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THE KUEFFNER COMPANY
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MODERNIST REMIX

WRITTEN BY **BRIELLE M. FERREIRA**
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THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE OF THE FIRM BELIEF THAT THINGS SHOULD BE LEFT AS THEY LAY, BUT IN THE CASE OF THIS RALPH HAVER ORIGINAL, A REINVENTION WAS EXACTLY WHAT THE HOMEOWNERS NEEDED TO FEEL LIKE THEY HAD FOUND THEIR NICHE. Taking on the work of a modernist master, however, is no easy task. So, they called in interior designer Maria Dawson, of Phoenix's Dawson Design Associates, Ltd., and architect John Chonka, of John Chonka Projekt in Phoenix, to tackle the tricky business of transforming the home without robbing it of its intrinsic charm. What resulted was a collaboration that would not only maintain the best parts of Haver's initial design, but also breathe new life into the residence.

Using the existing Douglas fir ceilings as a starting point, Dawson and Chonka decided to strip away the layers of thick, white paint that had been masking the wood's natural beauty and lay the beams bare. "The ceiling was ground zero for us," Chonka says. "Originally, the homeowners wanted to go dark, but once it was sandblasted, we agreed that it was gorgeous the way it was," Dawson adds. "It warmed up the whole house." From there, Dawson selected French blue limestone for the flooring to secure a combination of neutral shades that brilliantly complement both one another and the sophisticated art collection—including pieces by Helen Frankenthaler, Milton Avery, Robert Rauschenberg and Jean Dubuffet—that the owners have meticulously cultivated.

INTERIOR DESIGN Maria Dawson, Dawson Design Associates, Ltd.		
ARCHITECTURE John Chonka, John Chonka Projekt		
HOME BUILDER Roland and Wilhelm Kueffner, The Kueffner Company, Inc.		
BEDROOMS 3	BATHROOMS 4	SQUARE FEET 3,000



QUIET NOOK
Custom designed by Maria Dawson, the zebrawood chest in the master bedroom brings an unexpected element to the space when paired with a classic McGuire wicker chair.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 221

The furnishings throughout the home were also carefully selected so as not to overcome the artworks. For this, Dawson relied heavily on her past experiences working with the homeowners to deliver minimalist, yet comfortable staples that she knew would appeal to their discerning aesthetic while remaining functional enough to cater to their love of entertaining. “I designed their home in Michigan, so I knew what they were looking for,” Dawson explains. “They wanted clean, simple pieces that were contemporary but not hard-edged. Everything had to have a lot of grace and elegance, but also be usable.” As such, Dawson dressed the



ART ENVY
Dawson instituted a neutral palette to act as an unassuming backdrop for the exquisite contemporary art collection that dominates the home and provides all the playful color necessary to infuse interest throughout.



ORGANIC EATS

Rift-sawn white oak cabinetry and honed black granite countertops contrast with stainless-steel appliances in the kitchen, holding fast to the theme of natural materials with a modern edge that is prevalent in the home.

STYLE SELECTION

The intricate pattern on this black-and-white glass bowl embraces modernity. *Small Lattice Bowl Vase, price available upon request; cyandesign.biz*



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 222

open living room with a long, plush sofa and highly lacquered paneled coffee tables from Holly Hunt. The adjoining dining room is outfitted with a classic, slate-top Christian Liaigre table and an eclectic mix of chairs and benches. The interiors guru ensured that the offerings were unique, even contributing her own custom-designed elements, like a beautiful two-door, zebrawood chest in the master bedroom.

For Chonka’s part, the final product would not be the same without his input, with even Dawson chiming in to sing his praises: “He’s absolutely brilliant. His architectural contributions, especially in the kitchen, were remarkable.” His work in the kitchen comprised a complete re-haul—with walls coming down and rooms opening up to transform a once-cramped space into a vision of rift-sawn white oak and honed black granite countertops, which form a stark contrast with the stainless-steel appliances utilized throughout. Chonka’s design for



À LA CARTE

An oversized David Gulassa chandelier hangs low over the classic, slate-top table in the dining room. A variety of seating options makes for an eclectic mix, while a Helen Frankenthaler painting hangs in the background.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 225

the fireplace in the living room, with its expertly integrated zinc panels, has also garnered much acclaim, especially from home builder Roland Kueffner, of Scottsdale's The Kueffner Company, Inc. "It's one of my favorite parts of the home," he says.

For all of the nuanced attention to detail that went into ensuring the transformation would be a success, Dawson insists the project is about more than its aesthetic value. "It's comfortable. It can be dressed up or dressed down, and every inch of it is functional. It has nothing to do with the way it looks; what's important is that the people living in it love it, and they do!" **L**

SPA INSPIRED

The brown and black flecks in the master bathroom's white marble countertops tie the space together. "I like to stay minimal but tailored in the bathroom," Dawson explains. "The fixtures should always be prominent and beautiful."