

MIDCENTURY Masterpiece



The Haxton's house before renovations.



When David and Kay Haxton moved into their Winter Park home in 1996, little did they know it would take nearly 15 years to bring their midcentury home into the modern era.

Built in 1957, the 1,924-square-foot house was just the right size for the couple, but the layout didn't provide the livability they wanted. The couple consulted with many architects, but none offered the midcentury charm they longed for.

"They [the architects] wanted to change it into what every other home looked like — either Mediterranean or New England or whatever," David says. "We wanted to keep the midcentury concept."

So David, who was at the time a visual art and design professor at University of Central Florida, crafted his own architectural plans and found an expert remodeler who was willing to work through the process with him.

The years it took to find the right building partner were not without benefits. Originally Manhattan loft dwellers, the couple was unaccustomed to living in a single-family home, especially one on the ground floor, with walls.

"Rooms, walls ... what do we do with them?" joked Kay.

"We had a bit of a learning curve," David says.

The additional time allowed them to refine their wants and needs and helped them craft their home into a midcentury gem.

SLEEK REDO

The home's new facade features clean, sleek lines that meld fluidly with contemporary details. Nothing was overlooked. The landscaping, with meticulously shaped shrubs, follows the home's rectangular lines. Even the mailbox, with its angular brushed-metal design, reflects the home's style sensibilities.

DAVID AND KAY HAXTON'S
RENOVATION INFUSED THEIR
'50s-ERA HOME WITH HIGH
STYLE AND LIGHT

BY CHRISTY SMITH

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Off the main living area is David's office (above). Wall cabinetry offers plenty of storage, while a large window allows light to stream in.

Inside, the four-bedroom home is filled with a light airiness that spreads from room to room. The remodeled portions of the home are primarily in the gathering areas.

"[The renovated area] has more light, more open space," says David.

A new entryway is now centered in the home. A block unit of cubbyholes stands in the center of the room, defining the entry. Brightly hued door fronts on the cubbies add pops of color. Floor-to-ceiling, side-to-side windows form the home's new entrance.

"I love the triangle windows [over the front door]," Kay says. "I always thought those should be there."

From the walls to the rugs to the furnishings, the palette throughout the home is crisply white, with selected hints of color. Light amber wood floors, some original, some new, run throughout.

A fireplace with clean lines is the focal point of the living room. The furniture and decor reflect the Haxtons' love of midcentury modern design. The room's details would be as at home in the 1950s as it is today. The adjoining dining area is simple, with a round wooden table in the same amber hues as the flooring.

FORM AND FUNCTION

A stylish sliding glass door separates the living and dining area from the kitchen. Designed as both a functional feature and a design element, the glass door allows the couple to contain cooking aromas within the kitchen. It also allows for more efficient cooling of the home, as they can choose not to cool the space at night when it is not in use.



David and Kay Haxton (above). A new entryway is now centered in the home. (top) The living room décor is midcentury modern design. The cat door (right) was custom made to match the house.



Formerly a carport, the galley-style kitchen is now in just the right spot for David and Kay. Originally in what is now the foyer, "the [previous] kitchen was in the dark," Kay says. "So, we moved the kitchen and gained an entry."

It features milky white European-style cabinetry topped in gray-toned granite with brilliant flecks of iridescent blue. The backsplash is lined with 1-inch white glass tiles, with random colored individual tiles scattered throughout.

A simple square table occupies the kitchen's breakfast area. It sits adjacent to a small sitting room. Gauzy, white curtains surround the space, giving the room a breezy, open ambience. During temperate months, the Haxtons open the room's wall-to-wall sliders and bring the outside in. Chairs dot each corner of the room, inviting conversation.

Off the main living area is David's office. Wall cabinetry offers plenty of storage, while a large window allows light to stream in. David, who now teaches photography at UCF, uses Scandinavian-style furniture in his office, which is iconic of the midcentury era.

Kay's office sits down the hall and mirrors David's, with similar wall cabinetry, furniture and window. Her office connects to a simple guestroom via a Jack-and-Jill bath.

The master bedroom follows the style of the rest of the home, with a wall of glass that bathes the room in natural light. The room's décor is crisp and fresh, with starched

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white linens topping the bed. Chairs with a '50s flair sit in the corners of the room. A built-in entertainment nook houses the television peripherals. A glass door accesses the backyard.

The master bath is petite yet stylish. A marble countertop sits under a window. The shower features white tile dotted with touches of color. Vintage-inspired white and green 1-inch tiles line the floor.

"I wanted something very '50s," explains Kay.

SHOWPIECE GARAGE

Usually an overlooked area, the Haxtons' garage is a design showpiece, with a garage door made of clear glass. Not only does this ensure the couple keeps a tidy garage, it also allows light to filter into the kitchen through the glass entry door, which connects the two areas.

And while the couple truly loves their garage – being from New York City, it is the first they have ever had – it is not their favorite feature of their midcentury masterpiece.

"What do we like best about our home?" Kay remarks. "Light. And more light." 💧



THE PROJECT TEAM

REMODELING CONTRACTOR: Frank Roark