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editor's letter



TIME IS ON OUR SIDE

I AM FAR FROM THE MINIMALIST MODERNIST. As much as I love being in pristinely edited and meticulously curated homes, my love for collecting gets the better of me. It's too much fun trolling vintage markets and, like a magpie, I can't resist the lure of a charming retro object, be it a piece of art I have no idea where I'll hang or a candy-colored bar glass that woos me with its pattern or font.

Case in point, much to my husband's chagrin, I recently picked up an 8-inch-tall green giraffe pepper shaker from the 1950s. My husband's eye roll came when I told him I was sure I'd come across its salty mate sometime in the future. But I think it's this exact level of patience and faith that drives all Mid Century Modern enthusiasts in some form or another.

In this issue, we visit with homeowners that had faith in the process of bringing their MCMs to life, whether it's bidding their time for the right home to come on the market or, methodically and with discipline, renovating their home in phases so that each project serves their needs, meets their budget and becomes their benchmark for a wise investment.

The burst of victory you feel when you spot that perfect piece of furniture, long-awaited find or mod gem of a home is worth the wait. That's what I'll be chasing this summer.

Happy hunting!

Jackie Torres

Get connected!

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Cover photograph by Dan Chavkin

Cover design by Gabby Oh



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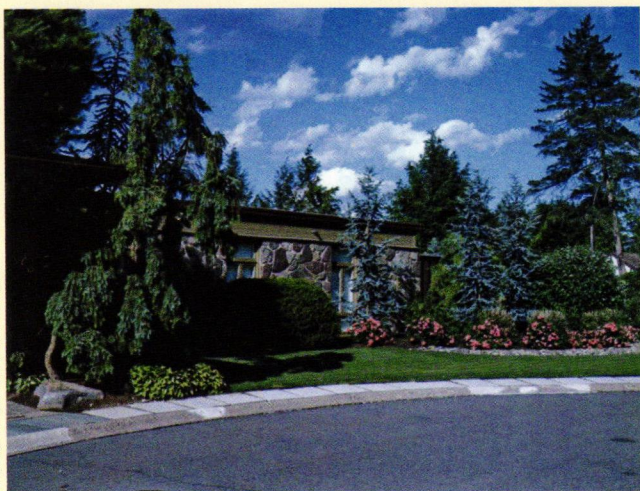


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Find more MCM history, design and lifestyle inspiration online

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LUKE GUARILIA



House Tour: A Polaroid Portrait

In 1964, renowned furniture designer Adrian Pearsall built a 10,000-square-foot home in Fort Fort, Pennsylvania. The current owners graciously allowed photographer Michael Luke Guarilia to capture all its special qualities on an instant mid-century medium. Check out this unique personalized tour of a mid-century icon's own home.



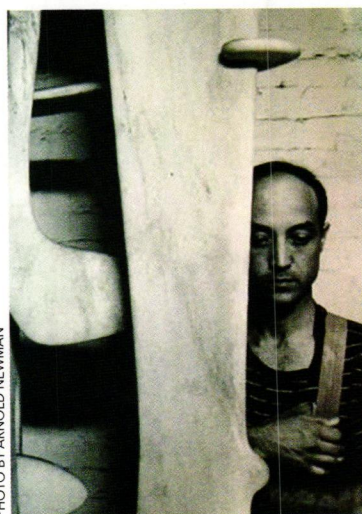
PHOTO BY KEVIN MCDERMOTT



Cool Stuff: MCM Pool-Party Accessories

Ready to make a splash? Check out our picks for turning your Mid Century Modern poolside into a festive, year-round destination!

PHOTO BY ARNOLD NEWMAN



Designers + Craftsmen: Spotlight on Isamu Noguchi

Isamu Noguchi is the artist behind many of your favorite lamps and coffee tables. The L.A.-born Japanese-American lived in Japan until he was 13 years old, allowing him to develop an international appreciation for the arts. Learn more about his signature approach to design.



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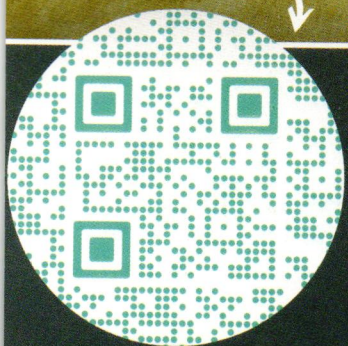


mid-century homes

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Retro Resort

Make every day a staycation with our favorite mid mod finds for your backyard. By Ian McMaster

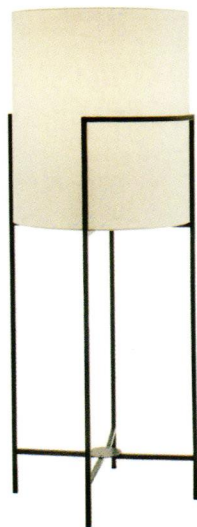


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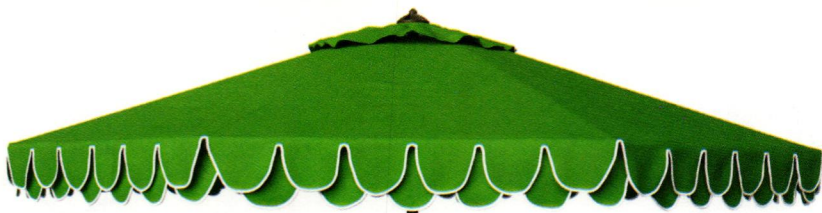
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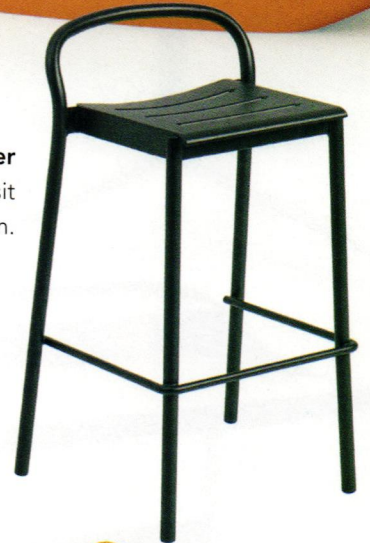
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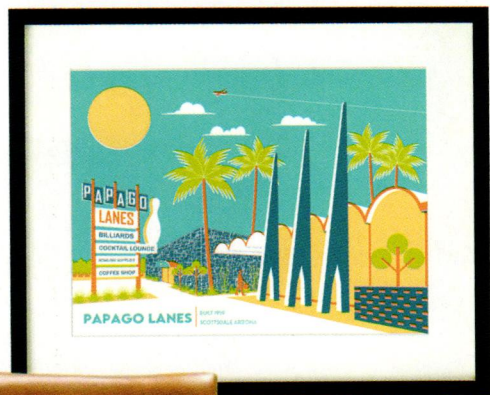
Mousqueton portable lamp, \$225. Visit us.hay.com.



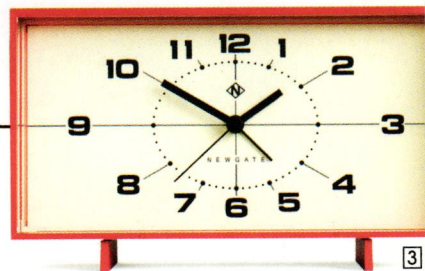
Line lounge chair, \$695. Visit tupelogoods.com.



periodpicks



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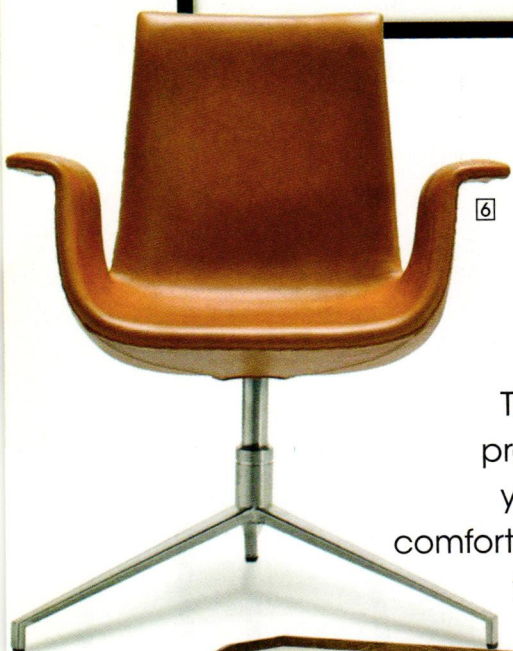
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These MCM-style products will keep your home office comfortable, stylish and fun this summer.

Home Work

By Ian McMaster



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Visit postandbeamaz.com.
- 2. Stockpile curve file cabinet, \$220.**
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- 3. Wideboy alarm clock, \$59.**
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A Labor of Love

An interior designer gives a 1958 home in Denver a new lease on life.

By Carrie McConkey • Photography by Daniel Connor

Build Your Architectural Awareness

Here are some common terms that will likely come up during a discussion of MCM renovations.

NORMAN BRICKS

Unlike the rectangular shape of standard bricks, the sleek lines of Norman bricks make them the quintessential choice for Mid Century Modern architecture. Just over two inches high and about a foot in length, their elongated appearance accentuates the low-slung façades of mid-century homes.

FLOATING PAVERS

They come in many shapes and materials, but the way they are used in mid-century home landscapes is distinctively different. Made of concrete, the slabs are rectangular or square and are bordered by decorative rock, grass or a combination of both. Layouts can be straight or offset, but always take a linear path.

ANGIE GRAHAM, an interior designer who specializes in mid-century modern homes, collected vintage treasures even during her former career as a labor and delivery nurse. "Everything I own has come from Etsy, eBay and thrift stores," she says. "It only makes sense I found my house on Craigslist."

While it was "gutted and uninhabitable," the 1958 Bow Mar, Colorado, home was irresistible to her. "The owner had just started the remodel but couldn't finish due to illness," says Angie of Compliment Design in Denver. "I baked him banana bread and had him over for dinner and wine." His decision to hand over the keys came swiftly. "We met on Friday, had dinner Saturday and closed on Monday."

Renovating the 3,618-square-foot house took a year. "The experience of your home begins the minute someone walks up," Angie says.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

"Lighting is the jewelry of the home," Angie says. To highlight the home's protruding brick, she installed downlighting within the home's eaves.

USE COLOR SPARINGLY

Angie believes the focal point of an MCM home should be its architecture. "Pick small areas to add color, such as the front door or a planter that won't compete with your home's design," she advises.

BACK TO BLACK

"Black window casings are the gateway to making your house fabulous," Angie says. "Choosing black for your gutters and house trim showcases clean, modern lines."

Whether restoring or renovating your home, Angie recommends taking your time and letting the house speak to you. "Live in the house for a while before starting any project," she suggests.

Grateful to have become the "proud parents" of their own MCM home, the Graham family feels its former owner is pleased. "After the renovations were completed, we sensed his presence," Angie says. "We could swear we heard, 'Oh, wow!'" 🌿

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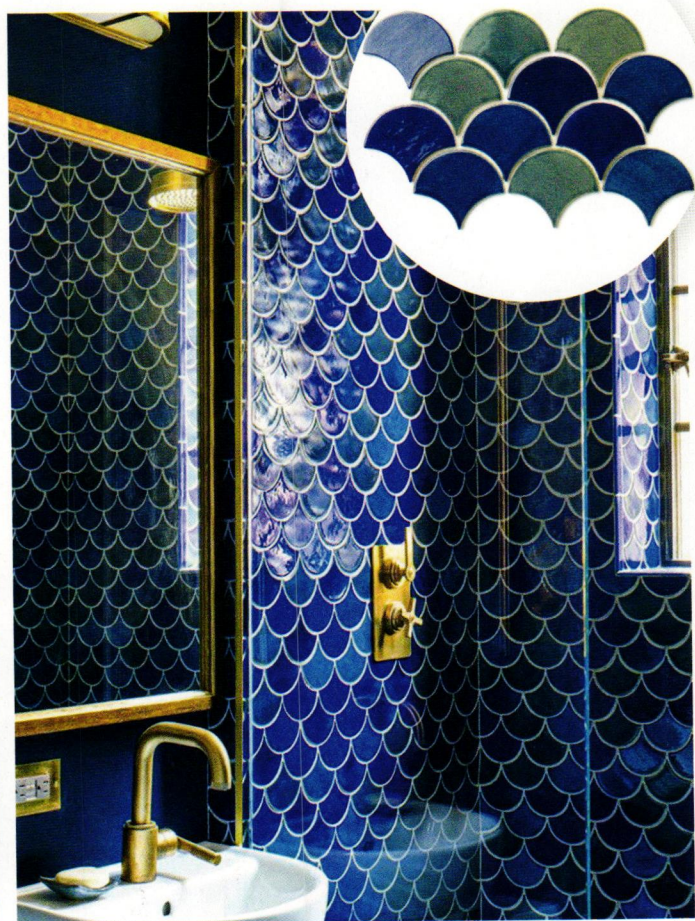
modernmakers

On a Mission

An entrepreneurial spirit, passion for innovation and dedication to craft are what power this company's pursuit of enhancing the world—one handmade tile at a time. By Ian McMaster | Photos courtesy of Mercury Mosaics



PHOTOGRAPHY BY FOX HOMES



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ADAM KANE MACCHIA

ONE OF MERCURY MOSAICS' MOST POPULAR PRODUCTS IS THEIR MEDIUM DIAMONDS TILE IN THE EICHLER BLEND. IT'S A TRUE CLASSIC THAT PROVIDES BEAUTIFUL DIMENSION IN A MID CENTURY MODERN COLOR PALETTE CONSISTING OF NEUTRAL GRAYS, BRIGHT YELLOWS AND RICH TEALS.

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Mercedes Austin started her entrepreneurial journey in the Powderhorn neighborhood of Minneapolis 21 years ago. Using her basement as a studio, Mercedes was a commercial painter and just beginning mosaics. After apprenticing for a tile maker in exchange for materials, she started a business selling her one-of-a-kind mosaic art. Eventually, Mercedes' dedication, unstoppable drive for success and ability to ignore her harshest critics is what led her to become a master at her craft and later the founder of Mercury Mosaics.

Forever Mid Mod

How a family found and renovated their mid-century dream home—in St. Petersburg, Florida.

By Lauren Hofer | Photography by Seamus Payne



THE WOOD SCREEN IN FRONT OF THE WINDOWS, ORIGINAL TO THE HOME, BLURS THE LINES BETWEEN INSIDE AND OUT. "WE HAD A LOT OF CONVERSATIONS ABOUT IF IT SHOULD BE REPLACED WITH METAL OR SOMETHING ELSE," JODY SAYS, "BUT ULTIMATELY WE FELT LIKE THE WEAR ON IT TOLD A STORY, SO WE KEPT IT AND RESTORED IT AS MUCH AS WE COULD."



