

STATE OF THE ART REMODELING: A '50s HOUSE RESTYLED FOR TODAY
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HIGH-RISE LIVING

**A Family Moves Up
Rooms With a View
Balcony Gardening**





COLOR CONVERSION

An Architect's Bold Redesign

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILL STITES

Successful architecture is often a matter of finding the simplest, most direct solutions to design problems — and this remodeling is a case in point. Faced with a jumbled, undistinguished residence, New York architect Charles Gwathmey, AIA, conceived a unifying facade and an interlocking color scheme that gives the house extraordinary new character.

The facade is now a strongly horizontal composition of stucco planes and curves, emphasized in bold, clear tones of blue, yellow, pink and purple. A sliding, wire-mesh gate separating the yellow and pink sections opens onto a wide formal walkway, alongside a black-tiled swimming pool. Just past the pool, the glassed entry joins two previously existing structures, a '50s tract house and a two-story, boxlike



Gwathmey's new facade shelters the black-tiled pool, several steps down from the wide front walkway. Dappled tree-shadows play across the brightly hued walls.

addition. The architect decided that these structures should be camouflaged with dark gray paint, and his trick worked wonderfully. Now, their forms fade into shadow-patterns created by tall, surrounding trees, allowing only Gwathmey's pure, bright stucco walls to leave their singular impact.

Inside, all the rooms have been "re-zoned," as Gwathmey says. The tract house is now a space for entertaining, with a guest room, maid's room, island-centered kitchen and a large living-dining area. The boxlike addition, in contrast, is designed "for total, self-contained privacy." Downstairs, it includes a game room, an efficient galley kitchen and a me-

dia room with a curving, built-in sofa. Upstairs, a master bedroom suite overlooks the terraced backyard. Throughout the house, Gwathmey chose wall colors that echo the facade's bright shades, though in much paler versions. "The colors make a language providing continuity through the entire project," he says. ■

The addition to the tract house now includes a game room, media room and master suite. Downstairs in the game room, this curving, pale pink structure (below) contains a second kitchen and projection equipment. Upstairs, it encloses a desk. Glass bricks were set into windows facing the outer walkway.



The existing tract house and boxlike addition were painted a neutral gray (right). Architect Charles Gwathmey chose soft blue-grays and beiges for interior walls (far right). Upholsteries and wood tones complement these colors. An alert flock of sheep was created by Lalanne, French designer of fantasy furnishings.

ARCHITECTURE: CHARLES GWATHMEY, AIA, GWATHMEY SIEGEL & ASSOCIATES

