

"MID CENTURY MODERN, IN MY OPINION, BRINGS IN THE FLORIDA LIFESTYLE, BECAUSE IT WANTS TO MARRY THE INSIDE WITH THE OUTDOORS," PATTI SAYS. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE BATHROOM, THERE IS A WINDOW IN EVERY ROOM OF THE HOUSE. TO FLOOD THE LIVING ROOM WITH NATURAL LIGHT, THE COUPLE OPENED TWO INTERSECTING WALLS AND INSTALLED SLIDING POCKET GLASS DOORS THAT LEAD TO THE BACK PORCH. "WE WANT IT TO FEEL LIKE YOU'RE NOT JUST MOVING TO YOUR OUTDOOR FURNITURE; YOU'RE MOVING TO ANOTHER EXPERIENCE IN THE HOME," SHE ADDS.

# FROM THE GROUND UP

A FLORIDA COUPLE ENAMORED WITH MCM STYLE DESIGNED AND FURNISHED THEIR DREAM HOME THEMSELVES—COMPLETE WITH PERSONAL TOUCHES AND A RETRO SOUL.

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THE MID CENTURY FLAIR BEGINS AT THE CUSTOM MAHOGANY FRONT DOOR. "IT WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO HAVE SOLID WOOD DOORS THROUGH THE ENTIRE HOUSE," PATTI SAYS. "I WANTED THAT FEEL OF THOSE HEAVY DOORS MOVING." SHE ACCENTED THE FOYER WITH A VINTAGE CONSOLE.



## When it came time to move from Kansas City, Patti Pate and her husband, Joel Butner, decided to settle near downtown Punta Gorda, Florida.

It wasn't just the proximity to the Gulf of Mexico or the shops and restaurants within walking distance that drew them to the coast, but the ability to build a modern, out-of-the-box home. "We liked the fact that downtown really encouraged diversity in home styles," Patti explains. "So that allowed us to realize that we could be a little bit more creative in our design."

The couple's fondness for Mid Century Modern design was the main influence behind the 2018 build. "We've had a love of that era forever," she says. "But we also love the playfulness of adding the unexpected aspects of a home when you walk in."

With their desire for color and contrasting materials came an equally determined decision not to be predictable. But after realizing local builders and drafters weren't grasping this vision, Joel assumed the role of architect. "Ultimately we took over the design of the house, totally. And actually sourced everything inside the house ourselves," Patti says.

(TOP) PATTI AND JOEL WANTED EVERY DETAIL OF THE HOME TO BE MODERN, DOWN TO THE FRONT AND BACK STEPS. WHEN THEIR SEARCH FOR SOMEONE TO POUR CONCRETE STEPS FELL THROUGH, THE COUPLE APPROACHED A METALWORKER, WHO SUGGESTED BLEACHER SEATS. THE COMPANY POWDER-COATED THE SEATS AND MEASURED AND BUILT THEM ONSITE. "THOSE THINGS ARE GOING TO WITHSTAND THE TEST OF TIME," PATTI SAYS.

(OPPOSITE) PATTI AND JOEL DESIGNED THE SALTWATER POOL WITH VISITORS IN MIND. "SOMEBODY MAY WANT TO SUNBATHE ON THE BAJA DECK, WHILE SOMEBODY ELSE MAY WANT TO SIT ON THE BENCH WHERE THEY ARE IN THE WATER AND NOT ON THE EDGE," PATTI EXPLAINS. THEY ADDED IPE WOOD DECKING THAT CAN NOT ONLY WITHSTAND FLORIDA'S YEAR-ROUND SUN, BUT ALSO SERVE AS A RESORT-STYLE POOLSIDE LOUNGE.





Non-negotiables included an abundance of windows for natural lighting, a front porch and functional design that couldn't be dated. To achieve the geometric look of the exterior—partly inspired by Joel's favorite architect, Hugh Newell Jacobsen, who designed the home of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis in Martha's Vineyard in the 1980s—the couple had to get the vernacular approved by the Punta Gorda City Council, which previously didn't acknowledge a design similar to Patti and Joel's home. But the city adjusted its building codes to add the new look to its roster.

### FUNCTION FIRST

"We really did follow Mid Century Modern in terms that it always starts with function first, and then form follows. And that was very much a part of our design, that it functionally had to work for us and how we lived," Patti explains. The interior of the home, therefore, needed to showcase the couple's beloved collection of classic pieces, like their Eames chairs, Nelson bench and bright-pink antique cuckoo clock. Patti opted for timeless cement flooring and white walls to serve as the backdrop.



ALL THE CABINETS IN THE HOME, FROM THE KITCHEN TO THE BATHROOMS, ARE IKEA BASES. "JOEL RESEARCHED IT, AND THE BASES STOOD UP TO ALMOST ANYONE ELSE IN THE INDUSTRY IN TERMS OF QUALITY," PATTI SAYS. THE COUPLE CONSULTED A DESIGNER FROM LOS ANGELES TO HELP CUSTOMIZE THE FRONTS, WHICH WERE THEN COMPLETED BY SEMIHANDMADE.