When they started looking for their "forever home" in Florida, Patrick and Nancy Dowling, who previously lived in Dallas, Texas, struggled to find a house they liked in the usual Mid Century Modern hotspots. "We never really considered St. Pete, though, until one night Nancy found this house," Patrick says, "It was love at first sight—the lines, the details—and once we started learning the history of the house, we knew we had to figure out a way to get it."







The home, a 1954 build by William Harvard, is surrounded by dense, jungle-like foliage and features the clean lines and indoor-to-outdoor transitions that mid-century homes are known and loved for. After purchasing the home, Patrick and Nancy enlisted the help of architect Jody Beck and her team at Traction Architecture to transform the house into their forever home. "They wanted to restore it, respect its character and create more connections between inside and outside," Jody says.

PRESERVATION AND RENOVATION

The renovation process involved working around a few original elements that were imperative to keep. "The concrete block was really important," Jody says. "It's one of the really cool materials that we tried to celebrate because it's not just your typical concrete block; it's got a really interesting texture and proportion." While it's difficult to see in the photos, the concrete block walls in the living spaces don't extend all the way to the ceiling, but rather leave gaps of space where the structural beams create continuity from room to room.

They also removed the carpet to uncover and restore the original terrazzo floor underneath. The white surface speckled with black, gray and brown is a theme that Jody repeated throughout the home in different scales with details like the kitchen backsplash tile and hexagonal pavers outside. "The colors in that drove some of the palette throughout the house," Jody says.

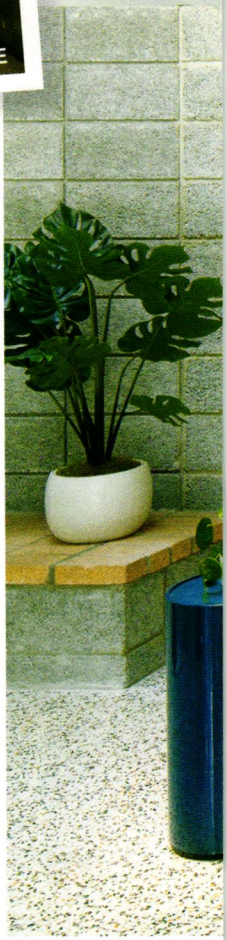
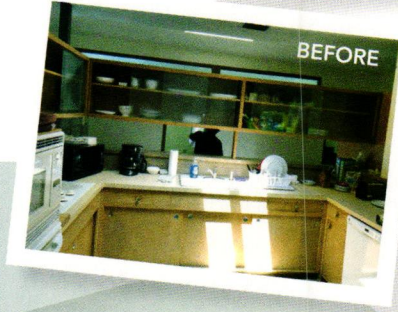
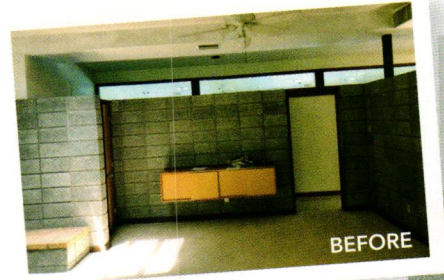
WHAT WOULD BILL DO?

For the Dowlings, who fell in love with mid-century design while living in Dallas, it was important to stay true to the home's original intent. "Whenever possible, I tried to imagine having a conversation with the original architect, Bill Harvard, about why he might suggest a certain material or style,"



OPPOSITE, TOP: THIS ANGLE FULLY DISPLAYS THE SHORT CONCRETE BLOCK WALLS THAT SEPARATE THE DIFFERENT LIVING SPACES. "THE CONCRETE WALL DOESN'T GO TO THE CEILING," JODY SAYS, "IT'S PRETTY INTERESTING BECAUSE YOU SEE THAT CEILING GO ALL THE WAY THROUGH."

BELOW: THESE WOOD CABINET PULLS ADD AN INTERESTING ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENT TO THE KITCHEN, AND THE COLORS AND PATTERN OF THE PINWHEEL TILE TIES IN PERFECTLY WITH THE TERRAZZO FLOOR. "IT KIND OF CALLS BACK TO THE TERRAZZO AND THEY BOTH HAVE THIS SORT OF DYNAMIC QUALITY TO THEM," JODY SAYS.





Patrick says. "I know that sounds nuts, but I really tried to be mindful of what we were doing." Like renovations to many mid-century Florida homes, adding air conditioning and updating the electrical elements was a unique challenge. "A lot of the magic of it is what you can't see," Jody says.

When it came to changing the house's layout, Jody and her team opened up the house to create better lines of sight and let in more natural light. "We decided to open up the back of the house to mirror the front sliders," Nancy says. Prior to the renovation, when you walked through the front door you'd be staring at a wall. Now, you step into the open kitchen with direct views of the pool outside. Creating a more open kitchen was another major goal. Jody and her team adjusted the space by utilizing a "working wall" that is home to the sink and appliances. "Then there's a very large island that floats just beyond it," Jody says.

REIMAGINING THE CLASSIC DESIGN

Details like the walnut kitchen-cabinet handles, a colorful hanging mobile in the entry and the pink subway-tiled bathroom with black accents all nod to classic mid-century design while maintaining a new and fresh air. "The original home had a pink bathroom that we couldn't save, but I found a pink tile from Walker Zanger that was inspired by the tiled bathrooms of the 1950s," Nancy says. The home feels both delightfully mid-century and welcoming. "No matter who comes inside this house, they all instantly enjoy the space," Patrick says. "Great architects have the ability to create that sense of instant appreciation."

A balanced mix of artwork and furnishings, all personal to Nancy and Patrick, continue the theme of embracing mid-mod design with updated sensibilities. "Our home is one of the most important things for us. We spend most of our time here and it needed to be part of us," Nancy says. "The furnishings include a mix of antique pieces that have been in my family for generations as well as mid-century pieces bought recently."



ROOM FOR TWO

The two living spaces, separated by the low concrete block walls, feature two different design aesthetics. The front room, a more formal space, features warm tones, bright colors and Patrick's prized Eames chair. "It was a piece of furniture I had

wanted for a long time," he says. The adjacent, more informal living room, is home to the TV and a cozy Arhaus couch. "The family room became neutral because I had always wanted a white, comfy couch," Nancy says. "The focal point and color in that room comes from the backyard."



THE WOOD SCREEN SHOWN HERE IS PART OF THE ORIGINAL WOOD SCREEN THAT EXTENDS FROM THE OUTSIDE AND CONTINUES INSIDE, CREATING A DIVISION BETWEEN THE ENTRYWAY AND THIS DINING TABLE.



MIXING MATERIALS

How to create balance in a space where multiple textures, colors and materials are present.

- 1. REPEAT AND REMIX.** Reusing the same materials throughout different spaces and rooms helps to create a felt sense of continuity. "Usually what we try to do is pick three to four different materials and weave them together throughout all the spaces of the house so it feels cohesive," Jody says.
- 2. PLAY WITH SCALE.** Find ways to incorporate the different textures in larger and smaller ways. In this project, the terrazzo floor, pinwheel-tile backsplash and hexagonal pavers outside all have similar colors and patterns, just in different sizes. "Those are three very different materials, but there's a pattern in them that is similar," Jody says.
- 3. BALANCE TONES.** Find a way to bring balance by incorporating warm and cool tones. If the materials are original to the house, bring balance with furniture or lighting. "In this project, the terrazzo and the concrete were the givens that we were working with," Jody says. Everything else is a bonus.



ABOVE: "THE ORIGINAL HOUSE DID HAVE SOME BUILT-IN CABINETY, SOME OF WHICH WE TRIED TO SAVE, BUT MOST OF THIS IS ALL NEW," JODY SAYS. "THE BUILT-INS IN THE BEDROOMS, THE BATH VANITIES AND THE KITCHEN ARE ALL MADE BY THE SAME PERSON AND KIND OF PLAY WITH DIFFERENT COMBINATIONS OF SIMILAR MATERIALS." THE MASTER BEDROOM FEATURES A DARKER WOOD BASE WITH WHITE CABINET FRONTS FOR A DRAMATIC FLAIR.

LEFT: IN THE MASTER BATHROOM, NEW BUILT-INS, REMINISCENT OF MID-CENTURY DESIGN, ADD MODERN SENSIBILITIES, WHILE A FLOOR-TO-CEILING WINDOW LETS IN THE FLORIDA SUN. "THAT WAS ORIGINAL," JODY SAYS. "WE REORIENTED THE FIXTURES IN THIS BATHROOM SO YOU COULD SEE OUT OF IT."



Outside, in both the front and the back of the house, Jody selected large hexagonal pavers to bring the indoors and outdoors together. "It had a relationship to the terrazzo, with black, white and gray in a really tight pattern," she says, "This was almost like expanding the scale of the terrazzo to these large hexagonal tiles." Whether looking at the home's interior or exterior, the attention to detail and original intent by all parties involved is evident in the finished result: a forever home for a family who loves it.

"There is no bad spot in this home," Nancy says. "Every room reflects our design aesthetic, blends our personalities and reminds us of how blessed we are to be its caretakers." ❀

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"EVERY ROOM HAS A FLOOR-TO-CEILING VIEW OF THE NATURAL OLD FLORIDA LANDSCAPE," NANCY SAYS. "IT DOESN'T GET MUCH BETTER THAN THAT."

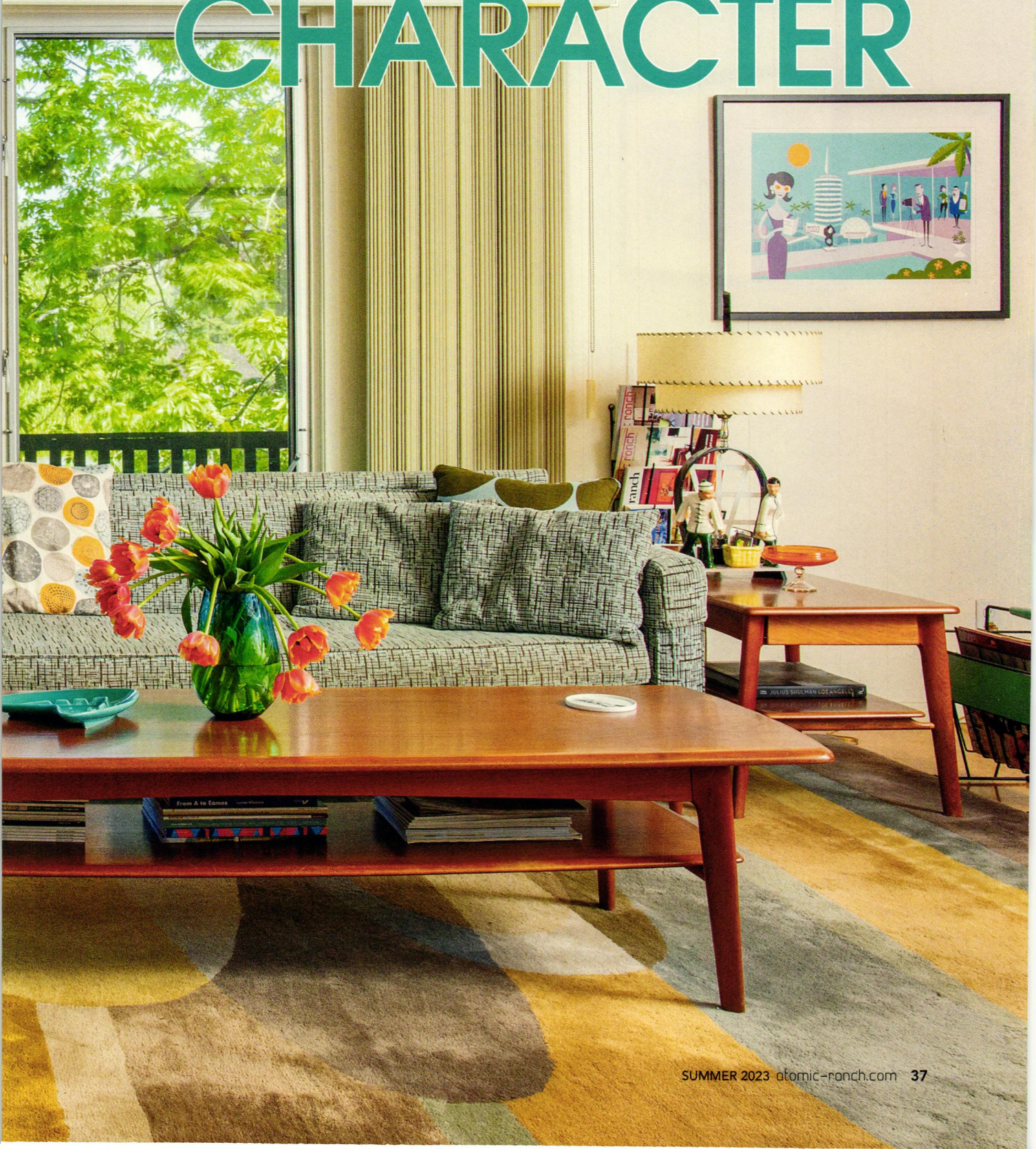


A bank-owned, mid-century gem in Altadena, California, went from bland to bold with only a few updates.

By Kristin Dowding | Photography by Bret Gum



An Infusion of CHARACTER






AS A PROFESSIONAL DESIGNER, it can be difficult to pinpoint which home style suits you best. "I love all styles. They all have something unique that speaks to me," says homeowner Goli Karimi, director of design at Home Front Build. When she and her wife, Deb Smith, moved into a 1960s home in Altadena, California, they embraced its history and let its mid-century architecture dictate how they would renovate.

THE ORIGINAL POST-AND-BEAM CEILING REMAINED INTACT AND HAD NOT SUFFERED ANY UNWANTED UPDATES. AFTER PUTTING IN THE NEW CORK FLOORING, GOLI AND DEB FILLED THE FAMILY ROOM WITH THEIR COLLECTED VINTAGE FURNITURE AND ARTWORK. "WE HAVE A LARGE AND VARIED ART COLLECTION," DEB SAYS. "IT INCLUDES SEVERAL SHAG PIECES, TWO NAT REED PIECES, A GEORGE PERROU AND A GLENN BARR." THE PIECE ABOVE THE SOFA IS BY SHAG AND THE PIECE BESIDE IT WAS PAINTED IN THE 1960S BY A CHILDHOOD FRIEND.



THE HOME WAS DESIGNED AND BUILT BY A WOMAN NAMED GISELA MEIER, WHO STUDIED UNDER FAMED FURNITURE DESIGNER KEM WEBER. IT'S ON A NARROW SITE WITH A 20-FOOT SLOPE, BUT GISELA WAS ABLE TO BUILD ON IT WITHOUT ALTERING THE LANDSCAPE. PART OF THE LOCATION'S APPEAL IS THE STUNNING VIEW OF THE SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS.





