile.com

Walnut cabinet fronts: Semihandmade; semihandmade.com

SUNSHINE IN CENTRAL TEXAS

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Kitchen: "Small Diamond Escher" and "White Wash," Fireclay Tile; fireclaytile.com

Kitchen light fixture: "PH5," Louis Poulsen; louispoulsen.com

Kitchen bar stools: "Bertoia" stools, Knoll; knoll.com

Primary bath tile: 3x12-inch "Tidewater," Fireclay Tile; fireclaytile.com

Powder room wallpaper: "Wild Thing," Flavor Paper; flavorpaper.com

Dining room table: "Saarinen" dining table, Knoll; knoll.com

Dining room chairs: "Eames Molded Shell" chairs, Herman Miller; hermanmiller.com

MODERN MAKERS

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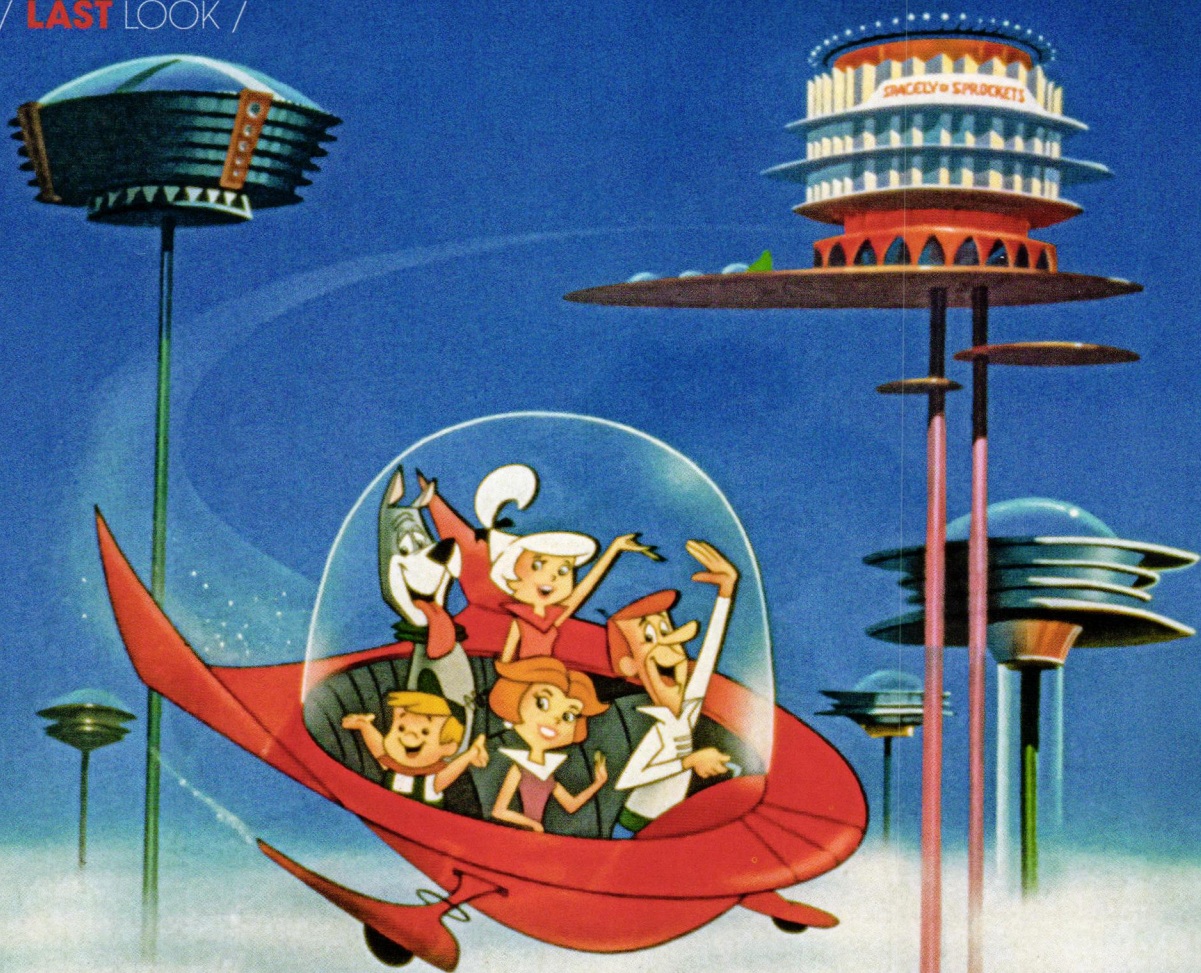
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PHOTOGRAPHED BY DROR BALDINGER, FAIA

/ LAST LOOK /



MEET GEORGE JETSON. ACCORDING TO THE CREATORS OF
"THE JETSONS," GEORGE WAS BORN ON JULY 31, 2022.

"The Jetsons" —60th Anniversary

Written by IAN MCMASTER
Photo by WARNER BROS.,
COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

"THE JETSONS" FIRST AIRED FOR ONE SEASON FROM 1962 TO 1963 and was ABC's first television show to be broadcast in color. Made by Hanna-Barbera Cartoons—creators of such iconic shows as "The Flintstones," "The Smurfs," and "Scooby-Doo"—"The Jetsons" depicted a family living in the fictional metropolis of Orbit City in the year 2062. Even after 60 years, the architecture, technology and the daily life of the "The Jetsons" are still discussed today to see just how far we've come.

