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# atomic MID CENTURY MARVELS ranch

## THE RENOVATION GUIDE



MID CENTURY  
MODERN  
RESTORED:  
MID-MOD HOMES GO  
BACK TO THEIR ROOTS

EXPERT ADVICE  
ON  
MOD KITCHEN  
REMODELS

LESSONS FROM  
A REIMAGINED GARDEN:  
HARDSCAPING, PLANTS AND LAYOUT



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# Plus Century



# New Additions

We often focus on the old as we look at the world through our modernist lenses. And, when we explore the exciting possibilities of what the experience of owning a Mid Century Modern home can be, it's the prospect of bringing old things back to life that makes us feel the most effectual, most noble and most proud.

But the thing is, we also bring in the new—new energy to rescue old homes; new ideas to solve long-standing problems; and new finds to invigorate these spaces for their new inhabitants.

The homes in this issue all come together, thanks to teams of new talent and thinkers. We have homeowners with a fiery passion to save mid-century history and teams of experts bringing innovative design tricks from their trades to bridge the needs of modern families with the classic tenets of a “retro” look—everyone working on the balance of old and new to bring out the best in a post-war home.

Here, at *Atomic Ranch*, we're also navigating new additions: As I wrap up this issue, I'm prepping my out-of-office message for a stint away. I'm also prepping my home for a new family member—yup, the baby boy that's been “brewing” in my belly—the one that came with me to Denver Modernism and Boise, Idaho, for the summer and made his presence known at Mod Week fall and spring. He's ready to come “Earth-side.”

I leave *Atomic Ranch* in the capable hands of Laura Shimko, whose name I'm sure you've seen on countless *Atomic Ranch* articles, and Associate Editor Ian McMaster, whose work you've come know and love for the past year and whose face you've seen at the aforementioned events and on our social media sites. In addition, Gabby Oh, Amy Maclean and Jolene Nolte will continue on as our design director, managing editor and Web editor, respectively.

I'm so excited to focus on my little family “project” for a bit and watch my team of amazing editors and content creators carry the torch as I sit back and watch from my couch and from behind my screen like the rest of you. So, here's to a summer of new ventures, new plans and new creations.



Jackie Torres

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2022



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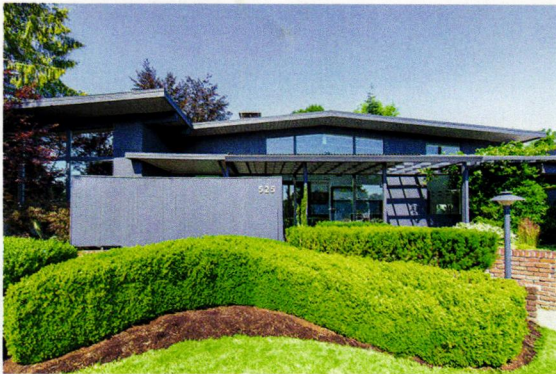


PHOTO BY DANIEL BLUE

## Tour a Unique Mid-Century Renovation in Oregon

When this Oregon home entered the market, real estate broker Marissa Swenson and her husband loved it too much to list it.

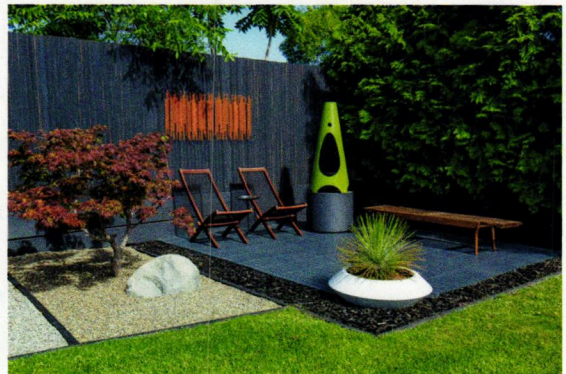


PHOTO BY ROBERT MAUER

## A Mid Century Modern Backyard Renovation

Blending the minimalist geometry of modernist design with the easy-going atmosphere required for comfort is the creative challenge for MCM homeowners everywhere. In his Mid Century Modern backyard, Robert Maurer makes it look simple.



PHOTO BY NOLAN ISAAC

## 5 Common Dangers in Old Houses

While older homes have a certain charm, it's no secret that there are more dangers associated with them! Asbestos and lead paint are just some of the common materials used in homes decades ago.



PHOTO BY BRET GUM

## Flooring 101: Materials Galore for a "Just-Right" Retro Floor

When it comes to Mid Century Modern flooring, restoring original materials is always the ideal approach. But if that's not an option, here's everything you need to know about replacing and restoring your mid-century floor.



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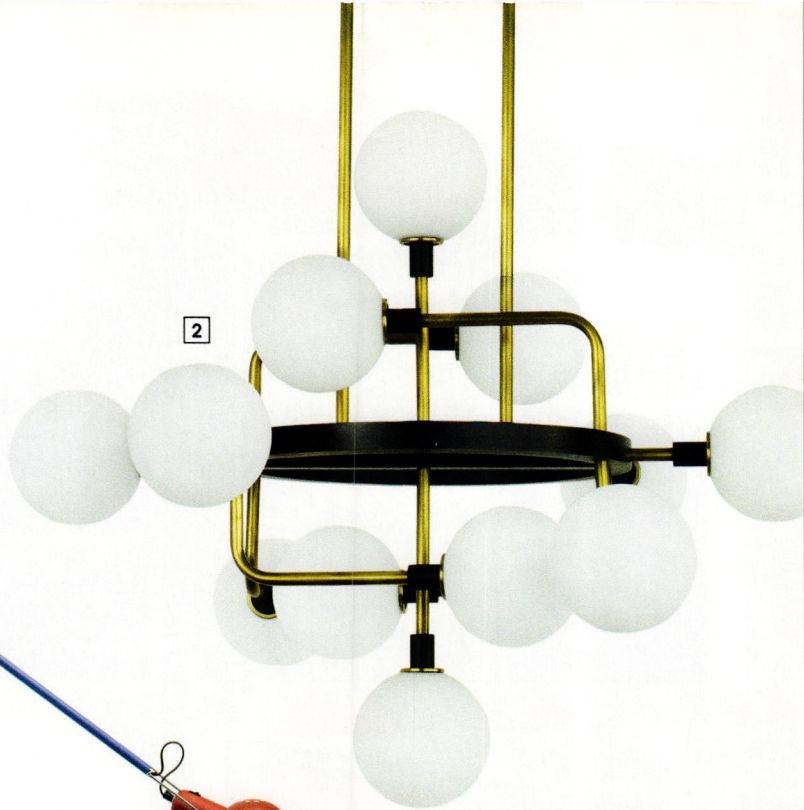
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Here are our picks to make your next renovation project as stylish as possible.

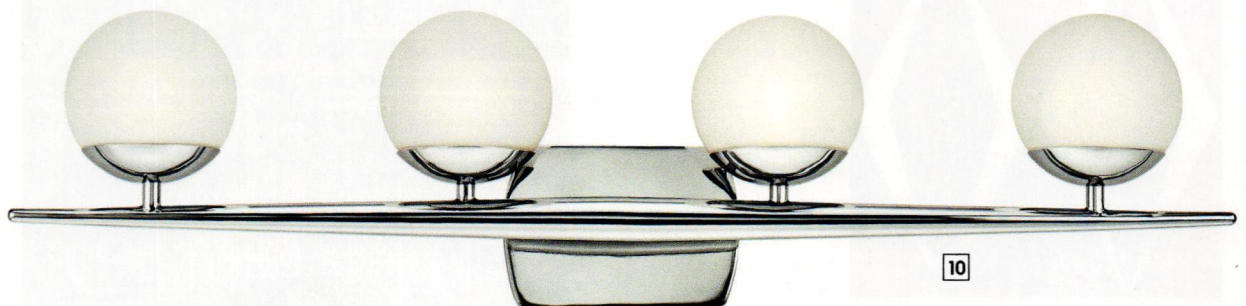
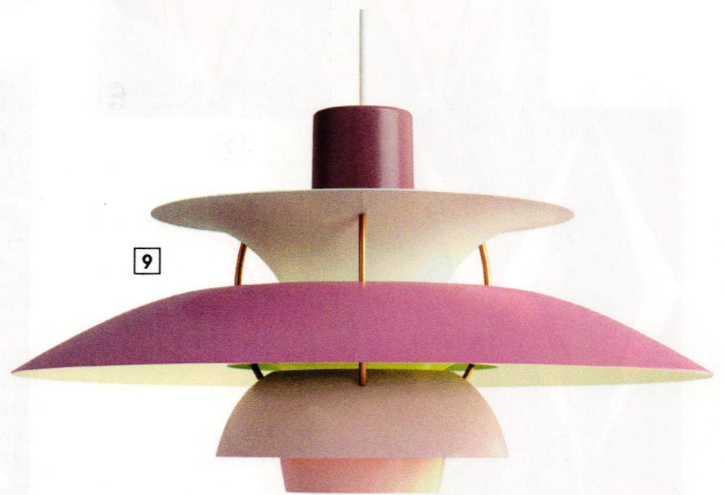
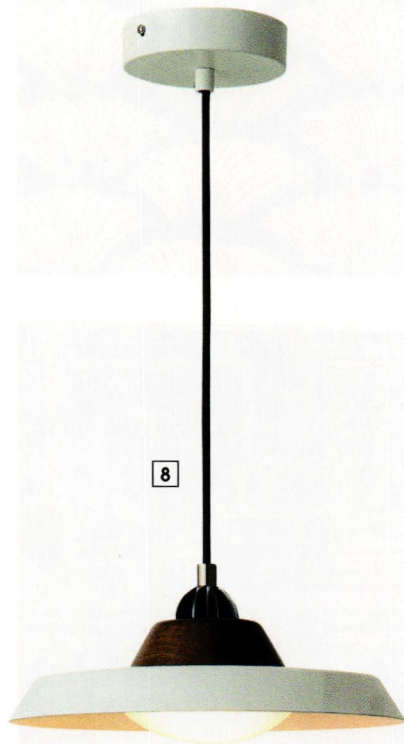
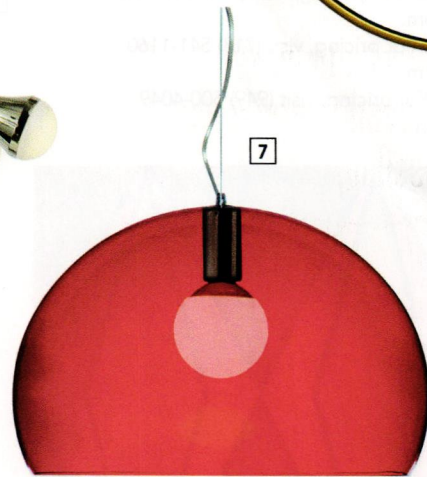
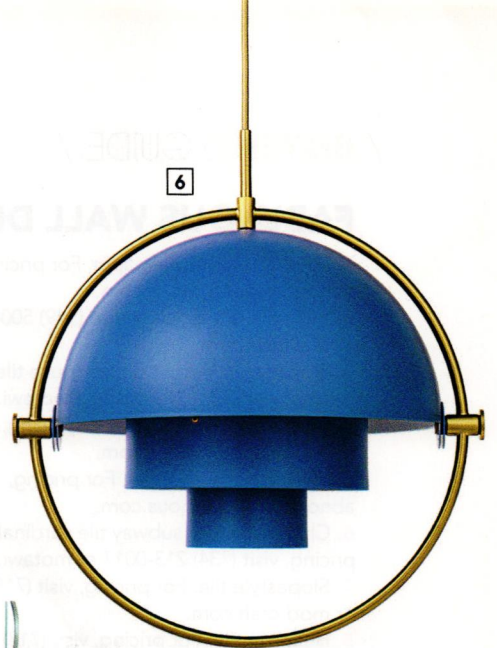
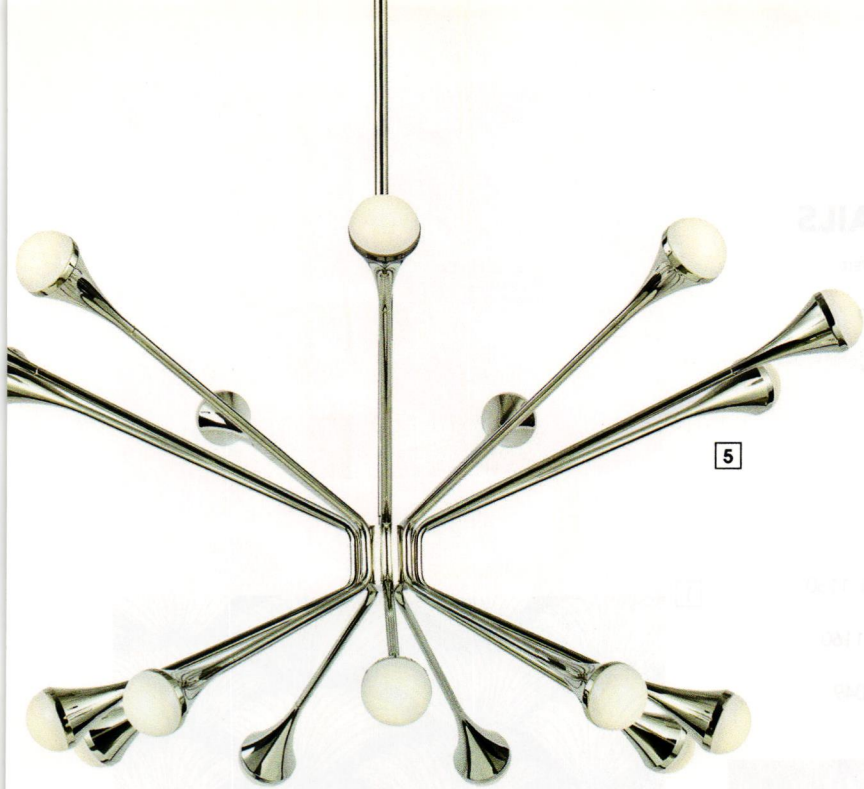
Written by IAN MCMASTER

# Makeover Must-Haves



## LET THERE BE LIGHT

1. 265 swing-arm wall lamp by Paolo Rizzato; \$1,545. (888) 860-4311 or [usa.flos.com](http://usa.flos.com)
2. Viaggio chandelier by Sean Lavin for Tech Lighting; starting at \$1,300. (844) 947-0159 or [lumens.com](http://lumens.com)
3. Mitzi Avery polished nickel pendant light with mint shade; \$270. (800) 782-1967 or [lampsplus.com](http://lampsplus.com)
4. Amplitude double pendant; \$399. (415) 597-6906 or [mavistenedition.com](http://mavistenedition.com)
5. Lody chandelier by Sean Lavin for Tech Lighting; starting at \$2,050. (844) 947-0159 or [lumens.com](http://lumens.com)
6. Multilight pendant by Louis Weisdorf for GUBI; \$999. (844) 947-0159 or [lumens.com](http://lumens.com)
7. FLY pendant light by Kartell; \$380. [store.moma.org](http://store.moma.org)
8. Far pendant; \$199. (415) 597-6906 or [mavistenedition.com](http://mavistenedition.com)
9. PH 5 pendant by Paul Henningsen for Louis Paulsen; starting at \$1,162. (844) 947-0159 or [lumens.com](http://lumens.com)
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## FABULOUS WALL DETAILS

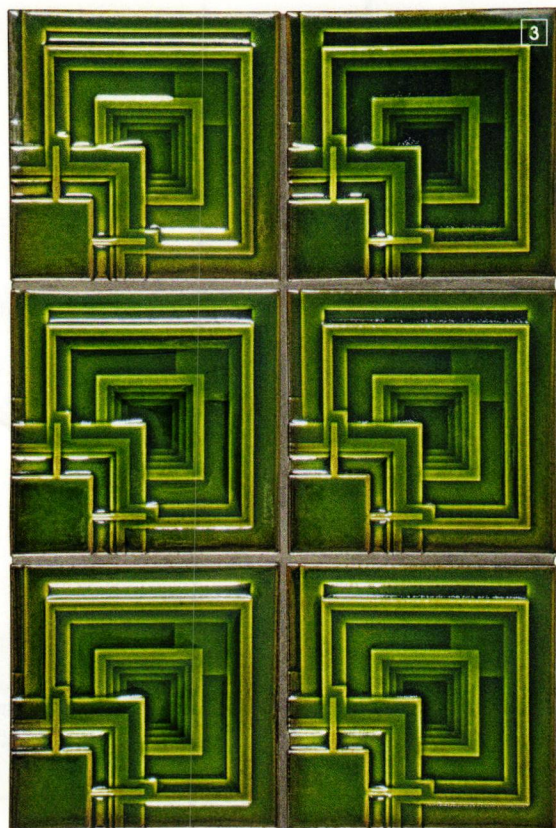
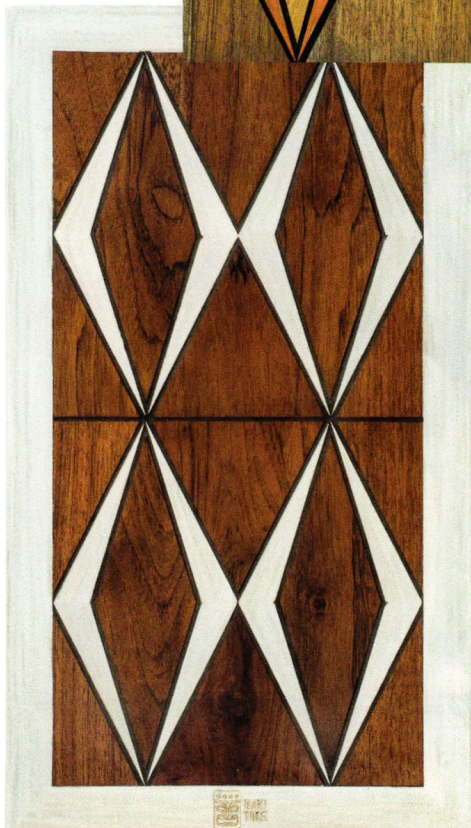
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2. Puka tile. For pricing, visit (949) 500-4049 or [teakitiles.com](http://teakitiles.com).
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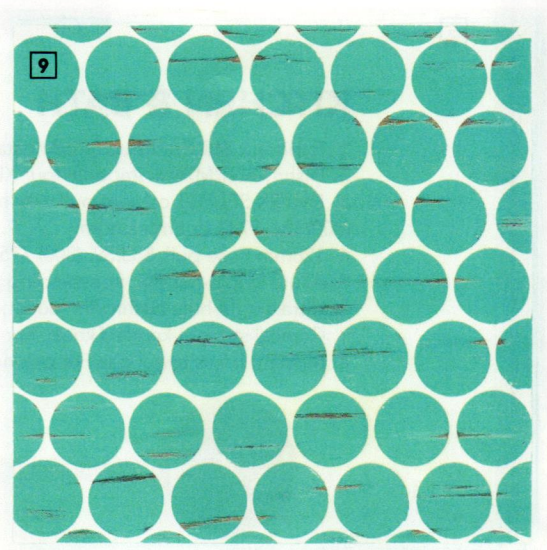
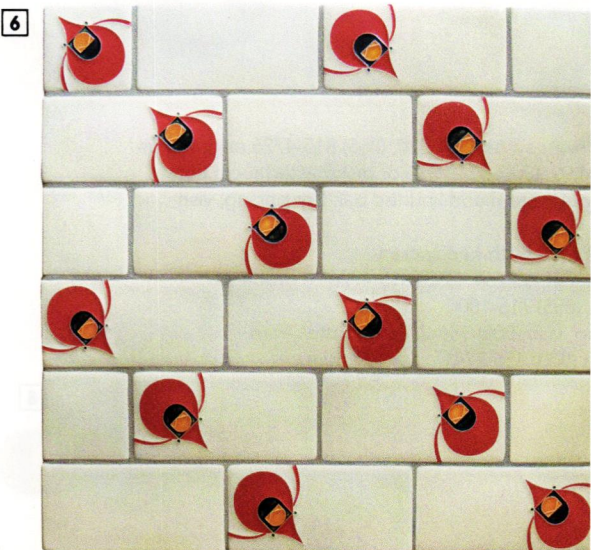
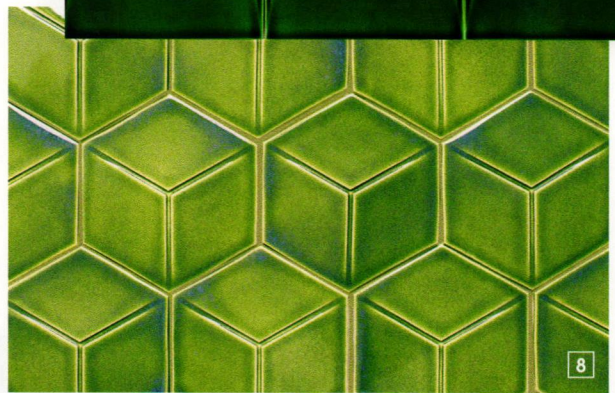
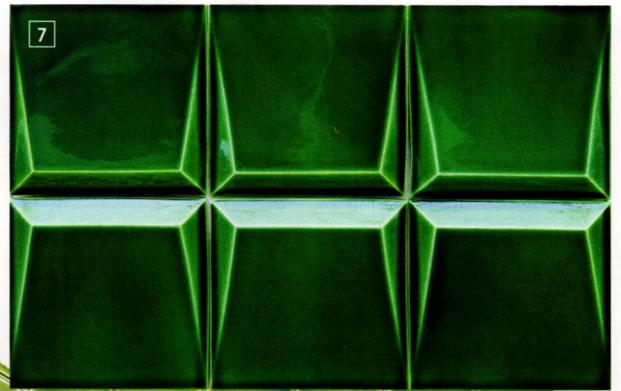
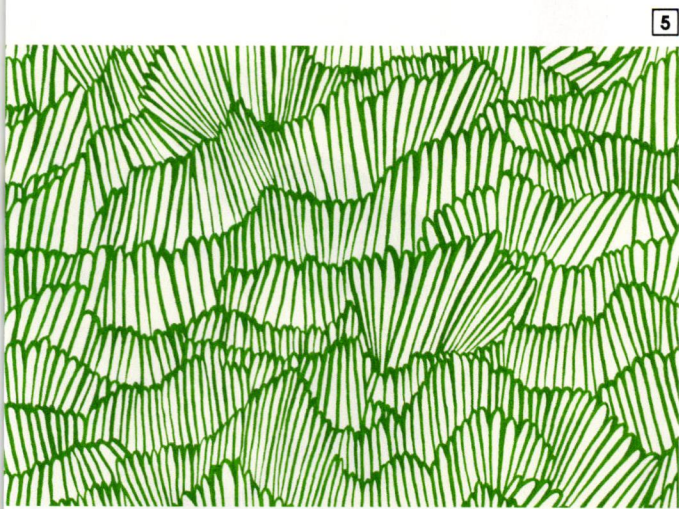
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/ BREAK IT DOWN /

# Wood Wall Paneling

Here's everything you need to know about this quintessential mod feature.

Written by LAURA SHIMKO



PHOTO BY JIM BROWN

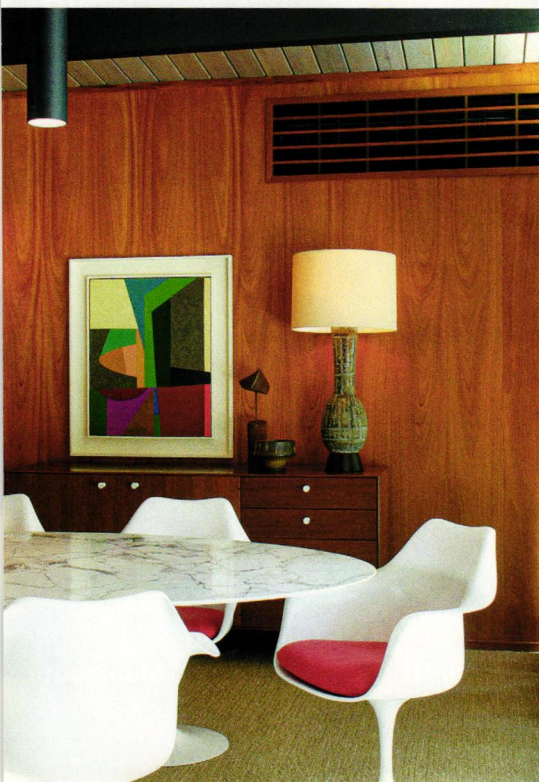


PHOTO BY JIM BROWN

(ABOVE, LEFT) IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE DARK PALETTE OF THE ROOM, THIS paneled wall adds character and warmth to this sitting space. Eichler famously used Filipino mahogany in the majority of his homes (which is what you see here).

(ABOVE, RIGHT) paneled cabinetry blends seamlessly with the walls in this cozy "atomic" kitchen.

**WOOD PANELING.** It's one of the most iconic features of Mid Century Modern homes. With its simple, natural feel—a reflection of Scandinavian design—it brings warmth and a distinctly retro presence to any space.

While wood detailing has long been a staple of home design, it was especially popularized in Mid Century Modern design because of the rise of modernist architecture and its emphasis on bringing together natural and man-made materials.

## History and Style

Interior wall siding in Mid Century Modern homes can include anything from a single statement wall to full rooms to the entirety of the house. Originally, hardwood, plywood and even money-saving wood veneer were used to clad interior spaces, providing texture and a rich, natural palette in juxtaposition to

(LEFT) THE NATURAL RICHNESS OF THE WOOD GRAIN IN THIS EICHLER HOME PROVIDES JUST THE RIGHT BALANCE WITH THE LIGHT PALETTE AND MAN-MADE MATERIALS.



## DIY RESTORATION: PAINTED WOOD PANELING

DOES YOUR MID-CENTURY HOME HAVE WOOD PANELS THAT HAVE BEEN PAINTED OVER BY PREVIOUS OWNERS? DON'T DESPAIR! CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING TIPS IF YOU PLAN TO DIY A WOOD PANEL RESTORATION:

- **Determine what kind of wood your paneling is.** Softwoods are more difficult to work with, because they have more-porous surfaces. Hardwoods can take a little more. An easy way to gauge wood hardness is to find an edge that isn't in view and press it firmly with your fingernail. Softwoods will dent easily, while hardwoods will resist. Look closely at the grain, pattern and color and compare them to online pictures to see if you can find a match.
- **Sand it.** Depending on the type of wood you have and the amount of time you want to spend, sanding is a great way to remove unwanted paint while prepping the wood surface for a refinish.
- **Strip it.** If sanding is a no-go, use a paint-stripper. Just remember that if you're working with a softwood, be careful when scraping the paint off—you don't want to accidentally gouge your walls.
- **Stain or oil it and then seal it.** Always do a test patch to see how the wood will take your stain. Apply the stain or oil in thin layers so you have more control over the medium.
- **Paint it ... again.** If it isn't possible to remove the paint, you can always consider choosing to paint over it with a color that better reflects a Mid Mod vibe. Go for classics such as mustard, orange, brown or turquoise.

