

# TimeTraveler

DESIGNER JESSICA DAVIS TAKES HER

by  
JENNIFER  
FERNANDEZ

photos  
EMILY J.  
FOLLOWILL

styling  
ELEANOR  
ROPER

MIDCENTURY HOME FOR A CONTEMPORARY SPIN.



Jessica Davis, above with kids Bryan and Lucy (and poodle Cheerio), chose blackish-green paint to blend her Atlanta house into its surroundings, then drew attention with peach-painted doors. A 1980s coffee table and a custom credenza with hardware from Jessica's line, *opposite*, reflect her eclectic mix.





“MY STYLE IS HAPPILY

ALL OVER THE MAP,” DESIGNER JESSICA DAVIS SAYS.



The founder of Nest Studio Collection, known for its swanky cabinet hardware, doesn't restrict herself to a specific look in her decor or a particular architectural style for the houses she's chosen. Over the years, Jessica Davis has called a Queen Anne Victorian, a Dutch Colonial (both in New Jersey), and a Los Angeles Tudor “home.” Her time in L.A. sparked another fascination: “Being surrounded by all of those midcentury houses, I knew I wanted the opportunity to live in one and put my own spin on it,” she says.

That chance came when Jessica and husband Scott found a 1960 gem built by architect Jerry Cooper in Atlanta's Buckhead neighborhood. The couple embraced midcentury elements by preserving tongue-and-groove wood ceilings, maintaining aluminum-frame windows, repurposing some of the living room's original magnolia paneling as kitchen cabinetry, and splurging on terrazzo tile floors in the entry hall, kitchen, and dining area. But their vision excluded predictable geometric frames, groovy patterns, and mustard yellow accents. Instead, Jessica reinterpreted midcentury style through a contemporary lens.

First came the palette: a mix of watercolor neutrals punctuated with

● Skylights brighten the black kitchen, *left*. Art Deco knobs and knurled brass legs detail the island. The entry hall, *right*, carries the exterior's blackish-green hue onto ceiling beams set against bleached wood.



● White-painted bricks and contemporary art—bentwood sculptures above the fireplace, *opposite top*, and Jessica's vibrant painting here in the dining area—push rooms out of the '60s. Similarly, a fresh pattern updates vintage Milo Baughman swivel chairs Jessica found on Chairish, and red metal frames do the same for the West Elm dining chairs. The minimalist light fixture is a riff on the era's popular Sputnik chandelier.



Jessica ditched the carpet in the primary bedroom and, in a budget move, painted the plywood subfloor chalky charcoal gray to let it stand on its own. The red Ny rocking chair is a reproduction of Japanese designer Takeshi Nii's 1950s classic; Jessica's parents had one. "It's super comfy and ergonomic, which is deceptive given its simple folding design," she says.



"I could never find a place to put that Moroccan rug in our old house, but it works here," Jessica says of the headboard that hangs from a curtain rod. She designed the nightstands to incorporate mint green, the home's surprise accent. The office, below, gets its midcentury vibe with clean-line furnishings. Jessica chose IKEA shelving for its simplicity and function. "We thought it seemed like a fresh take on modular midcentury shelving," she says.



"I'M INTERESTED IN COLOR, TEXTURE, AND HAVING FUN WITH THE DESIGN," JESSICA SAYS.



red and green. The furnishings, which include thrifted items that have traveled with Jessica from house to house and that help achieve what she describes as a collected yet curated look, followed. In place of sleek Eames chairs or Saarinen tables, she uses a puffy 1980s sectional in the living room, and in the dining room, a Craigslist table she painted a pale mint green.

Bringing light and views into the home was as important to Jessica as the decorating. A renovation that included removing walls opened the closed-off kitchen and dining room and created an entry hall. Glass panels installed below existing windows allow floor-to-ceiling light to flood rooms.

The result is a home that respects its past while ushering the architecture into a new era. "I can keep track of my kids and be a part of the action if I'm cooking in the kitchen or reading in the den," Jessica says. "It's great for entertaining, too, because friends can easily flow from inside to outside." It works in the present but is also looking forward. ■