

# modernwisdom



A passerby stopped at my home to tell me how beautiful it was and mentioned that it was like the homes in your magazine. She thought it was good enough that I should send you a picture. I hope you like it.

It was built in 1960 on hillside farmland we used to own; about eight years ago I had a chance to acquire it. There is a pond behind it and a whopping view of the lower acreage. I am solely responsible for the upkeep of the landscape. The interior is untouched from the original 1960s decor, and shows it, but that's OK with me.

**John Emerson Brown**  
*Mt. Sterling, Ohio*

\* I have several of your magazines that I have enjoyed reading. I was hoping to find at least a few listings for businesses that cater to those of us with houses that belong to the era you feature. My husband and I are contemplating an addition on the rear of our 1950s shake-roofed ranch in Phoenix. The few builders we have consulted are very quick to say No when we asked if they could match the exterior brick. Do you have any suggestions?

**Stephanie Seyer**

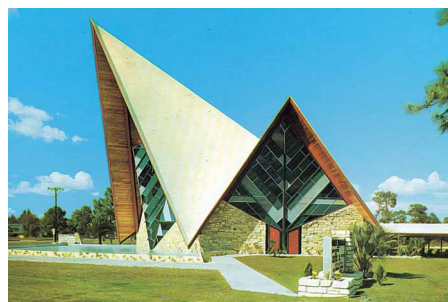
*We have an upcoming story about a couple who used the original brick from their rear facade to clad the sides of their addition, then switched to tan Roman brick for details on the back. As far as matching yours,*

*it depends upon what kind of brick you have, and there are regional varieties that come into play. For instance, in our own Portland ranch, the Roman brick size is still being made, but not in the color we have. If you send a good photo, we might be able to offer some resources—but no guarantee.*

—ar editor

\* I found some fun 1950s postcards featuring Google architecture at My Favorite Place, a junk shop in Atlanta where I have discovered many midcentury bargains over the years. This one is of Grace Lutheran Church in St. Petersburg, Fla.

I know it would be an entirely different business venture, but I think it would be a great idea to see Atomic Ranch partner with HGTV on a television program. So many times I see home renovations where they take an unspoiled midcentury modern home and renovate it into something it was never meant to be, destroying the charm in the process. I cringe when I see designers on a low budget stucco over a gorgeous stone fireplace wall or tear out original tiled bathrooms



that could easily be saved, simply because they look "dated." If only there were a television show that could express the concerns of midcentury enthusiasts and explain the importance and value in preserving these homes, instead of just gutting them or worse, tearing them down.

I'm certain you have your hands full publishing this fantastic magazine as well as the upcoming second Atomic Ranch book, but should you ever find the time, a regular series show would be a dream come true. I think HGTV would be surprised to find out how many

midcentury modern fans are out there who would be interested in seeing such a show produced.

**Vince Grindstaff**  
Atlanta, Ga.

\* Here is a shot of our 1953 Spartan Manor 28-footer, on the road for four years now after a two-year renovation. It has been to 18 states—not too bad for such an old gal. The tow vehicle is a 1956 Lincoln custom station wagon. No, it was never a hearse; we converted it into a wagon from a sedan 13 years ago, and it has been driven 31,000 miles since the conversion.

The renovation of the trailer included gutting it carefully, new mechanicals, rebuilt axles, etc., then reinstalling the original cabinets in not quite the original floor plan so that we could fit a king-size bed in back for us and our Great Danes. Rearranging and omitting some cabinets also allowed us to add six windows from a parts trailer to open up the interior for a true MCM light and airy feeling. Black and white checkerboard floor, vintage cloth for the curtains and a lime green laminate counter and backsplash finish out the feeling.



For anyone interested in vintage trailers, there is a club, Tin Can Tourists; their meets, trailers and people are fun.

