

# A Rejuvenated Modern



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A warm remodel contemporizes a Eugene couple's Mid-century Modern home

Gaby Chadowitz's old New Jersey home was a mishmash. A newer addition had left the interior ultra modern, yet pillars flanking the front door still screamed Colonial reproduction. "But I've never liked classical design," says Chadowitz. "I've always been into the modern aesthetic." So after seven years of living with the stylistic contrast, she was ready for the real deal. A move to Oregon in 2011 with her family became the perfect opportunity to craft the home she always wanted. >>



RIGHT The exterior of this re-imagined home was transformed with aluminum-clad wood windows complemented by dark stained, tight-knot exterior siding, and light cedar accents. ABOVE Architect Richard Shugar flipped the layout, moving the kitchen upstairs, adjacent to the living and dining rooms. The open plan got an extra boost with the addition of skylights, framing a perfect space for entertaining.







THE HOUSE



Several bi-coastal trips to look at prospective houses had produced nothing for the Chadowitz family's 3,000-mile move. Then Gaby and her husband, Myron, discovered a 1961 Mid-century Modern home in south Eugene, originally designed by deceased local construction magnate Richard Chambers. It was two stories, a rarity compared to the other Mid-century Moderns the couple looked at, and was positioned on a one-acre wooded lot in town. Myron, who works from home as the executive vice president of Monarch Towel Company, could have his office and a media room downstairs, while Gaby, a student in the University of Oregon landscape architecture program, could finally realize her vision of a modern home. "From the pictures," recalls Myron, "we thought, this is the house."

Stuck on the East Coast until their next scouting trip, the couple asked a cousin in town to drive by the property and report back. He returned with bad news—all those trees made the lot and the house on it too dark. By the time the couple came out to see for themselves, they weren't sure they'd find their dream home or another dud. But where others saw only problems, they saw possibilities.

"My fantasy was to have a house that brought the outside in," Gaby says. "So I immediately loved the house and saw the potential for balancing the organic and modern. I felt that this house could do both because of the exterior environment." Myron agreed. "The house was screaming potential," he recalls. Now, they just needed the right architect to see what they saw. Being new to town, they stopped in the downtown contemporary design store, Modern, and asked for a recommendation. The clerk told them about Richard Shugar, the principal of 2FORM Architecture. When Shugar visited the home with the couple, they all hit it off, giving them confidence that the house could be re-imagined without adding to the 2,672 square feet.



TOP Overall, the home had great "bones," but replacing the energy-inefficient windows and rotting siding was key. BOTTOM The living area was extended onto two decks, including one off the dining room.



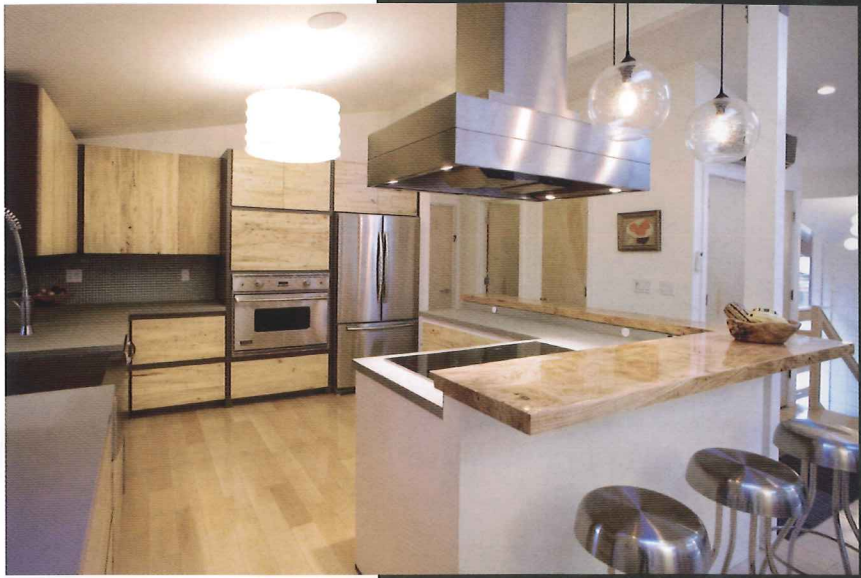
FORTIFYING THE BONES

The house's interior had been subjected to what Myron describes as "a flip renovation that had run out of money." Low-quality finishes and fixtures were incongruous with the home's original style. Furthermore, the house's layout wouldn't suit the couple and their 11-year-old son, Callum. The main living spaces, kitchen and master bedroom were located in a warren of rooms downstairs, while the rest of the bedrooms and a small living area resided upstairs. Fortunately, Shugar had solutions.

