

atomic ranch

MIDCENTURY INTERIORS

Michelle Gringeri-Brown
Photographs by Jim Brown

“How can we fix up our boring, humdrum ranch house?”

Well, we're glad you asked. Traveling from upstate New York to Washington, D.C., to San Mateo, California, and various places in between, we found eight great examples of ranch interiors sure to inspire. Flip through the pages of this book and you'll find kitchens and baths that stand out from the crowd but are still at home in this modest architectural style. You'll see how the judicious addition of the most inexpensive details can make your house look like a zillion bucks.

The homeowners of our featured homes share their tips on color, flooring, window coverings, furniture arrangements, and more. They turn off-the-shelf components into custom features and talk about both their successes and their challenges. But most importantly, they show how to live stylishly while still having a life. Like you, they have kids, pets, and jobs, and would trade a kitchen floor that doesn't show muddy footprints for a white carpet any day. Their stories explain why these rooms work, and provide you with resources and ideas for everything from the garage door to the art on the wall.

Whether your taste runs to vintage originality or updated modern finishes, there are sure to be plenty of ideas within these pages that you can borrow for your own home, be it split-level, rambler, traditional ranch, or modernist. Come on inside the amazing Atomic Ranch house with us.

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and Jim Brown



Home Reference

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Writer Michelle Gringeri-Brown and photographer Jim Brown launched the quarterly magazine *Atomic Ranch* in 2004 to help call attention to the underappreciated ranch homes built all across postwar America. Since then, admiration for the charms of this era of housing has blossomed, and home tours, enthusiasts' groups, and national preservation efforts have followed. The Atomic Ranch community meets on Facebook to discuss all things midcentury, including the name: "Atomic," referring to the Atomic Age, and "Ranch," for the architectural style.

Their first book, *Atomic Ranch: Design Ideas for Stylish Ranch Homes*, was published by Gibbs Smith in 2006. The couple's work has previously appeared in automotive and shelter magazines. They live in Portland, Oregon, in a 1952 brick ranch.



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DEMONSTRATION RANCH, 1957

Brighton, New York
1,900 square feet
3 bedrooms, 2 baths

FULL METAL JACKET



Camouflaged as a plain-Jane ranch from the street, this aluminum kit house near Rochester has amazing details to inspire.



► **THE METAL AND GLASS LE CORBUSIER LC6 TABLE** was designed in 1928, but it looks quite at home with the fiberglass '60s Ion chairs by industrial designer Gideon Kramer. Overhead, a Nelson cigar lamp is a reissue purchased at Design Within Reach.

