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# Magic Moment

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DESIGN PLATFORM REVAMPS A MID-CENTURY  
GEM THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME.

## THIS IS A LOVE STORY.

It was early last summer when Jonas DiCaprio saw the 1969 ranch house for the first time. Nestled in a quiet Cherry Hills neighborhood, the five bedroom, four bathroom structure had certainly seen better days but Jonas could peer through to the home’s undeniable beauty. Floor-to-ceiling glass, a dramatic pitched roof and globe lights hinted at a bygone aesthetic that he dedicates his work to preserving. “A majority of the projects I’m doing now are mid-century modern,” Jonas explains with a twinkle in his eye, as he is the man behind the dynamic architecture and build firm Design Platform. “I love the details.” He knew he had to be a part of this remodel process, no matter the buyer. He just hoped they’d let him.



Jonas and the Hornsteins hired avenue:two to create the natural walnut cabinetry that pairs well with caesarstone countertops in "Blizzard" color. They chose Jenn-Air appliances to accompany their breezy, efficient kitchen.



The home was built in 1969. DiCaprio left most of the exterior intact but designed a custom mahogany and maple front door with a functioning side panel if a larger entrance is required.

**“WE HAVE CONSCIOUSLY WORKED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE DESIGN AND REMODEL TO MAINTAIN ALL THE DISTINCT FEATURES THAT MADE THIS HOUSE AND ITS ARCHITECTURE SO UNIQUE.”**

“One morning I woke up at 8:30 and the first thing my husband said was, ‘We’re going to look at a house,’” recalls Erin Hornstein as she stands in the picturesque version of the house she and her husband came to own in a whirlwind of events. Their realtor introduced them to Jonas, and the rest is history. “Immediately upon meeting Joe and Erin Hornstein and their son Bennett, I knew we were going to make something amazing,” Jonas exclaims with an energy that can only be birthed from passion.

With a background in construction, a degree in architecture and a propensity for helping neglected retro homes reach their potential, Jonas was the perfect leader for the Hornsteins’ revamp. “We have consciously worked throughout the entire design and remodel to maintain all the distinct features that made this house and its architecture so unique,” he explains from within the 6,000 square foot home.

One of those features is the incredible positioning on a hillside that brings the backyard treetops to eyelevel once stepping through the door. “It’s like an oasis,” Jonas chimes, but it wasn’t until he came along that this feature was able to shine. High walls broke up the great room into a series of smaller spaces, so he sunk the partitions waist-high, allowing for subtle distinction between the kitchen, living and dining areas without shrouding the openness that makes this property so enticing. Rethinking the value of each space while allowing the home’s innate advantages to surface was boldly carried into the bedroom spaces. “We



**“THERE WAS A PEACH ROOM, A TURQUOISE ROOM, A RED ROOM...” NOW, FRESH WHITE WALLS ALLOW THE ARCHITECTURE, FURNITURE AND ART TO STAND OUT INSTEAD.**



This cozy breakfast nook had an interesting skylight that needed some pop. An orange Kartell FLY light fixture by Ferruccio Liviani was just the right touch. Eames DLS Chairs are tucked under a Saarinen Tulip Table and bring the space the perfect amount of vintage.

decided to do something unthinkable in most real estate experts opinions. We removed a full bathroom and full bedroom,” Jonas points out, but one can hardly criticize this move when the new four bedroom, three bath layout seems intuitive and ample. “It felt like a maze before,” he says as Erin laughs adding: “There was a peach room, a turquoise room, a red room...” Now, fresh white walls allow the architecture, furniture and art to stand out instead.

A purple barn door concealing an office space in the master suite is a perfect example of the character opportunity that white walls provide. Plus, they don’t compete with the incomparable color and sunlight just outside the windows. To allow that light from the master bedroom to splash into the hallway, Jonas added high set interior windows. It’s a far cry from the cavernous hallways and other thoughtless 70s additions that the house endured for years. “The bathroom was Vegas,” Jonas says about the master bath that was floor-to-ceiling mirrors and windowless. The new bathroom melds seamlessly with the rest of the suite, and a custom floating walnut vanity by avenue:two is echoed in the closet and kitchen, bringing unity to the home that it desperately lacked.

“We were thrilled with Jonas and his team,” Erin whispers as her son naps nearby in his new room. “We cannot say enough good things about the entire process.” Considering the complete design/remodel only took two months, hit few snags and culminated in perfection and friendship can only mean one thing. It was meant to be. And they all lived happily ever after.

*To learn more about Design Platform visit: [moderninddenver.com/designplatform](http://moderninddenver.com/designplatform)*



To open things up more, Jonas created a custom trim kit to provide window space above the fireplace. He also put down 4” white oak flooring. “It was Erin’s brilliant idea to add the built-in carpet,” Jonas explains, adding that it gives a more comfortable, sectional feel without imposing boundaries.



“The kitchen was completely enclosed,” Jonas says. So his team took out two full walls. They added recessed lighting throughout the kitchen and even in the skylights in order to brighten things up.