

atomic

MID CENTURY MARVELS

ranch

THE DESIGN ISSUE

A RETROSPECTIVE



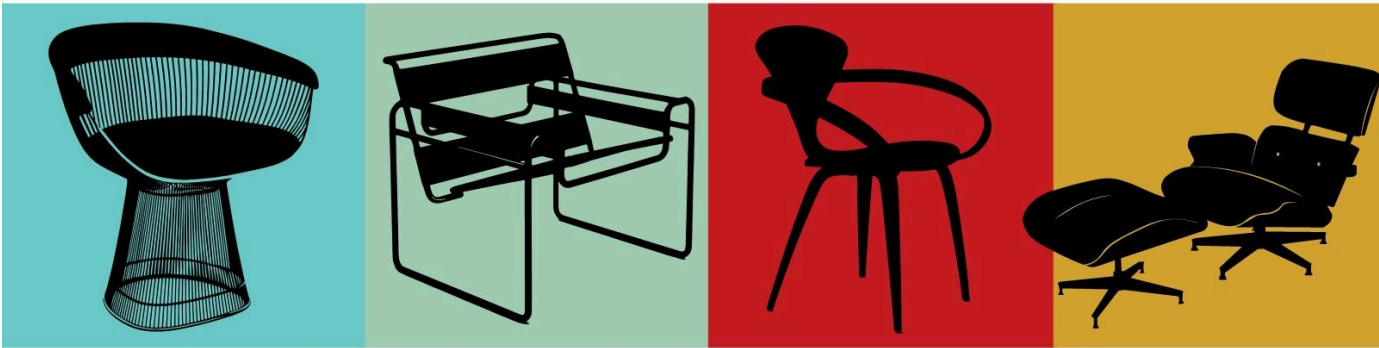


20

YEARS OF
ATOMIC RANCH
By **Jickie Torres**



2 atomic-ranch.com THE DESIGN ISSUE • 2024



PRODUCING THE PAGES of the *Atomic Ranch*, the nation's only Mid Century Modern design and architecture magazine, has been our distinct pleasure for the past nine years. And it is with a mixture of awe and appreciation that thanks to your readership, followership and patronage *Atomic Ranch* has been in the business of sharing, celebrating and helping to preserve Mid Century Modern design and history for 20 years.

Founded by Jim and Michelle Brown in 2004, *Atomic Ranch* was always a passion project. "Among our early features were relatives—Jim's brother and his wife, who allowed us to shoot their ranch without knowing what we were up to—and all manner of contacts made through a network of enthusiasts and advertisers," Michelle says.

And it is still a passion project today. *Atomic Ranch* has not only remained a leader in the subject matter, we've grown in ways that meet you where you are. We are proud sponsors of Modernism Week in Palm Springs and many more neighborhood home tours around the country. We built atomic-ranch.com and now have almost 2,000 posts to date that inspire, inform, arm and amuse the Mid Century Modern enthusiast, from how-to project guidance and recipes to travel guides, historical biographies,

great finds for the home and so much more. We've also launched *Atomic Real Estate* to connect you with specialists in your area who can help you find your dream home. We've launched monthly live interviews on Instagram with the top experts in their fields to bring professional insight, advice and entertaining conversation to your feeds. This year, we launched our YouTube channel to bring your favorite tours and features to you in video format. We also launched *Atomic Ranch on the Road*—a nationwide event series where we host talks and tours in remarkable homes across the country to connect you with local inspiration, experienced homeowners and specialists to not only show you great renovations but also help connect you with resources, products and specialists in your area to help you make your mod dream home come true.

So here's to many more years to come of *Atomic Ranch*. I appreciate, value and hold dear each and every one of you who pick up an issue, click on our links and keep the magazine going. We'll always be dreaming up new ways to bring your passion for modernism to you and digging deep for the best homes, spaces, information and inspiration.

—Jickie



CELEBRATING
20
YEARS

Memory Lane

A look back at some favorite and most popular house tours from our past issues. *By The Atomic Ranch Team*

THE HOME TOURS we feature in *Atomic Ranch* are the heart and soul of every issue. Our editors feel a connection to the wonderful homes and homeowners they've found and shared within these pages. Here are just some of the remarkable homes and stories that have made a lasting impression on our team as well as you, our dear readers, as evidenced by your letters, comments and emails to us.



4 atomic-ranch.com THE DESIGN ISSUE • 2024



Photos by Jim Brown

Me & Mr. Jones

When it comes to their 1951 house, Alex MacDowell and his wife Kristin Kozlowski are definitely all-in. They took a trip to Mendocino, California, for all-heart, vertical-grain lumber milled from old-growth redwood sinker logs—the kind they can no longer harvest. They have painstakingly replicated the original stain on the home's marine-grade plywood paneling; stripped paint from miles of concrete block, redwood siding and tongue-and-groove decking; and they'll entertain you with anecdotes about his two-year house renovation or impart the boundless enthusiasm he has for his mid-century neighborhood in the Santa Monica Mountains.

This passion is no accident. The couple, originally from St. Louis, Missouri, had a goal to move to California and find a modernist house that could qualify for historic landmark status. The target area was the Mutual Housing Association tract in Brentwood, California, now known as Crestwood Hills. It took Alex eight years to find this 2,000-square-foot model designed by A. Quincy Jones.

