

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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*Thistles on Lamorinda hillside...
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Mid-Century Remodel Handled With Care

By Cathy Tyson

With only one prior owner leaving the property mostly untouched, the stars aligned for a group of three architects to collaborate on an artistic remodel of a Lafayette home that respects its original character. Eliza Hart, Stewart Wright and Alex Bergtraun saw potential in an Eichler-esque home in the Hidden Valley neighborhood – although dated, “it had good bones,” said Bergtraun. Hart was good friends with the original owner’s granddaughter, who wanted to make sure it didn’t get torn down. The team managed to modernize and expand the home using sustainable materials and integrated unique color choices and textures throughout.

“All three of us had a shared vision, and worked together on the design” said

Hart explaining that since the house was built on spec, they had a blank slate to work with. “We weren’t afraid to open up the walls,” added Hart, noting there were some pleasant surprises, like the original copper piping under the floors that provided radiant heat. All the pipes were in remarkably good shape, so put to work once again, with the addition of a new boiler.

The trio sensitively reworked the home from floor to ceiling, and positioned walls of windows to take advantage of the surrounding lush natural landscape. Generous, well-proportioned rooms flow from one to the next in the five bedroom three bath home.

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From left, homeowners Gordon and Dorian Chong with remodel team Alan Bergtraun, Eliza Hart, and Stewart Wright in the back yard.



Unique water feature lends tranquil element to patio area.

Photos Andy Scheck