

A vibrant palette hald

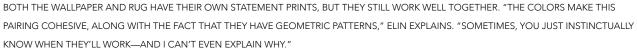
A vibrant palette, bold wallpaper patterns and classic MCM features create an exuberant atmosphere in this new build designed for a couple longing to recapture the nostalgia of their childhoods.

Written by **Autumn Krause**Photographed by **Diana Paulson**Designed by **Elin Walters, Exactly Designs**

A VIBRANT SET OF VINTAGE
DINING CHAIRS DESIGNED BY
EERO SAARINEN WAS PART OF THE
CLIENTS' COLLECTION, AND ELIN
DESIGNED THE ROOM AROUND THE
CHAIRS' HAPPY HUE.







FOR MANY, Mid Century Modern style has an inviting aura.

Such is the case for Andrea and Mark Brimmer, a couple that longed for a custom dream build that reminded them of their childhood homes.

"They both grew up in places with a heavy Mid Century Modern influence," says Elin Walters, owner and principal designer of Exactly Designs. "The aesthetic takes them back to their childhood and makes them feel warm and happy." For the new construction, the couple chose an idyllic spot that boasts 200 feet of frontage and 2 acres on Lake Ponemah in Fenton, Michigan. Renowned architect Karl Jasinski had recently retired, but when asked to design the home, he agreed, making it the culminating project of a storied career.

Elin was also brought on immediately.

"I was most excited about being involved in the project from day one," she explains. "Architectural plans had been drawn, and then I was called in to help pick out all the finishes, inside and out. Having this much influence on the entire home was very exciting!" ABOVE, RIGHT: YELLOW FLOOR TILES WERE CHOSEN AS AN INTRODUCTION TO YELLOW FOR THIS BACK ENTRY, WHILE THE BUILT-IN WAS DESIGNED TO BE PRACTICAL—BUT FUN. "POPS OF COLOR IN THE OPEN COMPARTMENTS SUGGEST A PALM SPRINGS VIBE TO MIRROR THE ART ON THE WALL," ELIN SAYS. "THE COLORFUL, WALNUT-BACKED HOOKS PICK UP THE COLORS IN THE BUILT-IN."

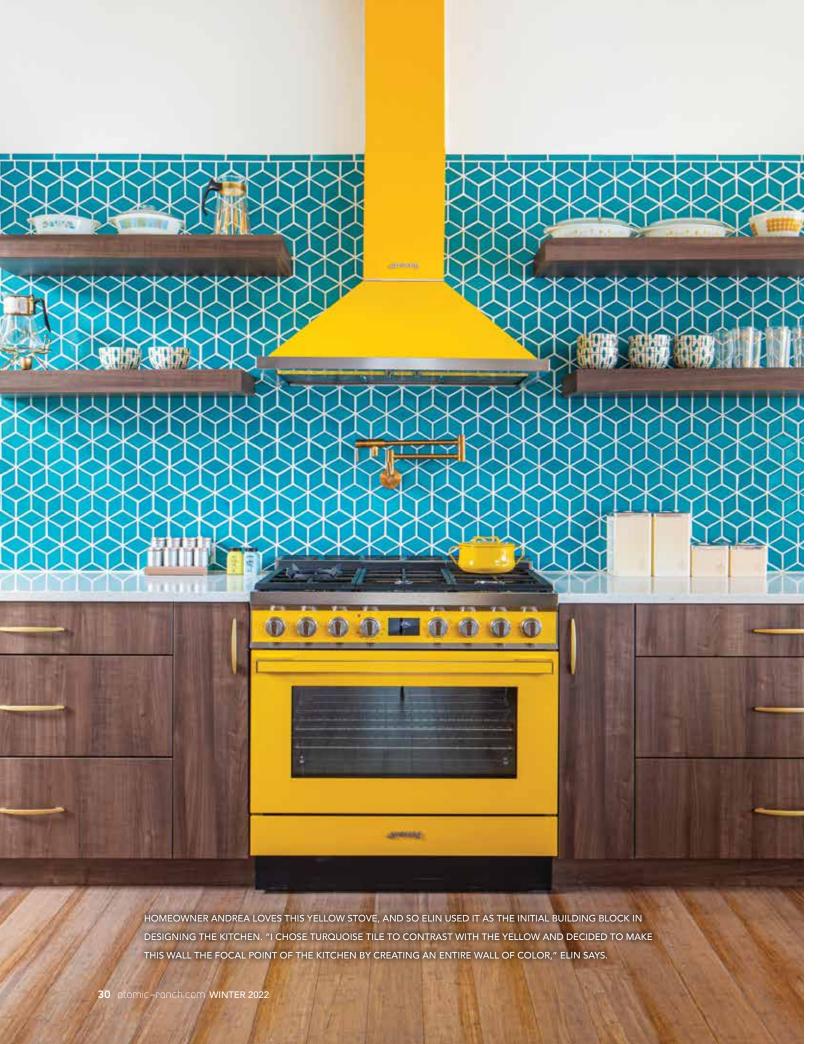
RIGHT: ELIN LET THE VIEW OF NEARBY LAKE PONEMAH BE THE ART, SO HER DESIGN INTENT WAS TO AVOID OBSTRUCTING OR DETRACTING FROM IT. "GREENS AND BLUES IN THE DESIGN REFLECT THE COLORS OF THE TREES AND THE WATER," SHE SAYS.





