

* I was floored to see the article on A.D. Stenger's houses in Austin in your Summer 2008 issue. Several years ago I lived in Barton Hills, down the street from one of Stenger's smaller houses that had been built for a local artist. I was so intrigued that I did my own research on Stenger and his work. The original homeowner's murals were still on the walls, and there was a studio separate from the house high up in the trees.

Alas, the house was not for sale and we ended up in Massachusetts living in a former Portuguese sausage factory.

Patty Zerhusen

East Cambridge, Mass.

Ah Portuguese sausage—makes me think of Otto von Bismarck and the legislative process. But I digress ... Check out Stenger's Austin modernism in Issue 18, available at atomic-ranch.com.

—ar editor

* Your "Working Class Heroes" article was great, but the shot of Kari Briggs in her '50s kitchen actually made me cry. I said to my husband, "Oh my God—here's the kitchen of my dreams!" I used to think that a kitchen like that would only appeal to me because I'm a real love-all-things-vintage nerd. It gladdens my heart to know that not everyone is doing a Home Depot/HGTV gut and remodel to their vintage kitchens, but that they see them as I do—intrinsically beautiful, charming, well-crafted and, yes, even functional.

We recently went to an open house at the coolest '50s ranch but the kitchen was turned into a Tuscan nightmare! I was so appalled that I made a big stink about it in front of the real estate agent, who was doing everything she could to shuffle me out of the house. Hey, if I'm not going to fight for the preservation of kitchens like Kari's, who will?

Thank you for Atomic Ranch. It comforts my midcentury soul.

Lisa Plettinck

Fullerton, Calif.

* I hope you can help me identify my metal kitchen cabinets. My home was built in 1925 but extensively



remodeled in the 1950s, judging by the Franciscan tile in the kitchen and bath. I don't know which era the cabinets are from—they could be Streamline Moderne or midcentury modern. The cabinet in the photo has built-in florescent lighting in the bottom and some of the shelves have perforations to allow dishes to drip dry. The sliding reeded-glass doors are perfect for living in earthquake territory since they don't fly open and let the contents come crashing out.

We're redecorating the kitchen in midcentury style to match my Franciscan Starburst dishes. I am trying to find the best way to remove the many layers of paint so I can restore the cabinets to original condition. Some have suggested sandblasting, while others say chemical dipping would be better. I've even considered taking them to an automotive shop for stripping and painting! I have looked on the Web many times and have never found anything like these cabinets.

Rondi Werner

Glendale, Calif.

* I absolutely love your magazine and wanted to share some before & after photos of the kitchen of our midcentury modern home. The existing bottom cabinets were very, very old and not worth fixing, and the stove definitely needed to be replaced. We didn't want to go retro and duplicate the original style, but wanted something more contemporary.

We ended up getting IKEA wood cabinets for warmth to balance the stainless steel appliances. Then we had two of our original upper cabinets repainted with an electrostatic painting process, and added a



BEFORE



AFTER

backsplash from Artistic Tile in NYC that we think is a nice complement. The countertops are CaesarStone and the floor is porcelain tile that looks like cement.

Susan Wood

Westchester County, N.Y.

Youngstown, Geneva and St. Charles are some of the metal cabinetmakers that were popular in '50s kitchens, as Rondi's and Susan's geographically far-flung houses show. We've featured several homes with metal cupboards, which homeowners have reconditioned with lacquer paint or have, in fact, taken to an auto body shop for a glossy new pro finish.

—ar editor

* I have been enjoying Atomic Ranch greatly since I discovered it about a year ago. Since so much of your magazine and advertising centers around finding the

proper midcentury accoutrements, how about a classified section, either in the magazine or on your website? I think readers would find it a valuable resource.

I also really wish you could provide a little more information about the cost of the projects featured. I am often left wondering if we can afford much of what I see. Other home magazines have the same problem; I suspect it's an effort to retain some privacy for the people involved. But I perceive this magazine as being more for regular people than the other elitist publications that assume all readers have infinite funds. As such, I look to you for realistic options, but I'm left uncertain if that's true or not since the finances involved are almost never specified.

