

International

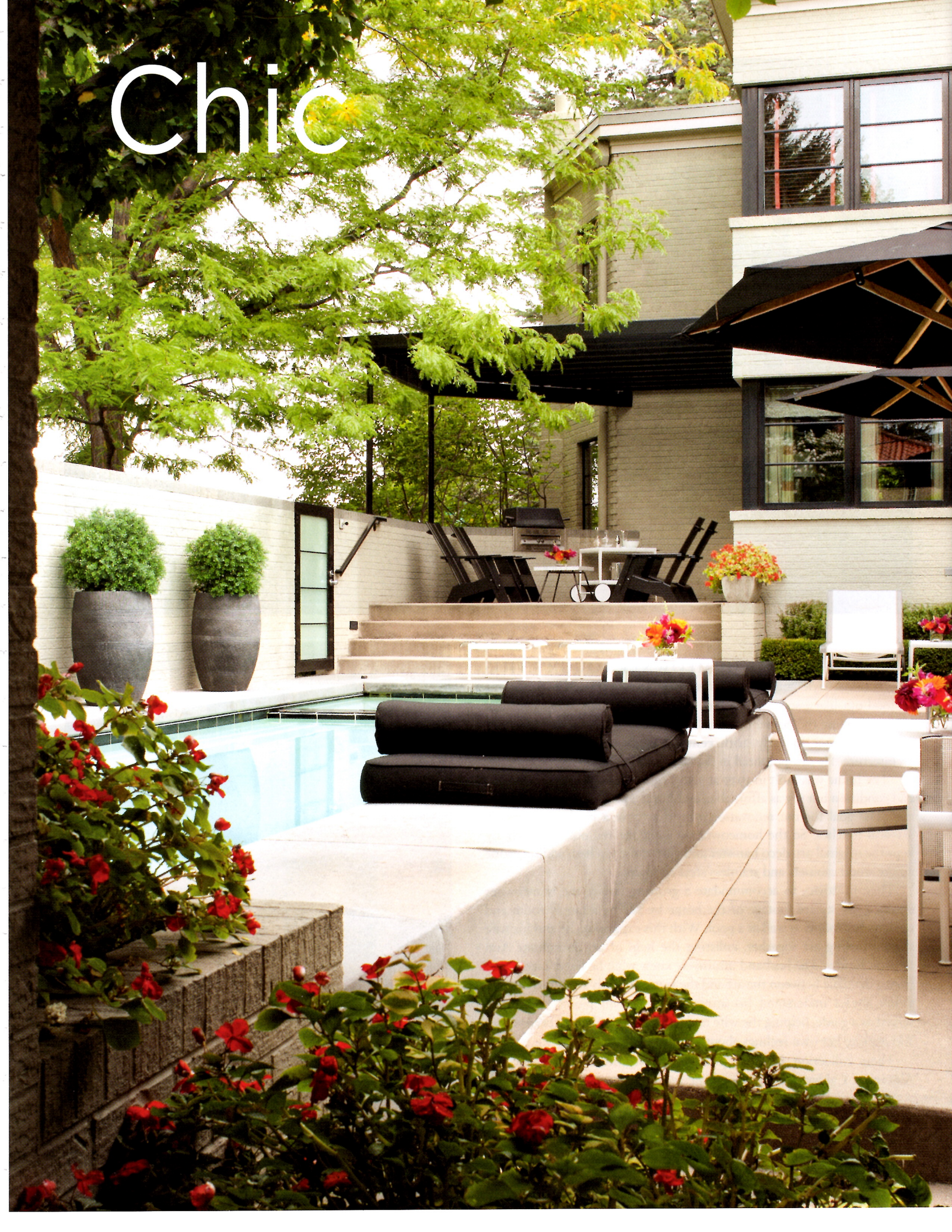
By SALLY STICH

PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMILY MINTON REDFIELD



In the family room, an Alexander Calder lithograph entitled *Sunburst* hangs prominently over a B&B Italia table. On the table is *Moscow*, a bronze by Cuban-born artist Esteban Blanco. (right) Perfect for entertaining, the pool is a calm oasis. All-white furniture from Richard Schultz's 1966 collection adds a classic touch.

Chic





IN 1991, WHEN THE HOMEOWNER BOUGHT THIS International-style house in a Denver neighborhood lined with Tudors, it stood out like a sore thumb. Not even his real estate agent had high hopes of selling the home. But this buyer, raised in southern California, was no stranger to early 20th century, Bauhaus-inspired modernist architecture. He saw potential in the structure.