**Phil G.D. Schaefer**  
Indianapolis

\* Your magazine provides welcome relief from the mundane. I must take exception, however, with your recent piece on travel trailers. As a partial trailer enthusiast and admirer of things atomic, your choices of the Spartan and the Airstream were super mundane and boring. Airstream? They should call those things Mainstreams.

Next time, include Holiday House, really the midcentury marvels you were attempting to convey. Built for only two years, they are rare, atomic and have the dynamic tension that Airstreams only dream about. Of two models they made, only one of the Geographic exists; check out 1960prototype.com.

**Eric Bickert**  
South Lake Tahoe, Calif.



*Bardy Azadmard, who restored the sole Geographic from its rat-infested state 10 years ago, shared this photo of the unique travel trailer, designed by Chuck Pelly in 1959. His website details the history and his restoration. For a fun intro to vintage trailers and unique tow vehicles, we recommend Silver Palaces by photographer Douglas Keister, available through the AR Bookstore; see page 32.*

—ar editor

\* I always wanted an art space separate from our 1948 ranch house, a place of my own—man cave if you will. I was researching prefab studio structures, and although they were really cool, a bit pricey. One day I



found this 1967 Streamliner on craigslist.

We had a concrete slab poured for it, and a contractor friend built a skirt around it and helped me gut it. I really didn't have any need for the kitchen, bedroom and bathroom, so we took it all out, put in bamboo floors and it was pretty much ready to go. I had bookshelves built, and wheat pasted art over cabinets and closets. The only thing left is the custom couch; my wife is working on the cushions, which are made from old apparel I designed at Nike.

We love it; hope you do as well.

**Brandon Walsh**  
Portland, Ore.

\* The children's show "Willa's Wild Life" on the Qubo channel is the perfect show to train your little one's eye to an atomic aesthetic. Check it out! [qubo.com/index.php?path=videos&id=10]

I enjoy your magazine, and though I don't have an atomic ranch of my own, I love dreaming as I flip through the pages of your fabulous publication.

**Lorelei Pullig**  
Richmond, Texas

\* In 1954 my folks participated in a nationwide contest put on by the "Home" television show. They had Jones and Emmons from L.A. design a home and had a contest to see who would build it. Two builders won: my dad and Joe Eichler of Northern California. Dad built his in Kansas City. The Eichler homes were built in Terra Linda, Marin County. There is an article about it on a site called KC Modern.

I grew up in one home Dad built in the late '40s in K.C. Then he built our family home on Belinder, which was (I believe) designed by Dave Runnells, the K.C. architect; extremely unique and a great home. Dad now lives in Carmel Valley, Calif.

**Donald Drummond**

*Kcmodern.com has photos and info on the senior Drummond's work, in addition to a republished article from the Eichler Network on the House that Home Built contest.*

—ar editor

\* Aloha! In your Summer 2011 issue, publisher Jim Brown mentions that there is not much crossover between readers of *Hot Rod* and *Atomic Ranch*. Well, I have to disagree. My shop, Daddy Katz, is a Kustom Kulture Shop where we sell retro and vintage items, including furniture, lamps, accessories, clothing, tiki, hot rod parts—and your magazine! We have weekly Kruze-ins, art jams, scooter shows and bicycle shows. We are also located in a town that has many midcentury homes. Believe it or not, we have a huge crossover of people that drive hot rods, and purchase midcentury items.

**Bill Winger**  
Dayton, Ohio

\* While reading the Summer 2011 issue of AR, I could not help noticing the similarities between the bathrooms in the Cincinnati/Amberley Village ranch



[page 44 and left] and my home's less high-end bath, with their original Jack 'n' Jill sinks and modesty partition near the toilet. I have what appears to be the same laminate countertops as the Cincinnati peach and salmon bath—I believe it was called



Cracked Ice—and my sinks have the original Moen chrome faucets with Lucite handles.

I did not like the solid birch laminate partition, and because it had suffered significant delamination from what appeared to have been a longstanding leak