The architecture of Orbit City and the Jetsons' home, The Skypad Apartments, is unmistakably "Googie," a style of futuristic architecture popularized in the mid century that was known for its sloping roofs, geometric shapes and use of glass and steel.

Coincidentally, the show first aired within a year of the opening of three iconic Googie buildings: Seattle's Space Needle, Los Angeles' Theme Building and the TWA Flight Center at La Guardia Airport (a few miles outside of New

York City). Googie architecture didn't catch on as much as "The Jetsons" creators thought it might, but the style can still be seen in cities across the globe.

While flying cars and jet packs have yet to come to fruition for us common folk, "The Jetsons" accurately predicted much of the technology we now use every day: Cellphones, flat-screen TVs, smart watches and video conferencing (unfortunately), are all part of our daily lives.

A Jetson's day-to-day life was, is and will most likely be a bit different than our own. However, with a start time of 11:00 a.m. and a two-hour work week, the future should be a little brighter for the working class. Household chores are nonexistent ... with the help of Rosie the Robot. Feeding a family can be done with a push of a button as a result of 3D-printed food.

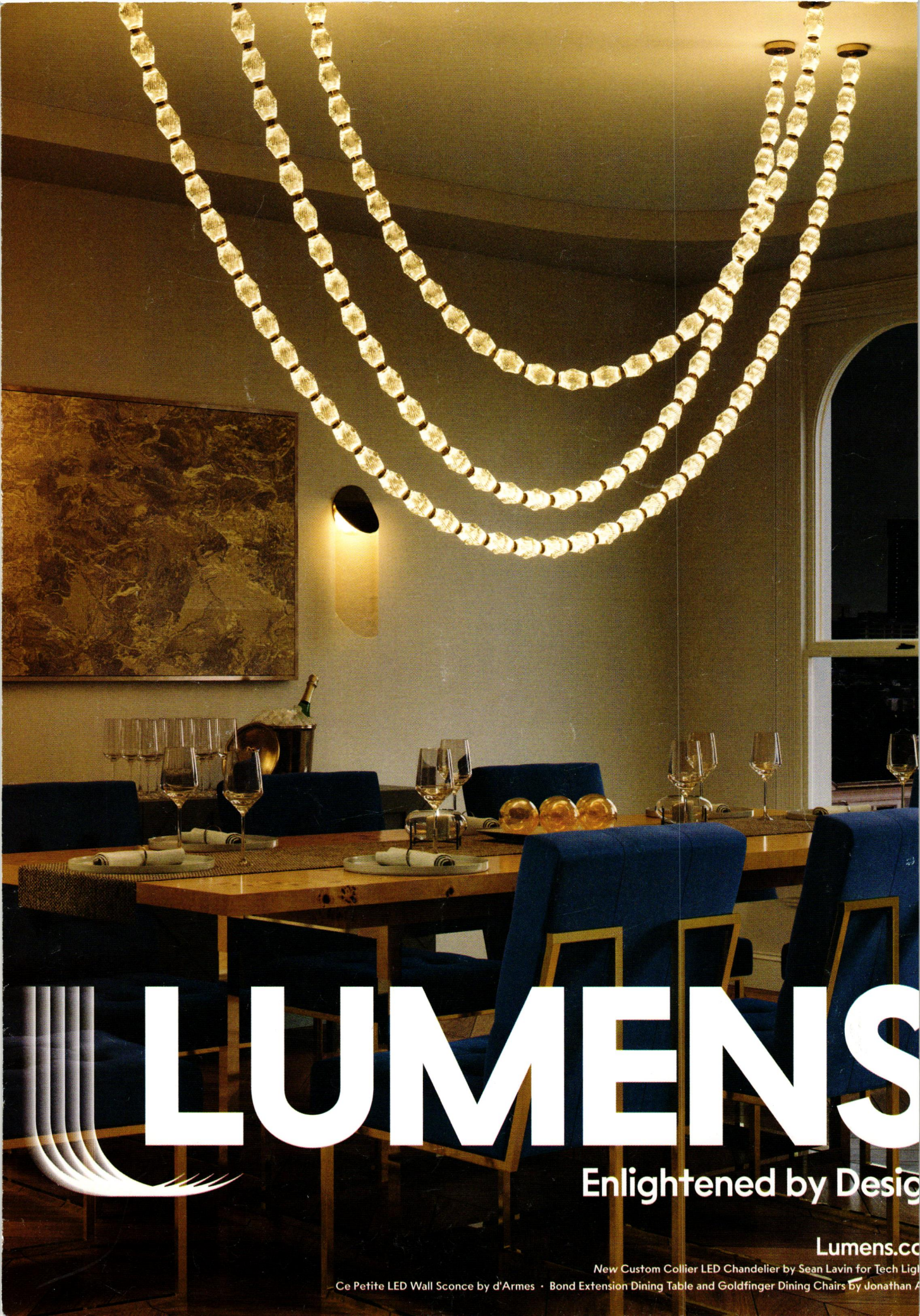
While "The Jetsons" was a depiction of a yet-unfilled future, its hopeful and comedic tone still resonates today. ☁

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