(BELOW) A VARIETY OF FINISHES AND PANEL SIZES ADDS DEPTH, INTEREST AND CHARACTER TO THIS DINING AREA.



PHOTO BY JIM BROWN

THIS GROOVED WOOD DETAILING REFLECTS THE KEY MCM PRINCIPLE OF CONNECTING INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR LIVING SPACES.

more-modern materials. Mahogany and walnut were common hardwoods used, while softer fir and pine were common choices for plywood.

Wood paneling can be created in a variety of styles; it ranges from wide, flat planks to thin and ribbed.

For instance, Weldtex, developed by Donald Deskey in the 1940s, is a plywood with a striated effect. It was a very popular style for accent walls—and even ceilings—due to its decorative appearance. Later, prominent architect Joseph Eichler came up with his own take on paneling with a grooved plywood, thus adding to the distinct style of his homes.

### Care and Maintenance

Do you have wood paneling in your own Mid Mod marvel?

In order to keep your walls looking fresh, make sure you dust regularly. Depending on the panel style you have, use either a cloth or even the soft brush attachment of a vacuum for thinner grooves. Also consider washing your walls with a small amount of dishwashing soap—but make sure you don't let them air-dry to prevent any unwanted residue.

Lastly, be aware of the interior climate of your home. Drier climates lead to dried-out wood panels. Use wood polish from time to time to give your walls some moisture and a bright, healthy glow. ☼



PHOTO BY ANDREA RUGG



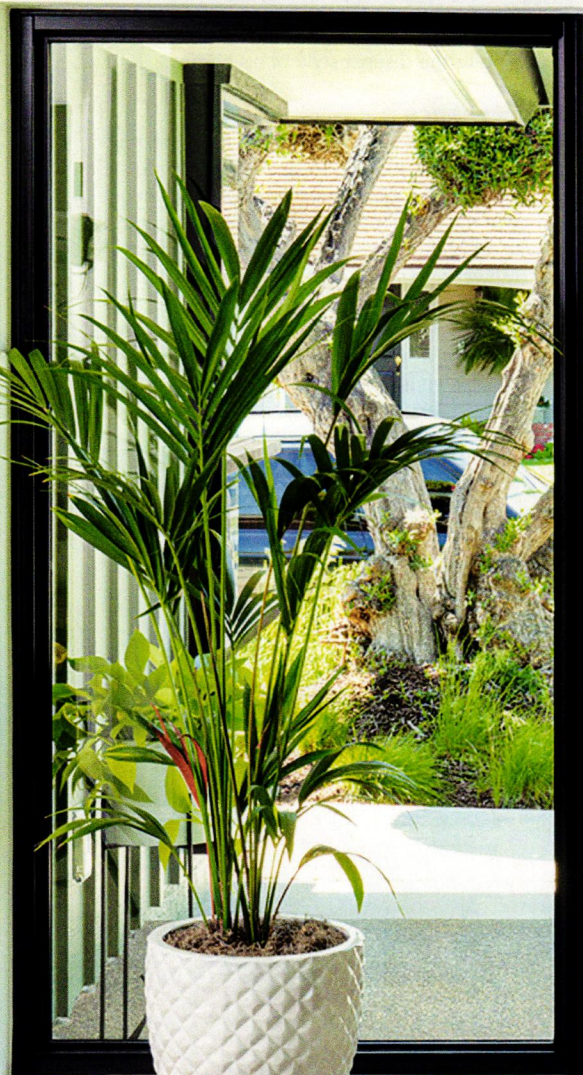
# Restoring vs. Replacing Your Windows

## Windows, windows on the wall, how to best improve you all?

Written by IAN MCMASTER

WINDOWS ARE KEY FEATURES OF ANY MID CENTURY MODERN HOME. Clerestory, floor-to-ceiling and picture windows give a mid-mod home its character-defining aesthetic from the street, provide ample amounts of natural light for the homeowner and give the interior a sense of connection to the outdoors. They are expansive, they are beautiful, they are many, and if you're lucky enough to have the original windows in your home ... *they are getting old.*

MASSIVE SIDELIGHTS WITH MINIMAL TRIM AND POPS OF COLOR ARE A STAPLE OF MID-MOD ENTRYWAYS. THESE BRAND-NEW WINDOWS STAY TRUE TO FORM IN A REMODEL IN NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA.



THE HOME-OWNER OF THIS 1958 HOME WILL BE INSTALLING CUSTOM-BUILT INTERIOR STORM WINDOWS THAT WILL RETAIN THE ARCHITECT'S ORIGINAL DESIGN WHILE PROVIDING BETTER INSULATION.



Old windows, while paramount to the architectural style of your home, can become the source of many problems: Leaks and dry rot in your window frames can spread to the rest of your house. Drafty, broken-down windows not only cause discomfort due to lack of insulation, they'll also increase your energy bills. Noise reduction and ease of use are also features old windows tend to lack.

To help maintain the health of your home, it's best to solve these issues as soon as possible. But, much as with most mid-mod renovation projects comes the underlying question: Should you replace or restore?

### Consult Your Checkbook

The cost of your project will depend on a multitude of factors, but the most important one is the condition of your windows. If your windows are in decent structural condition, restoring them is just as cost-effective as replacing them.

Old windows are actually simple to repair. Their parts, such as pulleys, sash cords, locks and even panes, were designed to be repaired or replaced and are easy to find. However, if your windows have structural damage and are in need of a specialized restoration contractor, things can get costly. In this case, well-designed, true-to-form replacements might be a better option.

IN THIS 1955 RANCH, CLERE-STORY, FLOOR-TO-CEILING AND TWO SASH WINDOWS BRING THE OUTDOORS IN AND CREATE A DEFINITIVE MID-MOD LOOK.



## The Glass Is Always Greener

Energy efficiency is a huge selling point when it comes to restoring or repairing your windows.

There are two schools of thought: First, replacing old windows rectifies all the problems that increase your energy bill and will lessen your carbon footprint over the long run. Second, the “greenest” window you can buy is the one you already own.

Of course, with new technology, windows have become better at their jobs—helping control the climate of your home. Deciding to replace your windows entirely is an easy fix to a common problem; and, when executed with respect to the existing style of your home, it can seem like a no-brainer.

On the other hand, by simply recaulking and replacing or installing weather stripping, you can greatly improve your energy efficiency. By double-glazing, adding an acrylic insert or installing a storm window to your single-pane windows, there’s no notable difference in appearance between old and new. Plus, by using already-existing materials that are built to last, you can avoid one more trip to the landfill.



(ABOVE) WOOD FRAMES SUCH AS THESE MUST BE MAINTAINED WITH CLEANING AND TREATMENTS TO WITHSTAND THE EXTREME TEMPERATURES IN JOSHUA TREE, CALIFORNIA.

(LEFT) THE WINDOWS THAT CONNECT THE COURTYARD AND LIVING ROOM IN THIS 1960S SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EICHLER EXEMPLIFY HOW ORIGINAL WINDOW DESIGN IS INTEGRAL TO A HOME’S ARCHITECTURE.

(BOTTOM, LEFT) THE DEN WINDOWS IN THIS 1950S RICHARD NEUTRA-DESIGNED HOME IN PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, STILL HAVE SINGLE-PANE GLASS.

## Return on Investment

It’s widely thought that replacing your windows can save you money through a reduction in your energy bill. But exactly how much isn’t well known, and there are a few other factors to consider: While monthly bills might go down, it can take up to 30 years for your savings to “pay” for those new windows. Often, those windows have warranties and life expectancies of less time than that.

While restoring your windows might seem daunting at first, this can save you money—simply because your existing materials were built to last. You’ll be improving on a design that’s already functioned well for several decades, and you’ll now be able to make small repairs for the remainder of your time in your home.

Keep in mind that if you ever decide to sell your mid-mod gem, having your original windows is a “must” to get the most value out of your home. ☼



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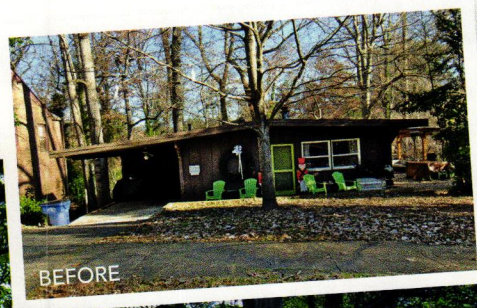


ENTWINE DINING

# Atlanta Gem

This architectural anomaly gets an update while drawing on the best of Mid Century Modern design.

Written by IAN MCMASTER | Photographed by FREDRIK BRAUER



## Architectural Terms You Should Know

- **Clerestory:** a high interior wall with a window near the roofline that allows natural light into a structure.
- **Sidelight:** a narrow, usually vertical window or glass pane on one side or on both sides of a door.

BUILT IN THE EARLY 1960S BY A GEORGIA TECH ARCHITECTURE PROFESSOR, this lonely ranch is nestled in the Virginia Highland neighborhood of Atlanta.

"Amid 1930s pseudo-Tudors, period bungalows, cottage-style homes, recent teardowns and subsequent builder-spec foursquares was this 1,400-square-foot 1960s Mid Century Modern home with vaguely California mid-century 'Eichler-esque' connotations," says Robert Cain of Robert M. Cain, Architect.

While the design of the house, itself, is a rarity for the area, its ability to survive—and ultimately thrive—is also miraculous. Thankfully, the home's current owners, who had once lived in California, recognized and appreciated the Mid Century Modern form and were intent on retaining its roots. Their goal: Respect the style.

Expanding the kitchen and dining area into a nonfunctional carport now leaves the exterior with a long, clean façade. In addition, the thermally modified poplar siding is not only striking but is also low-maintenance, very durable, and termite and insect resistant.

Extending wings to each side of the house provides privacy, as well as a sharp design aspect that also gives the exterior a smart, sleek look.

The window selections further complement the home's Mid Century Modern lineage. The transoms and clerestory windows shower the interior with natural light—another staple of Mid Century Modern design.

Additionally, the large, green door and expansive sidelight are the final pieces of the creation of this eye-catching oddity. ☺



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# What to expect when working with an architect

**Spoiler alert: It can make the entire process of a home remodel, addition or reconstruction easier.**

Written by **CHRISTINA DENATALE**

SO, YOU WANT TO CHANGE UP YOUR HOME, and you plan to work with an architect. What now?

First, know that not every project requires an architect. Use one if you're nervous about making building choices on your own or you don't know exactly what you want to change.

The cost of working with an architect can be intimidating. However, an architect with cost-effective design solutions might save you money in the long run. Architects help with the design of the home. If you're planning to move walls or add different features and don't think you can make those decisions on your own, the added expense will be worth it to ensure your ideal remodel or addition is properly actualized.







**(TOP)** THE FULL-SCALE, MID-CENTURY REMODEL OF THIS 1950S-ERA HOME INCLUDED RAISING THE ROOF, ALONG WITH AN ADDITION AND A PORCH. THE HOME'S NEW LOOK IS DESIGNED TO FIT IN WITH THE 1950S RANCH HOMES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. (PHOTO BY LEONID FURMANSKY)

**(OPPOSITE)** STUDIO STEINBOMER DESIGNED THIS MID-CENTURY MODERN HOME IN CENTRAL AUSTIN WITH THE MAIN GOAL OF ACHIEVING AN UNINTERRUPTED FLOW BETWEEN THE INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPACES.

### **Find the Best Fit**

If you've determined that an architect's help is necessary, find one that's the right fit for you and your project. Research and ask potential architects about their recent designs or projects. Find out whether they have a set "menu" or are full service. Come up with a brief idea of what you're looking for, both for the design and from the architect.

Some architects have set menus, via which you'll get a certain number of hours, meetings, drawings, etc. Others, such as the architects at Studio Steinbomer in Austin, Texas, are full service, meaning they work with you from start to finish.

"We tell people it's a short-term 'marriage,'" explains Amy Bramwell, principal architect at Studio Steinbomer. "We're connected at the hip for a couple of years."

Invest in an architect with whom you are comfortable and who you trust will be worth your money. Come to your initial meeting with questions, ideas, concerns, etc. You and the architect will lay out the goals of the project. Goals can range from style to preservation plans to structural ideas and even sustainability.

### **The Design Phase**

"The beginning is the fun part," points out Jed Duhon, principal architect at Studio Steinbomer. "It's fun for the clients when we're in schematic design and we explore all the options."

During this phase, in order to get a sense of a client's style, the Studio Steinbomer team has them make a wish list of everything they'd like and also bring images of other projects that inspire them.

The team then starts creating conceptual designs, brainstorming different options with their clients. This is when your architect will take your ideas and create a design that's logistical and doable, considering your budget and the home's site.

"It becomes this back-and-forth design process. They have an idea, but we bring our experience to it," Duhon says. "We start merging reality with their dreams."



(ABOVE, LEFT) AN OVERHANGING METAL ROOF WAS ADDED TO THE REMODEL OF THIS 1950S HOME TO PROTECT ITS INTERIOR. NATURAL LIGHT ILLUMINATES THE HOME THROUGH THE GIANT, NORTH-FACING WINDOWS. (PHOTO BY LEONID FURMANSKY)

(ABOVE, RIGHT) THIS OPEN-CONCEPT STAIRCASE FITS PERFECTLY WITH THE GOAL OF CREATING A CONTINUOUS FLOW BETWEEN THE INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPACES. THE LARGE, PATTERNED WINDOWS ALLOW FOR A CHECKERBOARD OF NATURAL LIGHTING TO FLOW INTO THE BREAKFAST NOOK.

(LEFT) THIS MOARI ICEHOUSE BLENDS INTO ITS ENVIRONMENT ON THE OUTSIDE. HOWEVER, ON THE INSIDE, IT HOLDS THE OWNER'S EXTENSIVE COLLECTION OF TIKI CULTURAL MATERIALS. THE STUDIO STEINBOMER TEAM DESIGNED A UNIQUE STRUCTURE THAT ALSO ADHERES TO ITS NEIGHBORHOOD'S DESIGN GUIDELINES. (PHOTO BY ANDREA CALO)

## Construction Begins

After the designs and drawings are in place, the construction phase begins. Not every architect will take you through to construction, which is why establishing early on how far they'll work with you is important.

Construction restrictions and city ordinances vary, so make sure your project is doable at your site. Some full-service architects, such as the experts at Studio Steinbomer, help their clients get construction documents and help coordinate documents for the bank.

If your architect is full service, but you haven't chosen a contractor yet, they might help in the selection process. Once construction starts, the contractor and architect will collaborate to make sure your vision comes to fruition. ☼

(RIGHT) THIS HOME'S REMODEL WAS DESIGNED WITH THE INTENT OF UPDATING, EXPANDING AND RESTORING ITS ORIGINAL 1950S MODERNIST CHARM.

## Five Tips for Selecting Your Architect

### 1. Full service versus set menu.

Based on your needs and how hands-on you want your architect to be, decide whether you want an architect who is full service or has a set menu. Knowing what you want from your architect will help guide you in the selection process.

### 2. Select someone with whom you are comfortable.

"If you're selecting someone to work with, you should be comfortable with telling them what you do and don't like about the design," Ben Pruett, Studio Steinbomer's director of marketing, advises. "If you feel intimidated by the person you're working with, and you can't really communicate, it can continue back and snowball and turn into an unhappy result."

### 3. Ask for a sample drawing set.

Looking at sample drawing sets from an architect's previous work can tell you a lot about them. For instance, it can tell you their design style or how many services you're getting. "If the drawing set has four pages in it—versus 20 pages—you're getting more services," Duhon explains. "Those are professional drawings that take time, but you're getting more services for which other architects' fees might be higher."

### 4. Get references.

References let you know whether the architect is trustworthy, easy to work with, is worth the fee, etc.

### 5. Find out who designed projects you like.

Is there a house in your town with which you're obsessed? Ask the owners who designed or worked on their home. Keep tabs on the houses you love, and make a list of the architects who designed them. If there's any overlap, that's even better.



(ABOVE) SITTING ALONGSIDE A MID CENTURY MODERN HOUSE, THIS MULTIPURPOSE PAVILION SERVES AS A POOL HOUSE, OFFICE, GALLERY, RETREAT AND GUEST HOUSE. IT FEATURES A CONCRETE DECK THAT SEAMLESSLY TRANSITIONS TO THE POOL.

(BELOW) ARTWORK LINES THE TWO MAIN WALLS OF THIS MULTIFUNCTION PAVILION. WINDOWS WRAP AROUND THE TOP OF THE PAVILION, VISUALLY SEPARATING THE WALLS FROM THE ROOF.

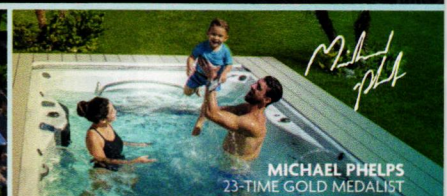
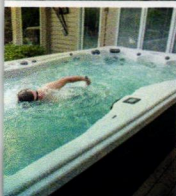




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# Restoring **the Roots**

Wood tones and neutrals with strategic pops of color transform a once awkward space back to a family-friendly home hub with retro flair.

Written by **ERIN LAWRENCE**

Styled by **ELLEN MORIARTY AND VIV KIRSCH**

Photographed by **JUSTIN LOPEZ PHOTOGRAPHY**



ALTHOUGH THE KITCHEN HAS NO WINDOWS, IT GETS PLENTY OF NATURAL LIGHT, THANKS TO A LARGE SKYLIGHT. KELLIE SAYS SHE HAD CONTRACTORS FRAME IN SPACE FOR A SECOND SKYLIGHT UNDER THE CEILING DRYWALL, AND THAT WILL BE COMPLETED WHEN THE OWNERS ARE READY TO REPLACE THE ROOF.



THERE'S OFTEN A LITTLE GIVE AND TAKE WHEN RENOVATING A MID CENTURY MODERN HOME, because the desire to take a heritage house back to its roots and use "original" materials and styles can too easily lean toward "kitschy."

That's where having clear ideas—and a designer who's on the same page—can make the difference in creating a functional and fun space.

Davis, California, is home to thousands of mid-century gems. They're known as Streg Homes and are named for the builder brothers who partnered with Eichler-influenced architect Carter Sparks to create affordable, livable homes for young families.

When homeowner Naomi Rubin and her husband, Daniel, found a 1968 Streg Home in Davis's University Estates neighborhood, they knew the 2,200-square-foot house would be perfect for their growing family ... but not without a few changes.



(LEFT) THE KITCHEN HAS A RELATIVELY SMALL FOOTPRINT, BUT IT'S BIG ON STORAGE. CABINETS STRETCH TO THE CEILING, AND A MIX OF CLOSED CABINETS AND SELECTIVE OPEN SHELVING CREATES SPACE FOR THE NEEDS OF A MODERN KITCHEN, AS WELL AS A FEW DECORATIVE TOUCHES.

*"My advice for soon-to-be renovators in new homes is to live in the space before renovating."*

(BELOW) KELLIE MADE IT EASY FOR NAOMI TO ACCESS WELL-USED BAKEWARE, USING OPEN SHEET PAN STORAGE AND ADDING A LAZY SUSAN TO A CORNER CABINET TO HIDE APPLIANCES THAT ARE USED INFREQUENTLY. TO KEEP OTHER SMALL APPLIANCES HANDY AT COUNTER LEVEL, AN APPLIANCE GARAGE ALLOWS THE KITCHEN TO STAY CLUTTER-FREE.







HEATH TILE IN A 1X3 HORIZONTAL STACK ADDS TEXTURE AND DIMENSION TO THE KITCHEN. IN ADDITION, KELLIE THOUGHTFULLY ADDED FLOATING SHELVES MADE OF THE SAME SILESTONE QUARTZ AS THE COUNTERTOPS TO CREATE DELIBERATE DISPLAY AND STORAGE NOOKS. "BRINGING IN THOSE ACCENTS, ALONG WITH PLANTS ON THE SHELVES, HELPS WARM UP THE SPACE," SAYS KELLIE.

"When we bought the house, the kitchen had been altered from the original design, moved, closed off by drywall and was in bad shape," Naomi points out. "Cabinet doors were literally falling off, and there was no ventilation. We knew we wanted to open up the space."

### **Pops of Color**

The couple enlisted the help of MAK DESIGN+BUILD and lead project designer Kellie Love. Having handled numerous mid-mod renovation projects in the area, Kellie was more than up for the challenge.

"One of my favorite things was definitely being able to go beyond 'neutral.' I like the idea of being very thoughtful about the use of color, and the client was really open to being creative and doing something different," Kellie says.

An original Douglas fir beam, previously hidden under drywall, was also exposed during the renovation. While the beam complements the wood-look MDF cabinet doors, it also calls in elements from elsewhere in the home.

"It provides symmetry with the adjoining dining and living spaces," homeowner Naomi explains.

Sprinkled in among the wood and the white of the renovated kitchen are pops of vibrant color. A set of bypass doors along one side of the kitchen hides more storage. They're painted with both tangerine and turquoise shades of Benjamin Moore paint, while a lime-green shade beckons from below the wall oven.

"Those color pops were driven by the clients," Kellie shares. "Daniel and Naomi had really great idea books, and then we pulled color inspiration from mid-century fabrics and photographs. Naomi knew she wanted orange and blue, but I pulled in the green after looking through mid-century color palettes."

### **Rethinking the Layout**

The first order of business was to redraw the kitchen layout, because the owners were looking to add a pantry and also allow for more openness to the rest of the home.

In a move some might find surprising, Kellie walled off a leg of the L-shaped kitchen, reclaiming a cramped eating nook as a storage area for bikes that's now accessible from the exterior of the home. She then opened up space on the other side, creating a 25-square-foot pantry with a sliding door and a dry bar—or "caffeination station," as Naomi refers to it.

"I showed them four different options for the layout, because I wasn't sure whether cutting off and losing square footage in the house was going to be something they would be open to. After all, square footage in a small house is pretty valuable," says Kellie.

In the end, Kellie's designs took the kitchen from an awkward, closed-in, 135-square-foot space to a 200-square-foot, open-plan marvel that includes a mini butler's pantry.

"To our great pleasure, MAK was able to achieve all our goals," Naomi says. "The 'cherry on top' is that we also gained a much-needed area to store our bicycles."



## Storage Solutions

Kellie also made sure the owners have ample space for dishes, bakeware and small appliances by taking deliberate inventory of all the items that needed a home in the kitchen and carving out space for each.

"One of our favorite things about the kitchen is the storage options that maximize the small kitchen that's typical of Streng Brothers' homes," Naomi notes. "While my husband and I were busy obsessing over tile shape choices and cabinet colors, the design team at MAK was ensuring the kitchen layout accommodated all of our modern cooking needs. I spend a lot of time in the kitchen cooking and entertaining, and it doesn't feel cramped or cluttered, despite the relatively small square footage."

Naomi says a key factor in the family knowing exactly what everyone wanted in the new kitchen was living in the home for a time before the renovation.

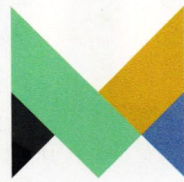
"We knew we needed a new kitchen, but until we had settled in, we didn't know how badly we would need an extra storage space for bikes and gear. We also want new floors throughout the house, but this project is low on our list because our current bamboo floors are convenient with young children. With this in mind, we selected terrazzo tile flooring for the kitchen that works with our current flooring and that will also complement our future dream floor." ❁

(RIGHT) MAK DESIGN+BUILD CREATED PURPOSEFUL MODERN WORKSPACES IN THE MID-CENTURY KITCHEN. A 25-SQUARE-FOOT PANTRY CAN BE CLOSED OFF BY A POCKET DOOR THAT'S FINISHED IN THE SAME WALNUT TONE AS THE CABINETRY. A DRY BAR TO THE LEFT OF THE PANTRY CREATES SPACE FOR A MUCH-USED COFFEE BAR.

(ABOVE) WHILE TERRAZZO FLOORING IS A POPULAR MID-CENTURY MODERN DESIGN CHOICE, MAK DESIGN+BUILD AND LEAD PROJECT DESIGNER KELLIE LOVE SOURCED RICHARD STERLING PORCELAIN TILE IN A LARGE, 24X24-INCH SIZE. "IT HAS THE SAME KIND OF TEXTURE AS TERRAZZO—BUT AT A FRACTION OF THE COST." AIRY COUNTER SEATING REPLACES A CRAMPED BREAKFAST NOOK THAT FELT DISCONNECTED FROM THE OLD KITCHEN.