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BELOW: IN THE CORNER OF THE MASTER BEDROOM, A FLOOR
PLANT, VINTAGE-STYLE RADIO AND VARIOUS ACCESSORIES CREATE
AN INVITING FEEL. "THE SHOES WERE PULLED FROM MY CLIENTS'
AMAZING CLOSET ON THE DAY OF THE SHOOT," ELIN SAYS. "I LOVE
THE CONTRAST IN COLOR THAT IT BROUGHT JUST FOR THE MOMENT."







ABOVE: BEAMS EXTEND THROUGH ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MASTER BEDROOM'S WALL, FORMING THE CEILING TO THE MAIN LIVING ROOM. "BOTH ROOMS HAVE LARGE, WALNUT PANEL WALLS, AND THE BEAMS HELP 'LOWER' THE CEILING, WHICH CREATES WARMTH AND INTEREST," ELIN EXPLAINS.

EYE TO THE PAST

Similar to Andrea and Mark, Elin also had a childhood imbued with Mid Century Modern design.

"My parents, who were antiques collectors and dealers, introduced me to the genre," she says. "There is much to love about it. I personally love that Mid Century Modern design is clean, simple, geometric and full of natural light and warmth through the use of wood."

Elin had free rein to design as she wished—with excited buy-in from the owners: "We collaborated as we went. They had some things they knew they wanted to incorporate, but they honestly were so excited with all my choices. Such a dream for me!" she says.



