

Metropolitan Home

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THE PROS
KNOW
ABOUT

RENOVATION

BRIGHT IDEAS FOR EVERY ROOM

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BEAUTIFUL BATHS

LIGHTEN
UP!

SMART STORAGE
INSTANT DECORATING
GRASS GARDENS



SEPTEMBER/
OCTOBER 1995
USA \$3.00
CANADA \$3.50
UK £2.50 display until
October 17, 1995



The dining room's sliding glass door (below) was reduced to a window to accommodate a Frankl dining set. The wall's stenciled gold mimics inlaid brass.

The owners had associated '50s design with kitsch. Then they began to discover the works of classic midcentury artists.



A closet at the foot of the stairs was pared away to reveal an original S-curved wall now accentuated by a lath grid. See Resources.



Before

Korpinen. "It had an early lighting system with relays that made a clicking sound, which is why the real-estate agent thought the wiring was shot. And there was some dry rot, but what looked like rotten beams and columns were actually steel I beams wrapped in redwood bark that was easily removed." Built in 1951, the house was designed by the previous owners, a dentist and pediatrician. They favored such advanced-

for-the-time features as the low-voltage lighting, intercoms and a fan to vent hot air through the attic (the new owners replaced the intercoms with a more-recent model). Drawing on wide-ranging experience that includes several successful remodels, the two designers set out to refine the structure while retaining its strong points. They preserved the existing floor plan, taking out a wall to expose more of the house's spine, the original S-curved wall that shapes

the living room and, below it, the dining room. A metal-railed deck was wrapped around the living room; a family room was created by enclosing a concrete-floored space that was once an open potting shed. Preserved were the big picture windows positioned to capture views of downtown L.A. The new owners improved the panorama by moving the greenhouse to a side terrace, leaving room for a sunny, south-facing patio. "The patio almost



Before

designed itself," says Korpinen. "Since the first owners were horticulturalists," he adds, "every part of the property is terraced and plantable—which is amazing, considering that it's built on a cliff." Indoors, kitchen cabinets were removed to make room for another window overlooking the new patio. New mahogany cabinets were fronted with ribbed glass, a postwar mainstay found elsewhere in the house. "The counters are also new,