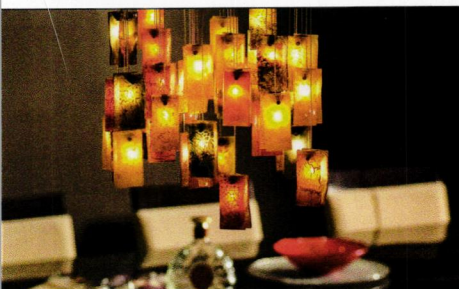


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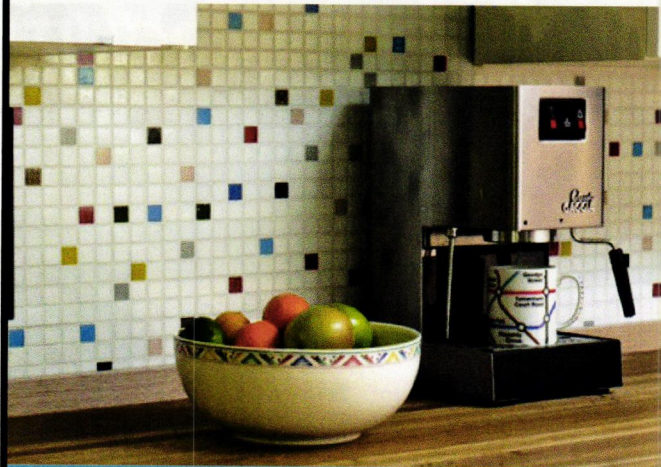
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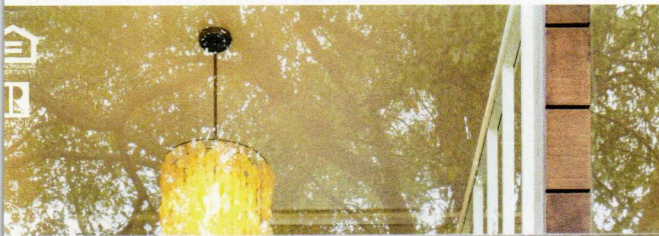
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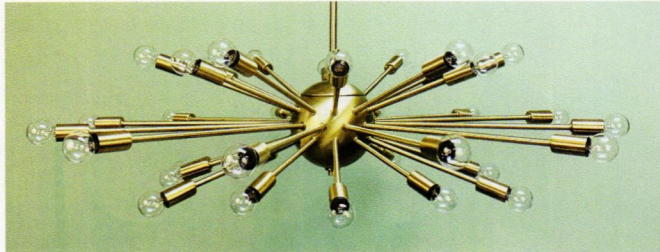


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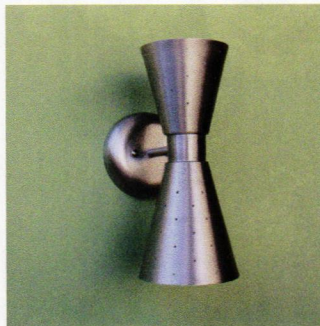
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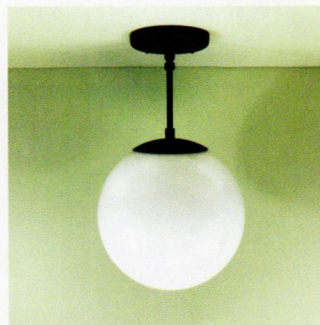
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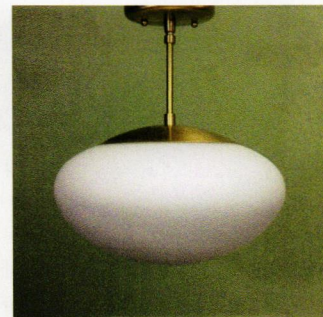
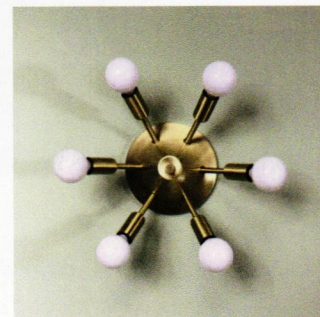
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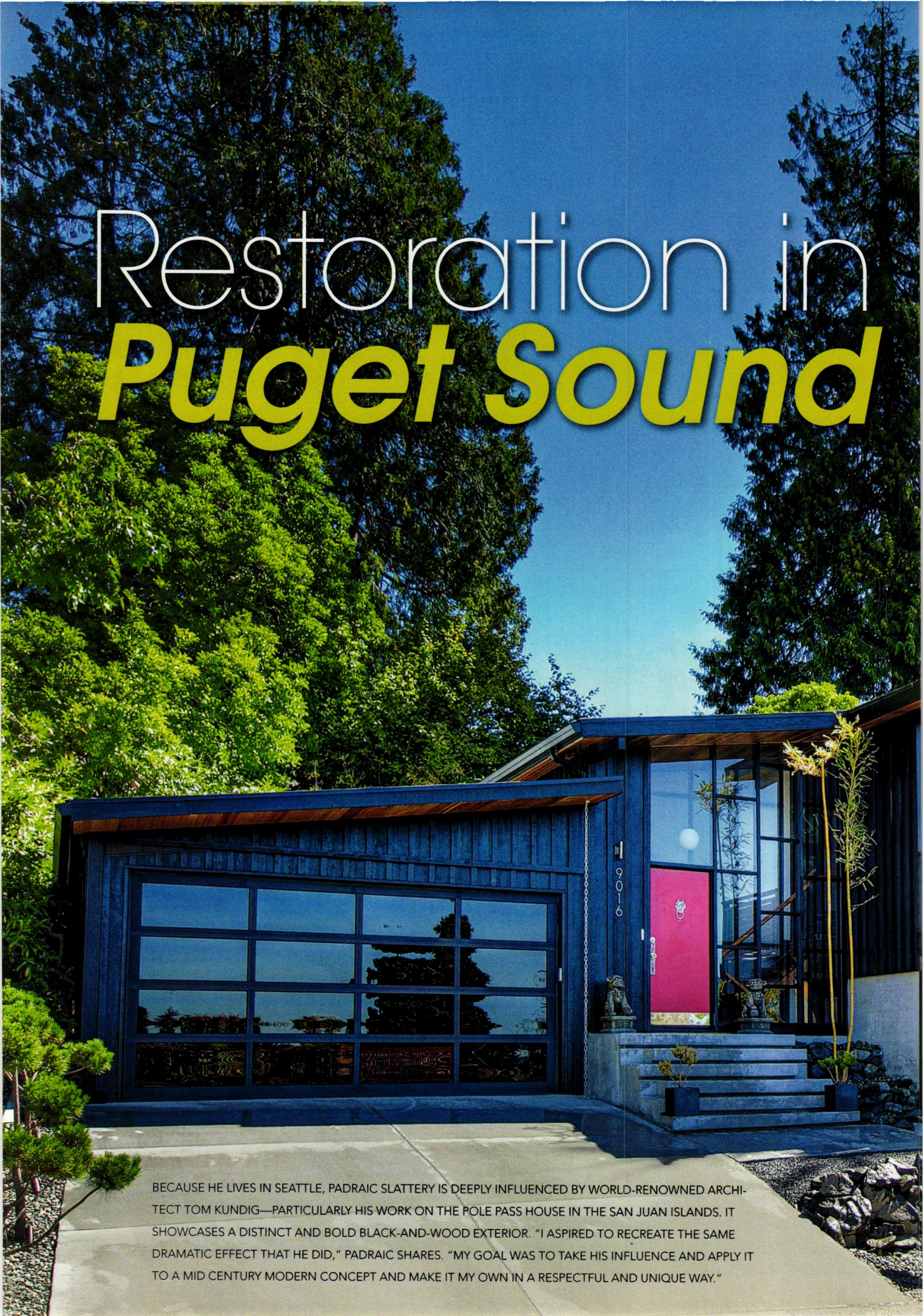


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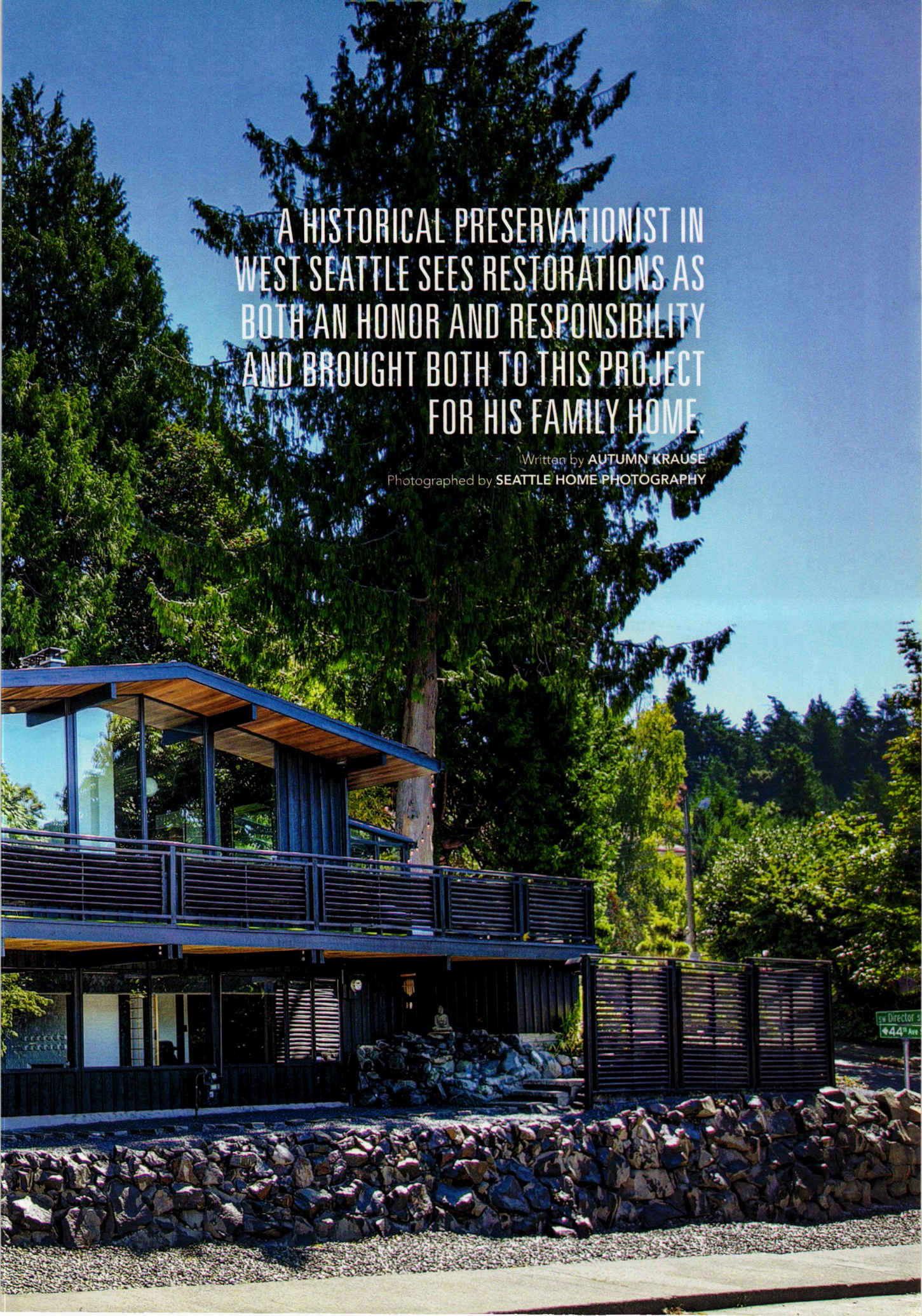
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# Restoration in *Puget Sound*



BECAUSE HE LIVES IN SEATTLE, PADRAIC SLATTERY IS DEEPLY INFLUENCED BY WORLD-RENOWNED ARCHITECT TOM KUNDIG—PARTICULARLY HIS WORK ON THE POLE PASS HOUSE IN THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS. IT SHOWCASES A DISTINCT AND BOLD BLACK-AND-WOOD EXTERIOR. "I ASPIRED TO RECREATE THE SAME DRAMATIC EFFECT THAT HE DID," PADRAIC SHARES. "MY GOAL WAS TO TAKE HIS INFLUENCE AND APPLY IT TO A MID CENTURY MODERN CONCEPT AND MAKE IT MY OWN IN A RESPECTFUL AND UNIQUE WAY."



A photograph of a modern, two-story house with a prominent stone wall in the foreground. The house features large glass windows and a balcony with a dark metal railing. The background is filled with tall, dense evergreen trees under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

A HISTORICAL PRESERVATIONIST IN  
WEST SEATTLE SEES RESTORATIONS AS  
BOTH AN HONOR AND RESPONSIBILITY  
AND BROUGHT BOTH TO THIS PROJECT  
FOR HIS FAMILY HOME.

Written by AUTUMN KRAUSE

Photographed by SEATTLE HOME PHOTOGRAPHY

sw Director s  
44th Ave



A chapter of Mid Century Modern history can be found nestled in Puget Sound in West Seattle, which is located on a peninsula across from downtown Seattle. It's a predominately MCM neighborhood, and it's perched above a ferry dock, combining enduring examples of the genre with a scenic setting. It's very much its own place.

According to historical preservationist Padraic Slattery of Permanent Vacation Design, "West Seattle very much carries itself with a 'chip on its shoulder' in comparison the rest of the city. To a gradually diminishing degree, West Seattle has a persona of Seattle from back in the 1990s, long before the tech boom."

(LEFT) VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA'S CHINATOWN IS PADRAIC AND HIS FAMILY'S MOST FAVORITE NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE ENTIRE WORLD. THE FOO DOGS SEEN HERE GUARDING THE RED DOOR ARE A DISCRETE FORM OF PAYING RESPECT TO CHINATOWN, WHICH IS OFTEN BLANKETED IN THE COLORS OF RED AND TEAL.



**(ABOVE)** WHEN IT COMES TO THE ENTRYWAY, PADRAIC SAYS, "I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW THEY ARE WALKING INTO A METICULOUSLY RESTORED MID CENTURY MODERN HOME AS THEY WALK IN AND EXPERIENCE THE SPACE. THE GOAL IS FOR PEOPLE TO FEEL AS IF THEY'RE EXPERIENCING HISTORY IN REAL TIME. I AIM TO LEAVE NO DOUBTS IN THEIR MINDS AS TO WHAT STYLE OF HOME THEY'RE IN."

**(OPPOSITE, TOP)** THE LOUNGE AND THE FIRST FLOOR HAD A VERY DIFFERENT LAYOUT THAT DIDN'T OPTIMIZE THE SQUARE FOOTAGE VERY WELL. "WE ADDED A BEDROOM AND A BATHROOM TO THE WIDE-OPEN LAYOUT. THIS ADDED A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF FUNCTIONALITY TO THE FLOOR PLAN AND GAVE IT A RENEWED SENSE OF FUNCTION AND ROOM DEFINITION," PADRAIC EXPLAINS. THE CONCRETE FLOORS WERE REFINISHED, AND NEW BLACK TRIM WAS ADDED TO GIVE IT A 'BENIHANA' FEEL. WALNUT WALL PANELS, SOLID DOORS, BLACK HARDWARE, NEW LIGHT FIXTURES, NEWLY PAINTED BRICK AND BEAMS, ALONG WITH REPLACING A RETROFITTED WOODBURNING FIREPLACE TO ACCOMMODATE A GAS-OPERATED SYSTEM, WERE ALL PART OF THE DESIGN PLANS.

AN OPEN FIREPLACE IS ORIGINAL TO THE HOME; IT REQUIRED A THOROUGH CLEANING. PADRAIC ALSO HAD THE INTERIOR MASONRY BLOCK PAINTED.

"IN ORDER TO CONVERT IT FROM A WOODBURNING TO A GAS-POWERED SYSTEM, WE RAN A UTILITY LINE INTO THE FIREPLACE," HE SAYS. "THE DESIGN CONSISTS OF BLACK ROCKS AND A BLACK MESH SCREEN." THE OPEN CONCEPT WAS A DESIGN FEATURE THEY WERE FORTUNATE TO INHERIT. AS A RESULT, THE FIREPLACE CAN BE ENJOYED FROM A RANGE OF ANGLES.

When it comes to projects such as this one, Padraic brings his expertise on both the area and MCM design to the proverbial restoration table.

"Restorations such as this are an honor, but they also carry a debt of responsibility to the neighborhood and the original designers," he says. "These structures deserve to be reinvigorated with period details in mind. Otherwise, history is being defaced." He and his team of four handle history with care, and each project clearly shows that.

## EMBODYING MCM STYLE

MCM design is close to Padraic's heart and reminds him of his grandfather's era in Portland, Oregon. His grandfather enjoyed frequenting iconic places such as the Fish Grotto, Alibi Room and the Ringside. And, just as his grandfather was, Padraic was shaped by an establishment that embodies the genre.

"I truly fell in love with Mid Century Modern design at Vito's Restaurant in Seattle," he explains.





"You can do some amazing things with new construction, but you just can't replace history. There is something special about it, and I'm addicted to restoring these structures."



The restaurant boasts a storied past as a Mafia hangout and is decked out in original MCM design to this day.

"I'm profoundly inspired by Mid Century Modern style, and I'm so grateful for the impact it has had on my life and career," Padraic says.

He loves the elaborate exterior signs, finish materials, light fixtures and other "atomic" features of the era.

"You can do some amazing things with new construction, but you just can't replace history. There is something special about it, and I'm addicted to restoring these structures."

### THAT GUT FEELING

Padraic and his family weren't even in the market for a new place, but when they saw this 1957 house, they knew it would be their next home.

"It struck an instant chord with us—namely because of the gabled roof line, staircase, window wall and the retractable shoji screen wall feature. I had that 'feeling' that's undeniable, and I never bet against my gut feeling."

The fundamental objectives of the renovation were to pay homage to the architect by performing a historically accurate restoration of the home and respectfully enhancing its functionality for today's modern family.

(ABOVE) AMAZINGLY, THE ORIGINAL BLUEPRINTS FOR THE HOUSE WERE ROLLED UP INSIDE A CLOSET. THEY'RE NOW MOUNTED AND FRAMED AND PROUDLY DISPLAYED FOR ALL TO ENJOY.

(OPPOSITE) THE KITCHEN FLOOR BOASTS AN EYE-CATCHING TERRAZZO TILE FLOOR. "WE'VE POURED TERRAZZO FLOORS IN THE PAST, BUT WE FOUND THAT THIS ANN SACKS TILE FIT THE BILL WITHOUT THE ADDED COMPLEXITY AND MESS OF POURING A NEW FLOOR," PADRAIC POINTS OUT. THE SAME TILE IS SEEN IN THE PRIMARY BATHROOM. "OUR DESIGN PHILOSOPHY STRIVES TO MATCH THE KITCHEN AND BATHROOMS AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE. WE LIKE TO REINFORCE A COMMON THEME THROUGHOUT THE PROPERTY."





"The temptation of current design trends wasn't considered, because I felt this home deserved to be preserved in a historical context," Padraic explains.

## RENO OBJECTIVES

The fundamental goals of this renovation were to pay homage to the architect by performing a historically accurate restoration of the home and respectfully enhancing its functionality for today's modern family. It was engineered in a two-phase schedule.

The design was envisioned in 2019, but it wasn't fully implemented until 2021. The bulk of the construction work was completed within a window of five months. And, because the home was built in 1957, it suffered from outdated systems that required updating.

"The most challenging obstacle was replacing the plumbing system and removing the masonry block retaining wall that buried the original basalt rockery in the front of the house," Padraic shares.

Reengineering the driveway and the staggered entry steps proved to be a difficult task; it was an unforeseen, impromptu project.

For the design, Padraic wanted to make a bold, contrasting statement with the exterior matching the interior, along with a complementary landscape, enhanced by the incorporation of subtle Asian design touches throughout the property.

(ABOVE) IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE STORAGE CAPACITY AND COUNTER SPACE, THE KITCHEN WAS COMPLETELY RENOVATED AND REENGINEERED. ONE OF ITS MANY STRIKING DETAILS IS THE BACKSPLASH. IT'S A DRAGON SCALE PATTERN AND IS CUSTOM MADE WITH A MIX OF GLOSSY AND MATTE-BLACK TILES. "THE TILE IS INTENDED TO MATCH THE SCALES OF THE FOO DOGS OUTSIDE," PADRAIC SHARES.







(ABOVE AND OPPOSITE, TOP) SERENE ELEGANCE IS FOUND IN THE PRIMARY BEDROOM, WHICH FEATURES A RETRACTABLE SHOJI SCREEN WALL, CEDAR CEILING, REFINISHED FILIPINO MAHOGANY FLOORS, SCHOOLHOUSE ELECTRIC SCONCES AND A CUSTOM WALNUT DRESSER.

(BELOW) THE PRIMARY BATHROOM WAS TORN DOWN TO THE STUDS. A DOUBLE VANITY AND A CUSTOM RECESSED WALNUT MEDICINE CABINET WERE ADDED FOR INCREASED UTILITY. THE 12-FOOT-TALL WALLS WERE FULLY TILED AND ACCENTED BY A CLEAR CEDAR CEILING AND CUSTOM WALNUT CABINETRY. THE SQUARE, BLACK MOSAIC TILE WORK IS AN ARTFUL HOMAGE TO THE BLACK ENTRYWAY TILE OF VITO'S RESTAURANT—THE PLACE THAT MADE PADRAIC FALL IN LOVE WITH MCM DESIGN.



## ASIAN INFLUENCES

"Northwest Mid Century Modern architecture commonly features shoji screen details—a design element driven by famed architect Paul Kirk. This house fell in line via an entire retractable custom shoji screen wall spanning two floors." The wall was meticulously restored with acrylic shoji screens sourced from Japan.

To reinforce the exterior, the simplified landscape features extensive use of rock mulch that's supported by bamboo and pom pom pine trees. The Asian touches are a natural extension of the family (the Slatterys



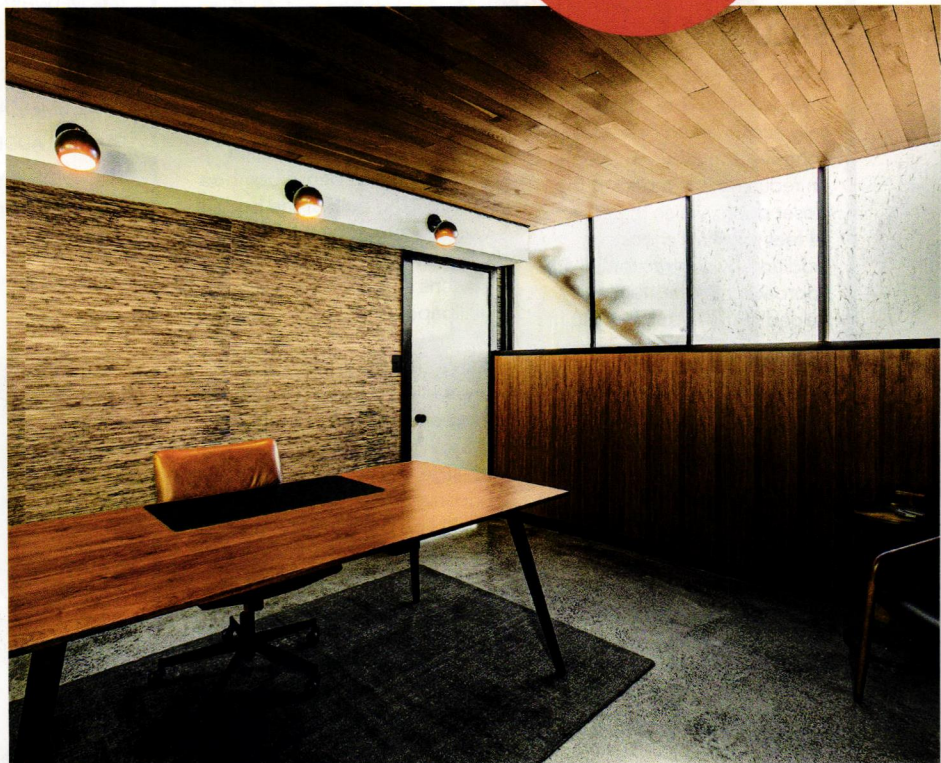
(BELOW) A GENEROUSLY SIZED WORK-FROM-HOME OFFICE IS A BIG AMENITY. PHILLIP JEFFERIES GRASS CLOTH WALLPAPER DRAPES THE WALLS, AND WALNUT WALL PANELS WERE DESIGNED FOR AN ACCENT WALL FEATURE. "THEY MATCH THE WALNUT CABINETS ELSEWHERE IN THE HOME," PADRAIC POINTS OUT. WITH ONLY SOME SPOT RESTORATION, THE ORIGINAL CEDAR CEILING WAS INCORPORATED INTO THE NEW DESIGN.

WHAT'S THE CONNECTION BETWEEN PACIFIC NORTHWEST MODERNISM AND ASIAN DESIGN? GO TO [ATOMIC-RANCH.COM](https://atomic-ranch.com) TO FIND OUT!

comprise a predominately Asian household). Also, in the Pacific Northwest, Asian design and MCM design go hand in hand. The influence of Japanese architecture is undeniable in many mid-century homes in the area.

The home is a wonderful MCM haven. It showcases the functionality of the homes that were built 60 years ago and how they still meet the layout demands of today's modern lifestyle.

"Furthermore, the architectural effort and creativity applied then is still more creative than the 'box' mentality of newly built modern homes of today," Padraic points out. "That's what draws us to Mid Century Modern designs; and we are so happy with how ours turned out." ❁





PRESERVING THE ORIGINAL BRICK ON THE EXTERIOR WAS A PRIORITY, SO ARCHITECT CHARLES WARREN ADDED WHITE CEDAR SIDING TO BREAK IT UP AND ADD A MORE MODERN FEEL. "WE PICKED IT TO COMPLEMENT THE EXISTING BRICK COLOR," HE POINTS OUT. THE VERTICAL BRICK WALLS ARE ORIGINAL, BUT THE MIDDLE OF THE HOME WAS UPDATED TO ACCOMMODATE AN ENTRYWAY, WHICH LEVELED OUT THE EXTERIOR WHEN THE ENTRANCE WAS ORIGINALLY FARTHER BACK. NEW LANDSCAPING AND A NEW FRONT DOOR ELEVATE THE HOME'S CURB APPEAL.

# An Unexpected Encounter

A COUPLE NEW TO MID CENTURY MODERN  
DESIGN EMBRACES THEIR HOME'S MID-CENTURY  
ROOTS IN THIS MARYLAND RENOVATION.

Written by KRISTIN DOWDING | Photographed by HOACHLANDER DAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY





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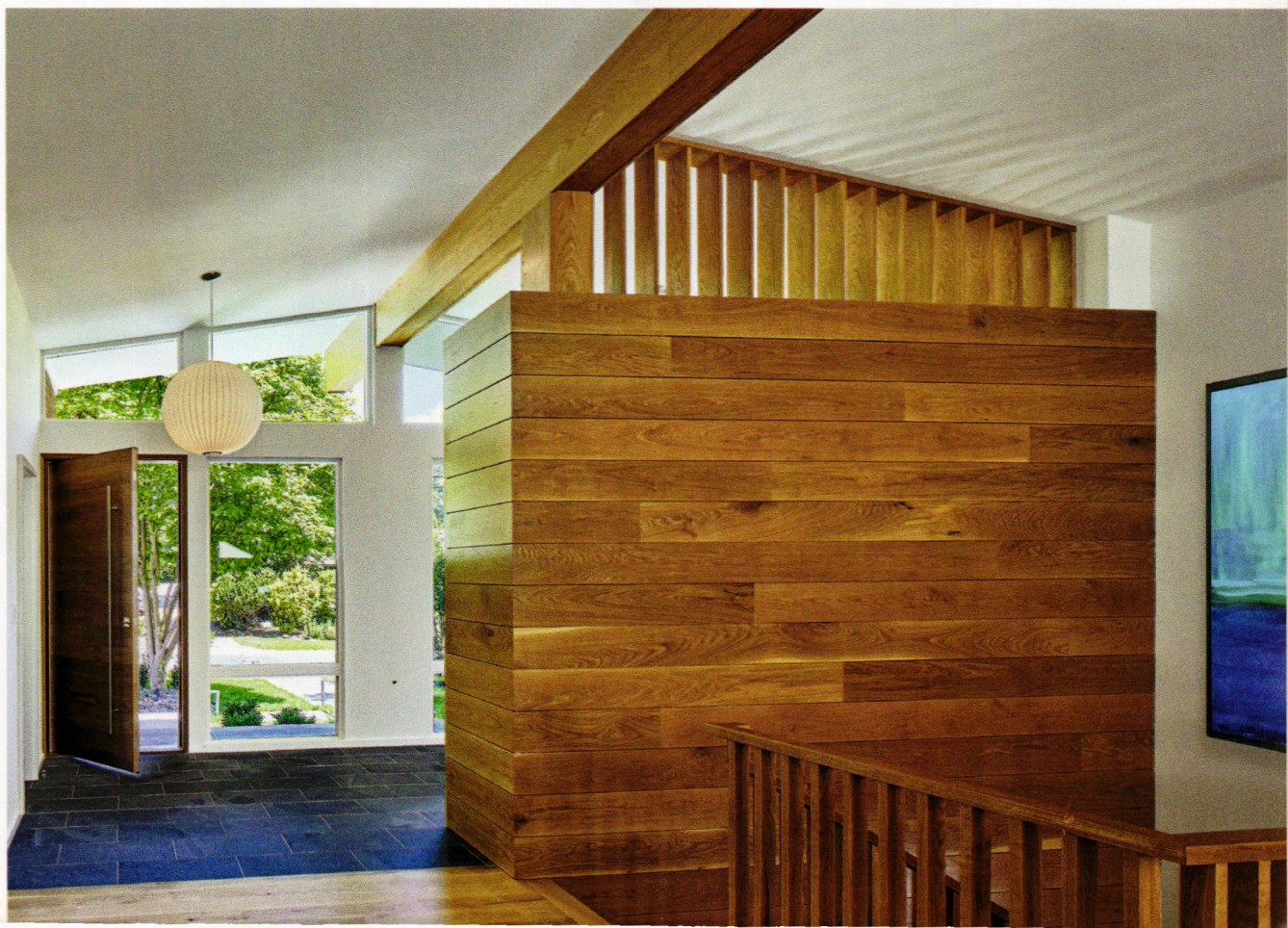
Sometimes, you don't find your preferred design style until later in life ... and it can take an unexpected turn.

