

The banquette benches and Eames DCMs are upholstered in Eames Circles Document fabric. Overhead, the Doug fir support beams have steel flitch plates for strength, and a Nelson bubble lamp provides illumination.



# mutual admiration society

**When** you first meet Alex MacDowell, he'll likely entertain you with anecdotes about his two-year house renovation, or impart the boundless enthusiasm he has for his midcentury neighborhood in the Santa Monica Mountains. Maybe it will be the story about a trip to Mendocino for all-heart, vertical-grain lumber milled from old-growth redwood sinker logs—the kind they can no longer harvest. The one where he and his wife, Kristin Kozlowski, were driving home with the precious load, only to be rear-ended at 60 miles an hour by a guy in a bigger, badder pickup. The driver was trying to blow a wasp out of his vehicle, and the impact punched the redwood beams into the jumper seat portion of MacDowell's extended cab, scattering the 1'x6's all over Highway 101.

Or it might be the esoteric details of replicating the original stain on the marine-grade plywood paneling, or stripping paint from miles of concrete block, redwood siding and tongue-and-groove decking. When it comes to his 1951 house, he's definitely all-in.

The couple, originally from St. Louis, had a goal to move to California and find a modernist house that could qualify for historic landmark status. The target area was the Mutual Housing Association tract in Brentwood, now known as Crestwood Hills. MacDowell, 36, who bills himself as an entrepreneur, lost out on several homes during what turned out to be an eight-year house hunt. Finally, in part through his friendship with architect Cory Buckner, he beat out developers for a 2,000-square-foot model designed by A. Quincy Jones (see 'Historic Context,' page 19)

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