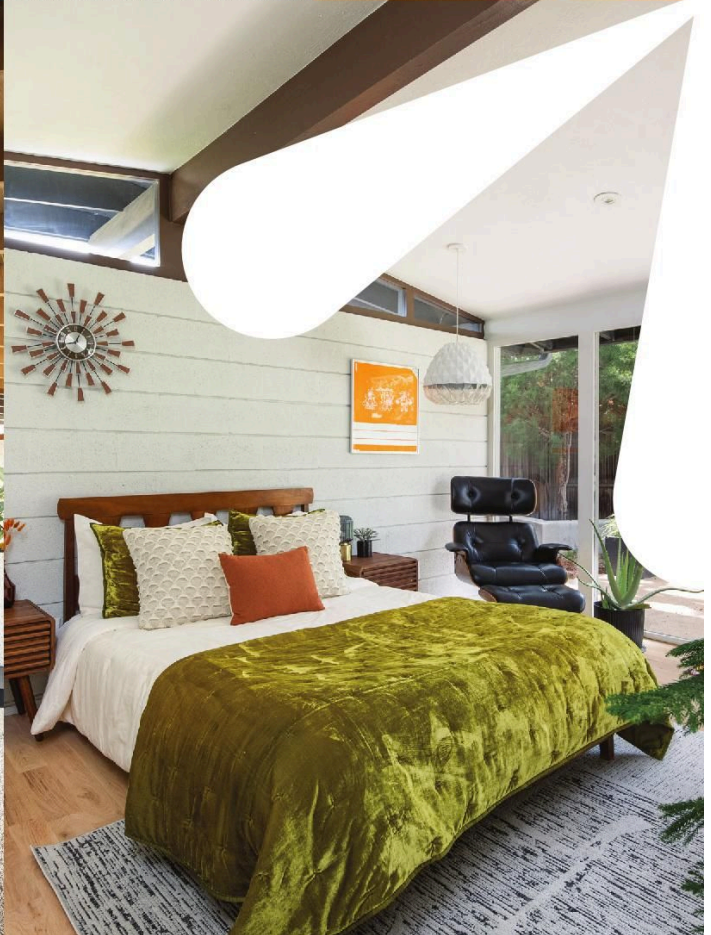
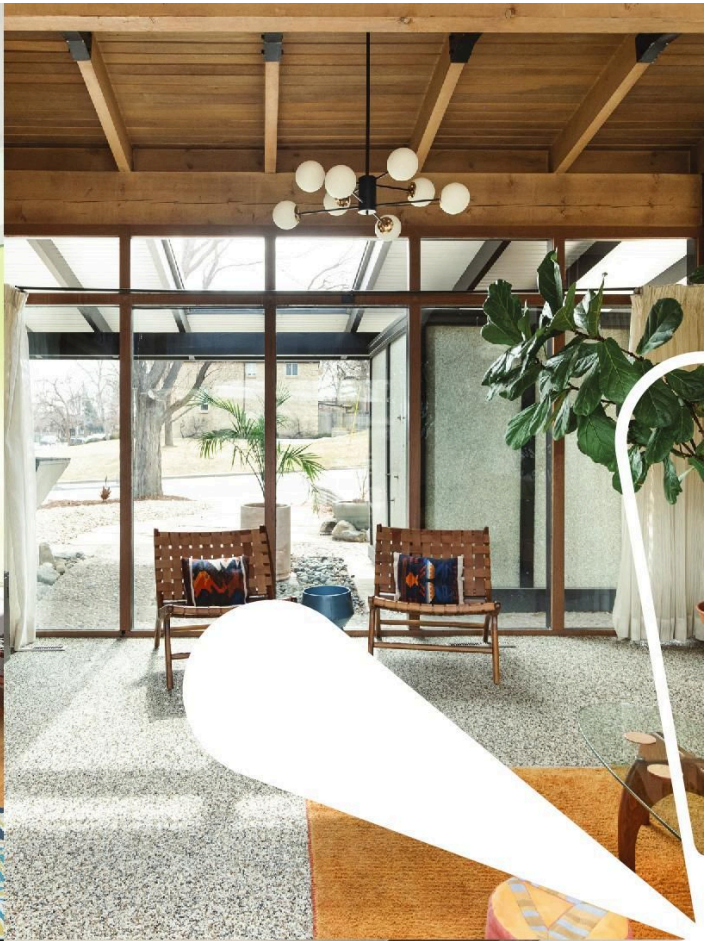
"The original owner lived in the house until she passed away in her late 90s," says fellow Crestwood resident and architect Corey Buckner. "Nothing had been done to the house for decades and the work that it needed was daunt-

ing. As Alex and Kristin peeled away the layers of paint and painful additions, they not only became fascinated with the original intent of the community and architecture, but were awed and humbled by the sheer beauty of what they had purchased."

Post-and-steel beam construction, a multilevel hillside lot and original features like an accordion door between a bedroom and the living room made the residence highly unique. Another was the separate au pair quarters attached to the carport—this was one of the spaces where Alex and Kristin lived during the top-to-bottom renovation.

"For the first half of fixing up the house, I was so excited to wake up at the crack of dawn and start sanding something," Alex says with a laugh. "We had the roof off for weeks while we solved electrical arcing problems and one morning we woke up with rain pouring down on us [through the ceiling boards]. "I lived through Alex's second renovation [in St. Louis] and slept on the floor for a year," Kristin says. "We're both history buffs, so it was our passion to bring back a house like this."

