

MOVIN' UP TO MODERN





In the living room, clerestory windows along the street facade bring in light while maintaining privacy. A patterned Swedish rug from the 1940s sets the room's palette, which also echoes the bluish hues of the zinc and painted wood siding on the exterior (right, top). The kitchen wing and living room, both with tall sliding glass doors, frame a sunny outdoor dining area (right, bottom).



A BERKELEY FAMILY TRADES THE DARK BUT COZY CONFINES OF A CRAFTSMAN-STYLE MANSE FOR A BREEZY, LIGHT-FILLED CONTEMPORARY BOX.



For

15 years, this professional couple and their four children lived in a large Craftsman-style house in Berkeley, California. It had classic brown shingles on the outside and faux-Stickley furniture inside. But they eventually tired of living there. "We'd had it with Craftsman style," explains the wife, a psychologist. So she and her husband, an attorney, changed course, trading their historic home for a bright, airy mid-century modern ranch in the leafy Claremont area of the same city.

The family bought the house, designed in 1949 by the German-born modernist John Hans Ostwald, with the idea of remodeling and expanding it. They hired premier San Francisco architect Stanley Saitowitz, having seen a crisp modern house he designed near their old home. "I think they admired it as the complete antithesis to what they were living in," offers Saitowitz.

The homeowners wanted large living and dining areas—even if that meant having smaller bedrooms. "All we do is sleep in our bedrooms, but we entertain a lot," says the wife. Most importantly, they wanted "a huge kitchen."

"That's where we always do most of our entertaining," adds the husband, "and everyone always hangs out there." Guests can now hang out comfortably in the new 41-by-16-foot space, which was added onto the footprint.

Saitowitz loved the original home's clean, modern lines. "I didn't want to do anything to it," he says. But the family needed more space, so Saitowitz planned to expand the ground floor and add a second-floor bedroom wing.

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A strip of white concrete set into the black-stained concrete floors rises to create a low bench, dividing the dining room from the music area. The dining table is by Antoine Proulx; the rugs are custom Holly Hulburd designs made by David Shaw Nicholls. The sliding glass doors, the biggest that architect Stanley Saitowitz could find, open onto an outdoor terrace and a garden shaded by a towering redwood tree.