When a couple reached out to architect Charles Warren, principal of design at Teass/Warren Architects, to help them with a future project, they hadn't yet purchased a home. In addition, they weren't looking for something with mid-century architecture.

"They lived in a colonial house at the time, and they were looking for something with modern farmhouse style," he says. "Then, they found this home, and I told them that if they weren't going to buy it, I probably would."

(RIGHT) THE GARDEN ON THE SIDE OF THE HOUSE HAS BLUESTONE PAVERS AND FIBERGLASS PLANTERS TO CREATE A NATURE-INSPIRED PATH TO THE BACK OF THE HOME.

(BELOW) THE FOYER IS A NEW ADDITION THAT CONNECTS THE TWO WINGS OF THE HOME AND FEATURES A FREE-STANDING CABINET WITH FROSTED GLASS. "IT'S A BIG COAT CLOSET THAT ACTS AS A SCREEN SO THAT YOU CAN'T SEE ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE HOUSE," CHARLES EXPLAINS. THE STRUCTURAL BEAM IS A NEW PIECE OF STEEL COVERED IN WOOD. "WE EXTENDED IT, BUT IT'S IN THE SAME PLACE AS THE ORIGINAL BEAM."



(BELOW) THE ADDITION AT THE REAR OF THE HOME OPENED UP THE LIVING ROOM AREA AND MADE ROOM FOR CUSTOM WHITE OAK SHELVES AND A QUARTZ FIREPLACE WITH A WHITE OAK HORIZONTAL WRAP. "THIS SPACE BECAME THE HEART OF THE HOME," CHARLES SAYS. "WE OPENED IT SO THAT IT CONNECTS TO THE KITCHEN AND DINING ROOMS."

(OPPOSITE) THIS MULTIFUNCTIONAL SPACE ACTS AS AN OFFICE, PANTRY AND MUDROOM AND HAS A SIDE ENTRANCE TO THE HOUSE. "IT HAS SOME OVERFLOW KITCHEN ITEMS, SUCH AS ANOTHER REFRIGERATOR, DISHWASHER AND FOOD STORAGE," CHARLES SAYS. THIS SPACE WAS ORIGINALLY WHERE THE CARPORT WAS LOCATED, BUT AN INTERIOR OFFICE WAS A MORE FUNCTIONAL OPTION FOR THE HOMEOWNERS. THE CUSTOM CABINETS ARE THE SAME AS IN THE KITCHEN, BUT THE FLOORING IS MADE OF BRAZILIAN BLACK SLATE.







They decided to let the home they fell in love with determine their style and asked Charles to help them bring back its original mid-century appeal.

### PART PRESERVATION

This 1958 gem is found in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and although the original architect is unknown, there was no denying its mid-century structure.

"It hadn't been updated much, but the kitchen looked like it was in the 1980s," Charles says.

It also needed new plumbing and electrical; the original flooring was too far gone to salvage; the bedrooms were all too small; and the couple wanted to expand the kitchen.

"The couple was looking for single-level living, and the house already had a primary suite on the main floor. However, it didn't have an open plan like they wanted. The structure was there, but we had to strip it down to make the necessary changes," Charles explains.

The homeowners wanted to preserve the overall feel of the home, so Charles kept the basic configuration of the house the same.



"We didn't change the footprint of the home, and we kept the original roof line for the most part," he says. "They liked the brick on the exterior, so all of that is still original."

## ADDITIONAL CHANGES

Despite keeping most of the home's original footprint, the couple ended up building two small additions. The first was expanding the foyer to connect the original wings of the home: "The two vertical walls were existing. We just pulled the entryway forward to meet the rest of the house," Charles points out.

The second addition was at the back of the home.

"The living room wasn't big enough, so we expanded it by 4 feet," he says.

The window wall and glass door also open up the interior to the back deck and connect it to the surrounding scenery. These additions increased the livable space on the main floor, giving the homeowners room on the level below to have a family room, wood shop, gym and guest bedrooms.

Other renovations included installing recessed lighting, adding Mid Century Modern-style pendant lights throughout the house and replacing old windows.

"The original windows were leaking, so we had to replace them, but we kept most of the original locations," says Charles.

(ABOVE) EXPANDING THE KITCHEN AND RIDING IT OF ITS 1980S MAKEOVER WAS A KEY PART OF THE HOME'S RENOVATION. WITH WHITE OAK FLOORING, RED OAK CABINETS AND CAESARSTONE QUARTZ COUNTERTOPS, A MID-CENTURY FEEL WAS BROUGHT BACK TO THE SPACE. CUSTOM BLUE CABINETS UP TO THE CEILING WERE BUILT TO ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR DUSTING AND ALSO ACCENTUATE THE ARCHITECTURAL STRUCTURE OF THE ORIGINAL SLANTED ROOF.

(OPPOSITE) THE BIGGEST UPDATE IN THE DINING ROOM INVOLVED MAKING THE SIDE WINDOW LARGER. "IT WAS ONE OF THE FEW WINDOWS WE CHANGED, AND WE DID IT TO BRING IN MORE NATURAL LIGHT," SAYS CHARLES. THEY REPLACED THE REST OF THE WINDOWS WITH NEW GLASS, BUT THEIR ORIGINAL SHAPE AND LOCATION REMAINED THE SAME. THE RECESSED LIGHTING IS NEW AND ACTS AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THE PENDANT LIGHTS HANGING ABOVE THE CUSTOM-MADE DINING TABLE.



## Retro Renovation Guide

Buying a home that needs a renovation can be intimidating if you don't know what's involved. Architect Charles Warren shares the process his firm, Teass/Warren Architects, goes through to help prepare you.

"On average, from day 1 until you walk into your finished home, it's about a two-year process," he explains.

**Design.** The first part of the renovation process involves choosing a schematic design. You'll discuss your needs, goals and design preferences and come up with a plan. "We usually present three or four options for you to choose from," Charles says. This step takes a couple of months.

**Permits.** Once the design is selected, the architect will go through the permitting phase. Because this step can take up to four months, construction drawing and pricing are worked on simultaneously.

**Bids.** The next step is to complete the team, so your architect will get bids from contractors and decide who will help them work on your home.

**Construction.** After that, construction can begin. "Based on how large the project is, it varies, but it can take around 14 months to complete this step," Charles says. "If it's a full house renovation, we typically recommend not living in the home during the process."

## NATURAL FINISHES

White oak was incorporated throughout the home in the form of ceiling beams, lower kitchen cabinets, stair railings, shelving and a bathroom vanity.

"All the white oak is natural stain with a clear coat," Charles says. Its clean finish and light color are reminiscent of mid-century-style furnishings and give the home an MCM feel, despite the features being new.

Most of the home follows a neutral color palette, but the kitchen, office and primary bathroom have deep-blue features that play to one of the homeowner's preferences. "The client loves blue, so we wanted to incorporate it where we could," Charles says.

## RESPECTING THE PAST

Whenever Charles and his team approach a renovation, their goal is to always respect the home's origins.

"We try to understand what the original architect was thinking, and that informs how we approach the renovation. We use the lines of the house to give us clues about how they handled things. It allows us to make interventions that are sensitive to the original design decisions, even if we stray from the design," he explains.

Because they don't know who the original architect was, Charles studied Eichler case study houses and other local mid-century homes for inspiration.

**"The structure was there, but we had to strip it down to make the necessary changes."**





(ABOVE) THE ADDITION AT THE BACK OF THE HOME COMPRISES AN EXPANSIVE WALL OF WINDOWS THAT CONNECTS THE INTERIOR TO THE EXTERIOR, PROVIDING BEAUTIFUL VIEWS OF THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE. THE NEW DECK IS MADE OF IPÉ HARDWOOD AND EXTENDS THE LIVING AREA OUTDOORS.

(LEFT) THE BACK OF THE HOME HAD A FULL RENOVATION—A NEW DECK, SCREENED-IN PORCH AND PATIO. THE STAIRS WERE RELOCATED TO ALLOW FOR A LARGER DECK SPACE. ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE AREA WAS REDONE, THE ORIGINAL BRICK SIDING WAS KEPT IN ORDER TO BALANCE THE OLD WITH THE NEW.





(ABOVE) THE STAIRCASE TRANSFORMED FROM JUST A MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION INTO A SCULPTURAL PIECE. THE STAIRS WERE ORIGINALLY ENCLOSED BY WALLS ON EITHER SIDE, SO CHARLES KNOCKED DOWN ONE WALL TO OPEN UP THE SPACE. "SCREENS HELPED DIVIDE SPACES IN MID-CENTURY WORK," HE SAYS. "WE SPACED THE VERTICAL WOOD SLATS SO THEY WOULD PERFECTLY MEET THE RAILING ON THE MAIN FLOOR."



(LEFT) BLUE TILE WITH A GLASS-LIKE FINISH GIVES THE PRIMARY BATHROOM A CALMING ATMOSPHERE. ALTHOUGH THIS SPACE WAS COMPLETELY REDONE, IT MAINTAINED ITS MID-CENTURY FEEL VIA THE CUSTOM WHITE OAK VANITY, MODERN LIGHTING AND CLEAN LINES.

"There is a fair amount of mid-century homes in Washington, D.C., if you look hard enough," he says. "We showed our clients some homes in the area to help inform some of their decisions."

If you're thinking of working on your own renovation, Charles advises planning ahead and being prepared: "It's always going to take longer than you think—and cost more," he says.

But, if you're up to the challenge, you can live in comfort in a home that respects its past and is perfect for the present. ☯

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 129.



CHARLES MAINTAINED THE ORIGINAL FEATURES OF THE HOME WHEREVER HE COULD, AND THIS PART OF THE PRIMARY BEDROOM SUITE IS ONE SUCH EXAMPLE. "WE MADE ONE OF THE WINDOWS INTO A DOOR THAT LEADS TO A PRIVATE DECK. OTHER THAN THAT, THE WINDOW CONFIGURATION IS ORIGINAL," HE SAYS.

# PROJECT NOTEBOOK

**Year built: 1958**

**Location: Chevy Chase, Maryland**

**Original architect: Unknown**

**Bedrooms: 4**

**Bathrooms: 3½**

**Year of renovation: 2020**

**Length of renovation: 13 months**

## SAVE

Because the goal of the renovation was to maintain the home's original "vibe," everyone was happy to determine that some of the home's existing features were salvageable. "We kept all the existing floor and roof structure," Charles points out. "They were in great shape, so it made sense to keep them." This allowed for room in the budget to purchase new flooring for the two home additions.

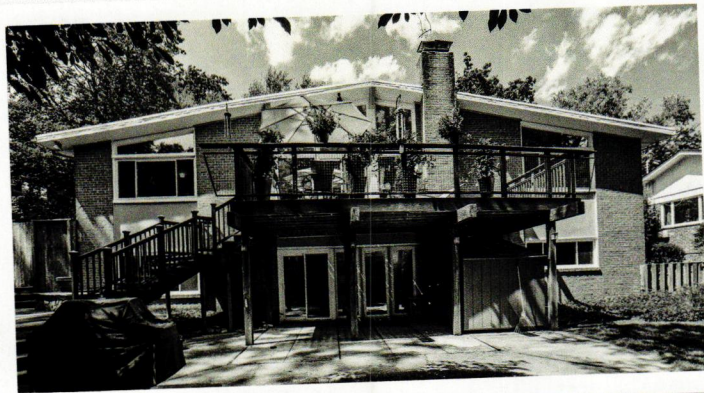
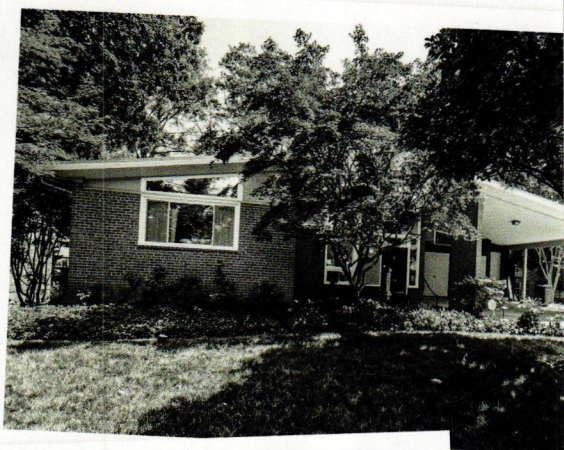
## SPLURGE

The home's curb appeal needed improvement, so the homeowners saved their big-ticket items for the exterior. "The front door is a custom pivot door with a hinge in the middle. It gives the front of the home a focal point," Charles says. "The exterior siding was also one of the bigger splurges. The product was so beautiful that both the client and I fell in love with it. We made decisions in other parts of the home that saved money so we could keep it in the project."

## ADD-ONS

For the most part, the original footprint of the home was retained, but two additions were built in order to accommodate the homeowners' modern layout preferences. Charles points out, "They added 850 square feet to the home." The living room wasn't large enough, so they expanded it and connected it to the rear deck, thereby improving the interior/exterior relationship and allowing room for a new fireplace and custom, built-in shelves. The other addition expanded the front entry, which filled in the gap at the front of the home and gave the entryway the "wow factor" it needed.

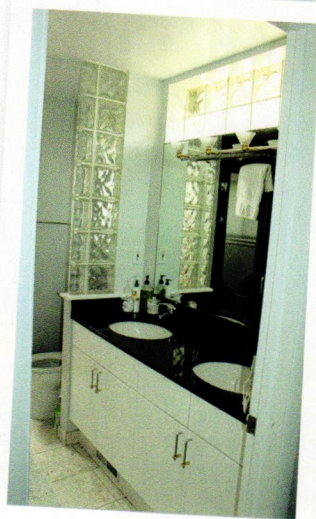
THE HOMEOWNERS CHOSE TO KEEP A LOT OF THE ORIGINAL EXTERIOR BRICK, BUT THEY DID NEED TO UPDATE THE LANDSCAPING. THE FRONT ENTRY ADDITION FILLED IN THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO WINGS OF THE HOME, AND THEY CLOSED OFF THE CARPORT TO CREATE AN INTERIOR OFFICE.



THE BACK OF THE HOME WAS OPEN, BUT SOME OF THE MATERIALS HAD SEEN BETTER DAYS. THEY REPLACED THE DECK WITH IPÉ HARDWOOD, MOVED THE STAIRS FOR EFFICIENCY AND BUILT A SCREENED-IN PORCH ON THE GROUND LEVEL.

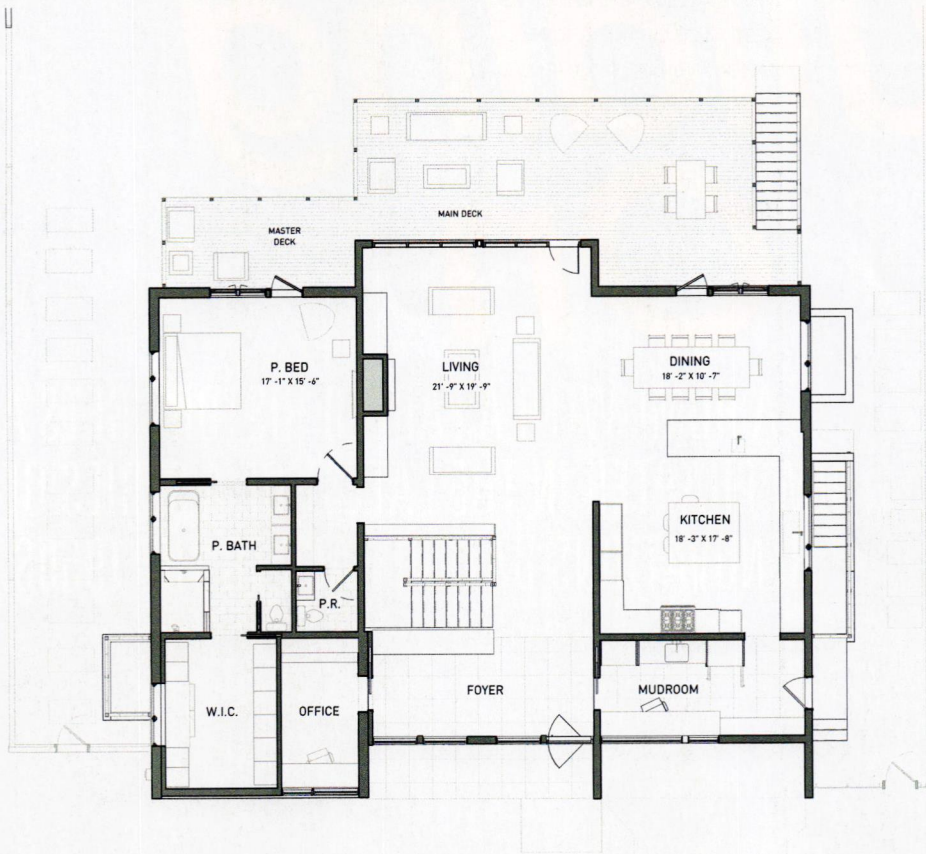


(ABOVE) ONE OF THE PREVIOUS OWNERS RENOVATED THE KITCHEN IN THE 1980S, SO IT DIDN'T HAVE THE MID-CENTURY FLAIR THE HOMEOWNERS WERE HOPING FOR, AND IT WAS A BIT SMALLER THAN THEY WANTED. THEY TORE DOWN ONE OF THE WALLS TO MAKE THE SPACE BIGGER AND REPLACED THE CABINETS WITH CUSTOM BLUE AND RED OAK CABINERY.

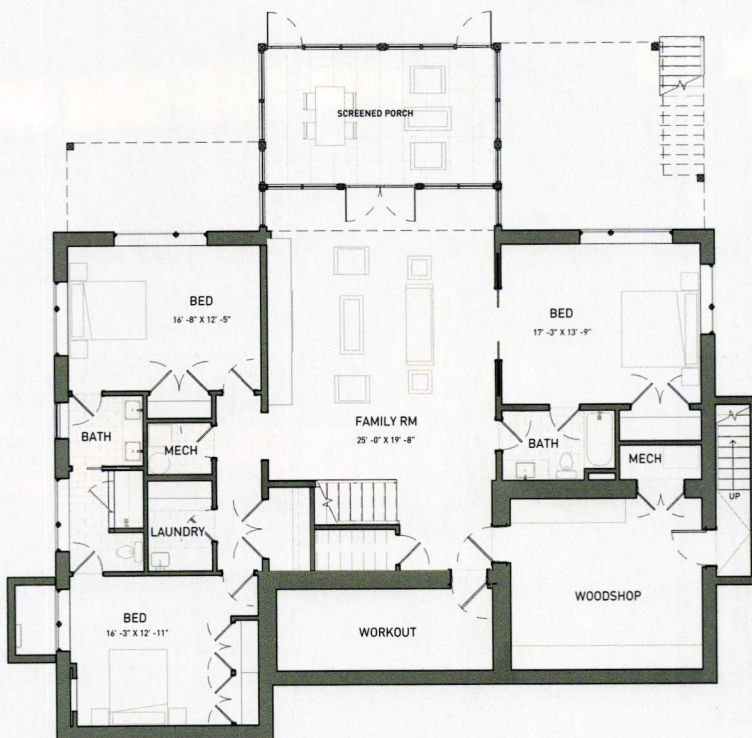


(LEFT) BECAUSE THE HOMEOWNERS WEREN'T FOND OF THE ORIGINAL FEATURES, THEY STRIPPED DOWN THE OUTDATED PRIMARY BATH COMPLETELY AND STARTED FROM SCRATCH. "THEY HATED THE GLASS BLOCKS IN PARTICULAR," SAYS CHARLES.





first floor plan 15  
1/8" = 1'-0"



basement floor plan 13  
1/8" = 1'-0"

# Building On

A HOME WITH A FABLED HISTORY GETS A  
NEW CHAPTER IN THE LATEST OF A SERIES OF  
RENOVATIONS DATING BACK TO THE 1950S.

Written by **DEVLIN SMITH** | Photographed by **SPIN PHOTOGRAPHY**





NICKNAMED THE "BOOMERANG HOUSE" BECAUSE OF ITS UNIQUE ANGULAR SHAPE, THE 1947 HOME WAS RUMORED TO BE A FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT DESIGN.



**It sounds like an amazing story:** It's the late 1940s, and an actress and her husband ask their friend to design their new home outside Portland, Oregon. The friend sketches something for the couple on a napkin that's quintessentially modern. Construction begins on the hill-nestled home ... and another Frank Lloyd Wright masterpiece is born.

**(ABOVE)** A NEW OUTDOOR LIVING TERRACE WAS CREATED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COVERED WALKWAY AND ITS WOOD SCREEN WALL.

**(BELOW)** THE PORTLAND, OREGON-AREA HOME IS SURROUNDED BY A VARIETY OF LUSH GREENS, INCLUDING DOUGLAS FIRS, RED CEDARS AND FERNS.





THE HOME'S ORIGINAL LIVING ROOM WAS PRESERVED AND REFRESHED IN THE PROJECT.

Real estate agents shared this story, which dates back to the 1950s, according to research conducted by historian Tanya Lyn March for the blog, "History Treasured & Sometimes Endangered," in 2015.

However, it's only half true. The home was, indeed, built by Margaretta Ramsey, an actress with numerous film, stage and television credits, and her husband, Walter, a career Navy officer. But there's no proof that Frank Lloyd Wright was involved in the design, although his work likely inspired the home's unknown designer.

Known as the "Boomerang House" due to its unique angular shape, the two-story 1947 home epitomizes the Frank Lloyd Wright quote, "No house should ever be on a hill or on anything. It should be of the hill. Belonging to it. Hill and house should live together, each the happier for the other."

Featuring an abundance of windows, a muted color palette and a flat roof, the home rests serenely in its stunning, half-acre surroundings.



"The home sits deep in the forest ... high above Portland," says Timothy Schouten, principal with Giulietti/Schouten/Weber Architects, the firm behind the home's latest renovation. "The clients loved that it felt as if it was their modern home in the wild—but literally five minutes from downtown."

## WORK IN PROGRESS

The home has changed hands multiple times in the past 75 years and has gone through multiple renovations, starting in the late 1950s.

"We have partial plans from the 1959 remodel, and they show a basement bath added, main-floor bath added, [primary bedroom] mahogany closet with built-in shelves, bathroom rounded-counter details, basement family room built-in storage cabinets and door trim details," Timothy shares. "These feature super-minimal, flush-style mahogany doors, along with the base, trim and accent walls made of complete mahogany paneling, mostly in the baths and bedrooms."

*"Our strategy was to just improve the plan in the interior and improve the livability of the outside spaces so it could be used year-round."*



(TOP, LEFT) LOCATED OFF THE LIVING ROOM, THIS OFFICE SPACE HAS SWEEPING VIEWS OF THE HOME'S INCREDIBLE NATURAL SURROUNDINGS.

(ABOVE) THE STAIRCASE CONNECTING THE UPPER AND LOWER LEVELS OPENS ONTO THE DOWNSTAIRS FAMILY ROOM.

(TOP, RIGHT) ONE AIM FOR THE RENOVATION WAS TO OPEN THE KITCHEN ONTO THE LIVING AND DINING SPACES. THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY REMOVING WALLS.





Many of those aspects can still be found in the home, as can the work done to the house in the 1980s.

"We left the 1980s primary bedroom addition as is," Timothy explains. "It expanded the original, modest-sized primary bedroom out into the rear yard due to site constraints (hillside and side setbacks to the north). The original-design primary bedroom maintained a true boomerang shape for the house and offered full living room views out to the forest, rather than partial, screened views of the primary bedroom. The new one essentially cut off the continuous rear deck into a small, basic square."

When the Giulietti/Schouten/Weber Architects firm was brought in to update the home, one area it planned to tackle was the primary bedroom, but that project was shelved when the clients decided to sell the house.

"Unfortunately, the clients moved closer to their work locations, and we were not able to start on phase 2, which involved removing the primary bedroom addition ... to open up the yard to the original 'boomerang' plan and adding a new, second-level primary suite," Timothy says.



## TRUE TO FORM

Even without the primary bedroom update, the work completed by Giulietti/Schouten/Weber Architects and its collaborators beautifully honors the home's origins while making it practical for a 21st-century family.

Walls were removed to open the kitchen to the living and dining room. A new garage in Mid Century Modern style was linked to the home via the construction of a covered walkway. The vertical tongue-and-groove exterior cedar siding and eaves were matched and replaced.



The new walkway is a standout feature for Timothy because of all it adds to the home: "It really helps define the entertaining terrace while also screening from guest parking," he says. "I love how the cedar in both the screen wall and canopy ceiling warm up the walk to the entry."

With quite a bit of work occurring outside, including the garage and entertaining space, care was taken to ensure the natural surroundings were respected.