First, he flipped the floorplans, adding more light and open space into the redesign. Today, the upper floor hosts an open living area, complete with kitchen and dining space, with the master bedroom and bath just down the hall. Skylights and additional windows flood the space with light and views of the woods. Additional bedrooms, Myron's office and a media room are on the ground floor. Shugar made sure to stack living areas over living areas, and sleeping areas together. The thoughtful division of space ideally suits the family's needs—Gaby can study from her office in the master bedroom without being disturbed by her son's house guests in the downstairs den. If the parents are having a late dinner party in the dining room, Callum can sleep through the noise.

To add to the lifespan of the house, the plumbing and electrical systems were replaced, and the exterior envelope was optimized for energy efficiency. "Addressing the envelope is one of the more sustainable moves you can make," Shugar says. As a result, they replaced the insulation, windows and doors with energy-efficient models, and installed a ductless mini-split HVAC system to complement the tighter envelope. "The bones of the house were great—but that's all we used were the bones," Myron quips.

TOP The natural elements contrast with modern materials, such as the stainless-steel appliances and a prominent range hood, chrome bar stools, white walls and dark cabinet boxes made with high-pressure laminate. MIDDLE The division of space allows Gaby to study from her office in the master bedroom without being disturbed by her son's friends downstairs. BOTTOM The master bath includes an oversize, egg-shaped, synthetic-resin soaking tub.





KEEPING IT SIMPLE

Against a backdrop of maple floors and white walls, Shugar kept the home's interior lines clean and simple. Wood accents and shots of gray bring character and depth, and keep the design scheme cohesive from inside to out. The centerpiece of the upper floor is the kitchen, designed to accommodate the couple's love of entertaining and Gaby's desire to combine organic with modern. Squared cabinet fronts are made of reclaimed elm, fitted to charcoal laminate boxes, and sparsely punctuated with stainless steel appliances. An ash gray countertop, made of 75 percent recycled material, underscores the knots and grains in the cabinet's wood. A blue-green glass tile backsplash connects to the greenery outside.

Just down the hall, the master bathroom picks up the gray and wood theme again. Porcelain tile, in an iridescent charcoal color, wraps the bathroom's "wet" area and delineates it from the white lacquer and maple cabinetry of the "dry" area. Outside, the rotted white siding was replaced with a dark-stained cedar rain screen system, and balanced with lighter, honey-colored cedar accents.

Further details make the home unique to its owners. A trapdoor connects the parent's bedroom suite to their son's downstairs room. In the living room, a maple and white lacquered record cabinet with integrated stereo system allows guests to freely browse albums during dinner parties. In the kitchen, an appliance garage above the oven helps Gaby avoid counter clutter.

When it came time to make the throng of decisions during the remodel process, Gaby credits her architect father as an influence on her overall vision. "My father was really into Danish design," she says, "So all our homes were very simple, with a minimal amount of stuff in it. Just art, and that's about it." To that end, photographs and paintings gifted from friends and family populate her walls. The home, Shugar says, has become sort of an art gallery.

Today, the renovation project has resulted in a friendship between the Chadowitz family and Shugar—another gratifying outcome for both parties. Not only does he get to see how the remodel serves the family, says Shugar, he enjoys that they've given the house a new life. ■



THE PEOPLE

Architect: Richard Shugar, 2FORM

General Contractor: Mica McOmber Construction

Cabinetry and Casework: Robin Olofson of Yankee Built

THE GOODS

Counters: ECO by Cosentino "Crystal Ash" with a leather finish

Dining Room Table: Big Leaf Maple slab, from Urban Lumber Co.

Exterior Lights: Hubbardton Forge

TOP Balancing modern architectural lines with a rustic edge with salvaged elm wood and heavy-duty white lacquer on the kitchen island's pedestal. BOTTOM Myron and Callum in the living room. Living areas are stacked over living areas, so that sleeping areas are separate, to suit the family's needs.

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