Adapted from the original text by Michelle Gingeri-Brown.





Adrian Kinney

CELEBRATING OVER 60 YEARS OF MID-CENTURY MODERN MASTERPIECES IN THE MILE-HIGH CITY

For six decades, Denver’s mid-century modern architecture has defined sophistication, simplicity, and timeless design. As a real estate agent with almost 15 years of experience specializing in these iconic homes, I’m proud to honor 60 years of architectural innovation that continues to inspire today’s lifestyle.

From stunning open floor plans to clean, minimalist lines, Denver’s mid-mod homes offer a unique blend of history and modern living. Whether you’re looking to buy, sell, or simply appreciate the charm of this architectural era, I’m here to help you find the perfect mid-century gem.

Let’s celebrate 60 years of mid-mod together—because these homes are more than just properties, they’re a way of life.

Get in touch today to find your mid-century modern dream home in Denver!

Denver’s Mid-Century Modern Expert



MIDMOD
COLORADO
www.midmodcolorado.com



CELEBRATING
20 YEARS



Photos by Matthew Gallant | Styled by Michelle Faith

A Little Personality

Some Mid Century Modern homes are like pristine museums, each room filled with perfect and polished pieces. Other mid-century houses are eminently livable spaces, where quirky vintage finds meld with modern pieces, offering a tip of the hat to a bygone era without becoming stuck in time. The Seattle home of George and Mary Campbell falls into the latter category. Built in 1957, the two-story house retains its original footprint and has had only minor structural modifications. The interior design, however, showcases the couple's affinity for blending authentic mid-century wares with affordable reproductions and practical contemporary furniture. The result is a cozy and inviting abode with plenty of eye candy for the retro enthusiast.

Accent walls are painted in shades of Majestic Blue and Cypress Green, inspired by a multicolor George Nelson sunburst clock. In the living room, a pair of Nelson Bubble Saucer wall sconces flanks a gray velvet couch and original Haywood Wakefield coffee table. Nearby, a stately teak wall unit houses various books and vintage knickknacks

collected over the years at antiques shops and thrift stores around Seattle and in Mary's home state of Montana. In the dining area, red metal mesh chairs surround a vintage Danish teak dining table an eye-catching contrast to the pistachio green walls.

The exterior looks much the same as when the home was built, with only minor modifications. The only significant change to the original interior came when the couple decided to open up the kitchen, which was closed off from the main living area by a wall and small pocket door.

"When we remodeled, we really just knocked that wall out and added the peninsula," Mary explains, noting that the new design was more conducive to entertaining. In addition to removing the original appliances, the couple contracted local remodeling company Fivedot to replace the original cabinets with custom-built Kerf cabinetry that was in keeping with the style of the home and captured their fun sense of color and detail.

Adapted from the original text by Leslie J. Thompson.



Consign Today | Art + Design

We are currently accepting quality consignments of Mid-Century & Contemporary art, design, furniture, pottery, bronzes, jewelry, and more for our upcoming auctions.

Auctions • Private Sales • Appraisals

We are a family-owned auction house delivering both world-class service and results for 55 years.
 For your free auction valuation, or for more information, please contact us at info@johnmoran.com.

JOHN MORAN

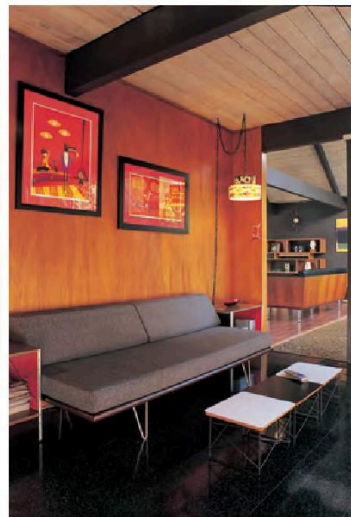
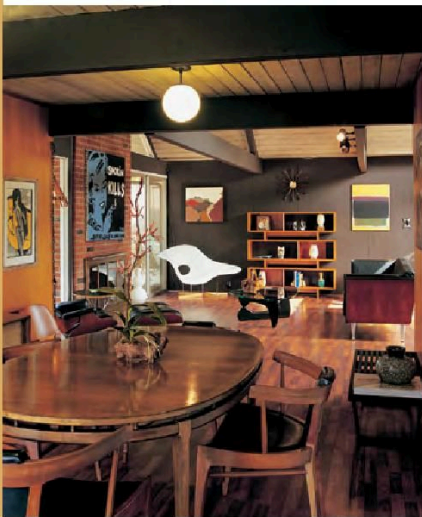
AUCTIONEERS & APPRAISERS

Est. 1969 **55** Years

www.johnmoran.com · info@johnmoran.com · (626)-793-1833
 bid live online · absentee · telephone | 145 East Walnut Ave, Monrovia, CA 91016



CELEBRATING
20
 YEARS



10 atomic-ranch.com THE DESIGN ISSUE • 2024

Photos by Jim Brown

Love Conquers All

“Remember those weird houses that were so ‘50s? Let’s go look at them,” Lori Goodman-Szorenyi proposed to her husband George Szorenyi one day in 2002. “We thought they’d be really cheap,” she recalls. The couple had lived in Old Towne Orange, a Southern California neighborhood filled with quaint bungalows, back in the late ‘80s and amused themselves by driving through the nearby Eichler Fairmeadows tract, which had a fair number of rundown eyesores back then. “I thought, who would want these homes? They’re such a specialty buy,” George remembers.

