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WALNUT CREEK RESIDENCE

CONTENT PROVIDED BY AIA EAST BAY
EISENMANN ARCHITECTURE, ALBANY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK COMPTON



> Updated elements, such as the floating shelf above the sink and the mahogany panels in the living room, add warmth to a previously sterile palette.





A busy family of four hoped to improve their quality of life by renovating their Walnut Creek Eichler home. They brought in Eisenmann Architecture, located in Albany, to help transform their home into an open and accessible space, while upholding the Eichler aesthetic.

The original model had an internal wall that separated the courtyard from the backyard visually and truncated access to the kitchen. By laying a piece of steel tubing across the roof and tying the original beams into it, the architect eliminated the wall and the need for an unsightly crossbeam in the living space. Foam insulation conceals the steel tube so it's not visible to passersby. This also improved the kitchen's flow to the other public spaces. Removing the wall extended visual access from the front door to the back garden, creating views throughout the home.

The design is a modern interpretation of an Eichler. In the kitchen, minimal white cabinetry provides a backdrop to a new kitchen island; its surround was constructed with a 20-foot-long piece of walnut plywood for a continuous grain that wraps all the way around the end panels. Updated elements, such as the floating shelf above the sink and the mahogany panels in the living room, add warmth to a previously sterile palette. In addition, an exterior door was relocated to allow room to add a coffee and wine bar to the updated kitchen.

Page 99: A minimal backdrop of white cabinetry showcases the continuous grain of the walnut island.

Page 100 (top): The goal was to offer multiple workstations while providing some visual separation between the living room and kitchen.

Page 100 (bottom left): Creating a break in the base cabinetry allowed for improved circulation between the kitchen and dining room.

Page 100 (bottom right): The addition of Pau Lope panels, reference materials found in original Eichlers, bring an organic warmth to the living room.

AIA East Bay is an architectural community spanning the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Napa, and Solano. Our many programs include education for architects and outreach to the community on vital topics, such as sustainable design, earthquake safety, and architect-related issues that focus on how the Bay Area community benefits from well-informed design and development. **www.aiaeb.org**