Thanks for listening and keep up the good work.

Andy Tubesing

New Mexico

* While reading the Winter 2008 issue, I loved the focus on modest ranches featured in "Working Class Heroes." I, like many of your readers, will never attain the status of owning a million-dollar Eichler, but lust over my midcentury ranch all the same.

I'd like Atomic Ranch to focus more on everyday midcentury enthusiasts—those of us that are living the dream on a thrift-store budget. The roots of midcentury design were accessible to the average homeowner, but the majority of the homes featured appear to be expensive stagings. I hope to see more homes showing creative interiors that relate to the average ranch owner.

Kiley Haskins

Bloomington, Ind.

Actually, none of the homes we feature are staged, and we shoot the homeowners' furnishings and accessories pretty much as found. Sometimes we move a chair. Our aim is to show the whole mix of postwar houses—from custom architect-designed homes to the humble 2/1-1w/attached-garage ranches built in most every state.

When we publish thrift-store furnished homes, we hear from the folks who think they're too kitschy. When we feature high-end interiors, we hear from readers who, like you, want to see more affordable

solutions for homes that look like their own. We think that there are inspiring ideas in even the most rarified home environment that the rest of us can benefit from: color combinations, furniture configurations, collectibles, landscaping solutions. And we encourage those of you with modest ranches, great interiors and strong photo skills to send some shots to editor@atomic-ranch.com for feature consideration in the "Heroes" series.

—ar editor



* I first wrote to AR in 2005 to challenge you to highlight more traditional ranch homes and to sing the praises of the Ranch Acres and Lortondale neighborhoods in Tulsa. Your magazine has succeeded in meeting my challenge. Meanwhile, the landscaping, the homes and the Ranch Acres neighborhood have all matured since that writing.

Of special note is the December 2007 designation of the Ranch Acres Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. This designation was the culmination of a two-plus-year effort that was, in part, inspired by your magazine. The District contains more than 300 ranch-style homes reflecting a variety of styles, including colonial, California contemporary, neo-classical and traditional.

In October 2008, the National Trust for Historic Preservation held its annual conference in Tulsa and Preserving the Recent Past was one of the focal points. Several tours of the Ranch Acres and Lortondale neighborhoods took place, and we were honored to have

our home included in one of the tours. I have attached a recent photo of our "club room" for you guys to see. You should feature Ranch Acres in a future issue.

Thanks for keeping AR alive.

Steven Novick

Tulsa, Okla.

Beth, from modbetty.com, sent us a link to another ranch beauty that's been placed on the National Register, the League House in Macon, Ga. The pdf is 57 pages, so the lazy among us might want to skip to the photos beginning on page 32 of the file: nps.gov/history/nr/feature/weekly_features/LeagueHouse.pdf.

—ar editor

* I tend to never respond to articles in the magazines we subscribe to here at the office, but in this case I am compelled. I truly enjoyed the editorial showcasing one of Atlanta's more unique MidMod neighborhoods (Winter 2008). As an architectural design consultant I have long enjoyed visiting the Northcrest neighborhood and, with each visit, I typically discover new details that I overlooked the time before.

Many communities in Georgia experienced the economic boom that occurred across the nation during the years following World War II. Examples of MidMod commercial and residential styles are considered hidden treasures in many of our communities but, ironically, rare examples are being demolished every day. I applaud Atomic Ranch for its stylish and cutting edge approach to increasing the awareness and appreciation for this very important phase of American architecture.

Chip Wright

Buford, Ga.

Spring 2009 corrections: Jon & Karen Wippich's name was misspelled in "Whippich, Whippich Good," and as Daniel Istrate pointed out, those are Bertoia bar stools on page 44. Additionally, the McLoughlin/Rader house on page 36 is actually in Columbus, Ohio. Our apologies.

Write us at editor@atomic-ranch.com or send a note to Atomic Ranch, Publishing Office, 3125 SE Rex St., Portland, OR 97202. We'll print the good ones.