“We had no idea!” Lori interjects excitedly. “I don’t like Mediterraneans or any of the typical California styles, and I love wood. It took us a while to get our 1964 Eichler.”

George, a microbiologist who defected to the U.S. in 1983 from Budapest, grew up in a house built in 1820, prefers new houses. But Lori, a vintage Barbie doll collector, has always been drawn to the old. Opposites attract, as they say.

The flat portions of their roof leak subtly around the air conditioning vents and George has fixed them as best he can. Other minor issues include the four times the concrete slab in the bedroom was jackhammered in search of an elusive water leak, but so far no problems have surfaced with their radiant heated floor. The house still has its single-pane windows. “It gets cold!” Lori says. “If you didn’t have the radiant heat, I don’t know how you could keep your house warm. When we were younger, I loved vintage things from garage sales and thrift stores. Every time I’d bring something home he’d get really upset. I still love it, but George is happier with new, so it’s a good compromise that some of the [MCM] things are back in production and you can get exactly what you want and it’s brand new and fresh.”

Among their iconic furnishings are a few pieces that George doesn’t “get”—like the fiberglass shell rocking chair and the prices many of these items command. “Some people buy the old ones for almost the same price; it’s the same stuff,” he says in wonderment.

Adapted from the original text by Michelle Gingeri-Brown.

20th CENTURY CINCINNATI

30TH ANNUAL VINTAGE MODERN EXPO



FEBRUARY 21-23, 2025 | CINCINNATI, OH

PURCHASE TICKETS AT WWW.20THCENTURYCINCINNATI.COM

M3 VIP: FRIDAY, FEB 21 | 6-8P | \$100*

*INCLUDES ENTRY ALL WEEKEND. PURCHASE BY FRI, FEB 14

JAVA PREVIEW: SAT, FEB 22 | 9A-12P | \$30 ADVANCE, \$40 DAY OF

GENERAL ADMISSION: SATURDAY, FEB 22 | 12P-5P +

SUNDAY, FEB 23 | 10A-4P | \$10 ADVANCE, \$15 DAY OF



CELEBRATING
20
 YEARS



Photos by Jim Brown

Rebel With a Cause

Architect Irwin Stein built some 80 commissions after he started his practice in 1958, including garden apartments, industrial buildings, offices, automobile agencies and a dozen contemporary houses, primarily in the Philadelphia suburbs. But first, he started out with this house.

"Most young architects start out working for friends," he says. "The Wachses were personal friends and Mort was starting his dental practice and found the site. He wanted to build an office with an apartment above it—he felt that was all they could afford. I screamed and hollered that it was a nice site and they should be building at least the beginnings of a house." Stein prevailed, and a two-bedroom, split-level home with an attached dental office was built for Morton Wachs and his wife, Elsa, on a wooded lot in Wallingford, Pennsylvania. The living area was on the same level as the office while the bedrooms were up a level and

the kitchen and dining room were down a few steps.

"I had never seen anything like it before," Stein says about his folded-plate roof design. "It was simply an enlargement of the idea of the usual cross-bridging that you see in a floor for stiffening; the roofing and ceiling just followed that [design]. I used it on three houses ultimately."

In 2010, Bobbie Ann Tilkens-Fisher bought the home. "When we first moved in, we really had no idea what we would use the former dental office for," says Tilkens-Fisher, an art history and museum studies college instructor. "But the house inspired me to start my own mid-century design business—At Home Modern—and gave me the room to run it."

Adapted from the original text by Michelle Gingeri-Brown.



Atomic Avocado DESIGNS®

Mid Century Modern Curb Appeal and More!



www.AtomicAvocado.com

CELEBRATING
20
YEARS

Inspirational Exteriors

These mid mods have incredible curb appeal and still offer plenty of ideas and insight into how to make your home the best one on the block. *By Jackie Torres*



Desert Dream

PHOTO BY CHAD MELLON

Always let the natural landscape be your muse. When Dean Williams and Daryl Morgan bought their 1968 stunner in Palm Springs it was overgrown and struggling. So they removed the lawn and shrubs, opting instead for more desert-friendly landscaping of gravel and succulents. They also painted the entire exterior and added period-appropriate wood louvers in front of the bedroom windows for sun protection and privacy. The entire façade now is a study of harmonious texture, balance and elegance.



ALDEN B. DOW
HOME & STUDIO

abdow.org • 866.315.7678

Explore a mid-century modern oasis of nature, architecture, and inspiration.

Tours Available Tues-Sat • Midland, MI

 An advertisement for Gay Fad Studios Glassware. It features a glass with a patterned design and a mint leaf. The background is a gradient of green and yellow.

Gay Fad Studios
GLASSWARE

A midcentury legend has reemerged to raise the bar again. Shop top-shelf glassware that instantly sparks nostalgia.

GAYFADSTUDIOS.COM
Made In Ohio. Free Shipping in the U.S.