GOLI AND DEB REPLACED THE 1980S MARBLE FIREPLACE WITH SKINNY STONE TILES FOR A CLEAN, TEXTURED LOOK. THE ART PIECE ABOVE IT BY GLENN BARR IS ENTITLED "STACY" AND IT'S ONE OF THEIR FAVORITE PIECES. TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF LIGHTING THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE, GOLI AND DEB OPTED FOR A VARIETY OF VINTAGE LAMPS, BUT THEY ALSO ATTACHED SMALL LIGHT FIXTURES ON THE BEAM ABOVE THE FIREPLACE TO SAVE ON FLOOR SPACE.



IN LIEU OF AN OFFICIAL OFFICE, GOLI AND DEB SET UP A VINTAGE DESK IN THEIR LIVING ROOM. NOW THEY CAN WORK NEXT TO THE COZY FIREPLACE AND ENJOY THE VIEW OF THE MOUNTAINS FROM THE LIVING ROOM WINDOWS.

"When we got this house, it really amped up our love for mid-century style," Goli says. "We were both jumping up and down because of the view. We felt lucky to be able to purchase this home."

TRICKY TOPOGRAPHY

It was only recently that the homeowners looked into who built the home back in 1960. "I'd been wondering for years," Deb says. After doing some research at the Altadena heritage office, she found the name and, eventually, the phone number of the original owner and called him. "He told me the story about the woman who built our house," she says. "She was a Swiss-born artist named Gisela Meier who had studied under Kem Weber."

Gisela was an inventive builder who had the challenge of working around the steep slope of the home's landscape. Most of the rooms are long and narrow to accommodate the slope. "It was brilliant how she dealt with this lot," Deb says. "The bedrooms are in the back, where it's darker, and the common areas have the view. You can sit at the dining room table and see the San Gabriel Mountains."




LARGE WINDOWS THAT SPAN MOST OF THE WALLS ALLOW THE OUTSIDE VIEW TO BECOME THE BACKDROP OF THE LIVING ROOM. A CURVED SECTIONAL, RARE POLE LAMP AND VINTAGE TABLES PROVIDE FUNCTION AND COMFORT.

RESPECTFUL RENOVATION

The renovation team at Home Front Build wanted to make as few changes as possible, only renovating when necessary and preserving as many original features as they could. "Our company is all about sustainability and likes to use reclaimed wood and salvaged products as much as possible," Goli says. "We understand the needs of the client while honoring the original architecture of the home."

Luckily, the home was clean and functional, but it had been stripped of most of its character. "It was bank-owned when we bought it," Goli explains. "It wasn't in bad condition, but they had painted everything white and put new beige carpet everywhere." After replacing the floors and repainting the walls, most of the work left was designing each space to fit the mid-century aesthetic.

Goli and Deb opted for a classic retro color palette: turquoise and orange with white and wood tones. "We're not afraid of color," Goli says. "Deb and I both like blue, and it pops against the wood. Plus, it was a popular color in the '60s." These colors can be found in prominent pieces of furniture and smaller décor items, making a bold statement that keeps the home vibrant and fun.



WHILE MOST OF THE HOME UPDATES OCCURRED IN THE '90S WHEN THEY MOVED IN, GOLI AND DEB RECENTLY RENOVATED THEIR KITCHEN FOR BETTER FUNCTION. THE FOOTPRINT OF THE GALLEY KITCHEN REMAINED THE SAME, BUT THEY RELOCATED THE WASHER, DRYER AND REFRIGERATOR TO CREATE MORE WALKING SPACE. THEY ALSO UPDATED THE CABINETRY TO MATCH THE MATERIAL OF THEIR FAMILY ROOM BUILT-IN AND ADDED PERSONAL TOUCHES, SUCH AS THE TURQUOISE PANELING AND THE CUSTOM BACKSPLASH. "INSPIRATION FOR THE KITCHEN CAME FROM OUR FAMILY ROOM," GOLI SAYS.

Retro KITCHEN RENO

BEFORE: The original kitchen had the same galley footprint, but it included a washer and dryer. The cabinets were missing hardware and falling apart, and the refrigerator was crowding the walkway.

FUNCTIONAL ALTERATIONS: They relocated the washer and dryer to another room, moved the refrigerator to the back wall and added hardware. Now there's enough space for two people to fit in the kitchen at once.

UPDATED MATERIALS:

- Flooring: Marmoleum
- Cabinets: sapele wood
- Cabinet fronts: turquoise laminate
- Countertops: white glass stone

FAVORITE FEATURES: The backsplash was a fun addition the homeowners had to have custom made. "We fell in love with a discontinued design we found online, so we had a local tile shop custom make a similar design," Goli says. "We are in love with atomic starbursts."

Another custom feature is the turquoise laminate cabinet fronts. "It's not a color readily available for cabinets," Goli explains. To complement the upper-cabinet color, Goli asked for blue finger pulls on a few of the bottom cabinets. "I didn't want it everywhere. I thought it would be too busy," she says.



ABOVE, LEFT: TO MAKE SURE THEIR NEW CABINETS BLENDED IN WITH THE REST OF THE HOME, GOLI AND DEB CHOSE A MATERIAL THAT WAS POPULAR IN THE 1960S: SAPELE WOOD. "IT HAS THE SAME CHARACTERISTICS OF MAHOGANY," GOLI SAYS. "IT HAS A BEAUTIFUL WOOD GRAIN, AND WE LOVE THE COLOR. IT REMINDS US OF OUR TEAK FURNITURE."

As for furnishings, they had to start from scratch, since this was their first experience living in a Mid Century Modern home. Rather than buy everything new, they decided to put in the work and go authentic. "After we moved, we started replacing our furniture with vintage mid-century furniture, which isn't something a lot of people were doing in the '90s," Deb says.

While Goli's experience with the style came from her schooling and work life, Deb's came from personal experience. "This home harkened me back to when I was a kid," she says. "My uncle built his own mid-century-style house, and I always loved it." This familiarity helped them both when they were on the hunt for unique vintage pieces to make the house their home.

ORIGINAL FEATURES

Most mid-century renovations are approached with the goal of transporting homeowners and guests back to that time period. That's made easier when original features of the home are preserved and accentuated, honoring the home's history. In this project, they kept the home's footprint. Most of the changes were material or paint-based; they didn't enlarge any rooms or knock down walls, deciding that the original layout suited the homeowners' needs.



POPS OF TURQUOISE MAKE A STATEMENT IN THE DINING ROOM, WHERE A VINTAGE TABLE AND SIDEBORD NEEDED A BIT OF COLOR. "WE BOUGHT THE DINING CHAIRS FROM HOLLACE AND REUPHOLSTERED THEM," GOLI SAYS. A MIXTURE OF BLUE DISHES FILLS THE HANGING CABINET FOR USE AND DÉCOR.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: THE MASTER BATH HAS FUN YELLOW CABINETS AND MULTICOLORED MARMOLEUM FLOORING. "WE PICKED A COLOR TO MATCH AND EMPHASIZE THE ORIGINAL TILE COLOR," GOLI SAYS. "ALL THE TILEWORK IS EXCELLENT."





ABOVE, LEFT: TO MAXIMIZE STORAGE IN THE NARROW FAMILY ROOM, THE HOMEOWNERS HAD BUILT-IN CABINETRY MADE IN SAPELE WOOD THAT ALMOST SPANS THE ENTIRE WALL. THE PIECE PROVIDES BOTH OPEN AND HIDDEN STORAGE FOR THEIR TV, BOOKS AND ANYTHING THEY WANT OUT OF SIGHT.

ABOVE, RIGHT: WHEN YOU HAVE ORIGINAL TILE IN A MID-CENTURY BATHROOM, YOU DO WHAT YOU CAN TO PRESERVE IT—EVEN IF THE COLOR ISN'T WHAT YOU WOULD HAVE PICKED. "I'VE LEARNED TO LOVE PINK," GOLI SAYS. "WE BROUGHT IN THE BLUE AS WE HAD IN THE REST OF THE HOUSE, CHOSE A DARKER BLUE PAINT FOR THE CABINET AND FOUND THE PERFECT SHOWER CURTAIN WITH ALL THOSE COLORS IN IT."

"Thank goodness they didn't paint the ceiling," Goli says. The stained post-and-beam structure was untouched in any previous renovations, preserving its original beauty. "And we hardly touched the bathrooms," she says. "It's all original cabinetry, tile and hardware, and I was able to find the original hardware for what was missing in the blue bathroom."

Their experience showed that while it's important to find your style, sometimes your style finds you. "Now we're huge Mid-Century Modern enthusiasts," Deb says. 🌀



Renovate *or Relocate?*



A real estate agent puts down roots while keeping an eye on the ever-changing real estate market.

By Patricia Kline | Styled by Jessica Luque | Photography by Cy Gilbert

THE ORIGINAL SANDSTONE FIREPLACE, A TWO-WAY FIREPLACE THAT OPENS TO BOTH THE KITCHEN AND DINING ROOM, ADDS TEXTURE AND CHARACTER TO THE HOME.



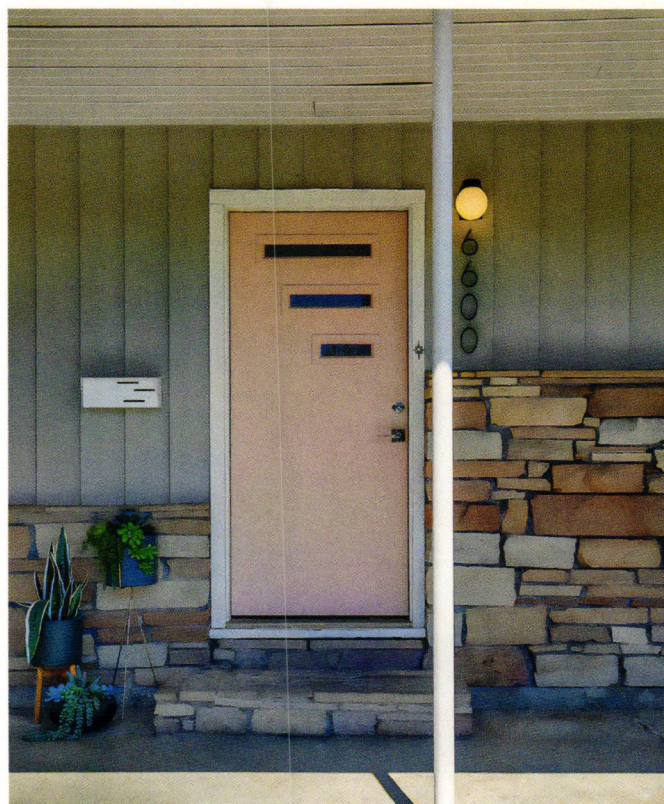


WHEN TJ PIERCE AND HIS WIFE, RONDA, purchased their mid-century home in a subdivision of Boise, Idaho, in 2015, they didn't intend to stay for more than a couple of years. The home was built in 1954 and is a builder-grade home in the highly desirable Randolph-Robertson subdivision, located about five miles from downtown Boise. At 1,750 square feet and only three bedrooms and 1.5 baths, it certainly wasn't large enough for their family of six, but it was the right house for them at the right time.

TJ is the founder of the residential real estate firm, Mid-Century Homes, based in Boise. In 2015, he quit his long-time job as an office-equipment executive to focus on his passion of helping other mid-century enthusiasts make their dreams come true through the buying and selling of these iconic homes.

ABOVE: THIS IS A VIEW OF THE LOW, RANCH-STYLE ROOF LINE WITH GABLES ON TWO ENDS. "I LOVE THE ELEVATION OF THE HOME AND THE STATEMENT IT MAKES," TJ SAYS. "IT HAS A LOT OF PERSONALITY."

BELOW, RIGHT: THE PINK IN THE SANDSTONE ON THE FIREPLACE AND EXTERIOR INSPIRED THE PAINT COLOR FOR THE FRONT DOOR: JOVIAL (SW6611) FROM SHERWIN-WILLIAMS.





The sale of TJ's previous home would allow him to fund his growing real estate business. Although this home was small, TJ and Ronda planned to work on it in phases to make it fit their family, sell it in a few years and then upgrade to a bigger home. Unlike most homeowners who purchase their home and settle in, TJ always had one eye on the real estate market as he created a home for his family. "We remodeled it in four phases and at every phase we evaluated market conditions as well as what was working for our family—and every time we decided not to sell."

INSIDE DESIGN

The couple worked with Boise-based, mid-century home interior designer Jessica Luque, principal designer and owner of Stussi Luque Design, for all phases of their remodel. Jessica also lives in the Randolph-Robertson subdivision and works as a real estate agent at TJ's firm.

A COZY SPACE FOR READING WAS CREATED NEXT TO THE FIREPLACE.

LEATHER RECLINER AND NESTING TABLES FROM WEST ELM.





“We wanted to live in the house to see how our family used the home so we could see where to put our efforts,” TJ says.

“I used many of the existing materials in the home as a guiding design principle for selecting finishes,” Jessica explains. “For example, all the wood finishes we selected for the home harken to the beautiful warm-colored sandstone on the exterior of the home and on the fireplace. I want you to walk into a home and feel like everything belongs—that it was always there. Then I know I have done a good design job.”

FOUR-PART RENOVATION

They started the first phase of the remodel right after the family moved in. They upgraded the landscaping and painted the exterior, including installing and painting a new front door. From 2015-2017, they did a small “refresh” on the kitchen and bathrooms, replacing granite countertops with quartz. A more extensive kitchen and bathroom remodel followed in 2019. “We wanted to live in the house to see how our family used the home so we could see where to put our efforts,” TJ says.

In 2018, the Pierces kicked off the most extensive part of their remodel when they added 1,300 square feet to the home with the addition of a basement. According to TJ, it was the most challenging phase of the remodel. “We lived in the house during this part of the remodel and it took 10 months to complete. It took four months just to dig the basement. The house vibrated like crazy, and it was a quite a sight to see the dining room table jump off the floor from the vibration. The addition of the basement made a huge difference in how we lived in the house.”

In 2019, the couple undertook a full kitchen and bathroom remodel as well as relocating the laundry room to another part of the house to make access easier.

