



## OUR DYNAMIC MID-CENTURY RANCH

The 1952 house was cookie-cutter and tired. Now it showcases the best of MCM design. **By Christy Eugenis**

**Just after we got engaged, my husband, Stan Amy, and I found this house ...** later we were married here. I think you could say that we are deeply tied to our home. It's a big, classic Ranch with a view, built in 1952 on Alameda Ridge in Portland, Oregon. We'd been looking for a house in MCM style as it's a passion of ours. We re-imagined a Palm Springs motel and created the Orbit In and Hideaway hotels in Palm Springs. I was on the founding Board of Modernism Week. We were co-founders of New Seasons Markets and sold our stake in 2020. Our current project is building a housing community

designed to help working professionals become homeowners.

When we bought this 3,100 square foot house in 1994, it was very dated, filled with shag carpeting and disco wallpaper. There was no footing under the south end of the house. For the first phase, we worked with Richard Brown Architects. Then, in 2014, we consulted with Anne De Wolf of the Portland design firm Arciform [arciform.com]. She helped us take a leap of faith and make many more changes than we'd initially planned, including replacing the gabled roof with a single-pitch shed roof. That created much higher ceilings and windows along with a stylish and welcome overhang at the rear deck. The reconfigured, standing-seam metal roof is more in keeping with Mid-century Modern style. The new front door of Honduras



BEFORE

**ABOVE** Exterior renovations include a new front walk, a basalt column and planter at the front door, a corner-wrapping window screen, and a new shed roof. **INSET** Homeowners Christy Eugenis and Stan Amy. **LEFT** The house as built had a gabled roof—not very MCM.





**ABOVE** In the living room, the textured wall finish came in 4 x 8 panels; it suggests moving air or water.  
**LEFT** The handle at the front door (carved by artist Tom Cramer) was once the hood ornament of a 1954 Chevy Bel Air.



mahogany is by artist Tom Cramer (who was inspired by the late Portland woodcarver Leroy Setziol). Its shapes and lines are meant to evoke the Northwest landscape.

We expanded the deck to incorporate an additional sitting area with a view of downtown but were able to keep the steel railings with wood ledges designed by Richard Brown. We have such spectacular city views; plus, we wanted to play up the indoor-outdoor aspect of the house. The larger deck includes an outdoor dining area shaded by the new roof overhang, paneled in fir, which provides shelter from changing weather and afternoon sun.

The main floor has its original layout. We removed the drafty fireplace and installed a textured turquoise south wall; it suggests air or water. Anne designed a curved mahogany mantelshelf that holds wood sculptures; a mahogany “hearth”





**TOP LEFT** Between the primary bedroom and the library, a hanging screen of plywood panels bring privacy and mid-century styling. **ABOVE** The expanded deck offers lounging and entertaining space; the new roof provides shade. **BEFORE** The space was simply a balcony off the primary bedroom before the first deck was added. **BOTTOM LEFT** The primary bathroom features the yellows and blues favored by the homeowners. Radiant heat provides comfort; a tree-shaped window screen adds privacy. **BELOW** The lower level has been converted into a living room and guest bedroom, which the homeowners say will become home when they need one-level living.





**ABOVE** The French GyroFocus fireplace is one of Stan's favorite features. It was converted from burning wood to gas.

below is fitted with storage drawers and offers extra seating. To the right, next to a bank of eight-foot windows, is an orb-shaped Focus gas fireplace. It's all open to the dining area and the kitchen, good for socializing.

The primary bedroom has new mahogany woodwork with a built-in library and a mid-century screen. Arciform created the mahogany built-ins, sliding doors, windows, and platform bed. An old bedroom has become the new bath. Because its window opens to a walking trail just outside, the window is covered with a custom metal screen created by my sister, the sculptor and enamel artist Alisa Looney. The house has truly been Modernized.

We love cheerful, mid-century colors and furnished our home accordingly with blue, turquoise, and yellow, set off by warm woodwork on trim, floors, and ceilings. So few people are doing color these days, it's all greys. We live in Portland: why would you want more grey here?! We get a lighthearted feeling every time we walk through the door.

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