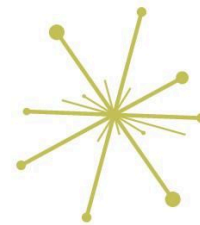
CELEBRATING
20
YEARS



Terrifically Trimmed

PHOTO BY JIM BROWN

One of the striking things about this mod in Seattle’s Queen Anne Hill neighborhood is its ability to draw your eye to the front door. “We loved the welcoming smaller entry—it’s the antithesis of a soaring McMansion entry—and the house just fit our personalities,” says homeowner Maureen Elenga of her 1953 modernist ranch designed by architect Ira Cummings.



Back at the Ranch

PHOTO BY JIM BROWN

The charm of a ranch house is often found in its simplicity and nostalgic character. This 1950 modernist ranch designed by Allen R. Williams in Houston sure captures that. “He designed at least three others like it in Houston, two of which are still standing,” says homeowner Ben Koush. “The walls were built of 8” x 16” x 5” lightweight concrete blocks—they look like cinder blocks but have a special aggregate—and the roof and ceiling are 2’ x 20’ x 2” concrete slabs laid end to end with filler tile hung below on steel channels.”



16 atomic-ranch.com THE DESIGN ISSUE • 2024



WE LOVE COLOR.



HANDCRAFTED TILE MADE IN PORTLAND, OR
www.clayhaustile.com | order direct at 503.928.3076

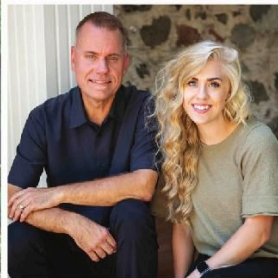


ginkgo leaf studio

LANDSCAPE DESIGN



Happy 20th Anniversary, Atomic Ranch!



Providing landscape design throughout the United States

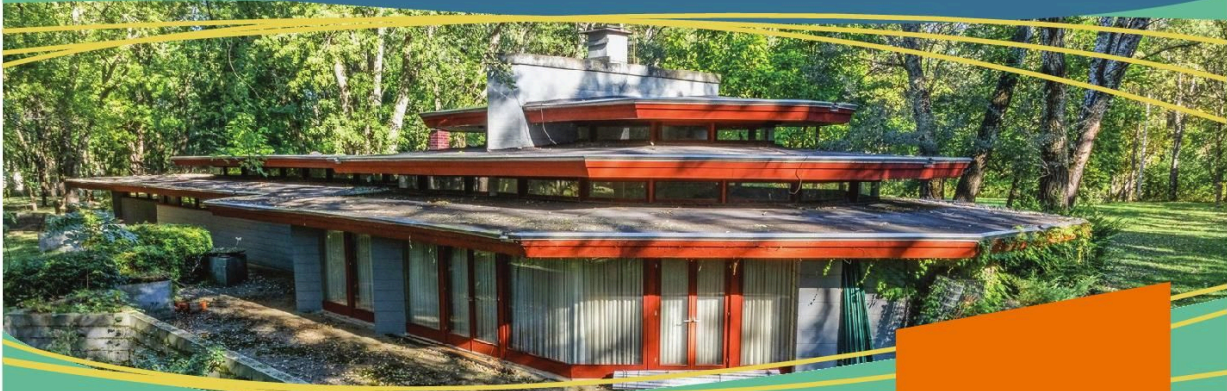
ginkgoleafstudio.net

262.376.5050

MILWAUKEE WI • BOZEMAN MT



Your Chicago Area Mid-Century Modern & Ranch Homes Specialist



Lou Zucaro

lou@modernil.com • 312.907.4085

Baird & Warner

754 W. Northwest Highway, Barrington, IL 60010

MODERN ILLINOIS

modernil.com



MODERN FIREPLACES
Indoor-Outdoor



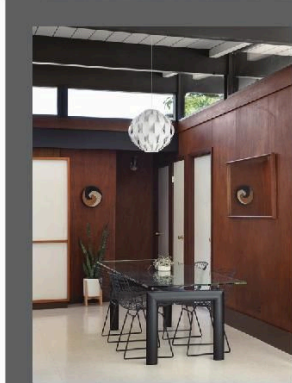
MODFIRE Hand Crafted
American Made
855.663.3473 **MODFIRE.COM**



Get more of the mid mod content you love online at

atomic-ranch.com

- exclusive tours • travel ideas
- DIY projects • recipes
- real estate • shopping



BLAINE architects

Mid-century modern homeowners & residential architects.
Thoughtful additions & renovations for the midcentury enthusiast.



Keith Blaine LEED BD+C, AIA
Megan Blaine AIA
408-890-8800
www.blainearchitects.com



Lume Home. Lamps and housewares to illuminate your life.

During the dark of winter, bring a new glow into your home.