The finished home is now a 3,000-square-foot home with six bedrooms and three bathrooms, which is more than enough room for their family. “But, of course, the kids have been growing up during the remodel and it won’t be long before they leave home. So maybe now we will finally sell,” TJ says. Well, maybe. 🌿

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THE FAMILY ORIGINALLY USED THIS LARGE ROOM AS A FLEXIBLE LIVING SPACE, DEPENDING ON WHAT THE CHILDREN NEEDED. THE ORIGINAL EATING AREA WAS LOCATED NEAR THE KITCHEN, BUT THAT AREA BECAME THE STAIRWELL TO ACCESS THE BASEMENT. PULLING FROM THE NATURAL SANDSTONE WALL, THEY EXTENDED THE WARM TONE WITH A FLOATING CORK FLOOR. THE ORIGINAL BOOKSHELVES ON EITHER SIDE OF THE STONE WALL HAD NO BACKING. THEY HAD A CABINET MAKER CAREFULLY REMOVE THEM AND ADD MATCHING WOOD PANELS TO THE BACK, THEN REINSTALLED THEM FOR A BUILT-IN LOOK. TO MAKE THIS LARGE SPACE FEEL MORE INVITING, THEY USED A DARK PAINT COLOR: SHERWIN-WILLIAMS NAVY SEAWALL (HGSW1471).





THE ORIGINAL LAUNDRY ROOM WAS MOVED TO EXTEND THE FOOTPRINT OF THE GALLEY KITCHEN. THE WALNUT WALL WAS EXTENDED ONTO THE BACK WALL, CREATING A FULLY WRAPPED WALNUT PANEL. THE COUNTER WAS EXTENDED ACROSS AN EXISTING EXTERIOR DOOR TO GAIN MAXIMUM CABINET STORAGE. THE ORIGINAL DOOR OPENING WAS KEPT TO CREATE A DUTCH DOOR WITH THE LOWER HALF REMAINING FIXED; FROM THE OUTSIDE, IT LOOKS LIKE A DOOR WITH A STEP THAT CAN BE USED TO PASS DRINKS AND FOOD THROUGH WHEN HOSTING A PARTY. THE CABINETRY IS FROM LOCAL MAKER NYSTROM GOODS. A CUSTOM BACKSPLASH FROM CLAY HAUS SIGNAL'S TILE COLLECTION WAS USED TO CREATE DIFFERENT GEOMETRIC PATTERNS. THEY CHOSE BERMUDA MATTE IN MINT GREEN FOR ITS 1950S VIBE.





DESIGNER JESSICA LUQUE'S SIGNATURE DESIGN TRICK IS THAT INSTEAD OF A HEADBOARD, SHE USES WALLPAPER TO CREATE A FOCAL POINT. THE GEOMETRIC YELLOW PRINT IS WALLPAPER FROM THE '70S.



TIPS FOR A **MULTI-PHASE** REMODEL

With the help of designer Jessica Luque, TJ and Ronda Pierce took the long road to reviving their MCM home—and for good reason. Here are their main takeaways:

- **ENGAGE THE EXPERTS EARLY AND OFTEN.** This is especially important for a multi-phase project. Make sure to check in with them as your project progresses, as the goals for your project will inevitably change over time.
- **LIVE IN THE SPACE BEFORE MAKING CHANGES.** Some of the things you think you couldn't possibly live with and have to change immediately might be perfectly fine after living in the space. This saves not only time and money, but also is less wasteful.
- **MAKE SURE YOUR LEASE ALLOWS FOR DELAYS IN CASE YOU HAVE TO MOVE INTO A RENTAL DURING PART OF YOUR REMODEL.** The family had to leave their rental home before the kitchen project was completed, which meant they had to live several weeks without appliances or finished cabinets.
- **DON'T TRY TO REINVENT THE WHEEL; USE WHAT YOU HAVE.** For example, the homeowners asked themselves how they could make the galley kitchen feel bigger instead of giving up on it.
- **CREATE A COHESIVE DESIGN VISION WITH THE MATERIALS YOU HAVE IN THE HOME.** For example, the pink in the sandstone on the fireplace and exterior inspired the paint color for the front door.



BELOW, LEFT: THIS BATHROOM IS PRIMARILY USED BY THE CHILDREN. TO GIVE IT A MORE PLAYFUL FEEL, THEY INSTALLED $\frac{3}{4}$ -INCH GLASS MOSAIC TILE IN A BLEND OF BLUE TONES.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: THE BASEMENT PRIMARILY SERVES AS LIVING SPACE AND BEDROOMS FOR THE CHILDREN.

BELOW, RIGHT: A MORE SUBTLE COLOR SCHEME WAS USED FOR THE MAIN-LEVEL BATHROOM SO THE HOMEOWNERS COULD SWAP OUT TOWELS AND ACCESSORIES, AND CHANGE UP THE ACCENT COLOR OVER TIME. WHITE DOES NOT NEED TO BE BORING: PLAYING WITH SHAPES, PATTERNS OR TEXTURE CAN MAKE WHITE JUST AS INTERESTING AS COLOR. THIS TRIANGULAR SHAPED TILE IS FROM THE TILE BAR.





THE MARINO FAMILY'S OUTDOOR LIVING AREA IS AN EXEMPLARY STANDARD OF SOPHISTICATED AND STYLISH MID-CENTURY DESIGN WITH ACCESSIBLE COVERED AND UNCOVERED "ROOMS" THAT ARE FUNCTIONAL WHILE SUPPORTING A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES IN ONE INCLUSIVE SPACE.



Leveling Up the Landscape

By Rebecca Razo
Exterior designs by Sean Lockyear, Studio AR&D Architects
Photography by Dan Chavkin

A couple transforms the exterior of their vacation home into an oasis for gathering with family and friends.



WHEN DESERT DWELLERS NEED A VACATION, they often flock to the beach. When coastal dwellers need a holiday, they often flee to the desert. And when the destination is only about two hours away, it becomes even more attractive.

In 2017, San Diego, California, residents David and Patsy Marino decided it was time to level up their family's lifestyle with a vacation home in Palm Springs. They fell in love with a dreamy mid-century treasure from prolific Southern California architect Charles Du Bois, renowned for his Desert Modernism style. "The previous owner had done a remodel in 2014, and the interiors maintained the integrity of the home's history," Patsy says. "The landscaping, however, was on the sparse side."

David and Patsy needed outdoor spaces that would not only embody the history of the home, but also support the interests of their active family, including their two teenagers, and facilitate entertaining large groups of family and friends. "We wanted to do something meaningful and dramatic," Patsy says. "We wanted an outdoor space that would really engage our visitors."

(ABOVE) "SEAN HAS EXQUISITE TASTE," PATSY SAYS. "I ESPECIALLY LOVE HOW HE DESIGNED THE PLINTH WITH THE PLATTER BOWL IN THE CENTER OF THE FRONT YARD." SEAN'S SLEEK PLINTH-AND-BOWL PLANTER COMBO IS FILLED WITH REGION-APPROPRIATE CACTI. HE ALSO CREATED A CACTI FOREST IN THE YARD USING MYRIAD SPECIES, WHICH HE PLANTED IN VERTICAL CLUSTERS ACROSS VARIATIONS OF HEIGHT, COLOR AND TEXTURE.

(OPPOSITE, BOTTOM) THE SETUP UNDER THE COVERED PATIO IS IDEAL FOR CASUAL CONVERSATION AND RELAXATION, WHEREAS THE LUSH GRASSY AREA IS IDEAL FOR MORE DYNAMIC ACTIVITIES. THOUGH THESE OUTDOOR SPACES SERVE DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS, THEY COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER AND MAKE TRANSITIONING FROM ONE ACTIVITY TO ANOTHER EASY.

INTERIOR PROVIDES INSIGHT


The Marinos enlisted the expertise of Sean Lockyear, AIA, founding principal and lead architect for Studio AR&D Architects. "The outdoor living area was choppy and not very functional to the family," Sean says. "They wanted better utilization of the space, and the site needed to support various nodes of activity." Sean mapped out an intuitive design that considered form and function as well as the views from interior to exterior and vice versa. As part of the discovery process, he also referenced the home's floor plan. "You need to know the interior spaces if you are going to successfully connect them to the exterior spaces," he says. "You need to know what's going on inside the dwelling to design the outside."

Sean also took inspiration from Patsy's selection of outdoor furniture. "We were able to use some of her fabrics and materials and marry those up to the hardscape design," he

says. One such example includes the fire-pit installation on the raised patio facing the pool. The rectangular piece parallels the shape, size and scale of the sofa Patsy selected for the area. With its breeze-block wall, this outdoor living room is both self-contained yet fully accessible to the other areas around the property.

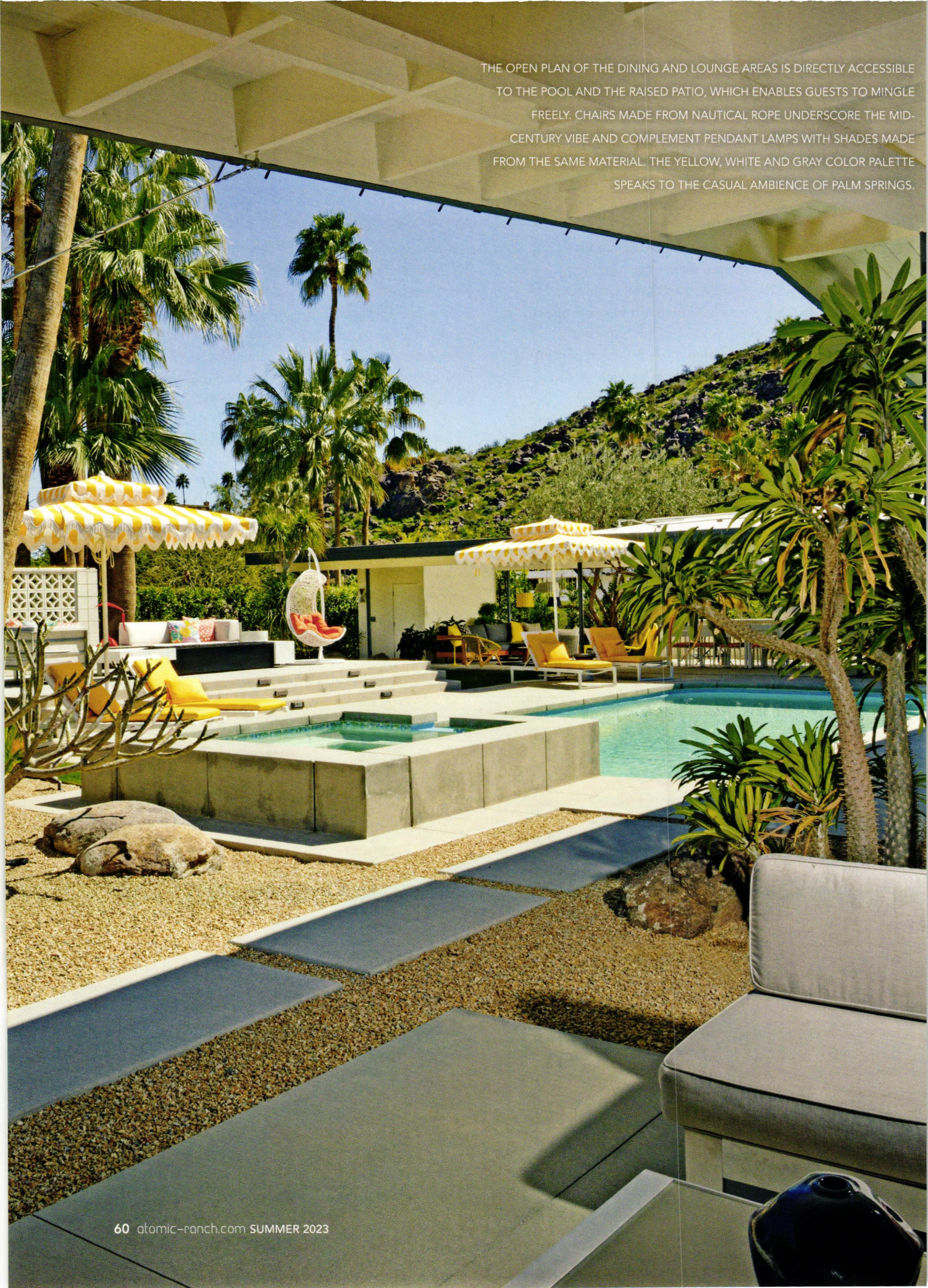
FINESSING THE FLOW

Sean relocated the outdoor dining space from in front of the master bedroom to a more centralized area and reworked various paths to make some of them primary and others private, including creating a more subtle route from the common areas to the pool shower and bath. Other upgrades included an outdoor kitchen, a functional pool bath, covered and uncovered patios, and a regulation court so the family could enjoy one of their favorite activities: bocce ball.



"You need to know what's going on inside the dwelling to design the outside."

THE OPEN PLAN OF THE DINING AND LOUNGE AREAS IS DIRECTLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE POOL AND THE RAISED PATIO, WHICH ENABLES GUESTS TO MINGLE FREELY. CHAIRS MADE FROM NAUTICAL ROPE UNDERSCORE THE MID-CENTURY VIBE AND COMPLEMENT PENDANT LAMPS WITH SHADES MADE FROM THE SAME MATERIAL. THE YELLOW, WHITE AND GRAY COLOR PALETTE SPEAKS TO THE CASUAL AMBIENCE OF PALM SPRINGS.



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SUNNY Side Up

Vibrant shots of yellow and orange pay homage to the desert sun while matching the vibrant energy of this outdoor space.

When the Marinos began their backyard transformation, Patsy knew what her goals were for the color palette: continuity of design from the front of the house to the back of the house. "The front door of the house is yellow; we wanted yellow to be a key part of the color theme," she says. "When you open the front door, everything else is white or natural and your eye is drawn through the house directly to the back with the umbrellas and chaise lounges for consistency throughout the visual plane." Here are Patsy's other tips for creating a clear and consistent colorway.

LIMIT THE PRIMARY PALETTE. Mid Century Modern design is about impact, so colors should seek to complement, not compete with, the bones of the space. To accomplish this, select one or two foundational colors—Patsy chose white—that you can punch up a vibrant but reduced primary color scheme. In this case, cheerful shades of yellow with bright pops of orange accentuate the sunny desert clime.

DESIGN IN COLOR BLOCKS. With the primary palette established, introduce furnishings that underscore the MCM style without drawing too much attention to any one piece. "We wanted the largest pieces to be in solid colors so they could 'disappear' into the background," Patsy says. To that end, she used gray and black as the receding colors, which not only complement the white, but allow the yellow and orange accents to pop.

USE PATTERNS SELECTIVELY. Patterns are great for adding visual interest, but there can be a tipping point if you use them to excess. Use patterns to balance your design compositions. Throw pillows, area rugs, patio umbrella treatments and small tabletops are ideal for introducing patterns that add shine to a design.







