

homes (mid-century modern)



Retro-inspired design and rich colour combinations infuse this home with the sophistication of another era

STORY NGOC MINH NGO & AMY RICHARDSON PHOTOGRAPHY NGOC MINH NGO

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Homeowner and interior designer Angle took inspiration from the '60s and '70s when decorating her family home, with glamorous results. In the living area, she created a dramatic scheme by pairing purple with gold, choosing bold patterns and opting for opulent finishes. The room is fabulous from the ground up, thanks to a Madeline Weinrib 'Otto' rug in Grape, a glass-topped coffee table (try Coco Republic's 'Sloane' table) and a showstopping hearth clad in Calcutta gold marble. Vintage pieces Angie has collected over the years feature throughout the home, such as this white chair; get this look with the 'Kent' occasional chair from Globe West, and for a similar seat cushion, Mokum's 'Silsila' fabric is a good match. > Deto rug in Groupe \$ 1044 (US\$1075)/182cm x 274cm Madeline Warris New York



TO DECORATE IN the style of the sixties without the results looking like kitsch overload is no small feat. But the home of Angie, a dedicated devotee of mid-century architecture and the furniture, lighting and textiles that emerged during this period, is elegant and pared-back, and there's not a shappile rug or lava lamp in sight. "I've loved mid-century style for as long as I can remember," explains Angie. "I grew up loving fashion and interiors from the time I was a child and have always had a more modern edge to my style."

This graphic designer-turned interior designer, based in Charleston, South Carolina, USA, was searching for a home to share with her husband Victor, daughter Loulou, and son, Sasha, a few years ago, when she chanced upon a single-storey, box-shaped house for sale in a leafy, quiet neighbourhood. Although it was designed in 1974 by a local architect, "it had much more of a 1950s Mies van der Rohe look," says Angie. In a city famed for its historic Georgian, Greek Revival and Victorian homes, modern homes are a rare breed. Alas, the house had just been sold. But Angie was not put off so easily. "I can count on one hand the number of modern houses in Charleston," she explains, "and this one was just my taste." So she waited for the new owner to move in, knocked on the door and told her she wanted to buy the house.

Just one year later, the new owner was ready to sell. Angle wasted no time in starting the renovation. The morning after the closing, she was at the house with an able crew, "I had been dreaming about what I would do to the house for so long," recalls Angle. "To bring the home closer to its original floorplan, we took down a couple of walls that had been added over the years and moved an exterior wall." She also tore up the dated floor tiles and carpet and laid down an oak floor, then had it stained a glamorous ebony. Finally, she added her own brand of modern glamour, filling the house with soft, pretty colors, graphic textiles and vintage finds from the '60s and '70s." I took the freestanding fireplace and covered it entirely in Calcutta Gold marble," says Angle. Purple in all its forms plays a starring role, and it's never looked so sophisticated. "Purple is a colour that I often use in my decorating. For me, it can work almost like a neutral."

The renovation took just four months, and Angie couldn't be happier with the results. The house is stylish, but highly functional for the whole family. Her husband Victor, who is a personal chef, loves preparing meals in the kitchen, which is open to the living area, where the rest of family hangs out. The backyard, with a pool and a deck surrounded by lush palms and bamboo, is a private oasis. "Everything turned out exactly the way I wanted," enthuses Angie. "It was a dream project, and we get to live in it!"





KITCHEN (top) "I wanted to keep the kitchen simple but beautiful, and to open it up more, so instead of upper cabinets I designed the floating shelves and added an island topped with Calcutta marble," says Angie. The splashback is made up of glass tiles – for similar, try De Lorenzo Tiles' 'Materia' collection. Angie chose futuristic lucite bar stools from the '70s for their barely there feel.

MASTER BEDROOM (above) In a corner of the master bedroom, an antique gilded gold chair sits below a '50s nude watercolour. For a wide range of French timber chairs, try Timeless Interiors.





SITTING ROOM (above & opposite) A wall of custom-built white shelving displays the couple's favourite books in style. The collection includes a wealth of art and design books that serve as inspiration for Angie. On the opposite wall, a custom-built fretwork screen separates the room from the entryway, while retaining a sense of flow. For a ready-made screen with a retro feel, try the 'Wooden Geometric' screen in White from The Family Love Tree. Designed in 1964, the twinkling Verner Panton 'Fun' pendant light in Mother Of Pearl (available from Corporate Culture) is still a bright idea for mood lighting. Atop a hide rug, the Oly San Francisco 'Pico' low coffee table is a favoured spot for Loulou and Sasha to eat breakfast – find it at Coco Republic. The leather Moroccan pouf is also great for kids – try Table Tonic. >









"I think my sense of less is more, clean lines, and love of pattern all come from my graphic design background" - Angie

MASTER BEDROOM (opposite) A four-poster bed adds an opulent feel to Angle and Victor's room. It was custom-made in LA, but Sydney store Complete Pad offers a stainless steel four-poster frame with a very similar look, and ships Australia-wide. For grass cloth wallpaper, contact South Pacific Fabrics or Eco Chic.

HALLWAY (above left) The artwork throughout the home has been carefully curated to tie in with the home's colour scheme. The couple commissioned this photograph of a conch shell by Julia Lynn. Its gold and pink tones are complemented by the grass cloth wallpaper and mauve cushions on the low bench.

BATHROOM (above right) Glass finger mosaic tiles add a touch of nature to the bathroom. "I love them because they have a bamboo-like feel and help to bring in the outdoors," says Angie. Try the 'Empire Glass' range from Melbourne's Bespoke Tile & Stone. The Corian benchtop features double sinks atop a custom-built black storage cabinet.

SASHA'S BEDROOM (bottom right) Horizontal blue stripes painted on the walls visually increase the sense of space in three-year-old Sasha's room. An Ikea 'Malm' single bed frame and Poul Christiansen 'Le Klint' pendant light (available from Royal Design) add a subtle Scandinavian feel to the room. >





A design classic, the Saarinen 'Tulip' table adds mid-century appeal.

"I find that if you look at nature you can find the most amazing colour palettes" - Angie



Homeowner and designer Angle with daughter Loulou.



Glittering glass tiles make for a standout splashback.



INSIDE STORY

Who lives here?

Angie, an interior designer (angiehranowsky.com), her husband Victor, a chef, and their children Loulou, seven, and Sasha, three.

Where do you find inspiration?

Angle: "Took a lot to fashion.

I also love design magazines and
I collect a lot of vintage interiors
books. Art and flowers also help."

Can you share your favourite fabric design houses?

Lee Jofa, Bergamb, Osborne & Little, Raoul Textiles, Pierre Frey, China Seas, Clarence House, Donghia... the list could go on!

What child-friendly elements, do you have in the home?

"I tried to keep a lot of open space and I love low coffee tables and pouts for the kids, where they can play and draw."

PLANS





With its pool and lush palm trees, the backyard is inspired by the tropics.