Joel designed a peaked ceiling and a spacious open layout for the kitchen and living room that make the home friendly for entertaining while keeping sight lines clean. And the chef's secrets are kept under wraps with a butler's pantry off the kitchen that is admittedly one of Patti's favorite rooms in the home. "I didn't just want a pantry," she says. "I also wanted it to stand on its own; we were able to tuck in some high-end shelving."

The ability of key pieces and rooms to work independently became a guiding principle for Patti as she furnished the home. "Every piece should be able to move and stand on its own. You have to have a love for that piece you bought, not that it happens to match your couch."



(TOP) IN ADDITION TO THE HOME'S THREE BEDROOMS THERE IS A BONUS ROOM THAT FUNCTIONS PRIMARILY AS A STUDY, BUT IT HAS ALL THE NUTS AND BOLTS TO TRANSFORM INTO A FUN GUEST SPACE OR A COZY READING NOOK. A DAYBED RESTS BELOW A GALLERY OF FAMILY PORTRAITS AND ARTWORK, AND JUST AROUND THE CORNER IS A WINE COOLER TUCKED INTO A CLOSET.

(ABOVE) ENSURING EACH SPACE COULD STAND ON ITS OWN WAS ONE OF PATTI'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES, SO WHEN IT CAME TO APPEAL, NO ROOM WAS OVERLOOKED—NOT EVEN THE BUTLER'S PANTRY. ALTHOUGH DESIGNED SIMPLY TO CONCEAL DAY-TO-DAY KITCHEN ACCESSORIES, THE PANTRY TOOK CUES FROM MID CENTURY STYLE, WITH HIGH-END SHELVING, BRASS HARDWARE AND A SOLID WALNUT COUNTERTOP.

(BELOW) THE COUPLE ARE OPEN-MINDED ABOUT FURNITURE AND DÉCOR TO INFORM THEIR STYLE, REGARDLESS OF WHERE IT'S BEEN SOURCED FROM. THIS LEADS TO A FUSION OF HIGH-LOW PIECES THAT EVOKES WARMTH AND FAMILIARITY. IN THEIR DAUGHTER'S ROOM, FOR INSTANCE, AN EAMES ARMCHAIR COMPLEMENTS SIDE TABLES FROM TARGET.

(BOTTOM) TO ACHIEVE THE EXACT PATTERN FOR THE TILE MOSAIC IN THE GUEST BATHROOM, THE COUPLE SPENT AN EVENING PLACING EACH SQUARE ON THE LIVING ROOM FLOOR IN THE DESIGN THEY WANTED, ENSURING THAT NO SINGLE COLOR OVERWHELMED THE OTHERS. JOEL HANDED EACH ONE, PIECE BY PIECE, TO THE TILER THE NEXT DAY.



(ABOVE) OVER THE YEARS, THE COUPLE HAS SAVED UP TO PURCHASE CLASSIC PIECES, INCLUDING SEVERAL EAMES CHAIRS. THE PRIMARY BEDROOM PLAYS HOST TO A HANDFUL OF VINTAGE FURNITURE PIECES, LIKE THE DRESSER, BLACK CHAIR AND NELSON BENCH OPPOSITE THE BED. "THEY WILL BE TIMELESS NO MATTER WHERE WE GO," PATTI SAYS.

### KEEP IT SIMPLE

To strike a balance between budget and quality in the kitchen, the couple chose Ikea cabinet bases and worked with a Los Angeles designer and Semihandmade to customize the fronts, which are all cut from a single slab of walnut. "The grain follows the entire bank of all the cabinets," Patti says. Front-push mechanisms eliminate the need for clunky knobs, and the white quartz countertops allow the focus to remain on details like the dry bar nook, which is painted in a vibrant navy blue.

For guests to feel more comfortable during their stay and to keep a tidy visual from the main living area, the couple constructed small vestibules in front of the study and all three bedrooms, each of which boasts a set of wooden double doors. Hanging from each vestibule is a custom chandelier created by an artisan Patti found on Etsy. "It's not just a crafty place anymore; there truly are artisans out there, and they're willing to really get into the space and the feeling that you're trying to create," she says.

Until that point, they had kept the palette balanced, playing up neutral elements with occasional pops of color. But by the time Patti reached the guest bathroom, she was done playing it safe. Taking the plunge on a loud statement that would still work with their aesthetic, the couple chose to lay a dramatic mosaic of teal, orange, black, gray, white and green tiles from Daltille in the guest bathroom shower.

Classic design often acts as a muse and doubles as the impetus for an authentic reflection of the self. Patti and Joel's decision to borrow Mid Century Modern elements for their new home did just that. "We really picked the part of it that we loved and is kind of our personality," Patti says, offering a bit of advice for homeowners considering the same idea: "It's just going to be an expression of yourself; it's not going to feel like work." ❁

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(TOP) PATTI OPTED FOR WIDE, WALL-MOUNTED SINKS FROM BADELOFT FOR EACH BATHROOM IN THE HOME. "WE HAVE THAT LONG GRANITE COUNTERTOP, AND THEN ON THE SIDE YOU STILL HAVE THE TWO FAUCETS FOR TWO PEOPLE," SHE SAYS OF THE PRIMARY BATH. "BUT IT WASN'T THE TRADITION OF TWO SEPARATE SINKS, WHERE YOU'RE TAKING UP A LOT OF COUNTER REAL ESTATE FOR NOTHING."