ABOVE: EACH OUTDOOR SPACE IS NOTICEABLE FOR ITS “TOGETHER BUT SEPARATE” ELEMENTS. EVERY AREA FEELS DISTINCT YET IS SEAMLESS WITH THE NEXT. HERE, THE RAISED PATIO DENOTES A POOL-ADJACENT AREA THAT ALLOWS FOR CONVERSATION WHILE STAYING CLEAR OF WATER ACTIVITY. THE YELLOW STRIPED UMBRELLAS BY SANTA BARBARA DESIGNS FRAME THE SPACE, ADDING SIGNATURE STYLE THAT IS FUN AND LUXE.

Sean’s plant and foliage selections further augment the exterior living spaces while paying homage to the home’s history. Madagascar palm, fruit trees, plumeria and other tropical plantings provide texture and visual interest, and even help delineate one outdoor room from another. When in bloom, Palo Verde trees cascade a canopy of yellow flowers over the bocce ball court in a color palette that complements the vibrant hues of decorative accents on the property, including cushions, throw pillows, patio umbrellas, chairs and pendant lamps. Misters situated around the roof lines of the home and patio areas provide relief from the desert sun.

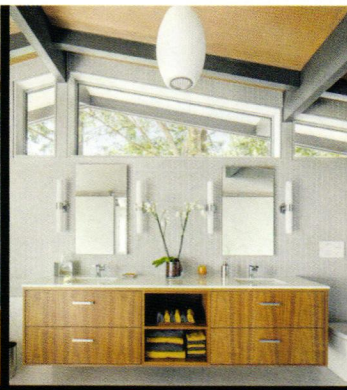
For Patsy, the design is flawless. “Sean was great at understanding what we were trying to do,” she says. He delivered—and then some. What was initially intended as a vacation home has quickly evolved into a second residence where the family splits their time.

“We spend more time here than we imagined when we bought the home,” Patsy says, noting they are in Palm Springs for about a week out of every month. “We love the desert lifestyle; it’s a nice contrast from the coast.” 🌿

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BELOW: WICKER CHAIRS WITH WHITE CUSHIONS AND TROPICAL-INSPIRED THROW PILLOWS OFFER A PERFECT SPOT NEXT TO THE BOCCIE BALL COURT TO TAKE A BREAK BETWEEN GAMES. IN THE SPRING, THE PALO VERDE TREE BLOOMS BRIGHT YELLOW, COMPLEMENTING THE YELLOW HUES FOUND IN OTHER DECORATIVE ACCENTS AROUND THE YARD.





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retro road trip

Mod Traveling Through Washington

The Emerald State
boasts many
mid-century gems if you
know where to look.

Written and photographed by [Ken MacIntyre](#), [Modtraveler.net](#)

When people are asked what their favorite mid-century spots are in Washington State they might list the Space Needle, the Pacific Science Center or even Dick's hamburger drive-in. Not surprisingly, all three of these modernist treasures are in Seattle.

However, a retro road trip east of the Emerald City reveals a plethora of mid-century gems. From North Bend to Spokane and everywhere in between, here's a sampling of my favorite Washington State retro sites east of the Cascades.

SCOTT'S DAIRY FREEZE IN NORTH BEND,
DOING BUSINESS SINCE 1951.

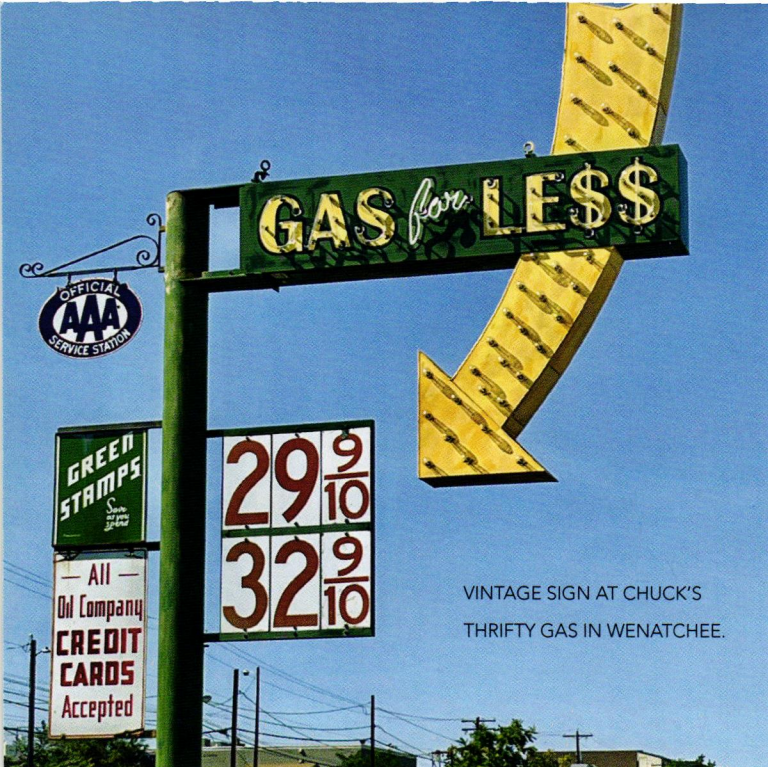


NORTH BEND

This Snoqualmie Valley town boasts some key locations from the cult TV show "Twin Peaks," including Twede's Café, which played the Double R Diner. The 1940s-era coffee shop was originally called Thompson's Diner, then in the 1950s its moniker changed to the Mar-T Café and a neon sign was added. Kyle Twede has been its owner for the past two decades or so. Other standouts in North Bend include Scott's Dairy Freeze, a classic mid-century drive-in from 1951; the streamlined North Bend Movie Theatre, built in the Art Moderne style from 1941; and the Mt. Si Motel, a low-slung 1950s motor court also used in "Twin Peaks."

TWEDE'S CAFE IN NORTH BEND STARTED AS THOMPSON'S CAFE IN 1941. PHOTO BY RACHEL BENNETT.





VINTAGE SIGN AT CHUCK'S
THRIFTY GAS IN WENATCHEE.



WENATCHEE

Located near the eastern foothills of the Cascade Mountains, Wenatchee is worth a stop for its mid-1960s New Formalist-style buildings, which include a former United States Post Office (now City Hall) and a Bank of America building that has been repurposed as a boutique home-goods store. Its wavy-looking Pioneer Middle School building, designed by Seattle architects Naramore, Bain, Brady & Johanson and built in 1957, is also a standout.

Chuck's Thrifty Gas, a vintage service station displaying roadside ephemera such as old fuel pumps and signs, is a real curiosity and a perfect pit stop for retro roadtrippers. But don't expect any service—or gas—as this time capsule is strictly for gazing at.

Speaking of signs, Wenatchee also boasts one of the few remaining original Neo-Lectra signs, which is topped with a giant atomic-age neon Sputnik-like star, from 1961 at the Sav-Mart Plaza.

The nearby Bavarian village of Leavenworth is also worth a quick side trip. Reinvented in the 1960s from a tired logging town into a kitschy mid-century Alpine wonderland, Leavenworth is a short 30-minute drive from Wenatchee.



CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY'S
BOUILLON HALL, 1961.



ELLENSBURG

An early center of commerce in Washington State, Ellensburg is home to Central Washington University, where you'll find an array of architecture, including Bouillon Hall, a former library built of reinforced concrete and a unique brick honeycomb veneer. Designed by acclaimed Seattle architect Fred Bassetti, it received the Washington State American Institute of Architects Honor Award in 1961.

When it comes to roadside architecture, Crossett's vintage Mobilgas is hard to beat for its old-timey vibe. Built in 1936 and named for Bruce Crossett, who restored the former service station on old Hwy 10, it now houses the Red Horse Diner, a tasty 1950s-style restaurant that boasts an extensive collection of vintage metal signs as well as unforgettable burgers and fries.

Also serving the community for decades is a pair of vintage, low-slung burger drive-ins that will make you feel like you time-traveled back to the days of "American Graffiti;" the Campus U-Tote-Em, circa 1951; and Rossow's U-Tote-Em from 1966.

CROSSETT'S MOBILGAS, BUILT IN 1936 AS A GILMORE SERVICE STATION, IN ELLENSBURG. PHOTO BY NICOLE CROSSETT.



SPOKANE

The second-largest city in Washington State is also known for many notable pre- and post-war Modernist structures designed by nationally recognized architects.

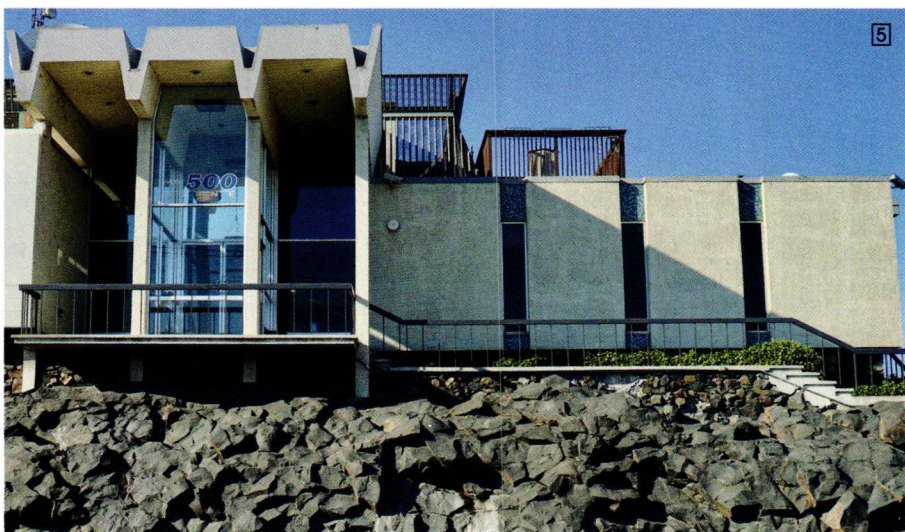
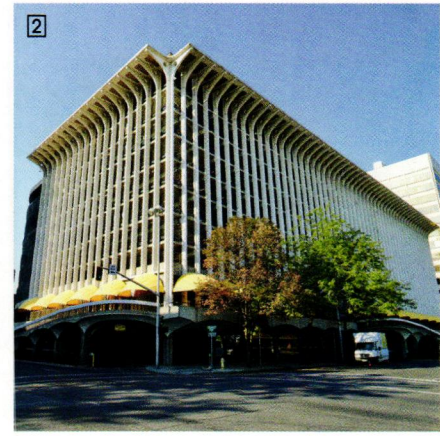
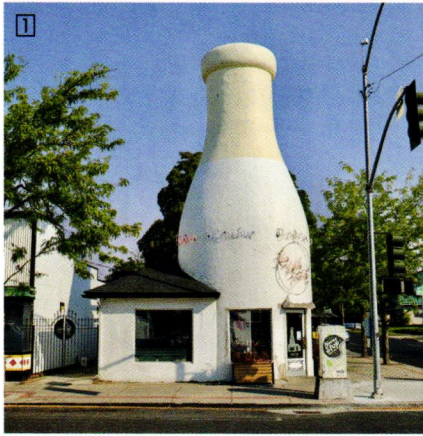
In the 1930s, Spokane generated several eye-catching Art Deco and Streamline Moderne buildings that are still around, including the Felts Field Airport Terminal, circa 1932, and the Fox Theatre from 1931, designed by Robert Reamer, much of whose work is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Unique Programmatic architecture also left its mark on Spokane with the Garland and Benewah Milk Bottles from 1934 and 1935, designed by famed Spokane architects Whitehouse and Price. The Milk Bottles served as dairy retailers until the 1970s and have since been repurposed as a 1950s-style diner (Mary Lou's Milk Bottle) and a therapy clinic.

Of Spokane's many post-war modern architects, three studied under Bauhaus founder Walter Gropius at Harvard University: Bill Trogdon, Bruce Walker and Royal McClure. Collectively, their designs helped shape mid-century Spokane. In fact, several of the city's renowned Modernists came together with Walker and McClure to design the sublime U.S. Courthouse downtown. The New Formalist style building was erected in 1967 and was credited to Culler, Gale, Martell & Erickson; McClure & Adkinson; and Walker & McGough.

Also located in downtown Spokane is the Parkade Plaza Parking Garage, a 10-story New Formalist shrine to the American automobile. Designed by Warren C. Heylman and built in 1967, this impressive structure was credited with helping rejuvenate the city's downtown core by creating parking for nearly 1,000 more automobiles.

Other notable mid-century locations in Spokane include the Washington Water Power Central Service Facility



1. AN EXAMPLE OF PROGRAMMATIC ARCHITECTURE, THE GARLAND MILK BOTTLE IN SPOKANE, 1934.
2. PARKADE PLAZA IN DOWNTOWN SPOKANE, BUILT IN THE NEW FORMALIST STYLE, 1967.
3. THE FORMER WASHINGTON WATER POWER CENTRAL SERVICE FACILITY, BUILT IN 1959, IS NOW THE HEADQUARTERS FOR AVISTA.
4. SPOKANE'S ICONIC DICK'S HAMBURGERS, SERVING CUSTOMERS IN RETRO STYLE SINCE THE MID-1960S.
5. KXLY BROADCAST CENTER IN SPOKANE, BUILT IN 1964.

(now the headquarters for Avista), a five-story curtain-wall building designed by architects Brooks & Walker and the recipient of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) First Honor Award in 1959; the atomic-age KXLY Broadcast Center, a futuristic looking commercial structure designed by architects James & Hicks in 1964; Dick's Hamburgers (not to be confused with Seattle's Dick's Drive-In), a space-age, Google-style drive-in designed by local Spokane architect Douglas Durkoop in the

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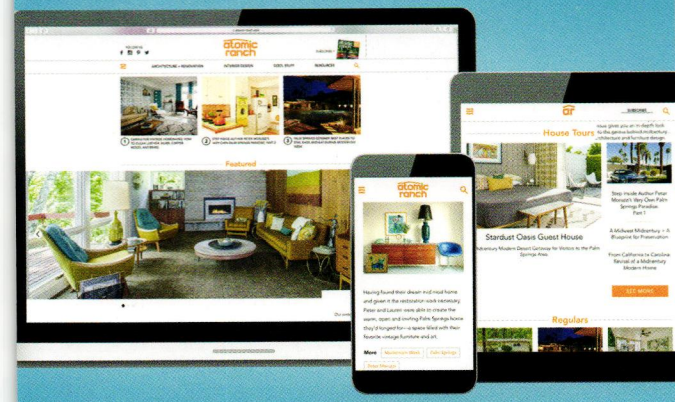
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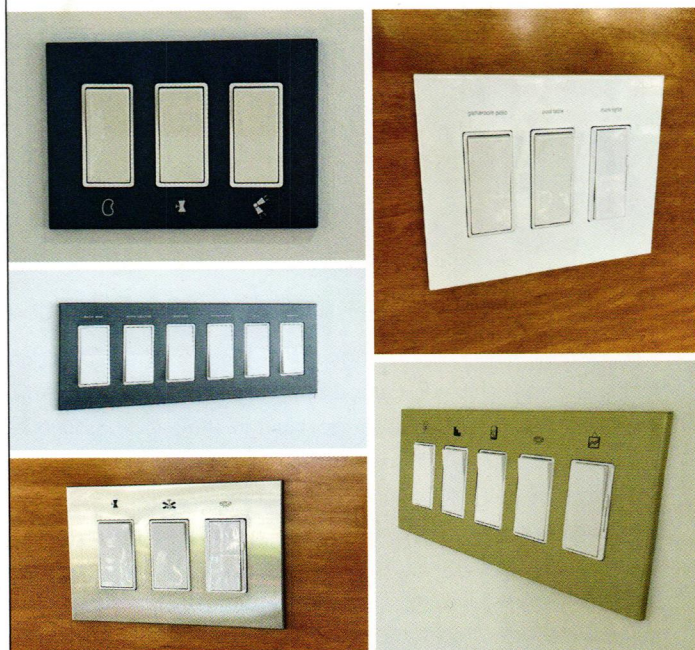
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SPOKANE



SPOKANE'S ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO CATHOLIC CHURCH, BUILT IN 1961.

mid-1960s; and the St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, designed in 1961 by architects Funk, Murray and Johnson, which features a dramatic hyperbolic paraboloid roof arching over a tall brick-clad cylindrical form flanking its entryway. The church was recognized by the AIA with an award for outstanding contemporary architecture.