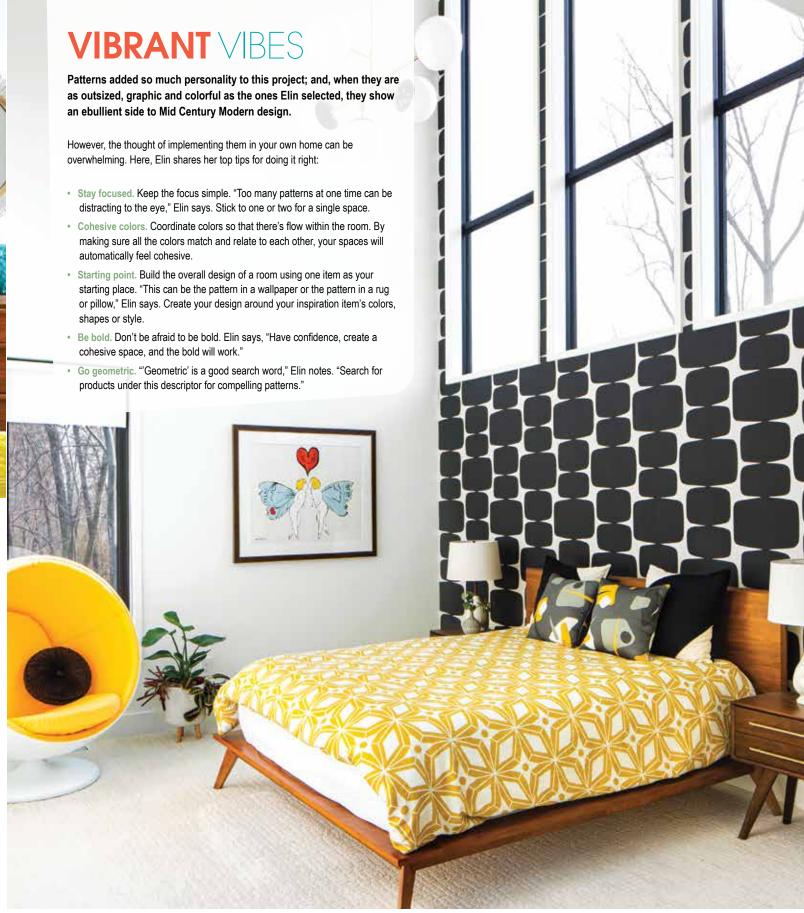




ABOVE, LEFT: THE SIDE TABLE WAS ALREADY PART OF THE CLIENTS'
COLLECTION, AND ELIN CHOSE TO PLACE IT IN THIS ROOM, BECAUSE THE
TRIANGULAR BRASS LEGS COMPLEMENT THE GOLD STARBURSTS IN THE
WALLPAPER DESIGN. ECHOING THE STARBURST DESIGN, THE TABLE LAMPS
BRING THEM TO LIFE THREE DIMENSIONALLY, COMPLETING THE ROOM'S
SUBTLE "GALAXY" THEME.

ABOVE, RIGHT: ELIN ENJOYS THE CONTRAST OF THE WARM WOOD DRESSER WITH THE COOLER METAL FINISHES ON THE DÉCOR PIECE. "AS WITH THE COMBINATION OF THE WALNUT BED AND THE STARBURST WALLPAPER, THIS PAIRING CREATES COHESION IN THE ROOM," SHE SAYS.

LEFT: THE HOMEOWNERS HAD PURCHASED THIS VINTAGE DRESSER AND KNEW THEY WANTED TO TURN IT INTO A VANITY. THEY ALSO OWNED THE MIRRORS AS WELL. "BY FIRST PUTTING THESE TWO ELEMENTS TOGETHER, I WAS ABLE TO SLOT IN FIXTURES AND TILES THAT I THOUGHT WORKED WITH THE LINES," ELIN NOTES. "AND, I FELT THAT TUCKING THE WALL-MOUNTED FAUCET INTO THE ARC AT THE BOTTOM OF THE MIRROR WAS A NATURAL PLACEMENT." THE ROUND SINKS AND GLOBE LIGHTS SOFTEN THE LINEAR QUALITY OF THE HEXAGONAL FLOOR AND WALL TILES. WALNUT AND WHITE TOGETHER PROVIDE A NEUTRAL BACKDROP FOR THE STAR OF THE SHOW—THE FLOOR TILE.



ANOTHER GUEST BEDROOM IS DESIGNATED FOR ONE OF THE COUPLE'S SONS WHEN HE VISITS. "MOST ROOMS IN THE HOUSE HAVE VERY HIGH CEILINGS BECAUSE THE HOUSE IS BUILT WITH A SERIES OF ANGLED ROOFS," ELIN SAYS. "THE BOLD WALLPAPER WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE OF ITS MORE 'MANLY' FEEL. THE BLACK-AND-WHITE COLOR PALETTE PROVIDES A NEUTRAL BACKGROUND FROM WHICH THE YELLOW POPS."









ABOVE RIGHT: WALNUT IS USED FOR THE VANITIES AND DOORS IN
THE BATHROOM, AND A BOLD GREEN IS IMPLEMENTED VIA THE
WALLPAPER AND THE BACKSPLASH TILES. "HERE, YOU GET TO ENJOY THE
JUXTAPOSITION OF THE BOLD GREEN WITH THE DEPTH OF THE WOOD,"
ELIN SAYS.

RIGHT: "AS MY CLIENT REMARKED WHEN THE POWDER ROOM WAS FULLY FINISHED, 'THIS IS THE "BOUGIE-IST" POWDER ROOM I'VE EVER SEEN!"
ELIN SAYS. THE WALLPAPER WAS THE FIRST MATERIAL CHOSEN FOR THE POWDER ROOM, AND EVERYTHING ELSE WAS DESIGNED AROUND THOSE COLORS AND SHAPES. "I THOUGHT THE TILE NOT ONLY PULLED OUT THE GREENS OF THE WALLPAPER BUT ALSO ECHOED THE SHAPE IN THE WALLPAPER PATTERN. THE PATTERN ALSO MATCHES THE SCALLOPS IN THE VINTAGE BROYHILL 'BRASILIA' DRESSER-TURNED-VANITY."

The common theme of the wallpapers in this home is geometry; they provide a simple, balanced, mid-mod feel to the contemporary layout.

Elin's design is a remarkable addition to the Mid Century Modern canon. With its colors, wall treatments, warm use of wood and spacious layout, the home is a bold step into the future while honoring the past and Mid Century Modern style. For Andrea and Mark, the home has the nostalgia of their childhoods, along with a distinct, fashionable sensibility that's all their own.