“Forest Park primarily comprises large Douglas firs, red cedars and ferns,” Timothy says. “The goal was to bring new life to the new ‘outdoor living area’ via simple clean lines, repairing the deteriorating retaining wall, screening the parking from the terrace and keeping the forest natural around the house—with the exception of the beautiful red maple tree at the entry, where retaining walls were formed around the tree during the winter. We were all worried it wouldn’t survive the remodel/addition.”

Taking care of the exterior was a major aim of the project, which won the silver 2021 Master Design Award in the Whole-House Remodel category.

“The clients loved the original house, and we didn’t feel the need to change what we also loved about the house,” Timothy explains. “Our strategy was just to improve the plan in the interior and improve the livability of the outside spaces so it could be used year-round.”

Those improvements will be enjoyed by its new homeowners, who will be writing the next chapter in this home’s story. 🌿

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 129.

**(LEFT)** THE PRIMARY BEDROOM WAS EXPANDED BY A PREVIOUS OWNER AND SLIGHTLY ALTERED THE HOME’S BOOMERANG-LIKE SHAPE.

**(BELOW, RIGHT)** THE HOME FEATURES THREE FULL BATHROOMS, TWO OF WHICH WERE ADDED WHEN THE HOME WAS REMODELED IN 1959.

**(BELOW, LEFT)** THE HOME HAS FOUR BEDROOMS—TWO ON THE UPPER FLOOR AND TWO ON THE LOWER.

**(OPPOSITE, BOTTOM)** DECORATED FOR THE RECENT OWNERS’ YOUNG TWINS, THIS BEDROOM FEATURES BUILT-INS ADDED IN THE 1950S.





*"No house should ever be on a hill or on anything. It should be of the hill. Belonging to it. Hill and house should live together, each the happier for the other."* —Frank Lloyd Wright

THE RECENT RENOVATION PROJECT INCLUDED THE ADDITION OF A MID-CENTURY MODERN-STYLE GARAGE WITH A SHAPE THAT MIMICS THAT OF THE HOME. THE GARAGE IS CONNECTED TO THE HOME BY A COVERED WALKWAY.





## Less Is More

**Embrace the simplicity of the Mid Century Modern aesthetic in your renovation project.**

Timothy Schouten, principal with Giulietti/Schouten/Weber Architects, easily lists his favorite things about mid-century design: the clean, simple horizontal lines on the exterior, the simple palette of materials and the generous walls of glass for day lighting contrasting with the unadorned wall planes. His firm paid special attention to these elements when renovating what he calls the "Boomerang House."

"Keeping the same profile of materials is most important," he shares. "Over time, as the house has been painted, re-painted, etc.—but replacing the vertical wood siding and thin, horizontal eaves—the long horizontal walls of glass keep this MCM looking timeless."

When describing the project, a few themes repeat—clean, simple, timeless—that can be "mantras" for anyone taking on a Mid Century Modern renovation.

"My best advice would be: 'Less is more' in MCM renovations, along with trying to keep a restrained color palette and a restrained plan that allows flexibility to move furniture around and families to grow into the spaces," Timothy advises.

# PROJECT NOTEBOOK

**Year Built:** 1947

**Location:** Northwest Portland

**Original Architect:** Unknown; rumored to be Frank Lloyd Wright

**Bedrooms:** 4

**Bathrooms:** 3

**Year of Renovation:** 2019–2020

**Length of Renovation:** 17 months

## SAVE

The Giulietti/Schouten/Weber Architects team was able to find ways to cut costs throughout this renovation by focusing on certain areas and dividing the project into phases. “Generally, in renovation work, it helps to isolate renovations or additions to confined areas rather than renovating entire houses,” Timothy Schouten, principal with the firm, recommends. Separating the house into sections allowed the team to determine what needed to be reworked and what did not, thus saving the homeowner time and money. “In this case, the primary bedroom and bath on the main floor were left alone, as well as the entire lower level, except for the new stair and screen wall.”

## SPLURGE

A major undertaking for the firm and the budget was revamping the kitchen, which included opening the space to the living and dining rooms. “Taking out the wall dividing the kitchen and living area allowed a much larger and much more workable kitchen layout with a true, center cooking island with bar seating,” Timothy says. “We splurged on the flush-mount ceiling hood to maintain clean lines at the counter. The ‘before’ shots show how cramped the kitchen was with the peninsula island and how remote the dining area was from the living area.”

## FINISHING TOUCH

Adding the garage and covered walkway to the property brought a number of benefits to the overall design. “The covered walk adds a formal covered entry to the house that was missing. It also frames the rear living terrace and helps screen the terrace from guest parking,” Timothy says. “Most importantly, it connects the much-needed detached garage to the house rather than putting the garage in front of the house. The walk and garage preserve the original house and ‘boomerang’ form.”

(RIGHT) THE PRIMARY BEDROOM ADDITION JUTTED OUT INTO THE BACKYARD, OBSTRUCTING LIVING ROOM VIEWS AND ALTERING THE ORIGINAL SHAPE OF THE HOME.

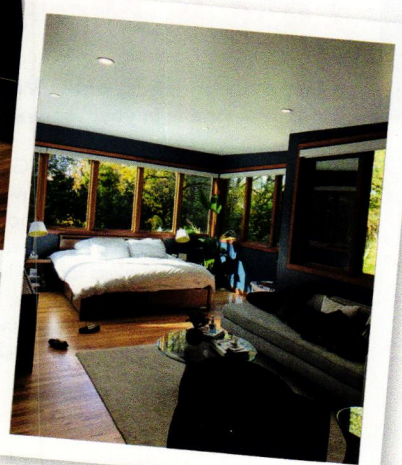


(ABOVE) THE BASEMENT FAMILY ROOM WAS ADDED TO THE HOME DURING A 1950S REMODEL. PRIOR TO THIS RENOVATION, IT LACKED MID-CENTURY CHARM.

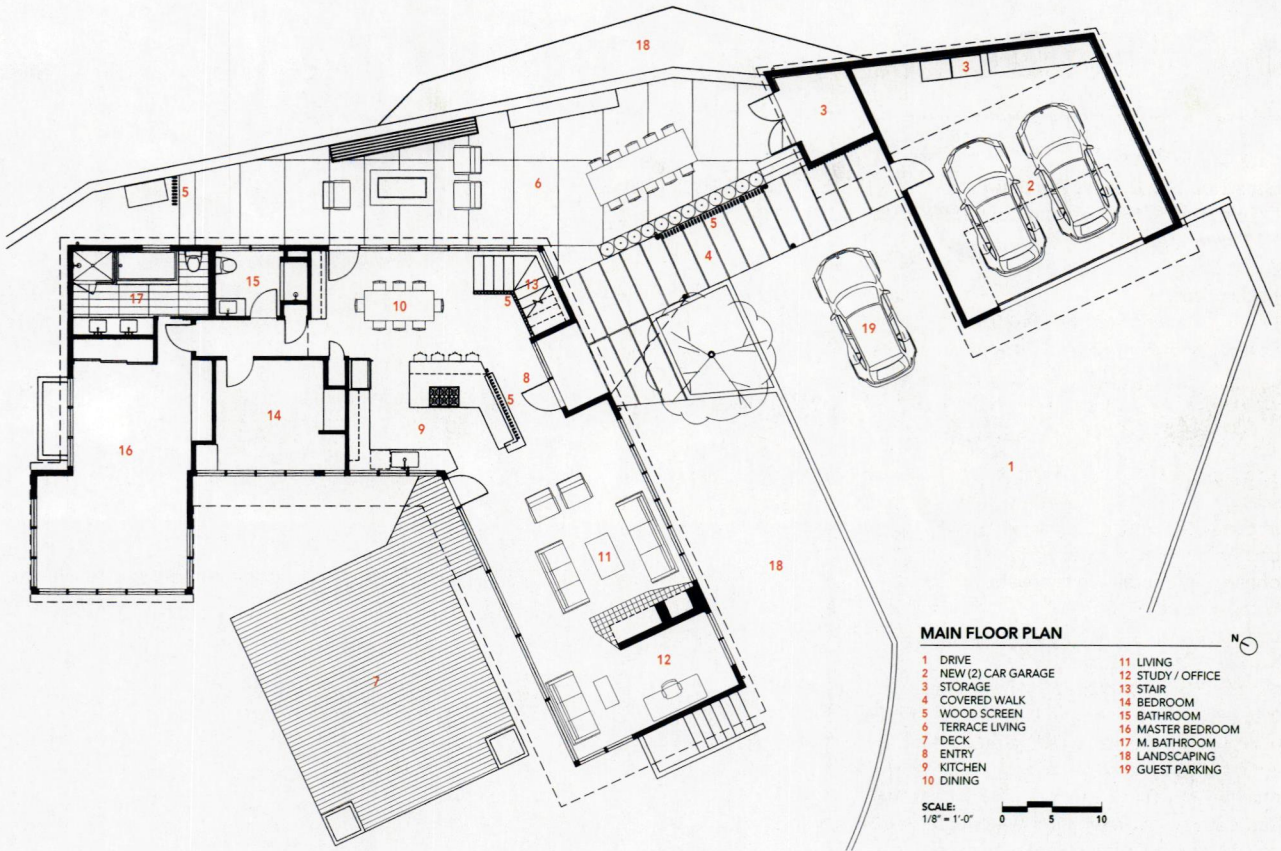


(ABOVE, LEFT) THE SMALL KITCHEN LACKED SEATING AND WAS DISCONNECTED FROM THE LIVING ROOM.

(BELOW, RIGHT) THE 1980S PRIMARY BEDROOM ADDITION ALTERED THE BOOMERANG SHAPE OF THE ORIGINAL HOME DESIGN AND LIMITED THE SIZE OF THE ORIGINAL REAR DECK.



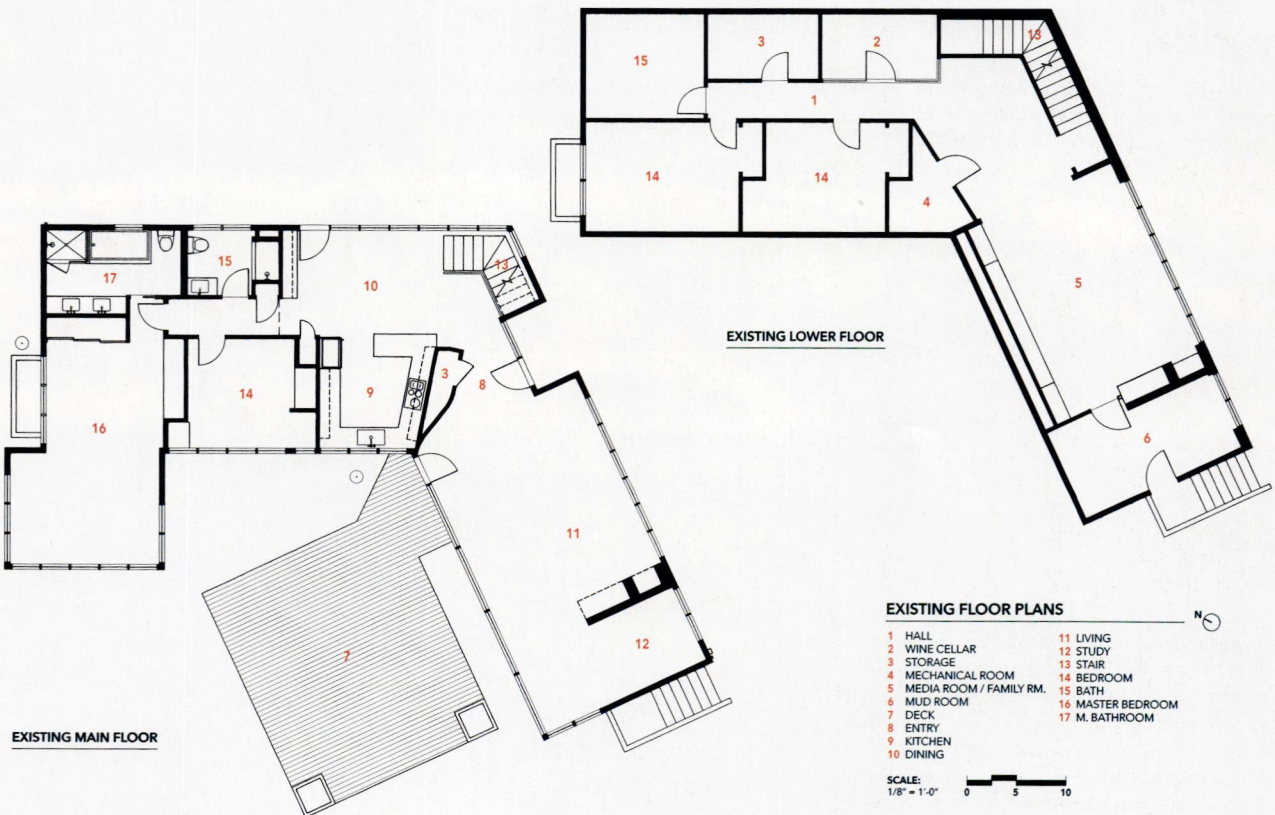
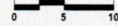




**MAIN FLOOR PLAN**

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 DRIVE              | 11 LIVING         |
| 2 NEW (2) CAR GARAGE | 12 STUDY / OFFICE |
| 3 STORAGE            | 13 STAIR          |
| 4 COVERED WALK       | 14 BEDROOM        |
| 5 WOOD SCREEN        | 15 BATHROOM       |
| 6 TERRACE LIVING     | 16 MASTER BEDROOM |
| 7 DECK               | 17 M. BATHROOM    |
| 8 ENTRY              | 18 LANDSCAPING    |
| 9 KITCHEN            | 19 GUEST PARKING  |
| 10 DINING            |                   |

SCALE:  
1/8" = 1'-0"



**EXISTING LOWER FLOOR**

**EXISTING FLOOR PLANS**

- |                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 HALL                    | 11 LIVING         |
| 2 WINE CELLAR             | 12 STUDY          |
| 3 STORAGE                 | 13 STAIR          |
| 4 MECHANICAL ROOM         | 14 BEDROOM        |
| 5 MEDIA ROOM / FAMILY RM. | 15 BATH           |
| 6 MUD ROOM                | 16 MASTER BEDROOM |
| 7 DECK                    | 17 M. BATHROOM    |
| 8 ENTRY                   |                   |
| 9 KITCHEN                 |                   |
| 10 DINING                 |                   |

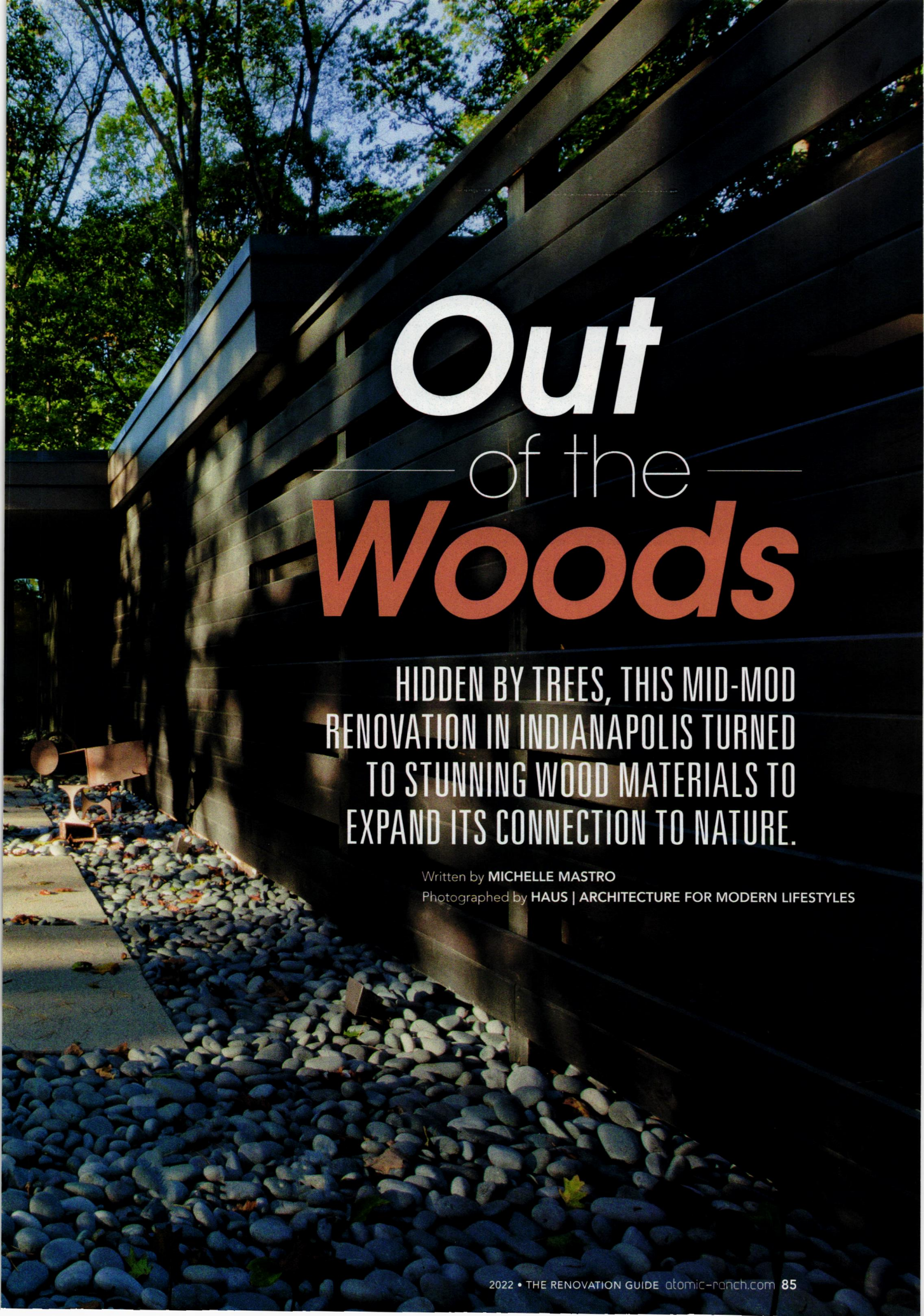
SCALE:  
1/8" = 1'-0"



**EXISTING MAIN FLOOR**



THE PRIVACY WALL ACTS AS AN EXTENSION OF THE HOME'S ARCHITECTURE. NARROW SLITS WORK AS BREEZEWAYS AND GIVE PASSERSBY BRIEF GLIMPSES OF THE MOSS- AND-ROCK GARDEN.



# Out of the Woods

HIDDEN BY TREES, THIS MID-MOD  
RENOVATION IN INDIANAPOLIS TURNED  
TO STUNNING WOOD MATERIALS TO  
EXPAND ITS CONNECTION TO NATURE.

Written by MICHELLE MASTRO

Photographed by HAUS | ARCHITECTURE FOR MODERN LIFESTYLES



(TOP, LEFT) AT NIGHT, THE WARM GLOW OF THE HOME'S LIGHTS DRIFTS OUT INTO THE DARK WOODS SURROUNDING THE ABODE.

(ABOVE, LEFT) THE CERAMIC ARTWORK PIECES WERE ASSEMBLED BY TOM VRIESMAN OF DESIGN STUDIO VRIESMAN AND HUNG TOGETHER. "WE WANTED TO SHOW FROM THE MOMENT A GUEST CROSSED THE THRESHOLD THAT THE HOME'S DESIGN WAS DRIVEN BY CRAFT. THE OWNERS ARE COLLECTORS OF MCM FURNISHINGS, CERAMICS AND ARTWORK, WITH A STRONG BENT TOWARD CRAFT AND HANDWORK. SO, FROM AN INTERIOR PERSPECTIVE, THE DIRECTION OF THE DESIGN WAS DRIVEN BY THE OBJECTS ALREADY IN THEIR COLLECTION."

PURCHASED MANY YEARS AGO, THE VINTAGE COCONUT CHAIR BESIDE THE FIREPLACE WAS PART OF THE HOMEOWNERS' ORIGINAL COLLECTION OF MID CENTURY MODERN FURNISHINGS. HOWEVER, THE REST OF THE FURNITURE WAS AMASSED WITH TOM'S HELP. HE CHOSE THESE PIECES TO BRING IN TEXTURE AND ROUNDED SHAPES, THUS COUNTERACTING THE SPACE'S PREDOMINANTLY CLEAN LINES. THE SMOOTH TEXTURE OF THE VINTAGE MILO BAUGHMAN LEATHER CHAIRS WORKS WELL AGAINST THE BOUCLÉ FABRIC IN THE VINTAGE FLORENCE KNOLL SOFA. MEANWHILE, A SERIES OF EAMES LTR TABLES ACTS AS ONE LARGER COFFEE TABLE, THEIR SMOOTH EDGES PROVIDING AN EXTRA, UNEXPECTED LAYER OF TEXTURE.



**Large, paneled windows** and architecture merging with natural surroundings are familiar features of Mid Century Modern homes. However, an abode concealed by trees near the Williams Creek neighborhood in Indianapolis, Indiana, takes these characteristic motifs to new, grander heights.

### UNEARTHING A GEM

First built in 1956 and designed by Bill Wright of the Indiana firm, Vonnegut, Wright, and Porteous, the home had felt like a time capsule. In fact, original mid-mod materials, such as white laminate cabinetry, were still in place.

Peeling back the historical layers of the home, principal architect and owner of HAUS|Architecture For Modern Lifestyles, Chris Short actually succeeded in making the renovated home feel more "MCM" than the original build.



A WALL HAD ONCE SEPARATED THE DINING AREA FROM THE KITCHEN. WANTING TO OPEN UP THE SPACE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, CHRIS CHOSE TO REMOVE IT. A NEW SKYLIGHT WAS ADDED TO RUN PARALLEL TO THE KITCHEN ISLAND. THIS SKYLIGHT AND THE NUMEROUS WINDOWS TOGETHER GIVE THE ENTIRE SPACE A FEELING OF OPENNESS AND PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATURAL LIGHT TO FILL THE HOME.

*"Starting a project such as this, we asked ourselves, How do you identify the original essence of the design? And then, how do you build on that? So, we took the strongest elements and continued that pattern," he says.*

This meant extending what was working for the home, such as the large, flat-paneled windows, while wrapping areas with a new privacy wall.

*"Without the privacy wall, you could see inside the neighbor's windows. It's really a fence—but it feels like an extension of the architecture," Chris explains.*



## COLLECTORS OF MID-MOD

Tom Vriesman of Design Studio Vriesman helped the owners extend the historical accuracy of their spaces with as many classic pieces as he could find, including a Florence Knoll couch.

"My design choices provided a warm, natural backdrop and palette to reinforce the warmth already in the family's collection, including their artwork," Tom notes.

Everything in the living room revolved around the warmth of the original brick fireplace. It's now a focal point, and the open-plan living room features a mix of period furniture and modern fixtures, such as the curved pendant lights.

(BELOW) TOM SELECTED THE ACHILLE CASTIGLIONI FUSCIA 1 PENDANTS ABOVE THE LIVE-EDGE WALNUT TABLE FOR THEIR ROUND SHAPES. BEAUTIFUL CURVES ALSO APPEAR IN THE VINTAGE SAARINEN TULIP CHAIRS, SMALL TABLE, GREEN VELVET CHAIRS, COUNTERTOP BOWLS AND APPLES. BECAUSE NATURE RARELY PRODUCES STRAIGHT LINES, THE MORE-NATURAL, ROUNDED PIECES WERE MEANT TO CONTRAST WITH THE MID CENTURY MODERN EMPHASIS ON MODERN ADVANCEMENTS IN DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE.



“The design choices were meant to give a sense of timelessness that still feels contemporary,” Tom says.

### OUTSIDE MEETS INSIDE

The HAUS team also added the screened porch by extending the existing flat rooflines. Here, the land gradually slopes in the front of the property.

“We tried to continue the existing lines in nature and in the home. Altogether, we added 240 square feet—which includes the screened porch,” Chris says.

The porch further extends the views into the surrounding forest. But, not being insulated, the space feels the outdoors “inviting itself inside” on chilly nights.

“The outdoor fireplace gives some heat, but we really wanted to establish that connection to nature here with this room.”

In other areas of the home, the connection to nature is equally pronounced.

The original redwood siding of the home had been beset by industrious woodpeckers and insects, which made the home theirs too. Hence, the home was re clad in vertical-grooved, poly-ash siding with a smooth finish.





(TOP, RIGHT) AT FIRST THE TEAM HAD CONSIDERED MOVING THE BUILDING'S ORIGINAL REDWOOD SIDING TO THE MAIN LIVING AREA'S CEILING FOR A RUSTIC, HANDMADE LOOK. BUT THE IDEA WAS SCRAPPED WHEN THE SIDING HAD PROVEN TOO FAR GONE FROM WOODPECKER AND INSECT DAMAGE. THIS OPENED THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING THE WALNUT CABINETRY, THEREBY FULFILLING THE TEAM'S PREFERENCE FOR WARM, EARTHY ELEMENTS PULLED FROM NATURE BUT WITH A SLEEK, SOPHISTICATED FINISH.

(ABOVE, RIGHT) THE SCREENED PORCH GIVES OCCUPANTS A CHANCE TO COMMUNE WITH NATURE FROM THE COMFORT OF BEING INDOORS. THE WOODBURNING STOVE OFFERS MUCH NEEDED WARMTH DURING COLDER MONTHS.



(ABOVE) IN THE BEDROOM, THE OLIVE GREEN OF THE ACCENT WALL MAKES AN IMPACTFUL JUXTAPOSITION OF COLOR WHEN PAIRED WITH THE CUSTOM WALNUT CABINETY. "BUT THE COLOR CHOICE ALSO HIGHLIGHTS A RETURN TO NATURE, WHICH IS THE PRIMARY EXPERIENCE IN THE HOME, ACHIEVED THROUGH THE RENOVATION," TOM NOTES. THE LIVE-EDGE WALNUT HEADBOARD FURTHER STRENGTHENS THE UNION OF NATURE AND ARCHITECTURE CELEBRATED IN THE HOUSE.

