



2017

Brown Design Group

KITCHEN DESIGN



THE LONG MODERN MID-CENTURY KITCHEN OFFERS A FEW AREAS FOR ENTERTAINING.

PHOTO: MATT WIER



RENOVATING AN ARCHITECTURALLY significant home can present both challenges and opportunities. For a young couple in Montecito, it was important to celebrate the originality of their new home, which was designed in the 1960s in the Japonaise style by architect Lulah Maria Riggs. However, it was equally important that they update the entire property to suit their modern lifestyle. The couple, both natives of Santa Barbara, hired Ryan Brown and Diego Monchamp of Brown Design Group in Los Angeles to revitalize the post-and-beam, flat-roof home with their signature vintage meets contemporary style.

The design duo transformed a majority of the home, including a complete overhaul of the kitchen, by combining two rooms after removing an original brick wall. "The goal was to create an open-plan kitchen that provided an intimate cooking space while offering a more accessible entertaining space," says Brown. A larger island, designed for dining, was placed in the corner of the kitchen that opens to the backyard, while a smaller prep island sits near the hub of the kitchen, surrounded by perch stools so the cook can easily engage with guests.

Paying tribute to the original style of the home, the Brown Design Group designed custom walnut cabinets in collaboration with a local cabinetmaker, sourced through DD Ford Construction. A geometric shelving unit made of steel and walnut was installed above the sink, facing the backyard. "The walls flanking the sink window were very limiting, so upper cabinets were not really an option," says Monchamp. "The shelving unit we designed filters lots of light through the objects on the shelves." Pendants hung above the large island mimic the structural shelving unit while adding more texture to the space. The design team added more volume by using an angular backsplash that further demonstrates how every detail worked harmoniously to modernize the home for this young family. —Lindsey Shook