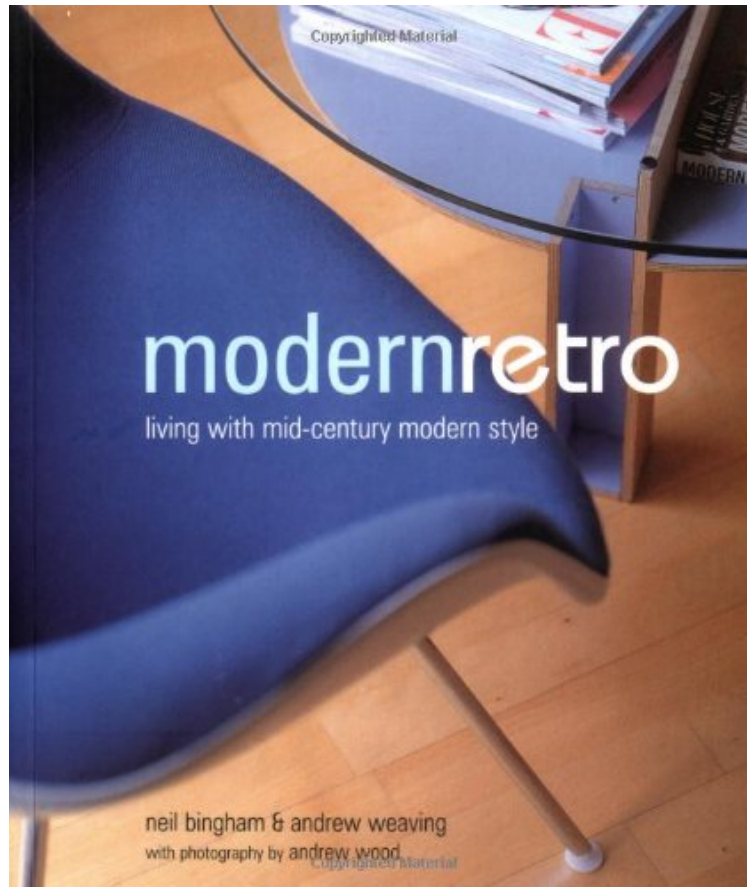


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Modern Retro: Living with Mid-Century Modern Style (Compact Paperbacks)

Neil Bingham, Andrew Weaving
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Neil Bingham, Andrew Weaving : Modern Retro: Living with Mid-Century Modern Style (Compact Paperbacks) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Modern Retro: Living with Mid-Century Modern Style (Compact Paperbacks):

20 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Interior Designer Gives Thumbs DownBy EternalSeekerThis book is not helpful for people serious about getting into the Fifties' look. Maybe OK for those who view it as a fad and have lots of money to spend on repros and authentic pieces at high end antique shops. It gives very little sense of real Fifties decorating and "look"; replaces stylistic information with a lot of weird photography angles; and is depressingly short of useful ideas. If you want to intersperse one or two 50s pieces in an otherwise contemporary decor, this book might be helpful. I found it pitifully inadequate. For serious Fifties afficinados or those who want genuine inspiration, I suggest instead 'Atomic Ranch: Design Ideas for Stylish Ranch Homes', by Michelle Gringeri-Brown, Gibbs Smith, Publisher, Layton, Utah, 2006. Or 'Eichler: Modernism Rebuilds the American Dream'. 12 of 12 people found the

following review helpful. Excellent reference on modern retro style
By Lee Roberson
I feel the other two reviews of this book on as of March, 2010 are inaccurate and unfair to this book, so I wanted to give it a very positive review and provide the potential reader with more information on this title. First, this book is not a treatise on pure 1950's design, and it doesn't claim to be. The jacket of the book spells out what this volume is about very clearly: "Modern Retro will inspire you to create a stylish, individual home that combines modern classics with thrift-store finds and the best of contemporary design." Additionally, the inside jacket tells the reader this: "Modern Retro is not about slavishly recreating a period feel. Instead, it shows how to take the best designs of the 1920's through to the 1970's and use them in your home in a relaxed and individual way. Past and present can sit stylishly together - a 1930's Aalto stacking stool with Eames chairs from the 1950's, a modern chain-store sofa with a 1970's glass top table - allowing you to make the most of the gloriously eclectic forms, colors, and patterns available." The book definitely succeeds in its mission. There are loads of excellent color photos with all the midcentury icons you could ask for - Eames surfboard cocktail tables, Bertioia diamond chairs, Nelson coconut chairs, Saarinen tulip tables, Kagan sofas, and on and on. And no, the book is not loaded with photos taken at weird angles, certainly no more than any other design book you would pick up. The book gives a solid overview of the evolution of modern design, touching on developments in each decade from the 1920's through the 1970's. There are then chapters on furniture, lighting, ceramics, accessories, kitchens, bathrooms, and much more. Finally, there is a list of references of manufacturers, stores, websites, and designers. The two authors are from the UK, so there is an inclusion of a bit more European design and collectible furniture than a typical issue of Atomic Ranch might feature. For example Robin and Lucienne Day, sort of the British Charles and Ray Eames, are discussed. But this is a good thing, as it sets this book apart from your typical American-centric midcentury design book. I picked up lots of ideas from this book and give it a solid 4 1/2 stars, definitely worth including in your midcentury/modern/retro/atomic design collection or as a coffee table book displayed on your snazzy looking, boomerang-shaped cocktail table.
1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Underwhelming
By Warren Mallett
Not specific to the subject matter despite the title suggesting otherwise. Get Atomic Ranch it is far superior.

"Modern Retro" will inspire you to combine modern classics by names such as Eames, Jacobson, and Aalto, with flea-market finds and contemporary designs. The book begins with an introduction to key design innovations of the mid-twentieth century. Ingredients of the Retro Look explores the elements of the style: furniture, lighting, textiles and rugs, ceramics, and glass. Creating the Retro Look, the third part of the book, shows how to combine these elements to create a stylish home. -This bestselling title sold over 65,000 copies in hardcover. -By mid-century experts Neil Bingham and Andrew Weaving.

A paean to all things lovely from the 1930s to the 1970s. It has all the Eames, Jacobsen, and Aalto you could want, and advice on where to get it and put it. (The Guardian)
About the Author
Neil Bingham writes on architecture and contemporary culture. A former curator of drawings at the Royal Institute of British Architects, he is the author of "The New Boutique".
Andrew Weaving runs a gallery, Century, specializing in mid-century modern American design, focusing on originals, re-editions, and work by new designers.
Andrew Wood is a photographer specializing in interiors and fashion. He undertakes regular commissions for Elle Decoration and other prestigious magazines such as Vogue and The Sunday Telegraph Magazine. His previous books include Smart Storage, One Space Living, Living with Modern Classics: The Chair, and Modern Natural.