

Repeat remodelers love life on the trail

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Large windows bring in light and outdoor views.

Photo Mendelson Architecture



Clean lines give a modern feel to this kitchen.

Photo Mendelson Architecture

The result is an updated version of an Eichler home – full of light, clean, bold lines, atriiums and indoor/outdoor living space.

Architect Joel Mendelson removed everything except a single bathroom wall, then added 700 square feet. “These expansions added two bedrooms, a guest bathroom, an expanded master suite and a new kitchen-dining wing,” he said. “A cabana and small garage replaced the oversized existing garage, leaving greater room for the new pool.”

The cabana provides pool shade in the summer. The new home is 2,900 square feet.

The home exterior is wood – a bleached and stained, sweet-smelling cedar planking set horizontally. A clerestory skylight in the raised kitchen ceiling is wrapped in the same cedar. Original plans called for a butterfly roof there, Steve Love says, but the couple felt it would make the ceilings too high and leave the interior space feeling institutional.

The west-facing front entry consists of two walls of glass and a generous built-in wooden bench. Floors are wide planked engineered white oak and match the white oak kitchen countertops. The cabinetry and shelving is poplar and maple. The kitchen, dining and living areas have glass walls opening onto a backyard of grass, young trees, concrete decking and a swim-

ming pool.

Despite removing the fireplace, code compliance called for a ceiling sprinkler installation. The small white disks are unobtrusive. The bedrooms – four on one side (three are their children’s bedrooms; the fourth is a media/game room) and master on the other – were intentionally designed on a smaller scale, although the master includes an alcove for an at-home office. A concrete partition wall shields the kitchen appliance workspace from the dining area. LED lighting, in-wall, Cat-5 cable, electric outlets with built-in USB plugs and in-ceiling speakers complete the tech checklist. Two color landscapes painted by a neighbor adorn a dining area wall.

Although the Loves have not hosted an open house for neighbors, their home was part of the 2017 Lafayette Juniors kitchen tour. Courtney Love agreed to share this remodeling story as a way to allow Lamorindans an inside glimpse into their trailside home.

Love says being on the trail means two of her three children can walk or bike to school. Even their cat Pico loves the trail ambiance. “Most people can’t stomach the idea of spending (that much) money (at once) for major home building projects,” she said, but her financial background gave her the needed confidence.

Courtney Love likens building, or home remodeling, to having a baby. And when the “baby” looks this good, what’s not to love?



Photos Kate Webber