

## 5 Shapera kitchen

Eichler home, Palo Alto, 1959  
Kitchen cost: \$180,000

### Visual showstopper

WHEN RON AND PEGGY SHAPERA decided to renovate their 1959 Eichler, they asked for a kitchen that would be wheelchair accessible without compromising the home's retro-modern style. They turned to architect and interior designer Richard Morrison, who helped them plan workspaces that are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"I wanted an accessible kitchen that didn't look accessible," says Peggy, who has lived in the home since 1976. To achieve this, Morrison and cabinet designer Deganit Albalak of European Kitchen Design worked together to create a kitchen that would be a visual showstopper, yet allow Peggy to move easily around the kitchen.

They accomplished this by placing a standard height (36-inch) curved, limestone-topped island in the center of the space and a lower 29-inch workspace along the back wall that

was accessible while seated.

Morrison chose cabinetry with alternating red, pale yellow, and cherry wood lacquer to create a Mondrian-like effect. Recalling the modern style and color palette of the original Eichler era, the same red and yellow palette was used throughout the house to reflect the homeowners' love for vibrant colors.

Easy-to-use pullout drawers, a semi-circular Lazy Susan, a mini-pantry, and garbage bin fit seamlessly behind glare-free doors. The designers also lowered the above-counter appliance garage from the standard 18 inches to a shortened, more accessible height.

Helping to complete the kitchen's user-friendly transition, a low cook top, side-opening oven, and bend-free dishwasher were built into the wall units for easy access. A curved kitchen island helped shorten the workspace triangle,



making appliances and tools easily attainable, while providing additional storage space.

### Key players:

Design: Richard Morrison, AIA;  
richardmorrison.com

## 6 Boeni kitchen



### State-of-the-art mode

MARTIN BOENI BOUGHT his ranch-style home knowing he had to remodel every inch of it, and the kitchen was no exception.

"Although the previous owners used the kitchen, and it obviously worked for the house was basically unchanged since it was first built in the 1960s," Martin points out.

Martin wanted to enlarge the kitchen and open it up to the dining and living rooms. "I was looking for a modern kitchen