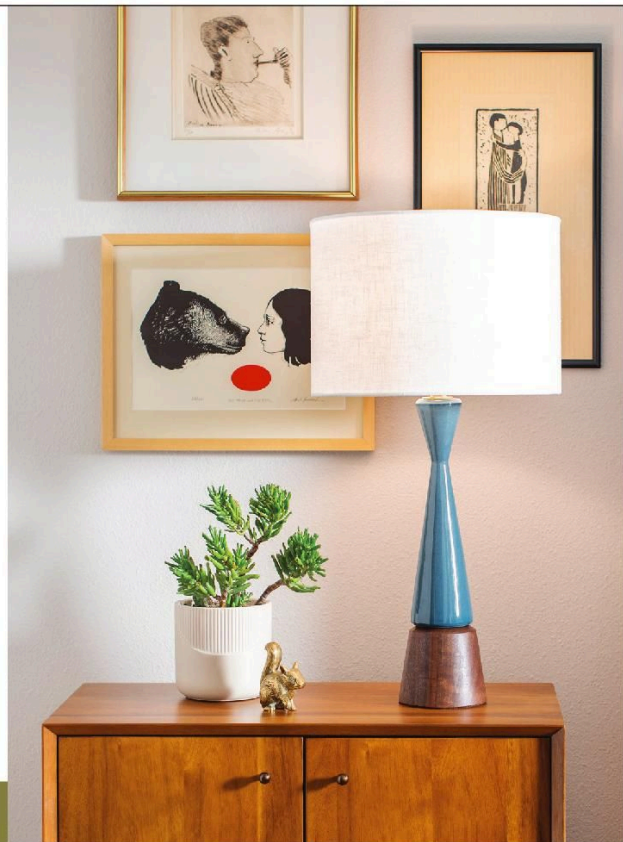
Lume Home (pronounced loom, as in to illuminate) makes original ceramic lamps and housewares that bring handmade warmth and distinction to every room.

Midcentury-inspired lamps are customized by your choice of glaze, texture, and wood. Housewares are individually embellished in a variety of color ways.

All individually artisan-made and assembled with care in Portland, Oregon.



Visit LUMEHOME.COM today to order yours.



CELEBRATING
20
YEARS

Noteworthy Spaces

Some images just stick.
Here are a few shots of
some iconic spaces that
are hard to forget.

By Ian McMaster & Jackie Torres



PHOTO BY BRET GUM
WORDS BY MICHELLE MASTRO

Issue: Fall 22

It's always a coup when you can score an era architect's own home. That was Mike and Alison Presser's experience with their home in Riverside, California, designed by distinguished area architect Clinton Marr for himself. The family room is just off the entrance to the home and its glass gives visitors spectacular views of the backyard, beyond which tree groves once stood. "The groves of walnut trees the house once abutted were seemingly framed in by the walls of glass that run along the back of the house and overlook the backyard," Mike says. "It was as if Clinton Marr chose this lot for its abundance of nature."





WEST COAST MODERN LA

TIMELESS DESIGN, HANDCRAFTED FOR YOU

At West Coast Modern LA, we create custom pieces made to order. Each piece is designed to bring a vintage touch into your modern home. We offer a wide selection of furniture, from sofas to tables, credenzas, and vanities—each handcrafted with care in Los Angeles.

Why West Coast Modern LA?

Personalized Designs: Work with us to create furniture that fits your style and space.

Locally Handcrafted: Every item is made in our L.A. woodshop, from hand-built credenzas to custom upholstery.

Enduring Style: Inspired by timeless MCM design, built to last for years to come.



 (562) 243-1258


Ready to transform your home with something truly unique?

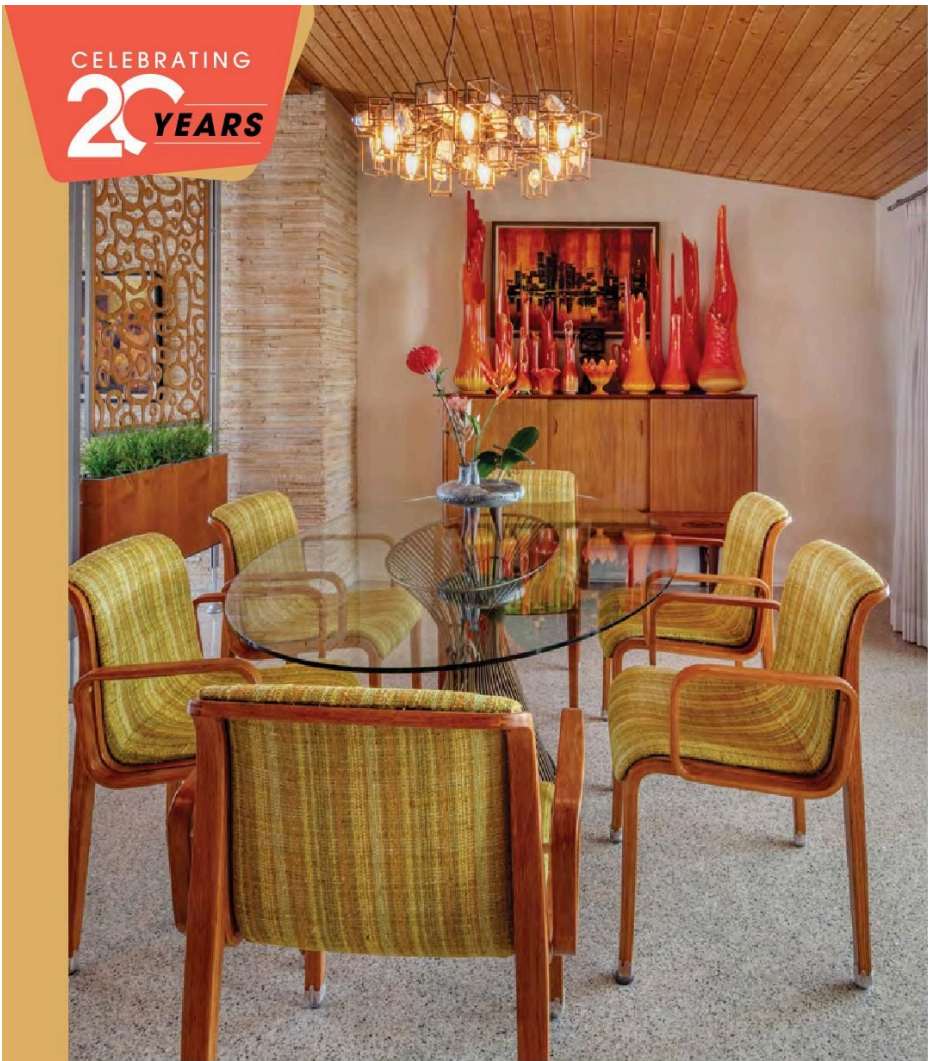
Visit westcoastmodernla.com or reach out today to explore custom options, staging services, or to browse our full collection.