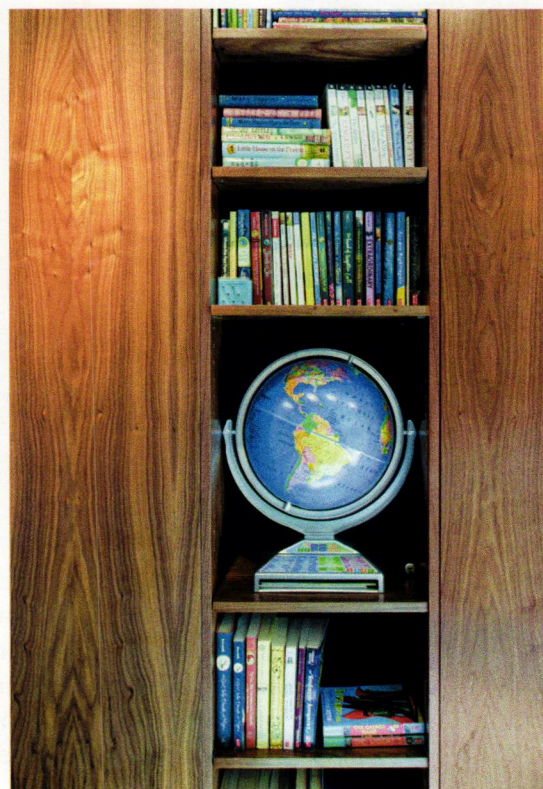
(RIGHT) ALTHOUGH MANY OF THE SHELVES ARE COVERED BY THE WALNUT CABINETS, A FEW SPOTS REMAIN EXPOSED, OFFERING A PEEK OF SOME OF THE HOME'S EVERYDAY OBJECTS.

(OPPOSITE, BOTTOM) THE BATHROOM USES WHITE GLAZED CERAMIC TILE TO MATCH THE WHITE WALLS FEATURED ELSEWHERE IN THE HOME. SLATE FLOORING OFFSETS THE WIDE-PLANK OAK FLOORS OF THE OTHER SPACES TO BALANCE WARMER HUES WITH COLDER TONES.

Cedar strips with an ebony stain were used for the entrance area that, when seen through the narrow window slit at the front, gives the illusion that the inside wood matches the wood siding.

"We wanted to keep everything simple while enhancing and modernizing where we could in the most respectful way that stayed true to the original architecture," Chris points out.

The custom millwork, crafted from walnut, is another clear gesture to nature. Given the grand windows, occupants might even imagine the complete life of the wood as a material—stretching from tree to wood pile to jaw-dropping cabinetry. The wood pile leaning against the screened porch, says Chris, was a subtle gesture to this concept.





(ABOVE) BECAUSE THE HOME SITS SO CLOSE TO NEIGHBORING HOUSES IN A CITY SUBURB, THE PRIVACY WALL FELT NECESSARY TO THE TEAM, WHICH WANTED TO CREATE THE ILLUSION THAT THE HOUSE SAT IN THE MIDST OF INDIANA WOODS. THE HOMEOWNERS CHOSE TO ADD A ROCK-AND-MOSS GARDEN TO SOFTEN THE SPACE AND OFFER THOSE STAYING IN THE GUESTROOM A PRIVATE VIEW OF UNIQUE GARDENS.



OUTSIDE, THE CONCRETE PAVERS EXTEND THE HOME'S CLEAN LINES INTO NATURE, MERGING THE HOME WITH THE SURROUNDING FOREST OF TALL TREES. POPS OF GRASS BETWEEN THE PAVERS ALLUDE TO THE UNION OF NATURE AND ARCHITECTURE ESTABLISHED IN THE HOME'S RENOVATION.

## CLEAN LINES

The HAUS team also changed the surrounding landscape by removing clinging underbrush. New, verdant greenery was planted.

"Nature is really the star of this home," Chris notes.

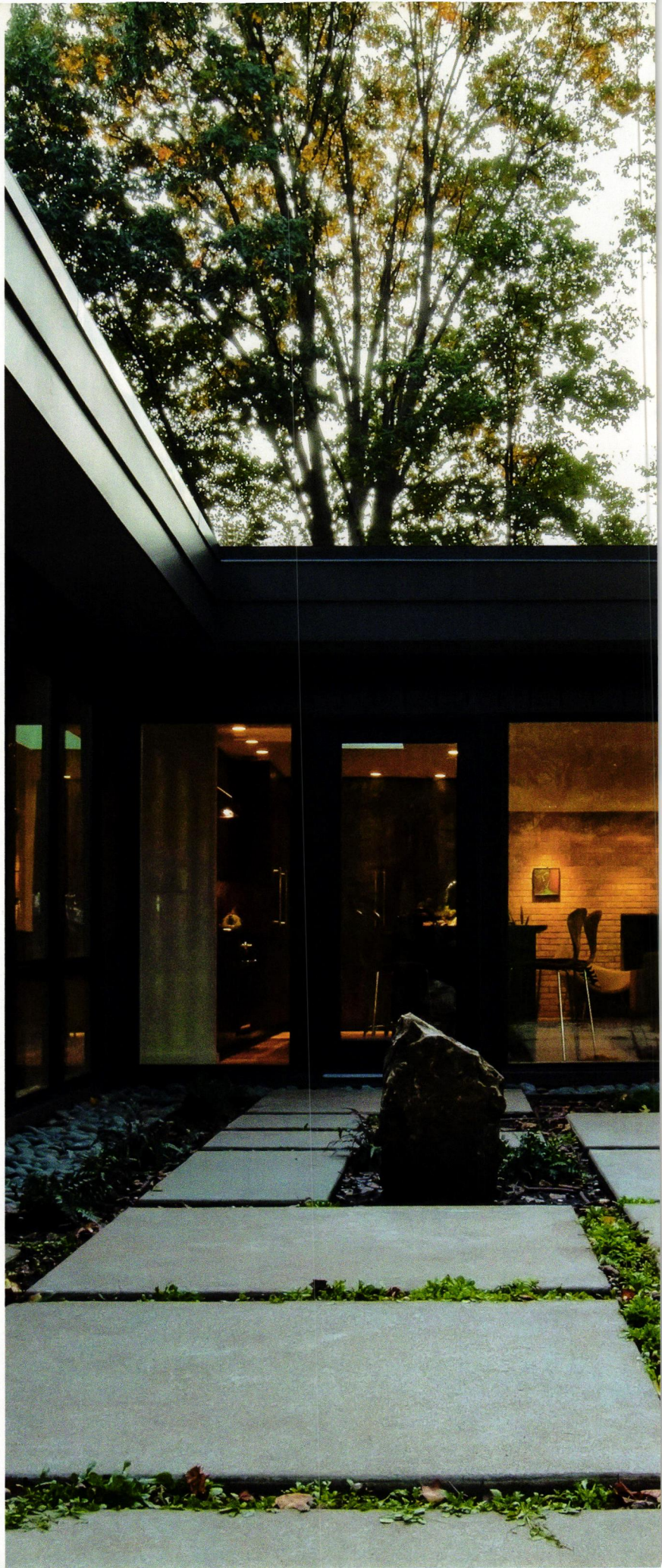
Thus, a private moss garden tucked behind the privacy fence connects the home to nature even more. The curved forms of the garden's statuesque rocks are a nice juxtaposition to the clean lines of the home, both inside and outside: "The landscape design team wanted to complement the straight lines with curved edges."

In addition, the rounded shapes of the live-edge walnut table and headboard also blend clean lines with nature's rounded shapes.

At various points throughout the renovation, Chris and the team wondered if they had pulled too much from nature.

"We were thinking at the time that perhaps we were using too much wood. However, walnut is a timeless MCM material, so we went with it."

Adorned in rich wood and surrounded by forest, this mid-mod abode blends nature with architecture in a way that's unique to Mid Century Modern design. ☼





# PROJECT NOTEBOOK

**Built: 1956**

**Location: Indianapolis, Indiana**

**Original Architect: Bill Wright of**

**Vonnegut, Wright, and Porteous**

**Bedrooms: 3**

**Bathrooms: 2**

**Year of Renovation: 2017**

**Length of Renovation: 12 months**

## SAVE

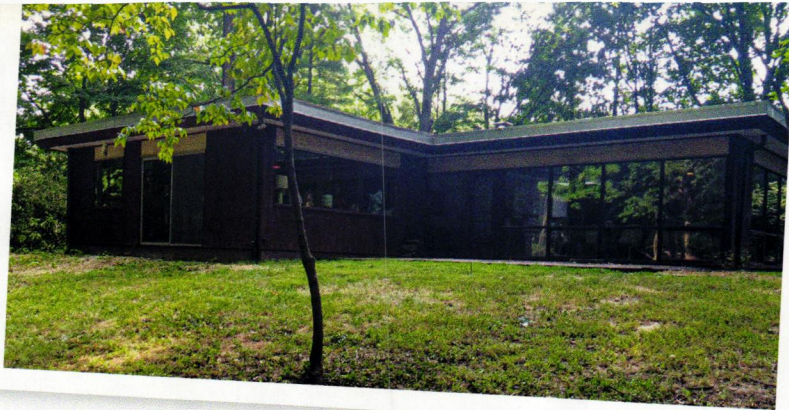
Initially, the renovation was going to flip the main living area by the fireplace with the kitchen. The owners had wanted to open up the space to get more natural light and better views of the surrounding woods, but this would have meant tearing out the fireplace and its original brick and cantilevered concrete hearth. All this extra work would have taken time and money. Plus, it would have affected the narrow window slit in the entryway that offers the view of the inside cedar paneling extending out to the poly-ash siding.

## SPLURGE

"By far, the biggest splurge of the renovation was replacing all the windows around the sides of the home. The panoramic window walls also needed new steel, which had become too old at that point. So, they had to be replaced as well," Chris says. In the end, they replaced the original windows with new, double-glazed, floor-to-ceiling windows to let more natural light in. "We replaced and added new skylights above the kitchen pantry. The original small, south-facing windows, where the screened porch is now, were also replaced with high-efficiency windows to allow the sunlight to heat the space as much as possible."

## SECRET GARDEN

The main entryway is connected to a surprising architectural feature: the privacy wall that frames the rock-and-moss garden. These gorgeous landscape elements can be seen from the bedrooms, offering a "secret garden" available to occupants but barely viewable from outside through narrow breezeway slits. The wall not only helps maintain privacy, it also presents spots for south-facing sunrays to peer inside the rooms.



(ABOVE) THE HOME'S ORIGINAL REDWOOD SIDING WAS DAMAGED BY INSECTS AND WOODPECKERS. THE HOME WAS RECLAD IN VERTICAL-GROOVE, POLY-ASH SIDING WITH A SMOOTH FINISH.

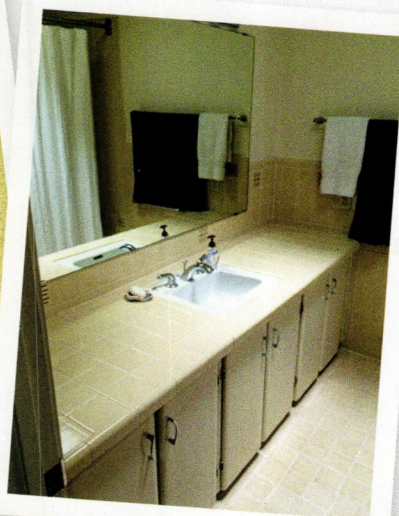


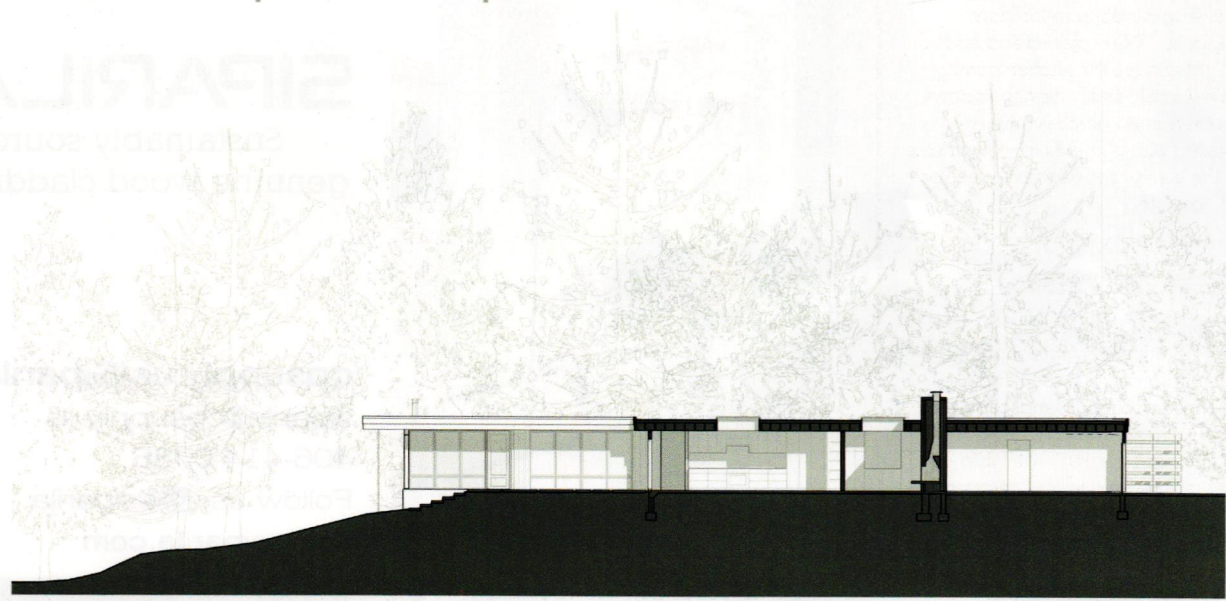
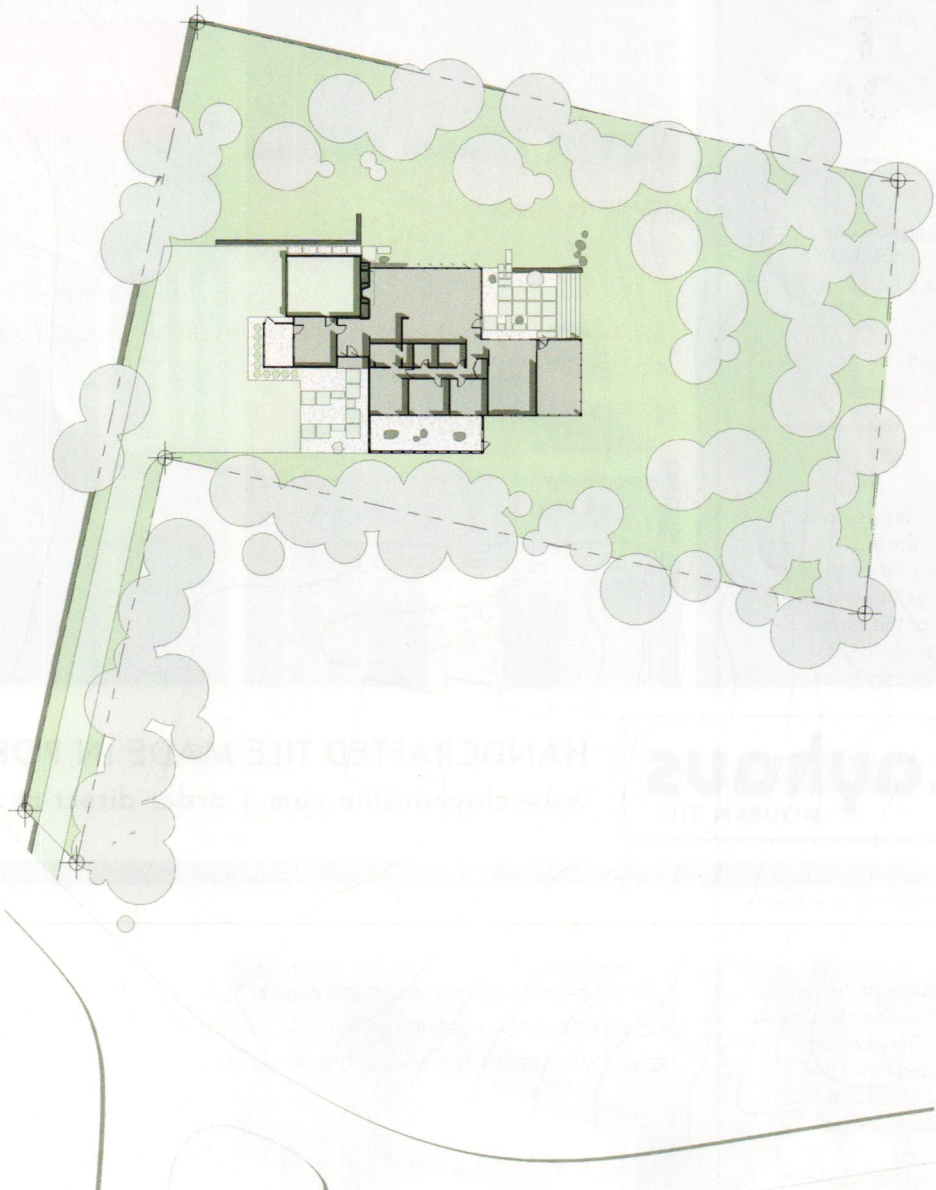
(ABOVE) THE HOME'S ORIGINAL ENTRYWAY FELT CRAMPED. WANTING A MORE OPEN CONCEPT, THE TEAM OPENED UP THE SPACE BY POSITIONING THE NEW ENTRY AND REMOVING PARTS OF THE WALL BETWEEN THE LIVING SPACE AND THE KITCHEN.

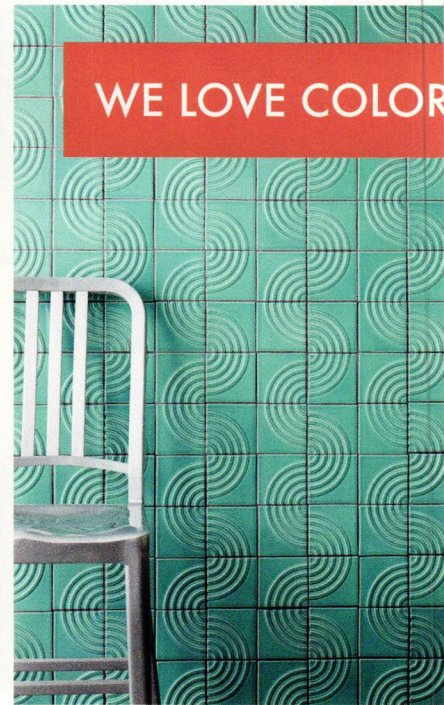
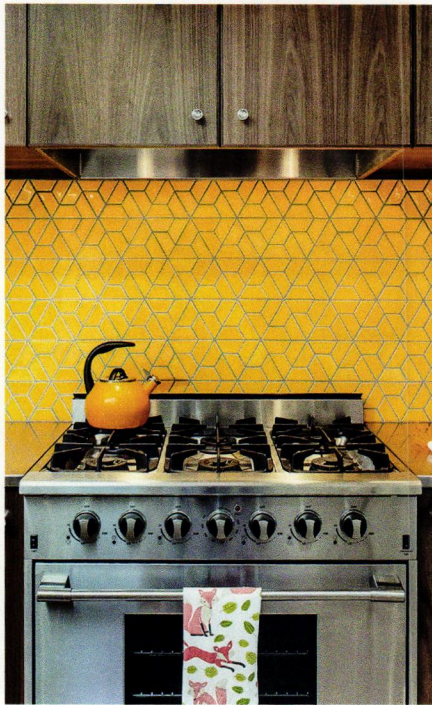
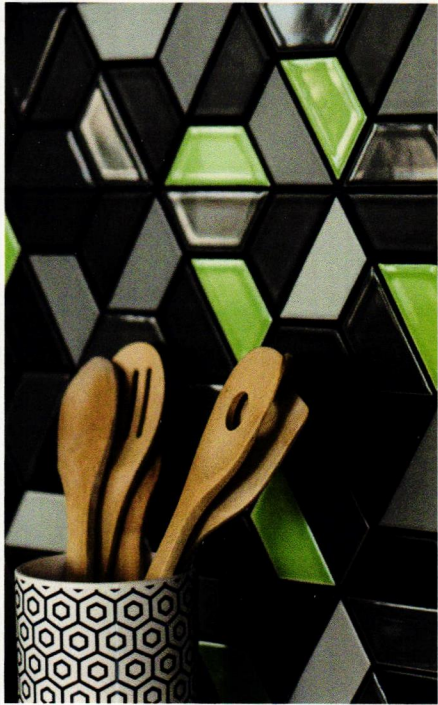


(ABOVE, LEFT) BEFORE THE RENOVATION, THE PREEXISTING KITCHEN WALL RESTRICTED MOVEMENT AMONG SPACES.

(BELOW, RIGHT) THE ORIGINAL BATHROOM, UNTOUCHED SINCE THE HOME HAD BEEN BUILT, NEEDED AN UPDATE OF COLOR, WHICH WAS ADDED WITH THE WALNUT CABINETRY.







WE LOVE COLOR



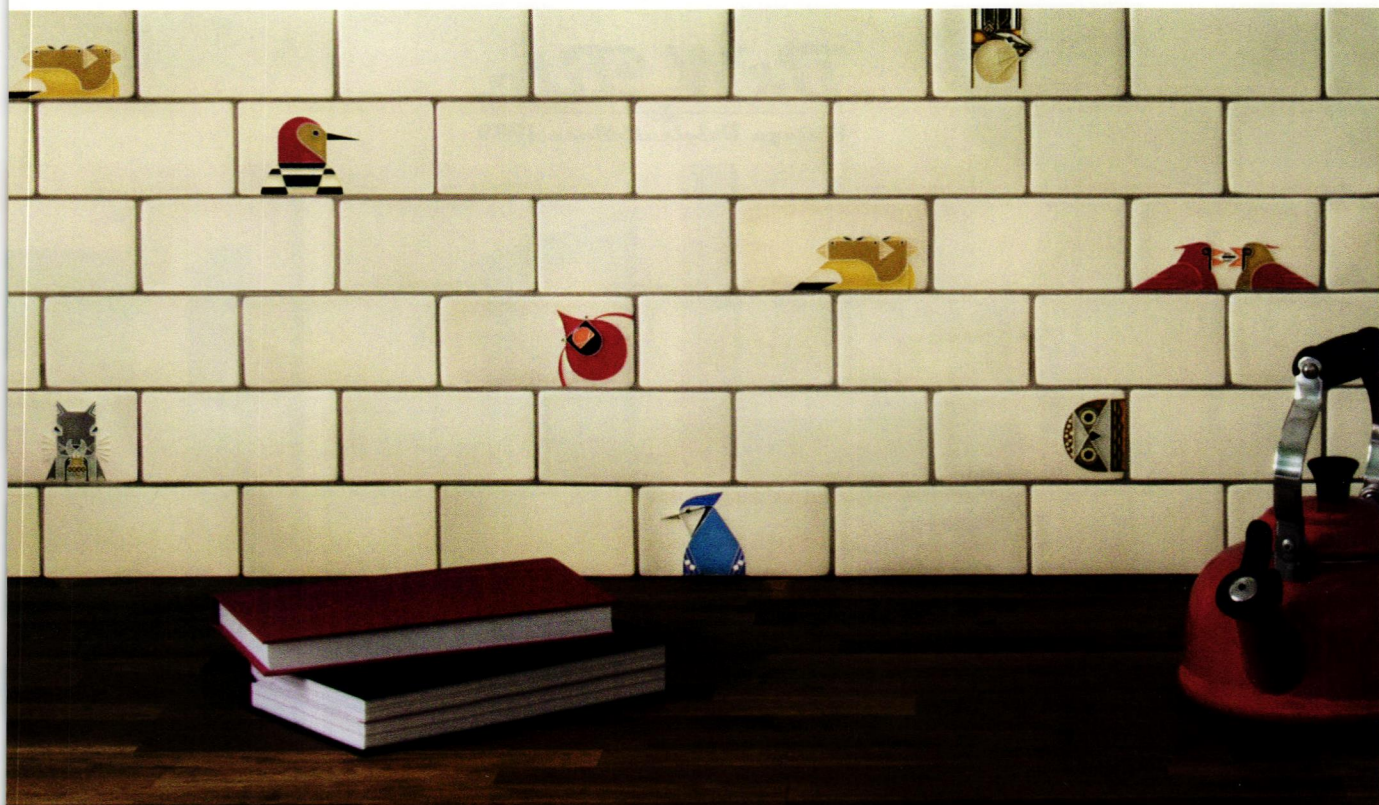
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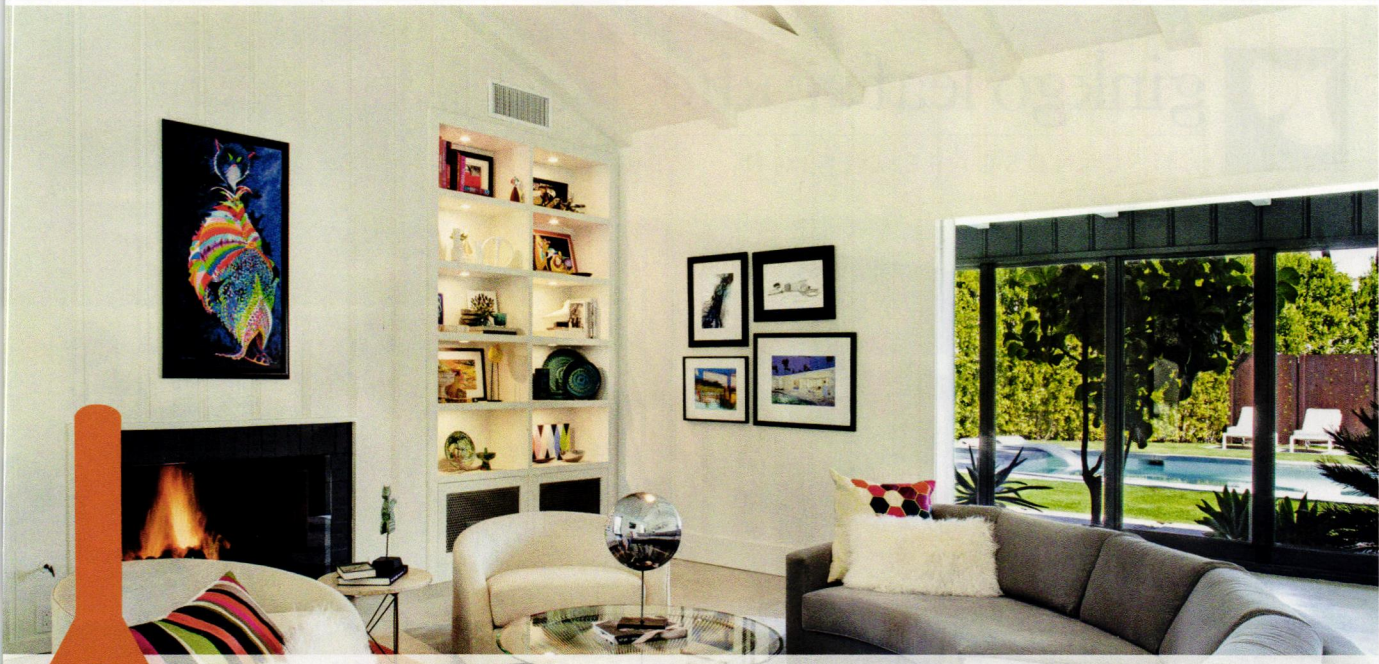




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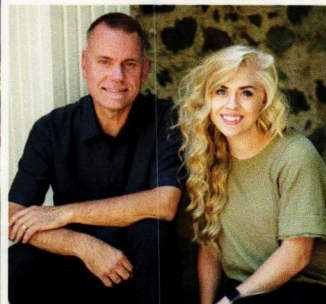
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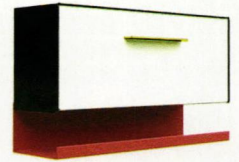
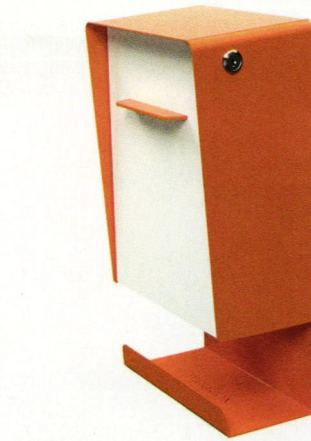
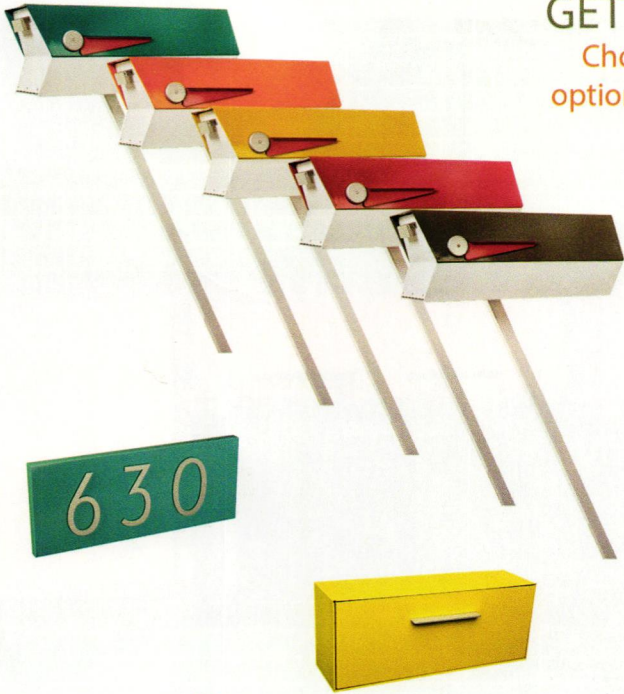
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CONCRETE FLOORS IN A KITCHEN MAKE CLEANUP A BREEZE. A SOFT ROLLER VACUUM, SPIN MOP AND HOT WATER ARE THE ONLY TOOLS YOU NEED TO KEEP FLOORS GLEAMING. (PHOTO BY CHIP ALLEN)



FINISHED CONCRETE FLOORS CAN SET THE STAGE FOR A MID-CENTURY HOME, PROVIDING A UNIFYING BACKDROP FOR VINTAGE FURNITURE, ART AND PLANTS.

