



long

before we found our ideal ranch, I began my collection obsession. It all started with Will-George flamingos, which now reside in a Paul McCobb cabinet in my

home office. The highly detailed, beautiful colored porcelain flamingos were so different than the flamingos most people equate with '50s kitsch. Manufactured in the 1940s in Pasadena, Calif., by brothers Will and George Climes, these birds possessed a grace and beauty that seemed right at home with our furnishings.

Like FL Wright

In 1994 we decided it was time to start looking for our coveted midcentury modern home in Indianapolis. Our Realtor kept sending us listings of homes that were definitely ranches, just not atomic ranches. We saw a listing in the paper for what appeared to be the perfect house: "Authentic Frank Lloyd Wright: sprawling contemporary ranch with lots of windows, closets & built-ins, ceramic tile baths. Huge great room, plus formal dining room." At our urging, our agent went through the house and could hardly wait to show it to us.

As we pulled into the driveway, we told our agent we wanted it. While the inside was in poor cosmetic shape, my wife, Rhonda, and I immediately saw the incredible potential the home offered. The previous owners had retained all of the original flooring, windows, built-in cabinets, white-ash wood paneling and an Indiana Crab Orchard stone fireplace in the sunken great room. Over the years, several architects and historians have been unable to prove the Frank Lloyd Wright claims included in a front-page article in the *Indianapolis Star* when the house went on the market in 1959. Regardless, the outstanding layout and design make it perfect for us.

Once we moved into the 3,250-square-foot house, we realized our small collection of furniture and decorative objects would not nearly fill this large home; it was time to expand my collecting hobby. Rhonda is an interior design graduate whose favorite thing is to rearrange, and every time I purchase an item, she finds the perfect place for it. After 30 years of marriage, our roles have been defined: I'm the selector, she's the displayer.

Collectors' dream house

text Steven Cohen
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Contemporary pieces in the living room include the Cloud sofa, a red IKEA area rug, the black Saarinen Womb chair and the Herman Miller Eames Lounge chair and ottoman. The Eames molded-plywood coffee table, Saarinen side table, Bertoia Diamond chairs, Noguchi Cyclone table, wall-hung Nelson Cigar lamp and Weinberg 'Dancers' sculpture are all vintage. The '80s display shelves against the white-ash paneled wall hold some of the couple's glass and Cmielow figurine collection.