MAC GEORGE ART PRINTS

macartprints.com

 [mac_george_art_prints](https://www.instagram.com/mac_george_art_prints)



CELEBRATING
20
 YEARS

PHOTO BY DAVE FOLKS
 WORDS BY DEVLIN SMITH
Issue: Spring 2021

With its poured terrazzo floors and vibrant vintage furnishings, Rod and Cindra Stolk's meticulous renovation of their 1947 condo in Palm Springs Tahquitz River Estates is all about glamour. The dining room is located near the home's entrance and is outfitted with a mid-century Danish hutch, vintage Bertoia dining table and Knoll chairs that were reupholstered in vintage material salvaged from a couch that was being discarded. Vintage Fenton glass and an original 1963 oil painting bring a burst of orange into the room.



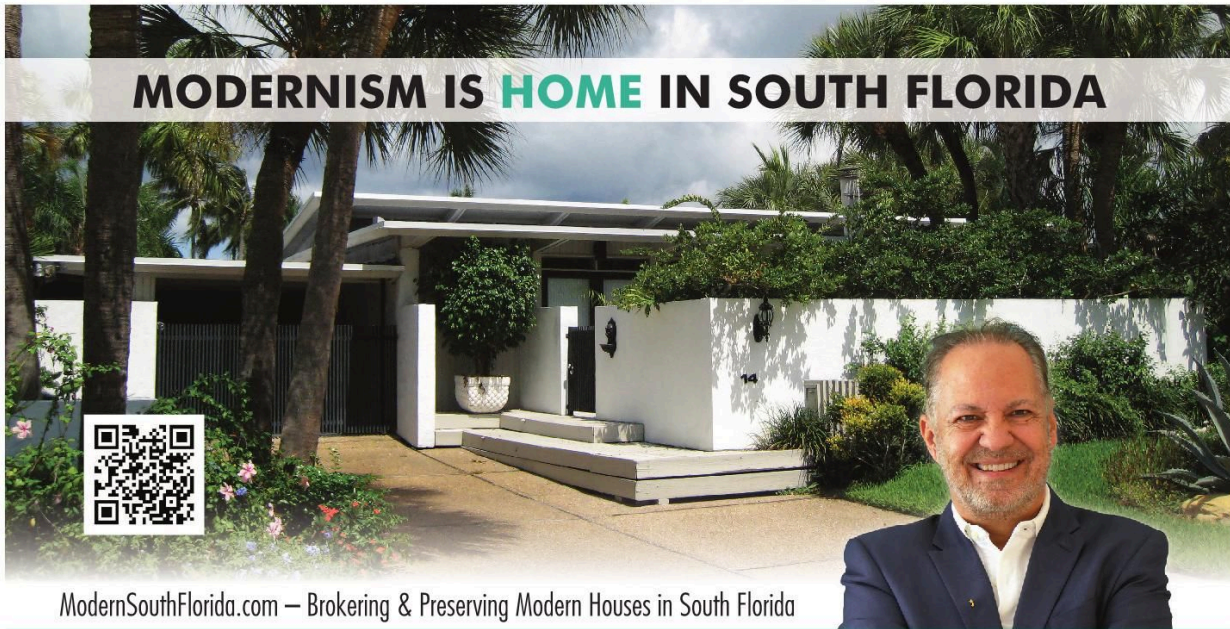
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM BROWN
 WORDS BY MICHELLE
 GRINGERI-BROWN

Issue: Spring 2006

At the time this house was published in the Spring 2006 issue of *Atomic Ranch*, Joan and Gary Gand's Swiss Miss house in Palm Springs, California, was only newly discovered to be created by Charles Dubois. In fact, as Gary said in the issue, while he was able to find the credit in a newspaper article, he wasn't able to substantiate it with any other source at the time. Now, not only do we know this to be fact, but we've also published this house once more with new homeowners. Yet, this photo of this cavernous living room with the Gands' meticulous collection of MCM finds (including an Eames lounge and ottoman, a Platner lounge chair, a Nelson bench from the '80s, a Platner table with a built-in globe light in the base and a vintage Artichoke lamp designed by Poul Henningsen in 1958) endures.