# Paved Paradise

## Why I love my finished concrete floors

Written and photographed by **ROBERT MAURER AND GLEN WARREN**

ARE YOU READY FOR A RENOVATION but don't know where to begin?

It's not uncommon to feel overwhelmed by a remodel—particularly when decisions affect the whole house. As a rule, we generally guide our clients to begin with flooring. After all, every renovation should start with a “solid foundation.”

Let's take a closer look at finished concrete. Forget what you've heard about this surface being cold and uninviting. Concrete's ease of cleaning, durability and unique character make it a particularly desirable surface for mid-century homes.

No matter what material you're considering for your floors, the decision might be enough to make your head spin. Here's to putting your best foot forward for a renovation on “solid ground”!

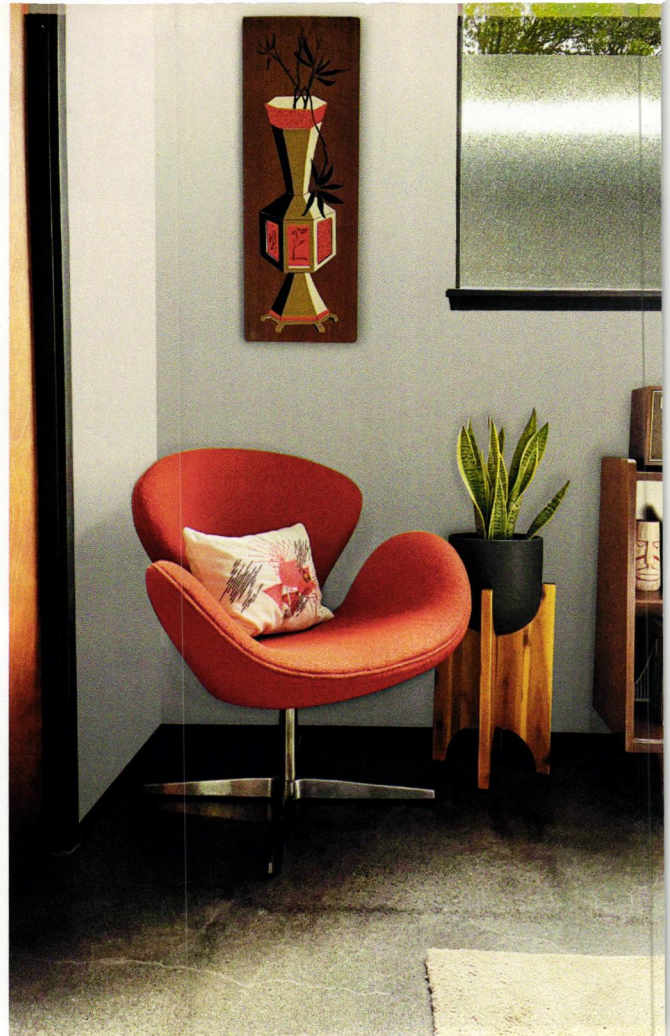
### What Lies Beneath

When it comes to refinishing concrete, the details matter. Level of polish (sheen) and desired color both significantly impact the total cost because of the additional work involved.

From the beginning, I knew I wanted to go the more expensive route (of course): darker concrete floors with a satin sheen throughout. So, to maintain the budget, I managed the demo and removal of existing flooring myself.

My home had a patchwork of different flooring throughout—laminated wood, carpeting, tile and multiple layers of linoleum—including the original from 1974.

First, the laminate had to come up and then the underlayment. While these came out in good-sized chunks, I had to wear a mask, because there was a ton of dust and pet hair that had accumulated from previous owners. As I worked, knowing that hidden dust, dirt and critters would never again be a problem, I felt even better about my decision. Luckily, the carpeting and foam also came up easily.



(ABOVE, LEFT) AREAS RUGS HELP DEFINE SPACES AND CREATE VISUAL PAUSES WHEN ONE CONSISTENT FLOORING IS USED THROUGHOUT THE HOME. (PHOTO BY CHIP ALLEN)

(ABOVE, RIGHT) PREVIOUSLY INSTALLED TILE AND LINOLEUM CAN SOMETIMES EMBED PERMANENT GRID LINES IN A SLAB. APPLYING A STAIN DURING THE FINISHING PROCESS HELPS BLEND THESE AREAS.

(LEFT) A WARM CHARCOAL CONCRETE FLOOR CREATES A GALLERY-LIKE FEEL THAT EMPHASIZES ARTWORK, SCULPTURE AND DÉCOR.

The most difficult material to remove was the linoleum. I had an industrial razor-scraper, but I did have to call in additional help to remove some ultra-stubborn areas.

Overall, demo was a painstaking effort, but it was well worth it to be able to include what I really wanted into my budget.

### Professional Grade

After completing the material removal, my flooring contractor, Prep Concrete, assessed the slab and found it to be in remarkable condition. Only a few small areas needed to be reinforced and skimmed with a fresh layer of concrete.

This had me concerned; but, after the stain was applied, the patched areas became subtle, only adding to the unique character of the flooring and story of the home.

The grinding process involves using giant circular sanders with diamond bits that give a smooth, level surface.



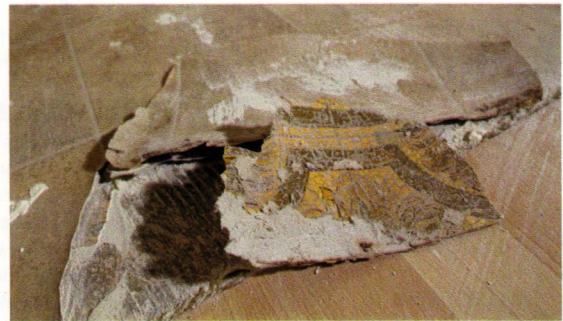
(LEFT) PRIOR TO RENOVATION, BEECHWOOD LAMINATE COVERED THE MAIN LIVING AREAS OF THE HOME.

*“In finished concrete ... the variegated colors, hairline cracks and uneven patterns tell a meaningful story.”*



(LEFT) BE FULLY PREPARED TO MOVE OUT OF YOUR HOME IF YOU'RE CONSIDERING CONCRETE FLOORS. HEAVY MACHINERY, FINE DUST AND ACCESS TO EVERY INCH OF THE SLAB ARE ALL PART OF THE PROCESS.

(BELOW, RIGHT) MULTIPLE LAYERS OF FLOORING ARE COMMONLY FOUND IN MID-CENTURY HOMES. IF YOUR HOME WAS BUILT PRE-1980, BE SURE TO HAVE ANY SUSPICIOUS MATERIALS PROPERLY TESTED FOR ASBESTOS CONTENT BEFORE STARTING.



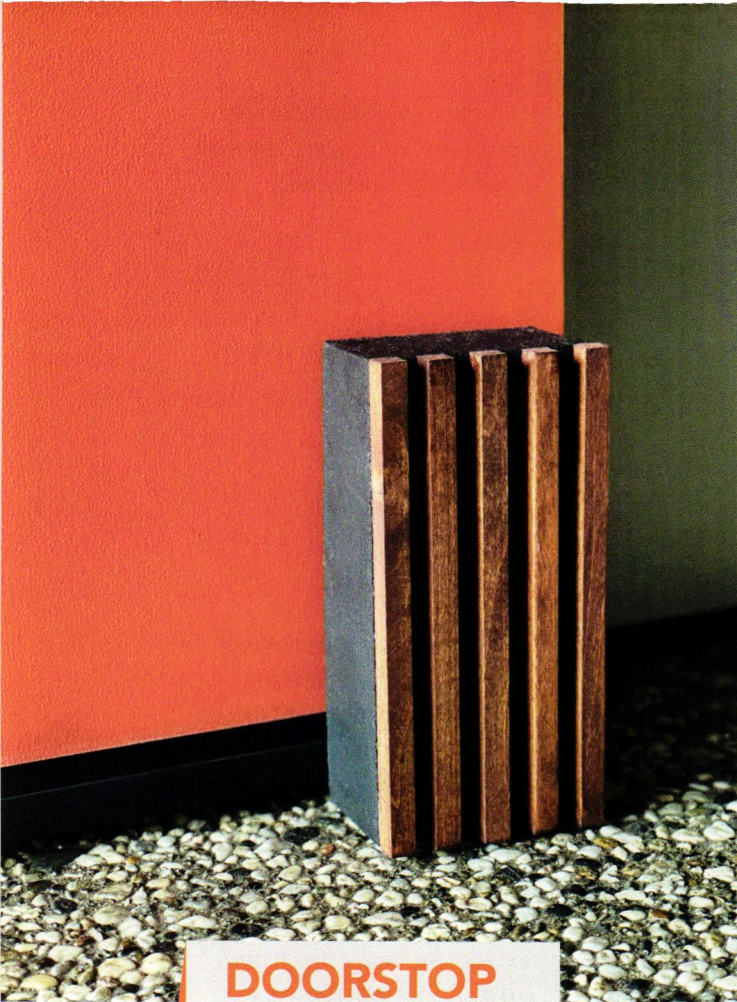
(ABOVE, LEFT) AN ORIGINAL EXPOSED AGGREGATE ENTRYWAY TRANSITIONS TO SMOOTH, POLISHED CONCRETE FOR A LOOK THAT UNITES THE OUTDOORS AND INDOORS.

(BELOW) THE HOME'S ORIGINAL CONCRETE SLAB WAS GROUND, DIAMOND-POLISHED, STAINED AND SEALED, REVEALING BEAUTIFUL AGGREGATE COLORS AND NATURAL VARIATIONS.

Hand-sanders are used to reach into tight spaces, such as corners and closets. From there, various pads progressively polish to a finer degree with each pass, determining the final sheen of the floor. Because I wanted a finish that was somewhere between shiny and matte, three complete passes were made throughout the house.

If you're thinking of pursuing concrete floors for your own home, be aware that the grinding process creates more dust than the Great Plains in the 1930s! Ideally, flooring is done before moving in whenever possible. However, if you're already living in the home, it's best to plan to vacate while the work is performed.





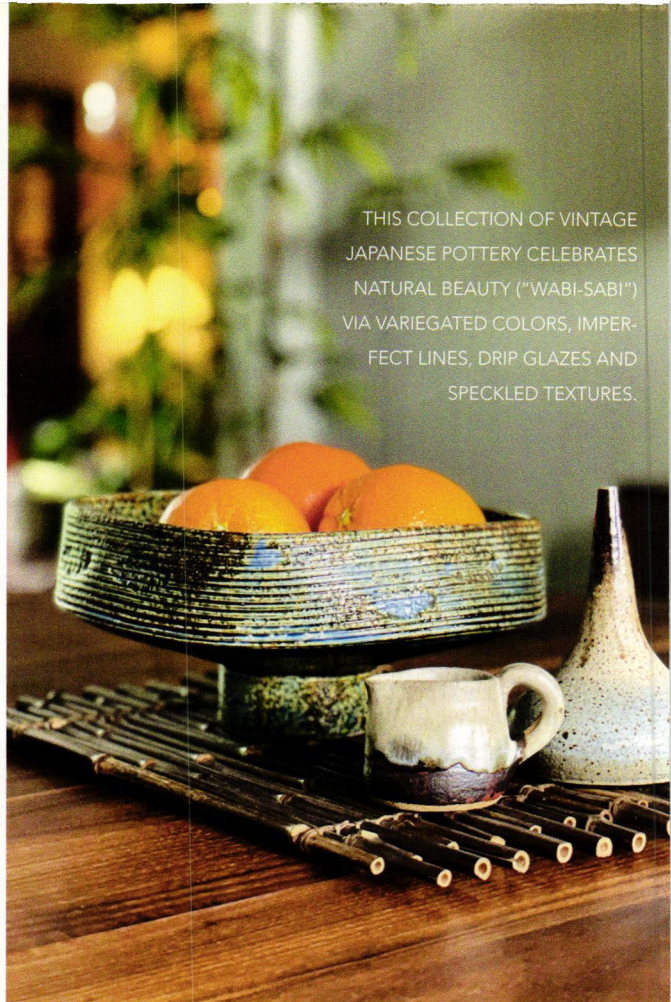
## DOORSTOP DIY

### MATERIALS

Fire brick  
3/8-inch square wood dowels  
Fine-grit sandpaper  
Spray paint  
Wood stain  
Clear matte polyurethane spray  
Construction adhesive  
Felt pads

### DIRECTIONS

Spray-paint the brick on all sides. Cut the wood dowel into five pieces equal to the height of the brick. Lightly sand the ends of each dowel. Apply stain to all sides and allow everything to dry. Finish with a top coat of polyurethane. With the large edge of the brick facing up, apply a light bead of adhesive to the back of one dowel and position it on the top center of the brick. Adhere the outer-edge dowels and then affix the remaining two dowels, spacing them evenly between the others. Allow the adhesive to set for four to six hours. Apply the felt pads to the four corners of the short end of brick to protect your floor.



THIS COLLECTION OF VINTAGE JAPANESE POTTERY CELEBRATES NATURAL BEAUTY ("WABI-SABI") VIA VARIEGATED COLORS, IMPERFECT LINES, DRIP GLAZES AND SPECKLED TEXTURES.

A pleasant surprise resulting from the grinding process was that it exposed the aggregate gravel that was used within the original concrete mix; it created a beautiful, natural, salt-and-pepper terrazzo effect throughout the floor. After grinding, the floors were stained and sealed. I worked closely with my contractor to create a custom-blended stain and sealer, which further emphasized the natural characteristics and richness of the slab.

### Wabi, Meet Sabi

A Japanese-inspired spirit is carried throughout my home in the form of furnishings, art and finishes, via which "wabi-sabi," a Japanese concept that embraces the perfectly imperfect, is found throughout. It's the celebration of wisdom in natural simplicity—the well-earned patina of a worn-in leather jacket or the beauty of unknown outcomes of fired ceramic glazes.

In finished concrete, it's the variegated colors, hairline cracks and uneven patterns that tell a meaningful story. Mid Century Modern aesthetics can sometimes lean toward a cold or clinical feel, but introducing a nonuniform, organic surface can make the space feel more inviting and grounded in the guiding principles of indoor/outdoor living. The industrial, imperfect look of concrete juxtaposed with the refined modern architecture and furnishings provides a wonderful contrast that truly captures the hand-in-glove relationship of Japanese influence and MCM design and lifestyle. ☯

FIND MORE RENOVATION INSPIRATION, PROJECTS AND RECIPES AT [MIDCENTURYMAURER.COM](http://MIDCENTURYMAURER.COM).



PHOTO BY TRAVIS PACHECO

ROBERT MAURER IS THE CREATIVE DIRECTOR AND RESIDENTIAL DESIGNER AT COMMUTER INDUSTRIES. IN THIS 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. FIND MORE PROJECT INSPIRATION AT [MIDCENTURYMAURER.COM](http://MIDCENTURYMAURER.COM).



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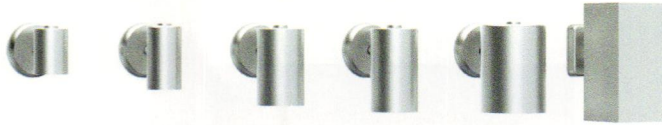
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# Soak In Your Senses

Starting your own bathroom remodel? This excerpt from Jackie Torres' new book, *Atomic Ranch Remodeled Marvels: Understanding, Planning and Designing Your Next Mid Century Transformation*, will help you with the first step on your to-do list.

Written by **JICKIE TORRES**  
Photographed by **BRET GUM**  
Styled by **JICKIE TORRES AND SARAH JANE STONE**

THERE'S A REASON THE BATHROOM CHAPTER IN OUR NEW BOOK, *Remodeled Marvels: Understanding, Planning and Designing Your Next Mid Century Transformation*, immediately follows our kitchen chapter: Many of the design elements that go into bathrooms are the same ones that you consider thoughtfully for your kitchen renovation: tile, hardware, plumbing and countertops. In many instances, you can design both spaces at once, lending cohesion—and potential savings—to your remodel plans.

I like to say that remodeling a bathroom is a great place to start for renovation “newbies.” It’s a small space with a manageable list of renovation tasks. Its smaller footprint also means it’s a little easier on the budget, because it requires fewer materials and takes less time. Newly renovated bathrooms are like jewel boxes, and they yield a wonderful sense of gratification once you see your design ideas come to fruition.

## Where to Start

Bathrooms are small but high-functioning spaces. Your bathrooms should be stylish but also efficient and really work for your needs. With myriad options out there, from curbless showers to floating vanities and stunning soaking tubs, how do you devise a design plan to fit your wish list into one of the smallest rooms in the house?



CLEAN LINES, TAPERED LEGS AND A RICHLY HUED WOOD LAMINATE ON THE CUSTOM-BUILT VANITY IN THE PRIMARY BATH HARKEN BACK TO 1950S FIXTURES IN KEN AND HOLLY SCHOOLMEESTER'S 1960 CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, MID-MOD.



*“Newly renovated bathrooms are like jewel boxes, and they yield a wonderful sense of gratification once you see your design ideas come to fruition.”*

Thomas Wall, of Mitchell Wall Architecture & Design, says you should start by being practical. “Sit down and think of what the priorities are. Do you want the shower to be able to accommodate one person or two? Are you bathers? Is it necessary for you to have a bath?” he asks.

There may be some popular bathroom features that you realize you don’t want in your own space, like a bathtub or double vanity. Figuring out what’s important (and what’s not) can save you time, money and space, and ensure that those things are being used for the bathroom you really want.

Another part of that practicality is measuring for usable flow. Like a kitchen, an easy-to-use bathroom has space requirements. “I like to have 18 inches on either side of a toilet, with a minimum of 5 feet of depth from the back of the toilet to the next wall,” Thomas says.

For easy access through narrow spaces, Thomas also tries to keep a 4-foot-wide circulation path between walls, doorways and bathroom features and furniture. Together, these measures make an oft-forgotten space easy to access, navigate and use.

### **What Makes an MCM Bathroom?**

Much as with a kitchen, the hallmarks of mid century style in the bathroom are streamlined simplicity. Your bathroom design should highlight where form meets function, and quality materials should take center stage. As for accents, elegant hardware and statement lighting are fun ways to punctuate the space.

Cabinets and vanities should be streamlined and, much like a mid mod kitchen, free of ornamental trim. Sliding doors were very popular in the mid century and are great space savers today. Floating vanities were the style du jour and still create a stunning modern look today, though vanity legs in a hairpin or tapered style deliver that chef’s kiss that makes a mid mod bathroom truly chic. Last, but certainly not least, tile is the mainstay of a Mid Century Modern bathroom and in many cases carries the brunt of your bathroom’s stylistic design.



(ABOVE & OPPOSITE) THE 1963 HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA, HOME OF CHAD BAKER AND TINA CLEMENT WAS REMARKABLY INTACT. ONLY THE HOME’S THIRD OWNERS, THEY WERE DELIGHTED TO FIND THE ORIGINAL BATHROOMS IN PERFECT SHAPE. THEY’VE KEPT THEM COMPLETELY INTACT.



(TOP, LEFT) WALNUT CABINETS IN THE BATHROOM (WHICH ARE MATCHED TO THE ONES IN THE KITCHEN) WERE PART OF THIS SIMPLE RENOVATION TO MANDY LACHER'S 1959 KRISSEL HOME IN PALM SPRINGS. MOSAIC TILE FOR THE SHOWER FLOOR AND GRASS CLOTH-STYLE TILE FOR THE SHOWER SURROUND ARE BOTH NODS TO CLASSIC MID-CENTURY TILE AND THE TROPICAL POLYNESIAN LOOK MANDY CHOSE AS THE MOTIF FOR THE HOUSE.

(TOP, RIGHT) THREE-DIMENSIONAL WHITE TILE AND A FLOATING WALNUT VANITY WITH ANOTHER FLOATING COUNTERTOP LEND AN ETHEREAL COOL VIBE IN TOM DOLLE AND GEORGE WAFFLE'S CANYON VIEW ESTATES, PALM SPRINGS, HOME.



While the bright pink, yellow and baby blue tiles of the period are the most famous, you can update the look for today with a palette of shades that are still bright and lively but in a more contemporary way. "Color does not need to be overwhelming to make a statement," says Thomas. "It's like people— if you have something important to say, you don't need to yell it ... you can just make a very calm statement of color, and it will change the feeling of the room."

If you find a mid century home with original bathroom tile intact, please think twice before you scrap it. These tiles were extremely well made and durable, and companies like B&W Tile make reproductions today that might be the perfect match, or, if not they'll color match it. If the 20K+ strong Facebook group called Mid Century Bathrooms (Vintage) is any indication, there's a big market out there that will implore you to keep your original tile or may take it off your hands to restore theirs. ☺

FOR MORE EXPERT TIPS, TRICKS AND ADVICE ABOUT REMODELING YOUR BATHROOM—OR ANY ROOM IN YOUR HOUSE—MAKE SURE TO GET A COPY OF THE NEWEST BOOK IN THE ATOMIC RANCH BOOK SERIES: *REMODELED MARVELS: UNDERSTANDING, PLANNING AND DESIGNING YOUR NEXT MID CENTURY TRANSFORMATION*, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT [ATOMIC-RANCH.COM](http://ATOMIC-RANCH.COM) AND [AMAZON.COM](http://AMAZON.COM).



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Written by **CHRISTINA DENATALE**

Photographed by **BRET GUM**

Styled by **JICKIE TORRES**

# Organization *and* Optimization

Check out these tips and tricks from organization expert Amanda Clark to make the most of your space.

ORGANIZING YOUR HOME CAN BE AN INTIMIDATING TASK, but it doesn't have to be.

Amanda Clark created Ever So Organized, a full-service home organizing company, to help people make the most of their space.

For Amanda, what was once a passion turned into a mid-sized company based in Orange County, California, where she and her team help homeowners through in-home visits, online courses and coaching calls.

Amanda started Ever So Organized about five years ago after she moved into an Eichler home ... and got rid of nearly half of her belongings.

"It probably took well over a year to really start to declutter and let things go. But as I did so, I felt lighter," she says. "I felt more in control. I liked my space better. And, I decided I wanted to help other people and especially their families do what I did."

Amanda began helping other moms in her area organize their homes, and it turned into a business.

TO MAXIMIZE BATHROOM SPACE, AMANDA HAS PLACED A HAMPER THAT'S HIDDEN AWAY INSIDE A CABINET UNDER THE SINK.





(ABOVE, LEFT) BINS THAT EASILY SLIDE OUT FROM THEIR STORAGE SPOTS ALLOW FOR EFFORTLESS ACCESS.

(ABOVE, RIGHT) AMANDA SUGGESTS THAT AFTER YOU WEAR AN ARTICLE OF CLOTHING WITHIN A GIVEN SEASON, TURN THE HANGER THE OPPOSITE WAY SO THAT IT'S CLEAR WHAT YOU DO AND DON'T WEAR. SHE ALSO RECOMMENDS ALL-MATCHING VELVET HANGERS THAT LOOK TIDIER AND SAVE A TON OF SPACE.

(RIGHT) YOU CAN CUSTOMIZE SHELVES IN ORIGINAL BUILT-INS TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS. HERE, TOWELS, CLOTHES, TOILETRIES, ETC. ARE PERFECTLY STACKED FOR MAXIMIZED SPACE. ADDING LABELED BINS WITH DESIGNATED INVENTORY CAN FREE UP EVEN MORE SPACE, THUS ALLOWING FOR MORE STORAGE.

## Step by Step

Amanda follows an eight-step home organization process: The "8 Cs" are clear, categorize, clean, declutter, create zones, contain, clearly label and feel calm. No matter how big or small the space is, she always follows this process.

"That process is the same for a single drawer or an entire garage," she notes.

Whether you've just moved into a new home or have lived there for decades, it's never too late to make the most of your space. Amanda says it's easier to decide what to get rid of if you remove everything from your home, drawer, garage or whatever space you're organizing.





