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of a San Francisco Loft
Conversion, p.130

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Cara and Robert Barnes's plans for their 2006 wedding did not include searching for a new residence. But after obliging a Realtor friend who insisted they see a classic midcentury modern Oklahoma City property, the couple began to dream.

The 2,700-square-foot, three-bedroom house looked "very unprepossessing from the front," Cara recalls. "Our 'wow' moment came when we stood in the entry hall. It was late in the year, but all of this light was streaming in. We just looked at each other and said, 'Can you imagine living and entertaining here?'" The newlyweds—she a PR and marketing consultant, he an attorney who specializes in the oil-and-gas industry—wound up closing on the house the day after returning from their honeymoon.

Designed and built in 1957, the house was the first commission by local architect George Seminoff, a protégé of Bruce Goff, who was celebrated for designing homes with multi-sided rooms. The low-slung house shows the organic influence of Goff as well as that of Frank Lloyd Wright. The physical structure had been well preserved over the home's first half-century, but there were changes to be made for the next.

"I loved the way the house just opens up in front of you as you walk in," says Robert. "We didn't want to be the ones who screwed it up." The couple also wanted to make the house even greener than it was in its forward-thinking original design by increasing its energy efficiency and adding native plants to the garden. Seminoff's passive-solar design met them more than halfway.

||| This page, from top: From the street, the house keeps a low profile; it includes scarcely any right angles, even in the contour of glass and eaves above the doorway. Opposite: Cara and Iris, the resident canine, a Pembroke Welsh corgi, in the newly opened kitchen, with its refinished original redwood paneling; in the living room, a pillow from Pier 1 sits on a classic Thayer Coggin armchair.

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