"The home was built in 1939 at 2,500 square feet," he says. "It was in bad condition but it was affordable, and it was a project I wanted to take on." The goal for the renovation was to achieve a modern look with classical touches. So the homeowner stained the red oak floors ebony, kept the original art-deco banister and gutted the kitchen, adding exotic anigre wood cabinets and stainless steel counters.

Then in 2000, to accommodate a growing family, the homeowner doubled the square footage of the home by adding a family room and upstairs bedrooms as well as a pool. With this expansion, he and his wife started buying art together, enlisting the help of art consultant Ann Benson Reidy. "The husband intuitively knew what he liked: pieces that elicit a dialogue between the art and the viewer," Reidy says; "but his wife didn't always understand his attraction to certain pieces." So Reidy served as a guide, helping the wife understand her husband's preferences and explore her own feelings about particular works.

Their collection includes pieces by well-known names such as Alexander Calder and Salvador Dali, but they also purchase works by





(*opposite, top*) In the living room, part of the home's original footprint, two vintage Ralph Lauren chairs flank a new fireplace; reupholstered George Smith slipper chairs cozy up to the burlwood coffee table; and a Theo Tobiasse lithograph hangs between two windows. The real *pièce de résistance*, however, is the Jae Ko work above the fireplace, entitled *Rolled Paper Ink*, made of rolls of tightly wound adding machine paper. (*opposite, bottom*) A corner in the step-down living room showcases a Serrano mirror that the couple originally regretted buying. "It was in the dining room and neither of us liked it," the wife says, "but in an attempt to give it another try, we put it here and now we both love it." The art-deco banisters that line the staircase are original to the house. (*above*) An antique chandelier, from Black Tulip Antiques in Denver, is the focal point in the dining room, which features a custom table and upholstered chairs. A Creighton Michael painting from Robischon Gallery hangs above an exact replica of a vintage Tommi Parzinger credenza. (*right*) The homeowners took great care to match the appearance of the addition with the home's existing International-style architecture, making it impossible to tell where the original home ends and the extension begins.





Colorado artists and have established relationships with several local galleries. Their guiding principle for collecting is to buy what speaks to them, not those paintings that have the right colors or dimensions for a particular space. “We want art that will look great anywhere—not just in this house,” the husband says.

Between gifts from parents as well as pieces bought during their travels, the couple’s collection has grown to include works by Herbert Bayer, Jae Ko, Jeffrey Keith and Alex Echo. “What makes their house special,” says Reidy, “is the co-mingling of first-class art with first-class furniture and textiles. Everything is thoughtfully chosen and placed to bring out the best in all of it.”



(above) Two B&B Italia sofas flank a Knoll Barcelona cocktail table. The sprawling, spare anigre wood fireplace surround recalls the cabinetry in the kitchen and provides visual calm to the space. Jeffrey Keith's *Fringe*, which hangs just beneath the window, adds a pop of color. (right, top) Renovated 20 years ago, the kitchen has stood the test of time. Custom anigre cabinets and stainless counters create a clean look that marries form and function. (right, bottom) Paying homage to great designers, the homeowner chose a Saarinen table and two Knoll chairs as a dining set. A new ultrasuede banquette fills out the seating arrangement and a Flos Fuscina 8 chandelier crowns the space.



This careful mix of elements conveys a modern design sensibility, apparent in the dark floors, Benjamin Moore Dove White walls and anigre millwork. But each room stands on its own by virtue of clean-lined furniture and unusual layouts. Just as in fine European salons, the chairs, sofas and tables create intimate conversation areas. Fabrics play off one another, and textures are sumptuous. The whole, in each room, is a marvelous sum of its parts.□



(opposite, top) An Andante Button Tete a Tete settee grounds a corner of the master bedroom, which overlooks the pool. (opposite, bottom) Drawing upon the homeowner's favorite colors—brown, black and white—the master bath is clean and elegant. A display of Greek-themed black and white sketches from books line the tub area; visual impact is maximized by the use of similar frames and neat alignment. (above) In the master bedroom, Stephen Batura's *Reflection 2009 RG* is hung by wires in front of Glant Panne Taupe draperies that cover two adjacent walls. Holly Hunt leather chairs pair with a vintage Tommi Parzinger lamp.

DESIGN DETAILS

Art Consultant

ANN BENSON REIDY

ANN BENSON REIDY & ASSOCIATES

(303) 522-2979