In 1974, the city hosted the World's Fair and although its legacy does not include another iconic Space Needle like that of Seattle's 1962 World's Fair, Spokane's innovative and angular-looking Washington State Pavilion and Opera House (now the INB Performing Arts Center), designed by the firm Walker, McGough, Foltz and Lyerla Architects, turned heads anyway. It was the centerpiece of Expo '74 and hosted many renowned artists like Jack Benny and Ella Fitzgerald.

It has since established itself (along with other structures too numerous to list) as part of Spokane's lasting mid-century architectural heritage.

These recommendations are by no means the only mid-century treasures you'll find in Washington State. If you keep your eyes peeled, there's lots more to discover. For an extensive list of mid-century Spokane architecture, visit MidcenturySpokane.org.



YAKIMA

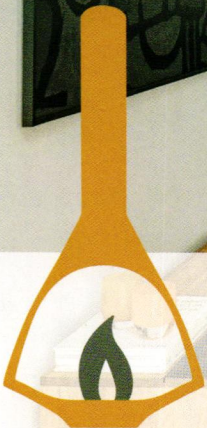
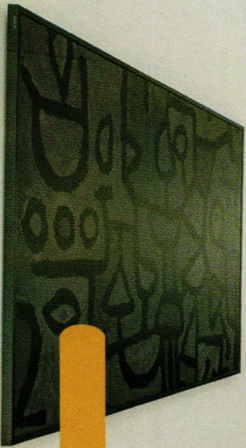
Known as "The Palm Springs of Washington" (really!), Yakima has a few architecturally significant buildings, including the city's first skyscraper, the A.E. Larson Building, a sleek 11-story Art Deco structure designed by John W. Maloney and the National Bank of Washington (now Wells Fargo) built in 1968 and designed in the New Formalist style by Yakima local James D. Cowan.

For mid-century sign hunters, Yakima may have more vintage neon per capita than any other city in the region, including the recently restored 1960s neon duck-hunter sign at the downtown Sports Center Bar & Restaurant. In fact, one of the collections at Yakima's impressive Valley Museum features many of the city's former vintage neon signs.

Not to be overlooked, Yakima's also got a couple of satisfying mid-century drive-ins still doing brisk business: the Lariat Bar-B-Q has been serving 'em up since 1966 and the 1950s-style Pepp'r-mint Stick Drive-In (technically in Union Gap) has been family-owned and operated since the late 1940s.

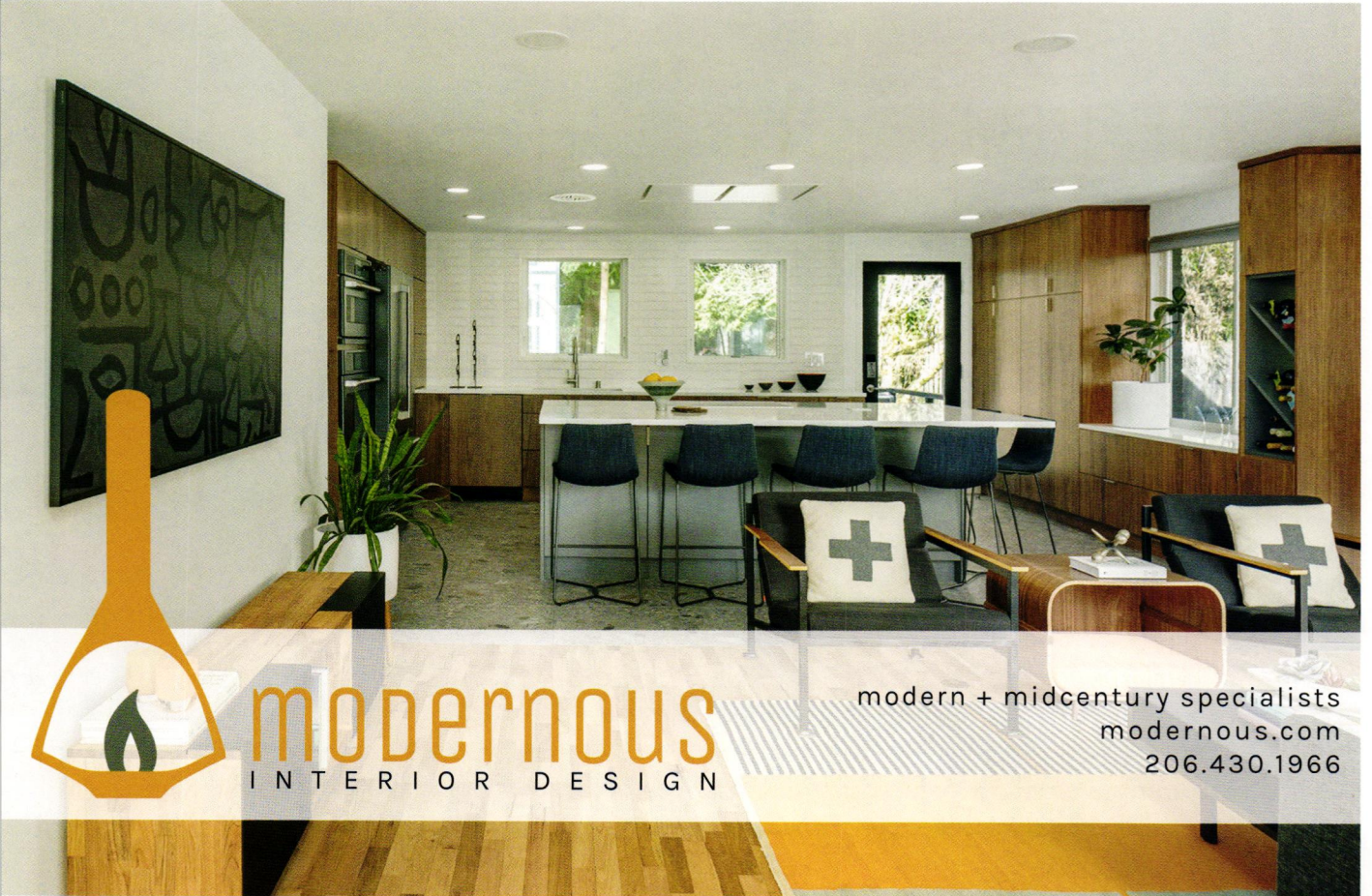


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— ZILLAH —

Listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places, the Teapot Dome Service Station is a must-see on your journey between Yakima and Spokane. An example of Programmatic Architecture, the station was built by Jack Ainsworth in 1922 on what would become U.S. Route 12 when the U.S. national highways system was beginning to expand. It continued to operate as a full-service gas station in a couple of different locations into the early 2000s before it was closed and purchased by the city, and then relocated again in 2012. It currently serves as Zillah's visitors center.

— CLE ELLUM —

This satellite bedroom community in the north Cascades is home to the oldest telephone museum west of the Mississippi, with displays featuring telephone technology from the late 1800s through the early 1970s. Cle Ellum, which means "swift water" in the language of the Kittitas Indians, is also fortunate to have a couple of original 1950s drive-ins that are still frequented by loyal customers from miles away. The Red Arrow drive-in has been serving up tasty burgers and shakes since 1953 as has the legendary Twin Pines drive-in.

TWIN PINES BURGERS IN CLE ELLUM, SINCE 1958.



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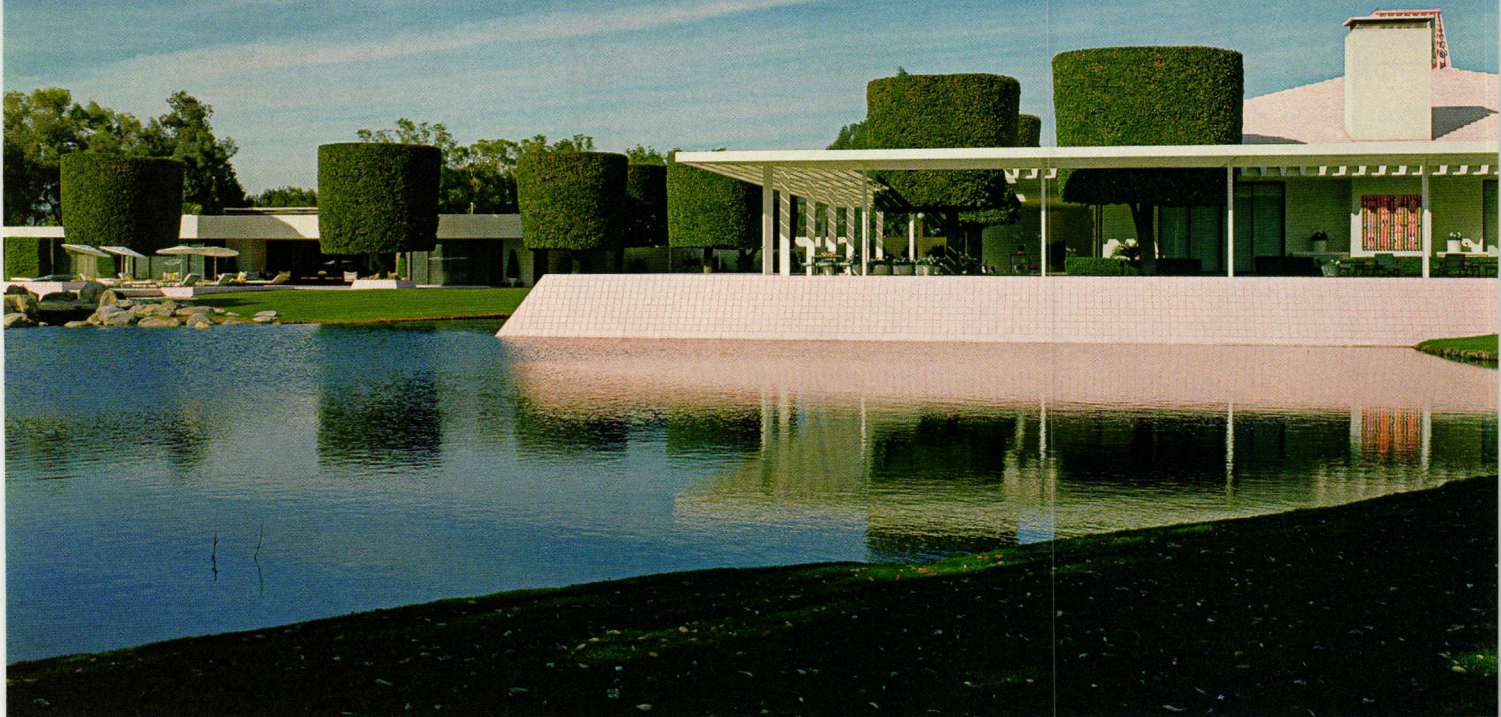
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SUNNYLANDS: Where Politics, Partying and Peace Intertwine



Regarded as a masterpiece of Mid Century Modern design, the Sunnylands estate has hosted the political elite, wealthy and famous.

By **Christina DeNatale**
Photography by **Mark Davidson**
Courtesy of **Vendome Press**

SURROUNDED BY THE WHITE, FLAT DESERT OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY sits the Sunnylands estate. The modernist dream house in Rancho Mirage, California, is truly one-of-a-kind and is considered the pinnacle of Mid Century design. In the book *Sunnylands: America's Midcentury Masterpiece*, author Janice Lyle depicts how Walter and Leonore Annenberg created a compound from hundreds of acres of desert and made a marvelous, unique retreat where the ultra-wealthy and famous could escape reality.

So, who were the Annenbergs and how did they create such a charming, impressive and unique oasis?

Walter Annenberg was an American businessman and media magnate. He owned Triangle Publications, which printed *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *TV Guide* and *Seventeen* magazine, among others. He was appointed as U.S. Ambassador to

the United Kingdom by former President Richard Nixon, and he and his wife, Leonore, were often called the greatest philanthropists of their generation. They donated their billion-dollar art collection to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, as well as hundreds of millions of dollars to cultural, educational and medical institutions.

DESIGN DREAM TEAM

The Annenbergs' design team consisted of movie-star-turned-decorator William "Billy" Haines and esteemed California architect A. Quincy Jones. "Both designers grasped the Annenbergs' desire for a fresh paradigm of American glamour, a modernist country house sensitive to both the region and the climate, but also an impressive background for their extraordinary collection of Impressionist paintings," Lyle writes.

(LEFT) "THE ANNENBERGS VERY MUCH WANTED A HOUSE THAT WOULD BE OPEN TO THE OUTDOORS," LYLE WRITES. "JONES ACHIEVED THAT SENSE OF OPENNESS AND RELAXED LIVING WITH A SURPRISING DIAGONAL ENTRANCE, A CENTRAL GARDEN ALSO ON AN OBLIQUE AXIS, PARTITION WALLS THAT DON'T RISE TO THE CEILING, AND AN EGG CRATE-COFFERED CEILING CONNECTING THE INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR. WIDE EXPANSES OF GLASS BLUR THE LINE BETWEEN INDOORS AND OUTDOORS, PULLING THE GREEN LANDSCAPE INSIDE THE RESIDENCE."