MODERNISM IS HOME IN SOUTH FLORIDA



ModernSouthFlorida.com – Brokering & Preserving Modern Houses in South Florida

- Your recognized expert in Florida's modern market
- Passionate and easy to work with
- Outstanding customer experience

Tobias Kaiser, MSc, CIPS, lic. Real Estate Broker
 Kaiser Associates, Inc · 370 Camino Gardens Blvd
 Boca Raton, FL 33432 · ModernSouthFlorida.com
954.834.3088 · KaiserAssoc@gmail.com

COMPASS NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SACRAMENTO REGION



Paloma Begin, a Sacramento native, has been selling interesting homes to interesting people since 1999. Her focus is on the older, established neighborhoods in Sacramento and Carmichael, with a special interest in Modern homes. She has an arsenal of resources and her clients give her excellent reviews. She likes dogs, music, art, architecture, & the natural world.

Luxury Property Specialists & Master club outstanding member

 @palomabeginofficial
 @paloma.begin

 (916) 628-8561
www.palomabegin.com




Living In Color

Calabaza™
Textiles, clothing,
and home goods to enrich
your every day

To go: hats,
shirts, shorts,
scarves,
caftans

To stay: pillows,
drapes, tabletop,
kitchen

calabazagoods.com



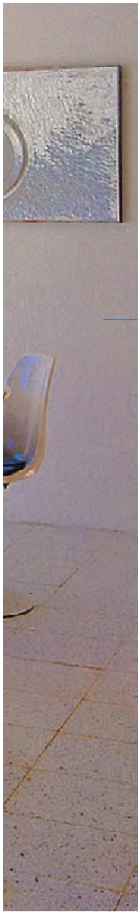


PHOTO BY JIM BROWN
WORDS BY BRIAN MCGUIRE
& BROMLEY DAVENPORT
Issue: Summer 2007

The fact that this space is in one of just seven of Donald Wexler's rare steel houses built in North Palm Springs makes it stunning enough. But it's also homeowner Brian McGuire's way of designing the space that lets the special architecture shine. The dining room has several Saarinen pieces, including the low coffee table and two orange cushion-topped stools. The dinette set is an early Burke model. The chrome wall sculpture by Greg Clark is vintage, while the Sputnik chandelier is new and the reproduction bullet planters are from Hip Haven.

Starlight Shades
Ultra Cool Lamp Shades

www.starlightshop.etsy.com

Congratulations Atomic Ranch on 20 years of Top-Shelf Retro Coverage!

Kimber Dempsey

RETRO REALTOR®
ASSOCIATE BROKER

REALTYONEGROUP
PREMIER

Call or Text **303-913-4505**
Kimber@TheRetroRealtor.com

@KimberRetroRealtor FB.me/KimberRetroRealtor

ALL THINGS MID CENTURY MODERN!

A whimsical blend of styles from the vibrant decades of the 50's, 60's and 70's!

midcenturymoderngal.com

CELEBRATING
20
YEARS



THE LIVING ROOM OF A KNIGHT & PEARCY HOME IN PORTLAND, OREGON'S WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD, FROM THE ARTICLE "FLOWER POWER" PUBLISHED IN ISSUE WINTER 2008.

Advice to Last

From professionals to passionate homeowners, the pages of *Atomic Ranch* have been filled with design advice to help guide your decisions and inspire your spaces. Here are a few that stand the test of time.

By **Jackie Torres** | Photo by **Jim Brown**

26 atomic-ranch.com THE DESIGN ISSUE • 2024

The biggest challenge in working on [Mid Century Modern homes] is integrating new design into the house while respecting the integrity of the existing architecture. We spent a tremendous amount of time driving through the community noting and studying restored houses as well as ones that were just completely butchered. The hope is that in the end you're successful and your design adds to [the home's] timelessness."

—Architect Christian Navar, from "Riffing on Cliff," Summer 2007

"Collections are authentic when they come from real passions, history, interests and travels. If those aren't your father's coins in that frame or if you didn't stumble across that set of Fiesta ware in a barn sale on a sleepy Saturday morning, then things can read as just 'stuff.' As with all collectors, we must fight the urge to keep collecting and work to display a reasonable yet interesting amount of items."

—Homeowner Sulo Turner, from "Site Specific," Winter 2014

"Mixing various sources—old and new, high and low—creates the most interesting spaces. Surround yourself with things you love and don't worry about pedigree...you can have a modern home that is curated yet practical and comfortable for everyone."

—Homeowner George Marrone, from "Preservation & Personality," Spring 2016

"It's important not to fill every square inch of wall space with art in order to have room to 'breathe.' Let a beautiful exterior view be the art for the room in some cases."

—Preservationist/Interior Designer Dick Burkett, from "Art of the Home," Fall 2022

"[These homes] were built a certain way for a reason and keeping to those roots will help create timeless designs that will not fall victim to passing trends."

—Mid Century Modern Real Estate Expert Adrian Kinney, from "Real Talk," Renovation Guide 2019

Hip Haven RETROMODERN CLASSIC STYLE

HIPHAVEN.COM (512)462-4755
info@hiphaven.com

Congratulations Atomic Ranch!

Happy

20th

www.makeitmidcentury.com

MODERN HOUSE NUMBERS Celebrating Atomic Ranch's 20 years of Legacy
one number at a time

MODERNHOUSENUMBERS.COM
"honoringatomicranch10" FOR 10% OFF

RETRO RADIO FARM
Repaired and Restored
Authentic Vintage Radios and Clock Radios!

Retroradiofarm.com Hundreds to choose from! Thousands sold!

"5 out of 5 stars"
"Fantastic customer service combined with top notch radios!"

Available with or without bluetooth