RATHER THAN HAVING "JUNK DRAWERS" AND THROWING MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS INSIDE, USE DRAWER DIVIDERS TO MAKE IT A LOT EASIER TO FIND DIFFERENT PRODUCTS.

(ABOVE, LEFT) THROUGH HER EIGHT-STEP PROCESS, AMANDA CLARK CAN HIDE ALL HER BATHROOM NECESSITIES UNDER HER SINK WITHOUT HAVING TO KEEP THINGS SUCH AS TOOTHBRUSHES, SOAPS OR OTHER PRODUCTS OUT ON HER COUNTERTOPS.

(ABOVE, RIGHT) THE LAUNDRY ROOM IS OFTEN THE MAIN CLEANLINESS HUB. IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE AN ORGANIZED SPACE SO THAT CLEANING YOUR CLOTHES IS DONE EFFICIENTLY. IF YOU USE LAUNDRY DETERGENT PODS, AMANDA SUGGESTS PUTTING THEM IN COOKIE JARS. THIS PROVIDES A SLEEKER LOOK THAN THE BAGS THEY COME IN.

"It's so much easier to see your belongings out of their 'homes.' It just looks different. It's easier to make a decision. In addition, categorizing these items also helps you realize what you might have multiples of."

She also suggests placing items in clear containers.

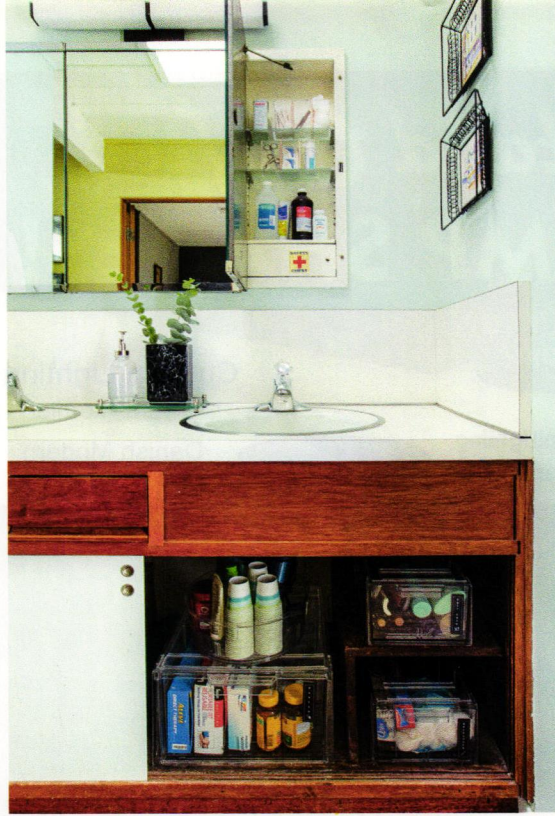
"For one thing, you can see what you have. It allows you to know what you have to buy or what you don't, so you won't overbuy. It keeps items fresher longer. And, it looks beautiful."

Containing things is a big part of organization. Putting items in jars or bins within cabinets or on shelves can significantly add room. Add dividers to drawers so that each item has a designated space.

Amanda notes that the most important thing is labeling: Even if you have a clear box, you still have to figure out what's in it. Labels make knowing what's in containers easier.

"Your brain doesn't have to work as hard," she points out. 🌀

IF AMANDA CLARK'S SERVICES INTEREST YOU, ENJOY 10 PERCENT OFF USING THE CODE "ATOMICRANCH10" AT [EVERSOORGANIZED.COM](https://www.eversoorganized.com).



(ABOVE, LEFT) THIS MID CENTURY MODERN CREDENZA NOT ONLY HAS ORGANIZED CABINETS, ITS ORANGE DRAWERS ALSO ADD A POP OF COLOR. YOUR CABINETRY CAN BE BOTH PRACTICAL AND STYLISH.

(ABOVE, RIGHT) MEDICINE CABINETS HIDDEN BEHIND MIRRORS ARE THE PERFECT “SECRET HIDING PLACE” FOR TOILETRIES. KEEP YOUR MOST-USED ITEMS HERE—PREFERABLY ON THE LOWER SHELVES FOR THE QUICKEST ACCESS.

(LEFT) FOLDING YOUR SHIRTS SO THAT THEY ARE UPRIGHT CAN CREATE ROOM FOR MORE AND MAKES THEM EASIER TO GRAB.



## Organizing a Mid Century Modern Home

Mid Century Modern homes are known to lack storage areas. Amanda Clark grew up in an Eichler home and currently lives in one, so she knows this all too well.

Although this issue isn't technically 'organization,' she suggests that if you move into a new Mid Century Modern home, you should really live in the space before making any changes so that you know what cabinets need to be added or which walls need to be moved.

“I really try to work with the home,” she says.

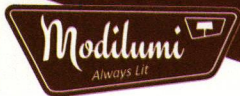
If you're struggling to work with your home, make it work for you. If you don't use your dining room often, don't be afraid to turn it into an office. You don't need to use a space for its intended use; make it optimal for you.

Amanda also suggests that adding baskets or bins that can be slid out is an easy way to make the most of fixed shelves without having to redo cabinetry.

Looking through social media is another great way to find organization ideas for your home. On her Instagram, @EverSoOrganized, Amanda posts the tricks she uses in her own Eichler house and the others she organizes. In addition, if you see another Mid Century Modern home in which the homeowner has done something with their space that you like, try it for yourself.

AMANDA'S MOTHER, CATHLEEN BURNS (RIGHT), RAISED AMANDA IN THE EICHLER HOME SHE'S LIVED IN SINCE 1978.

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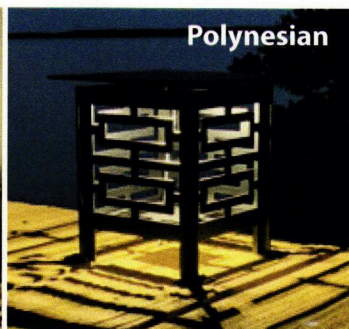
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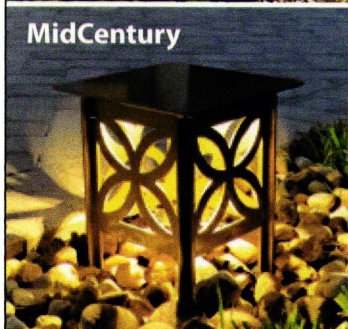
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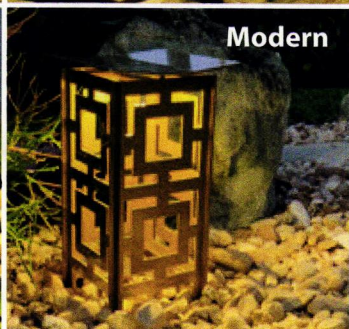
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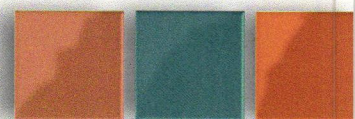
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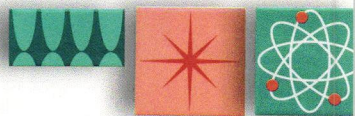
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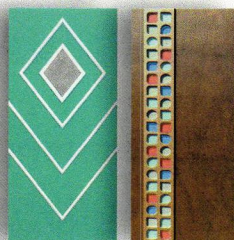
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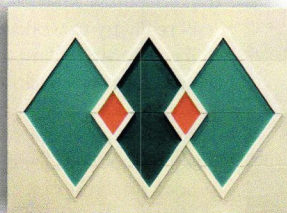
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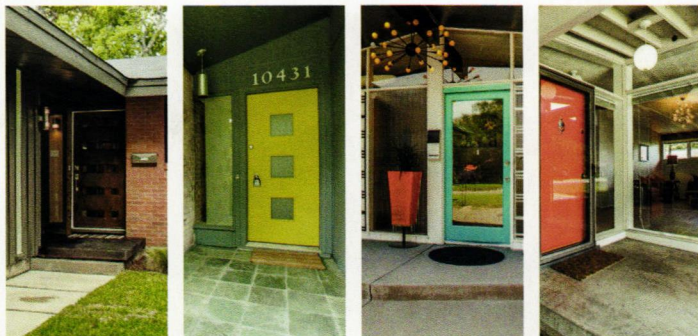


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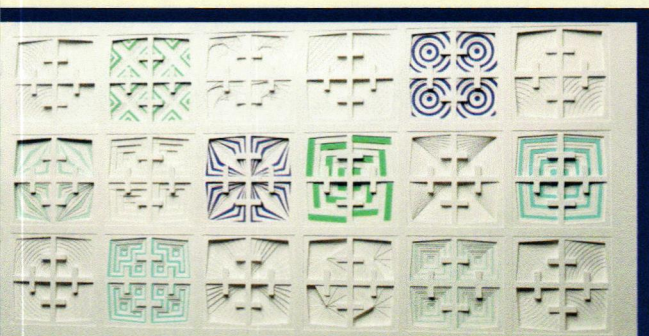
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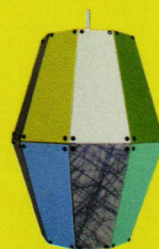
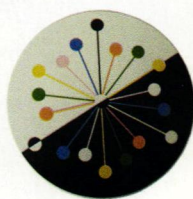
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Written by **KRISTIN DOWDING**

Photographed by **WESTHAUSER PHOTOGRAPHY**

# A Blank Slate

A landscape design firm turns an empty lawn into a peaceful, MCM-inspired backyard.

REIMAGINING THE PAST IS A MID-CENTURY HOMEOWNER'S ULTIMATE GOAL—especially when a home is stripped of its original features.

For the homeowners of a 1950s ranch in Bayside, Wisconsin, all that was left of the existing home was the foundation, and the new structure was a modern interpretation of a mid-century home. After remodeling it to reflect their love of Mid-Century Modern design, they decided to continue their style outside and began searching for an expert who could help them bring their vision to life.

## The Perfect Fit

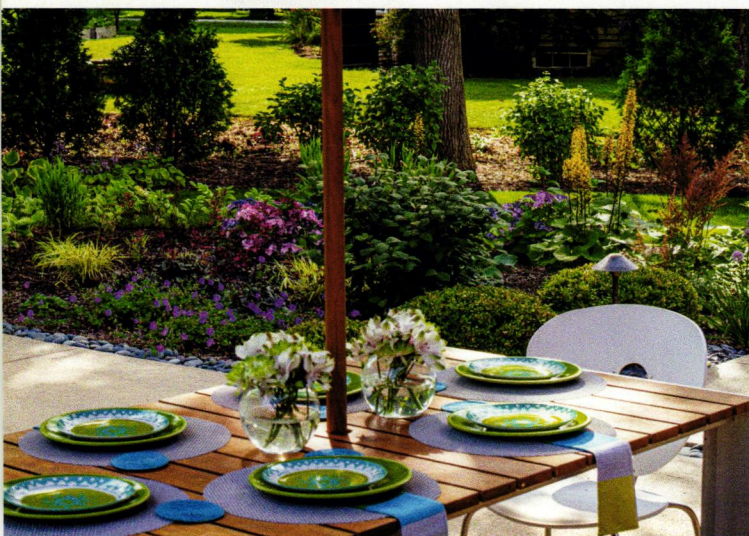
The homeowners hired landscape designer James Drzewiecki, design principal and owner of Ginkgo Leaf Studio. With a degree in architecture, James approaches landscape design differently than most.

“My team doesn’t come from a traditional background,” he points out. “We have a unique perspective on design. One of my horticulturalists and landscape designers, Hannah Paulson, has an art background as well. It’s a big factor in the reason we’re so successful with MCM style.”



(ABOVE) BECAUSE THE WEATHER IN WISCONSIN DOESN'T ALLOW YEAR-ROUND USE OF THE OUTDOOR DINING AREA, JAMES AND HIS TEAM OPTED TO BUILD A GRILL ISLAND FOR THE TABLE RATHER THAN A FULL KITCHEN. "WE IDENTIFIED THE CULTURED STONE ON THE EXTERIOR OF THE HOUSE, AND IT WAS AVAILABLE, SO WE USED IT TO BUILD THE GRILL," HE SAYS. "IT MAKES IT LOOK CUSTOM, BECAUSE IT'S AN EXACT MATCH TO THE HOUSE."

*"The result is a peaceful and functional backyard that pays homage to its home's past."*



(ABOVE) INCORPORATING PLANTS THAT ARE NATIVE TO THE AREA IS THE BEST WAY TO ENSURE THEY CAN WITHSTAND THE CLIMATE. THIS GROUPING OF PLANTS INCLUDES (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) HARDY GERANIUMS, JAPANESE FOREST GRASS, "TWIST-N-SHOUT" HYDRANGEAS, "KOREAN SPICE" VIBURNUM AND ROCKET *LIGULARIA*.

While every business struggled during COVID, including Ginkgo Leaf Studio, one good thing that came of it was the expansion of the business to virtual consultations.

"People have trouble finding a local landscape company that understands MCM design. And, because COVID made everything virtual, it opened up the idea that we could do this virtually. Now, we design all over the United States."

However, this Bayside project was local, and when the homeowners came across James' portfolio, they knew he would be a good fit.

### **Endless Potential**

The previous owners had had the original backyard patio removed, so they started their renovation with a completely blank slate.





(RIGHT) THE ORNAMENTAL GRASS, *MOLINIA*, ACTS AS A DIVIDER BETWEEN THE LOUNGE CHAIR AND DINING AREA. "THE GRASSES DON'T GO ALL THE WAY ACROSS, BUT THEY ACT AS A TRANSPARENT SCREEN," SAYS JAMES. "WE DO THAT IN A LOT OF OUR MODERN DESIGNS. WE LIKE TO TAKE CERTAIN PLANTS, SUCH AS BOXWOODS, AND PLANT LINEAR GROUPINGS WHERE IT'S CLEAR THEY'RE NOT NATURALLY PLANTED. THIS HELPS EMPHASIZE THE ARCHITECTURAL NATURE OF THE SPACE."

"It was pretty much an empty lawn. It can be difficult to home in on the direction you want to go in this situation, because the possibilities are limitless. But because mid-century architecture is strong and often dramatic, we look for details such as significant doors, windows and lines that can guide us in our design."

The homeowners also had a wish list to take into account: They wanted a dining area, lounging area, a fire pit with seating and a grassy space for their daughter to play.

"It gets chilly here at night, so a fire pit allows us to stretch our seasons," James explains.

The homeowners describe their style as "California modern with an Asian flair," so James carefully chose materials that would help reflect their unique preferences. Colored poured concrete was used as the foundation of the outdoor spaces, bluestone pavers lined the paths, beach pebbles delineated zones, and slate chips provided the Asian flair.

"It's meant to resemble walking through a zen Japanese garden," James says.

The result is a peaceful and functional backyard that pays homage to its home's past. 🌿





(BELOW, LEFT) EVERGREEN TREES WERE PLANTED ALONG THE BACK OF THE PROPERTY TO PROVIDE PRIVACY. "THE NEIGHBORS ADDED A DECK THAT LOOKED INTO THE CLIENT'S BACKYARD, SO WE HAD TO ADD A BUNCH OF TREES AND OTHER PLANTS TO SCREEN THE BACKYARD FROM THE NEIGHBOR," JAMES POINTS OUT. THE STEPPING STONES ARE MEANT TO BE A MAIN EXIT FOR THE CLIENT'S DAUGHTER TO RUN OUT INTO THE GRASSY AREA OF THE BACKYARD.



## Designing a Non-Desert MCM Landscape

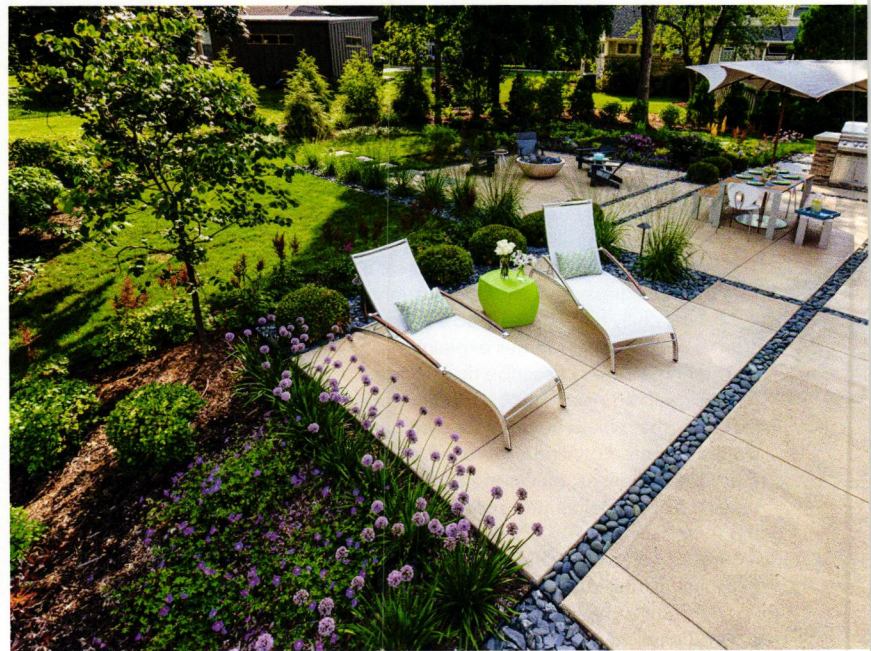
**Mid Century Modern landscape design can fit in wherever you're located ... as long as it celebrates your climate.**

"If your landscape isn't in Palm Springs, don't try to make it look like it's in Palm Springs," James advises. Here are his tips for designing a lush MCM backyard look that fits your unique locale:

- **Take your location into account.** "If your house is in New York or South Carolina and you have a desert-looking lawn, it will look out of place," says James. Avoid using a lot of gravel or stone mulch; opt instead for pebbles or wood mulch as bedding. "We can be near 100 degrees, and if the plants are surrounded by stone mulch, it will reflect the heat and dry out the plants."
- **Research local plants.** Using popular MCM-style plants is great if you can, but make sure they'll be able to thrive in your climate. Don't rely on looks alone. "Our climate goes through temperature swings in Wisconsin," James points out. "I suggest prairie plants and ornamental grasses for our locals."
- **Plant in groups.** The desert vibe tends to have immense space between plants for a minimalist look. Instead, group plants closer together for a more vibrant, lush feel.
- **Use pavers and runnels to divide spaces.** MCM style is all about clean lines, and this look can be achieved with stones and plants. Utilize the space between pavers or concrete foundations to plant lines of grasses or shrubs for a modern, textured look that helps create zones.

(TOP, LEFT) BLUESTONE STEPPERS CREATE A WALKWAY AMONG THE SLATE CHIPS, AND PURPLE ALLIUM "SUMMER BEAUTY" PLANTS LINE THE BORDER FOR A TOUCH OF COLOR AND HEIGHT.

(BELOW, RIGHT) COLORED CONCRETE IS THE FOUNDATION FOR THESE OUTDOOR LIVING SPACES, AND RUNNELS FILLED WITH BEACH PEBBLES FORM A PATTERN AND DEFINE EACH PATIO SPACE. "THIS FIRST OUTDOOR ROOM WAS MEANT TO BE A TRUE LOUNGING AREA," SAYS JAMES. "WE DON'T OFTEN RECOMMEND USING COLORED CONCRETE, BECAUSE IT TENDS TO BE TOO DARK AND RICH. NEVERTHELESS, THIS TAUPE COLOR TURNED OUT NICE AND NEUTRAL."





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fagasstraps.com

## ATOMIC KITCHENS

Page 30

**Flooring:** Richards & Sterling, "White Flake Small" porcelain tile; richardsandsterling

**Cabinets, slab doors and drawers:** Nickels Cabinets; nickelscabinets.com

**Main:** vertical-grain, plain-sawn walnut, matte finish. Painted bypass doors and drawer under ovens: satin finish

**Colors:** Oven drawer: Benjamin Moore "Olive Green" (329); Bypass doors: Benjamin Moore "Spring Rain" (723) and "Orange" (2011-10)

**Countertops:** Silestone quartz in "White Zeus," polished

**Backsplash:** Heath tile in "Mid-Century White"; heathceramics.com

## RESTORATION IN PUGET SOUND

Page 40

**Door hardware:** Baldwin; baldwinhardware.com

**Cabinet hardware:** Buster + Punch; busterandpunch.com

**Light fixture, switch, outlet plates, door escutcheons:** Rejuvenation Hardware; rejuvenation.com

**Light fixture:** Schoolhouse Electric; schoolhouse.com

**Kitchen appliances:** Kitchenaid; kitchenaid.com

**Tile:** Ann Sacks; annsacks.com

**Cabinets:** Pacific Cabinet Designs; pacab.net

## AN UNEXPECTED ENCOUNTER

Page 54

**For more about Teass/Warren architects, visit** [teass-warren.com](http://teass-warren.com) **or follow them on Instagram:** [@teasswarrenarchitects](https://www.instagram.com/teasswarrenarchitects).

**Bathroom lights:** Sonneman; (914) 834-3600 or [sonnemanlight.com](http://sonnemanlight.com)  
**Bathroom tile:** Tile Bar; (888) 541-3840 or [tilebar.com](http://tilebar.com)

**Cabinet paint color:** "Hale Navy" by Benjamin Moore; (855) 724-6802 or [benjaminmoore.com](http://benjaminmoore.com)

**Countertops:** Caesarstone; [caesarstoneus.com](http://caesarstoneus.com)

**Custom cabinetry, shelving, dining table and vanity:** Abernethy Sticks; [asticks.com](http://asticks.com).

**Dining room lighting:** Secto Design; [sectodesign.fi](http://sectodesign.fi)

**Entryway lights:** Design Within Reach; [dwr.com](http://dwr.com)

**Exterior siding in gray:** Resawn Timber Co.; [resawntimberco.com](http://resawntimberco.com)

**Kitchen pendant lights:** Barn Light Electric; [barnlight.com](http://barnlight.com)

**Office light:** Troy Lighting; [troylightinglights.com](http://troylightinglights.com)

## BUILDING ON

Page 68

**Renovation architects:** Giulietti/Schouten/Weber Architects; [gswarchitects.net](http://gswarchitects.net)

**Contractor:** Don Young & Associates; [dyaconstruction.com](http://dyaconstruction.com)

**Interior finishes:** Betsy Brandenburg, Brandenburg Studios Design; [brandenburgstudios.com](http://brandenburgstudios.com)

**Paint:** Benjamin Moore; [benjaminmoore.com](http://benjaminmoore.com)

**Kitchen cabinets:** Fenix for Interiors; [fenixforinteriors.com](http://fenixforinteriors.com)

**Kitchen counters:** Polished white "Macaubus" vein-cut quartzite

**Kitchen faucet, drawer pulls, cabinet knobs:** Chown Hardware; [chown.com](http://chown.com)

**Dividers and organizers:** Rev-a-Shelf; [rev-a-shelf.com](http://rev-a-shelf.com)

**Cooktop:** Hestan; [hestan.com](http://hestan.com)

**Oven:** Miele; [mieleusa.com](http://mieleusa.com)

**Pop-up down-draft:** Best by Broan; [bestrangehoods.com](http://bestrangehoods.com)

**Microwave:** Sharp; [sharpusa.com](http://sharpusa.com)

**Refrigerator:** Subzero; [subzero-wolf.com](http://subzero-wolf.com)

**Appliance supplier:** East Bank Appliance; [eastbankappliance.com](http://eastbankappliance.com)

**Paint supplier:** Dick's Color Center; [dickscolorcenter.com](http://dickscolorcenter.com)

## OUT OF THE WOODS

Page 84

**For more about HAUS Architecture for Modern Lifestyles, visit** [haus-arch.com](http://haus-arch.com); **follow it on Facebook:** [facebook.com/haus.arch](https://www.facebook.com/haus.arch) **or via Instagram:** [@hausarch](https://www.instagram.com/hausarch).

**Architect:** HAUS Architecture for Modern Lifestyles

**Principal architect:** Christopher Short, owner of HAUS

**Interior design:** Design Studio Vriesman (Tom Vriesman)

**Renovation general contractor:** Wrightworks (Christopher Wright)

**Landscape architect design/build:** A2 Design (Eric Anderson)

## LIVING AREA

**Sofa:** Vintage Florence Knoll

**White chair:** Vintage George Nelson coconut chair. The Swanky Abode; [theswankyabode.com](http://theswankyabode.com)

**Leather chairs:** Vintage Milo Baughman chairs

**Coffee tables:** Eames LTR tables. Design Within Reach; [dwr.com](http://dwr.com)

## KITCHEN

**Stools:** Norman Cherner kitchen stools. Design Within Reach; [dwr.com](http://dwr.com)

**Pendants:** Achille Castiglioni Fuscina 1 pendants. Lumens; [lumens.com](http://lumens.com)

**Dining chairs:** Vintage Saarinen tulip chair. Design Within Reach; [dwr.com](http://dwr.com)

**Dining table and bedroom headboard:** Custom-made by Indy Urban Hardwood Company; [indyurbanhardwood.com](http://indyurbanhardwood.com)

**Bedroom table lamps:** Gordon Martz Table Lamps. Christopher West Presents; [christopherwestpresents.com](http://christopherwestpresents.com)

## A BLANK SLATE

Page 122

**For more about Ginkgo Leaf Studio, visit** [ginkgoleafstudio.net](http://ginkgoleafstudio.net) **or follow it on Instagram:** [@ginkgoleafstudio](https://www.instagram.com/ginkgoleafstudio).

**Chairs around firepit:** Loll Designs; (877) 740-3387 or [lolldesigns.com](http://lolldesigns.com)  
**Lounge chairs and dining table:** Design Within Reach; (800) 944-2233 or [dwr.com](http://dwr.com)

**Umbrella:** Tuuci; (305) 634-5116 or [tuuci.com](http://tuuci.com)

/ **LAST** LOOK /

# The **Not-So-Bitter** End

Written by **IAN MCMASTER** | Photographed by **JULIA KUSKIN** | Kitchen designed by **KERF DESIGN**



I HOPE THAT AS YOU'VE MADE YOUR WAY TO THIS FINAL PAGE, you've made the most of everything that's come before it in this magazine issue; put it all through the grinder; pored over every page, and filtered through every, single line; extracted all the information; allowed the many decisions to percolate that come with your renovation; and finally, left the pages stained and pressed apart from repeated use.

I hope you've used it as a guide, a consultant, a motivator and even as a ... coaster.

But ultimately, I hope this magazine finds a home tucked away in a cubby or underneath an espresso machine—in your newly renovated kitchen—to be pulled out time and again like an old treasure map when it's time to “brew up” some more ideas for your next project. ☼



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