(RIGHT) WELCOMING THE INFLUENTIAL, ELITE AND CELEBRITY TO THE ESTATE FOR RELAXATION AND CELEBRATION WAS AN ANNENBERG TRADITION FOR MORE THAN THREE DECADES. NANCY AND RONALD REAGAN FIRST VISITED IN 1967, WHILE REAGAN WAS GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA. OVER THE YEARS THEY BECAME CLOSE FRIENDS OF THE ANNENBERGS AND EVEN CELEBRATED REAGAN'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AT SUNNYLANDS' ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY. REAGAN PLAYED GOLF AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR AT SUNNYLANDS AND SOMETIMES BROUGHT MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET TO THE ESTATE.

(BELOW, RIGHT) AS GUESTS ENTER THE HOME THEY ARE GREETED WITH AUGUSTE RODIN'S BRONZE SCULPTURE, EVE, AT THE CENTER OF THE ATRIUM.



SUNNYLANDS TODAY

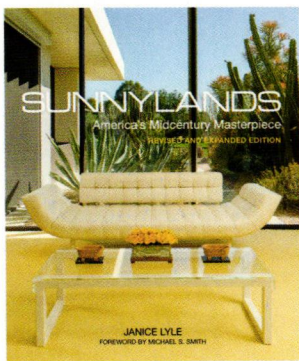
The current state of the esteemed estate.

Following Walter Annenberg's passing in 2002 and Leonore's in 2009, their estate turned into a retreat available to the President, Secretary of State, leaders of Congress, Supreme Court justices and other political elite where they could promote peace and engage in creative and problem-solving conversations. The couple hoped the Annenberg Foundation Trust would turn Sunnylands into the "Camp David of the West."

However, you don't need to be a politician to enjoy the historic site of diplomacy, leisure and a blueprint of Mid Century Modern design: Sunnylands is now open to the public and sees about 90,000 visitors every year.



(ABOVE, LEFT) LEONORE STANDS NEXT TO A KINETIC SCULPTURE BY HARRY BERTOIA.



SUNNYLANDS: AMERICA'S MIDCENTURY MASTERPIECE BY JANICE LYLE, PUBLISHED BY VENDOME PRESS, © 2022; VENDOMEPRESS.COM.



(ABOVE, RIGHT) THE GAME ROOM WAS THE HEART OF THE GUEST WING, AND WITH SUNFLOWERS IN BLOOM ON THE FURNITURE AND DRAPERIES, THE DESIGN STYLE WAS COMPLETELY UNIQUE FROM THE MAIN HOUSE. THIS WAS THE MAIN AREA WHERE GUESTS RELAXED DURING THEIR STAY. THE ANNENBERGS' ART COLLECTION WAS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THEIR HOME AND INCLUDED PIECES BY MONET, CÉZANNE, VAN GOGH AND PICASSO.

(LEFT) WALTER ANNENBERG INHERITED TRIANGLE PUBLICATIONS, INC., FROM HIS FATHER AND WAS A MOGUL OF AMERICAN MEDIA. HE AND HIS WIFE, LEONORE, WERE INTRODUCED THROUGH A FRIEND AND SHARED A PASSION FOR ART COLLECTING. IN 1951, THEY STARTED THEIR FAMOUS IMPRESSIONIST AND POST-IMPRESSIONIST COLLECTION.

Haines, known for popularizing the Hollywood Regency style, says he struggled to balance the Annenbergs' diverse collections with the requirements of entertaining on a grand scale and their highly specific design taste. Sunnylands wasn't just a place to relax; it was also an unrivaled party destination. For four decades, the Annenbergs hosted a New Year's Eve celebration, and an invitation was "the ultimate social prize."

NATURE AS A MUSE

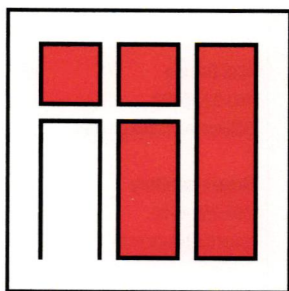
Jones chose a low-slung profile for the estate—a classic modernist approach. Along with abundant diagonal lines, generous windows blurring the outside and interiors, and partition walls that do not connect with the ceilings, the design is a study of openness and free-flowing space. The Sunnylands estate reflected its surroundings through its color scheme, drawing from the mountains, desert and colors that were just outside the home. Haines had no interest in modern materials, unlike most other Mid Century Modern homes in Palm Springs at the time, and instead used custom fine fabrics and avoided any mass-produced material. "Haines designed every piece of furniture in the house—all of the sofas, tables, chairs, lamps and mirrors—to capture a sense of luxury mixed with informality," Lyle writes. Jones took a Mayan-inspired look to the exterior of the home, a timeless theme that is not present inside the estate.

"With its celadon interior, its dazzling collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, and long, low sofas that look like vintage Cadillac convertibles, Sunnylands today is a passport to eras gone by," Smith writes in his foreword, adding, "In the Palm Springs area, the mecca of Mid Century Modern architecture, this extraordinary survivor—maintained as fresh as the day it was built—is the undisputed masterpiece." ☼





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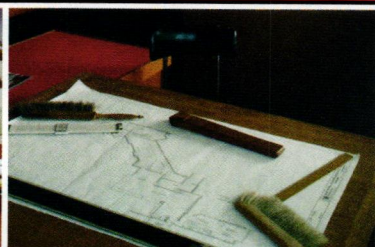
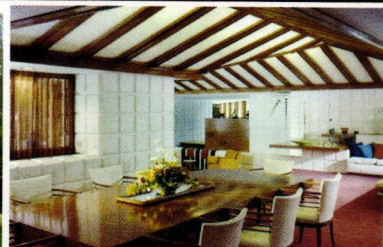
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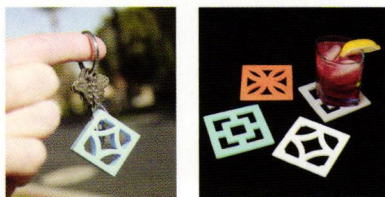
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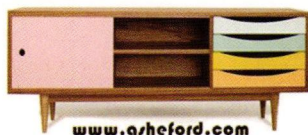
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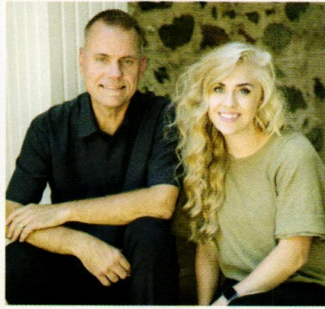
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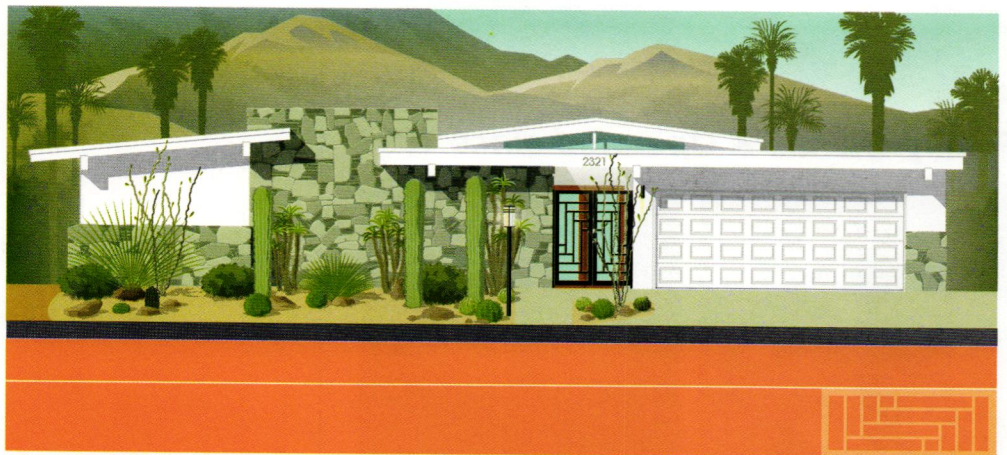


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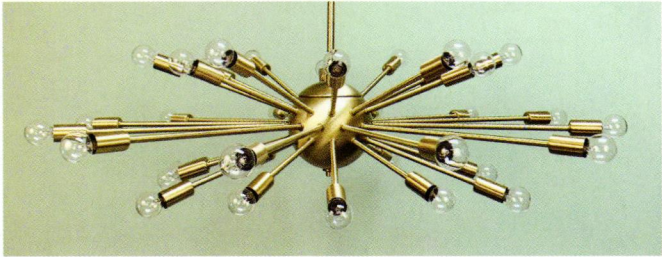


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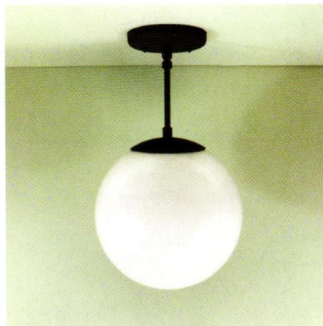
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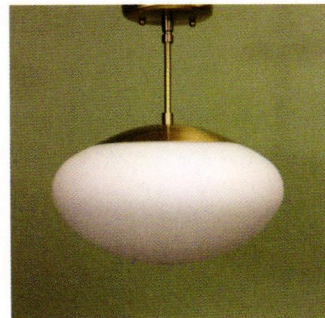
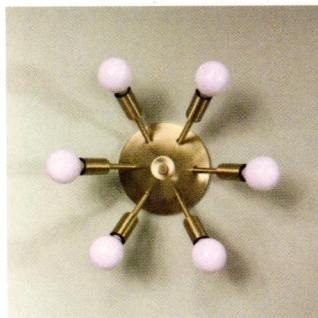
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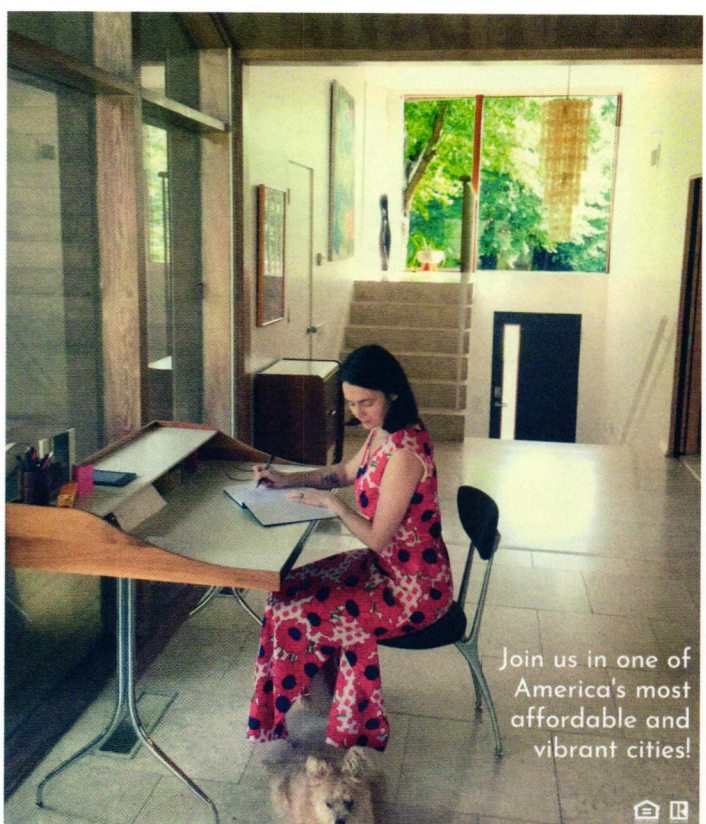


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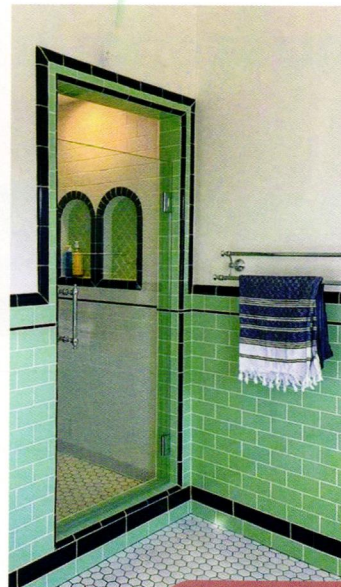


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Blend Until Smooth, Page 18

To see more of contractor/carpenter Sean Beardsley's work, visit the Sean Beardsley and Sons website at beardsleyandsons.houzzsite.com.

Forever Mid Mod, Page 24

To see more projects from Jody Beck and Traction Architecture, visit tractionarchitecture.com.

Cabinet handles: Emttek, emtek.com

Kitchen backsplash tile: Clayhaus, clayhaustile.com

Powder room tile: Walker Zanger, walkerzanger.com

Powder room sink: Duravit, duravit.us

Breakfast nook pendant light, living room

armchair: Design Within Reach, dwr.com

Primary bath pendant lights: In Common With, incommonwith.com

Outdoor furniture: Loll Designs, lolldesigns.com

An Infusion of Character, Page 36

For more on Home Front Build, visit homefrontbuild.com or follow them on Instagram @home_front_build.

Backsplash: Mission Tile West, (626) 799-4595 or missiontilewest.com

Dining chairs: Hollace Cluny, (416) 968-7894 or hollacecluny.ca

Renovate or Relocate?, Page 46

For more information, visit Jessica Luque, interior designer at Stussi Luque Design, on Instagram @jessicaluquestussi. Homeowners TJ and Ronda Pierce can be reached at mid-centuryhomes.com.

Dining room

Table and side console: Boise Vintage, boisevintage.com

Dining room light fixture: George Nelson Saucer light, Design Within Reach, dwr.com

Wall sconces: Rejuvenation in Galaxy, rejuvenation.com

Wall art and curtains: Society6, society6.com

Paint color: Sherwin-Williams in Navy Seawall, sherwin-williams.com

Kitchen

Cabinetry in walnut veneer: Nystrom Goods, nystrom.com

Backsplash: 4x4 Clay Haus tile from Signal tile collection, clayhaustile.com; Custom design layout Stussi Luque Design on Instagram. @stussiluquedesign

Cabinet hardware: Richelieu 5-inch bar pulls in chrome, richelieu.com

Light fixture over sink: Dutton Brown, duttonbrown.com

Primary bedroom

Wallpaper: Wallpaper from the 70's, wallpaperfromthe70s.com

Wall sconces: All Modern, allmodern.com

Furniture: by owner and Treasure Valley home staging, info@treasurevalleyhomestaging.com

Living room

Sofa: Article in Sven, article.com

Coffee table: Scandinavian Designs, scandinaviandesigns.com

Credenza and mirror: Ikea, ikea.com

Chair: West Elm in The Spencer, westelm.com

Basement bathroom

Vanity: Ikea, ikea.com

Wall tile: Vicenza Mosaico Glass tiles, ¾-inch glass tile mosaic blend, cooltiles.com

Basement family room

Sofa: Scandinavian Design in Martine, scandinaviandesigns.com

Leveling Up the Landscape, Page 62

To contact designer Sean Lockyear, AIA, founding principal and lead architect for Studio AR&D Architects, visit studio-ard.com.

