

THOROUGHLY MODERN





ABOVE: Brenda Roth with her daughters, 10-year-old Callie and 12-year-old Gabrielle, and Moko, their border collie.
LEFT: In the piano room, the two C.R. Laine chairs are contemporary takes on traditional wingback chairs.

Tran + Thomas Design opens up a 50-year-old Mission Hills home to perfect it for a young couple and their family

By contributing writer Judith Fertig

Photographed by Aaron Leimkuehler

“I knew what I wanted the end result to be, but I didn’t know how to get there,”

confesses Brenda Roth about the first time she saw the 1967 Mission Hills ranch that wrapped around a patio.

“My husband and I are fortunate that we can look at a space and see what it could be, how we want it to live,” she says. “We have definite design ideas, but they were kind of all over the place. We needed help so that when anyone walked in the house, it wouldn’t be jarring.”

Happily, the couple’s real estate agent





OPPOSITE: The curved accent wall, papered in a York wallcovering, leads from the kitchen to the living room. Jake, the family's Australian shepard, has a great view of the backyard from his favorite spot.

TOP LEFT: Designers Carmen Thomas and Jill Tran.

BELOW LEFT: In the powder room, a black-and-white wallpaper is background to a chest repurposed as a floating vanity and a lime-green quartz countertop.



What the Pros Know

“We give first-time clients a stack of fabric samples and ask them to show us their likes and dislikes. We also ask them what colors they wear. It all helps us define their style.”

— Carmen Thomas, interior designer

connected them with Carmen Thomas and Jill Tran of Tran+Thomas Design, and the transformation began.

Now the Roth family—Brenda, husband Pat, and their two young daughters—have the casual style and open feel that works for them.

“I love midcentury modern style and I wanted a home we could really live in, not have dusty rooms we hardly used,” says Roth. She had to forgo a lot of color for judicious pops here and there, so the soothing palette of grays and blues carries throughout the main floor.

You walk in the front door to the piano room, where the girls practice. Two sculptural chairs form

What the Pros Know

Pay attention to feng shui principles.

“You want to be thoughtful about the layout so the house has a good feeling.”

— Carmen Thomas, interior designer

a seating area. Underfoot, a black, gray and white patterned rug anchors the space. A large abstract giclée by William Goodwin sets the tone for the colors throughout the house.

A bank of windows lets the light flood in, set off by two contemporary live-edged walnut benches. To the right, a curved feature wall papered in York's metallic “Velocity” pattern leads into the living room.



TOP LEFT: Two chic armchairs from Joybird lend a midcentury feel to the living room. **BELOW LEFT:** The wet bar is constructed of the same rift-cut white oak as the kitchen cabinets. **ABOVE:** The big-screen TV is a fact of life, says Carmen Thomas. "The trick is to make it an attractive design feature." Here, three-dimensional ceramic tile provides a sleek background. Flowers from The Fiddly Fig.



— *What the Pros Know* —

What to do with that big-screen TV? “Husbands want it over the fireplace. Wives usually want it hidden, but it’s a fact of life. The trick is to make it an attractive design feature.”

— Carmen Thomas, interior designer





OPPOSITE: In the dining area, carved elmwood chairs from Four Hands are a perfect counterpoint to the rustic concrete table. Flowers from The Fiddly Fig. **TOP LEFT:** Trapezoidal “Mara” pendants from Arteriors light the island. **BELOW LEFT:** The induction cooktop (beneath teapot) disappears into the countertop.

Here, an asymmetrical white-tiled fireplace wall holds up the “modern” theme, while rift-cut white oak floating shelves and cabinetry suggest midcentury. A curved sectional in a soothing gray is backed by a colorful abstract design printed on acrylic. Satin draperies with a soft sheen control the light and add privacy.

The enlarged kitchen offers an expanded casual dining area with banquette seating in Brenda Roth’s favorite apple green.

— What the Pros Know —

“In the kitchen, consider an induction cooktop. It dramatically cuts your cooking time and looks crisp and clean.”

— Carmen Thomas, interior designer



A rugged concrete table has wooden legs that come up through the top for a unique design. Another favorite turns out to be the white quartz island with a waterfall finish. The “Waveline” glass backsplash by Island Stone Style in Breeze again evokes a midcentury feel. And an induction cooktop speeds up dinner, cleans up easily and “looks crisp,” says Thomas.

The large master bedroom in quiet blues and buff gives way to the master bath, where an American Standard soaking tub sits on a gray tile platform. Pearly white porcelain tiles on the floor and in the large shower imbue the room with a fresh, clean feel.

“This house just feels like us in a way I don’t think I could have ever done on my own,” says Roth.

A large bay encompasses a comfortable seating area in the master bedroom. The brass and glass table from Modern Essentials is flanked by two cozy armchairs.





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:

In the master bath, Daltile "Artic White" tiles line the shower. Open cubbies provide space for bath essentials and for hanging robes. Arterior lamps flank the bed layered with a coverlet from Pine Hill. Flowers from The Fiddly Fig.

— *What the Pros Know* —

"For high style and low maintenance, quartz countertops are the best. We use them in kitchens and bathrooms. Red wine. Black markers. Make-up. Nothing hurts them."

— Carmen Thomas,
interior designer

Sources

CABINETS

Shamrock Cabinet & Fixtures
shamrockcabinet.com

FLOWERS

The Fiddly Fig
fiddlyfig.com

INTERIOR DESIGN

Carmen Thomas and Jill Tran
tranthomasdesign.com ♦