Raised patio sofa and table: Brown Jordan, brownjordan.com

Outdoor lounge furnishings, rope chairs: Tidelli Outdoor Living, tidelli.com

Spun chair in gray, chaise lounges: Design Within Reach, dwr.com

Hanging chair (raised patio): H3K Home + Design, h3khomeanddesign.com

Umbrellas: Santa Barbara Designs, (800) 919-9464 or santabarbaradesigns.com



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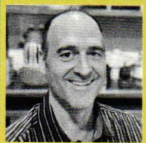
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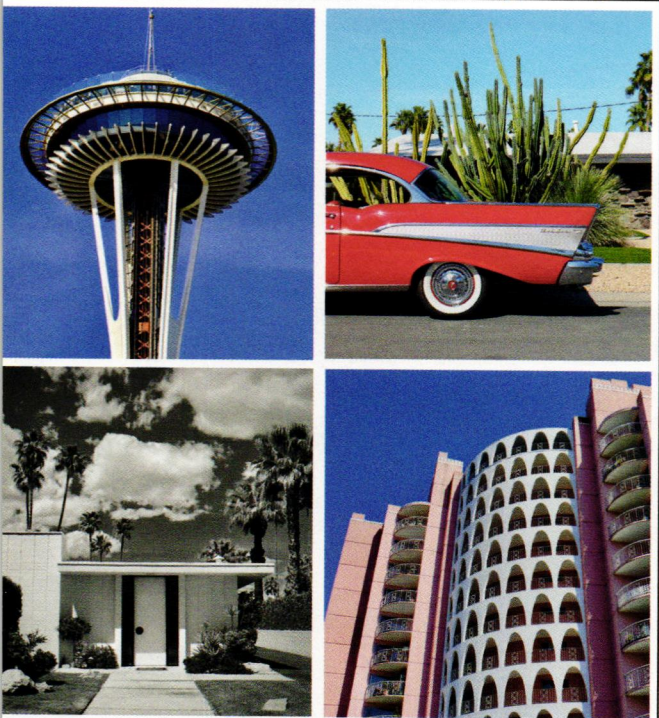
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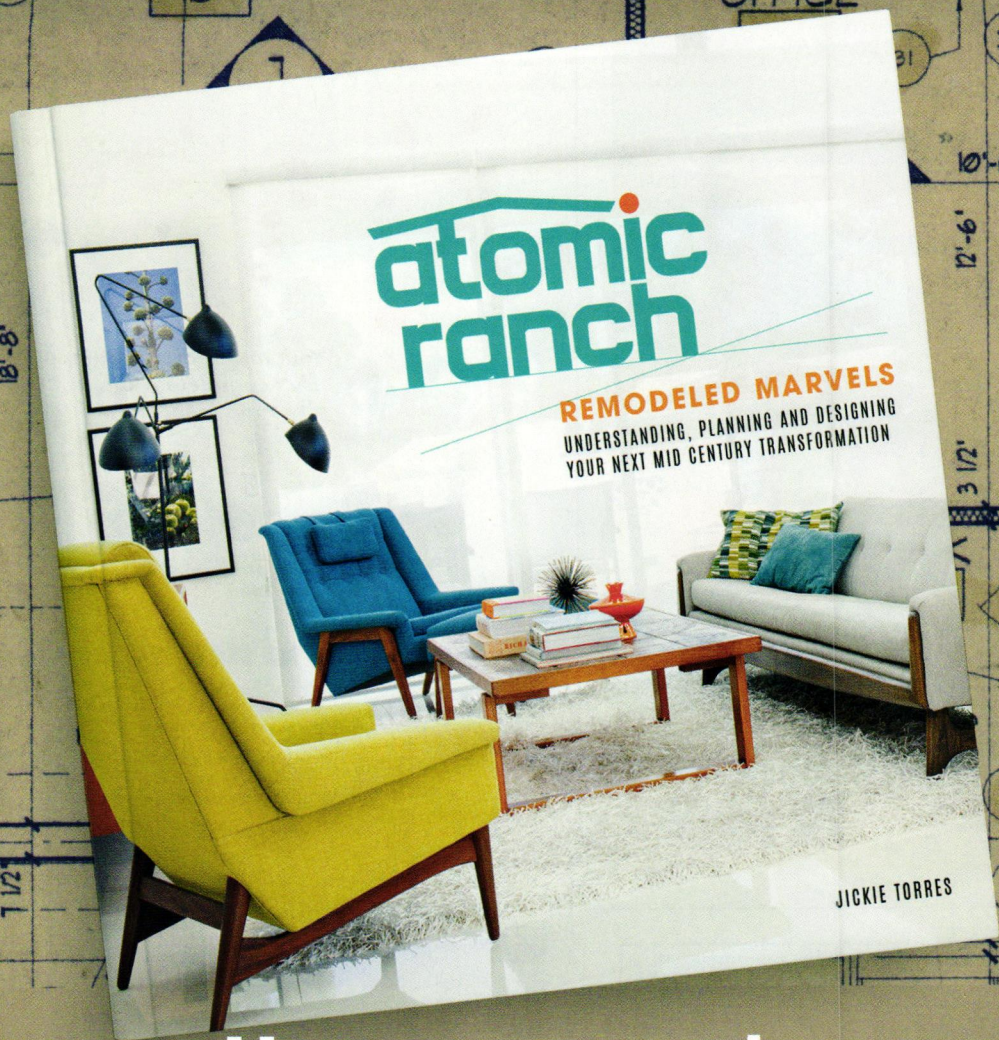
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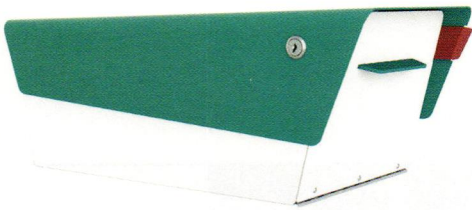
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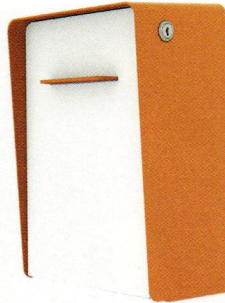
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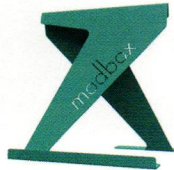


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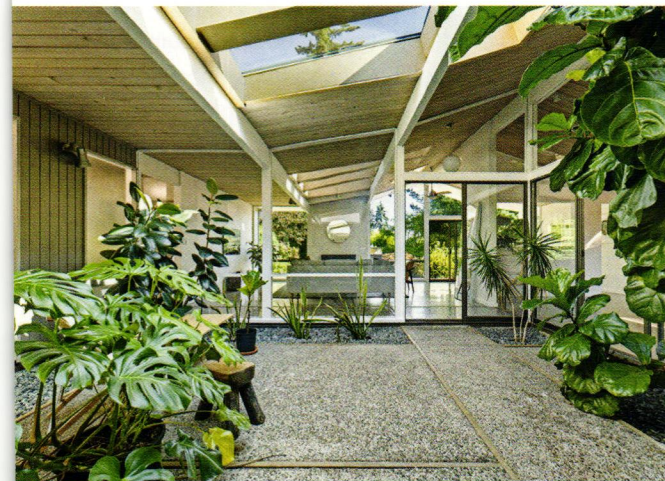


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TWO YOUNG AMERICAN COUPLES IN 1938 TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEIR NEWFOUND FREEDOM TO APPRECIATE AND EXPLORE NATURE ON THEIR OWN TIME.

On the Trail

By Ian McMaster

Photo by H. Armstrong Roberts for ClassicStock

From DIY haulers to fully equipped living rooms on wheels, the birth of the camping trailer gives us a unique look at American history.

The creation of the camping trailer is a testament to America's love of adventure, exploration and the great outdoors. From humble beginnings to the modern, sophisticated trailers of today, they have evolved to meet the needs and desires of generations of Americans who seek out the freedom that comes with life on the road.

It began in the early 1900s, when Americans started to embrace the concept of automobile travel. As the popularity of the automobile grew, wealthy naturalists and car enthusiasts began to seek out new and exciting ways to explore the country. This led to the development of the first camping trailers, which were essentially converted automobiles with DIY platforms that were used to lug around tents, kitchen supplies and camping equipment.

It wasn't until The Roaring Twenties, when the middle class grew, wages increased and vacations became more widespread, that camping's modernization truly began. Collapsible "tent trailers" with sleeping cots and storage for kitchen supplies were being built and attached to cars. By mid-decade, companies started to manufacture fully equipped versions ready for this new form of camping.

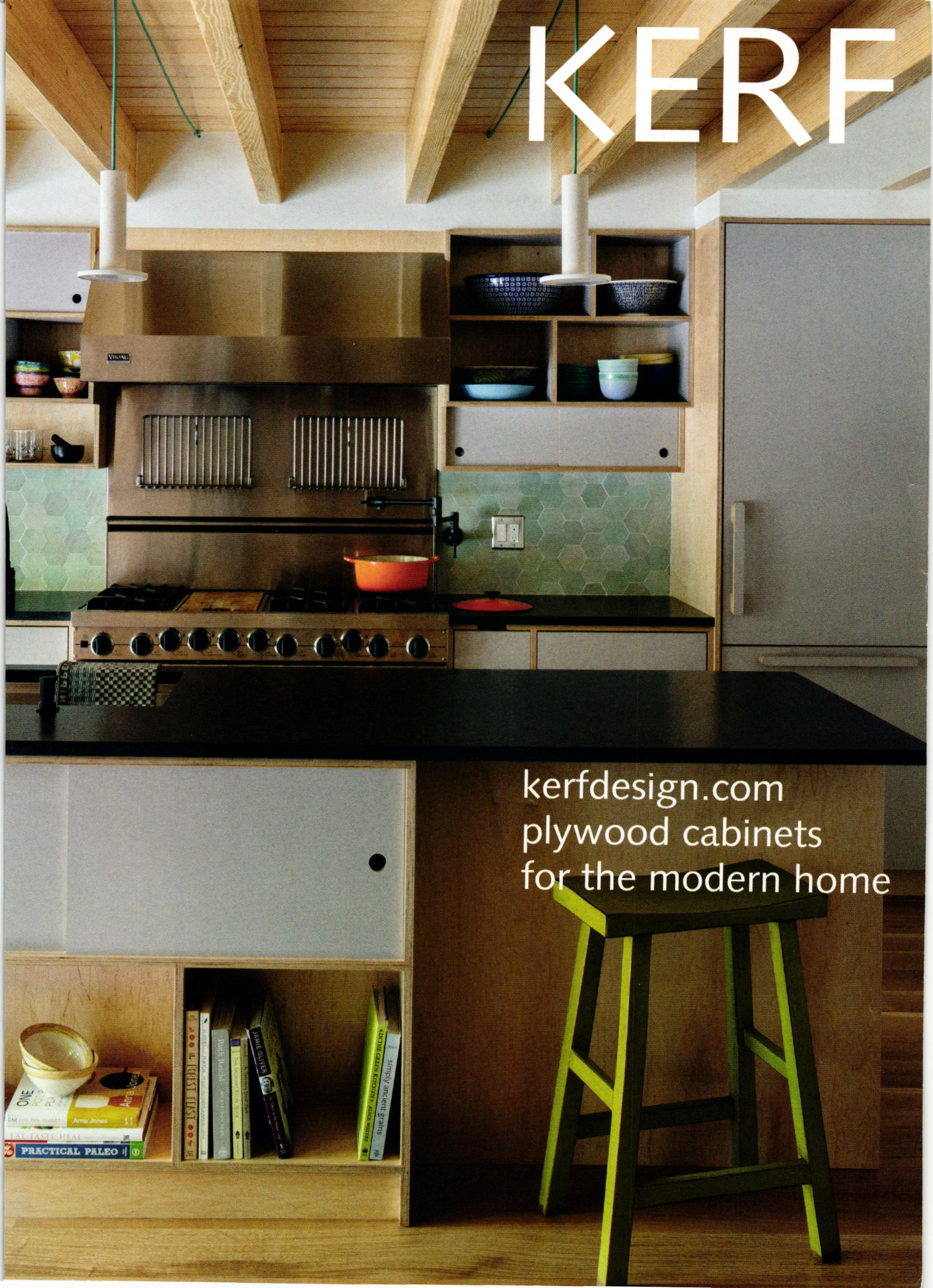
In 1929, seeking a better experience, scientist Arthur G. Sherman founded the Covered Wagon Company. Located in

Mount Clemens, Michigan, Covered Wagon quickly became an industry leader. Its solid-body trailers, originally built of Masonite, sported windows for ventilation, cupboards, an icebox, stove and built-in furniture—and the modern camping trailer was born. By the end of the decade, over 200,000 of them were produced each year, some being used as homes while the U.S. climbed out of economic collapse. But in 1939, production came to a halt because of World War II. After the war ended in 1945, the demand for camping trailers increased dramatically as soldiers sought a simple, inexpensive way to vacation with their families.

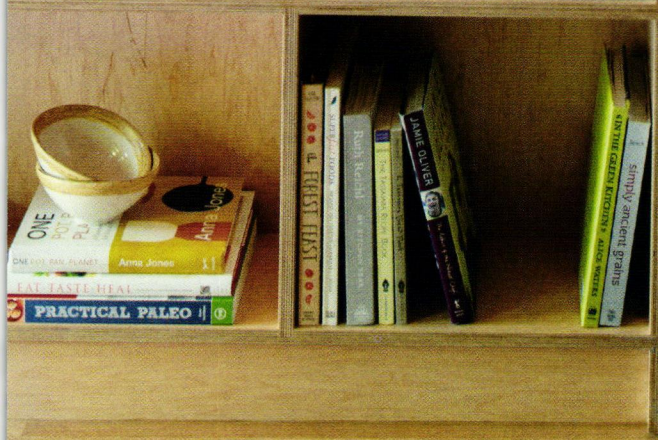
The 1950s was a time of innovation and growth for camping trailers. Plumbing, bathrooms, kitchens and electricity were now the norm, and models with private bedrooms and a terraced layout were not uncommon. Designs were fun, colorful and kitschy. The most popular style was called a "canned ham." Companies like Airstream and Shasta began to produce larger, more luxurious trailers designed for long family road trips. Vacations were planned around highways, rest stops and campgrounds with parking lots. Camping trailers became entrenched in the wider camping culture.

While today's homes on wheels may not resemble their ancestors of the 1910s, they still offer that same feeling of freedom that comes with hitting the road.

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