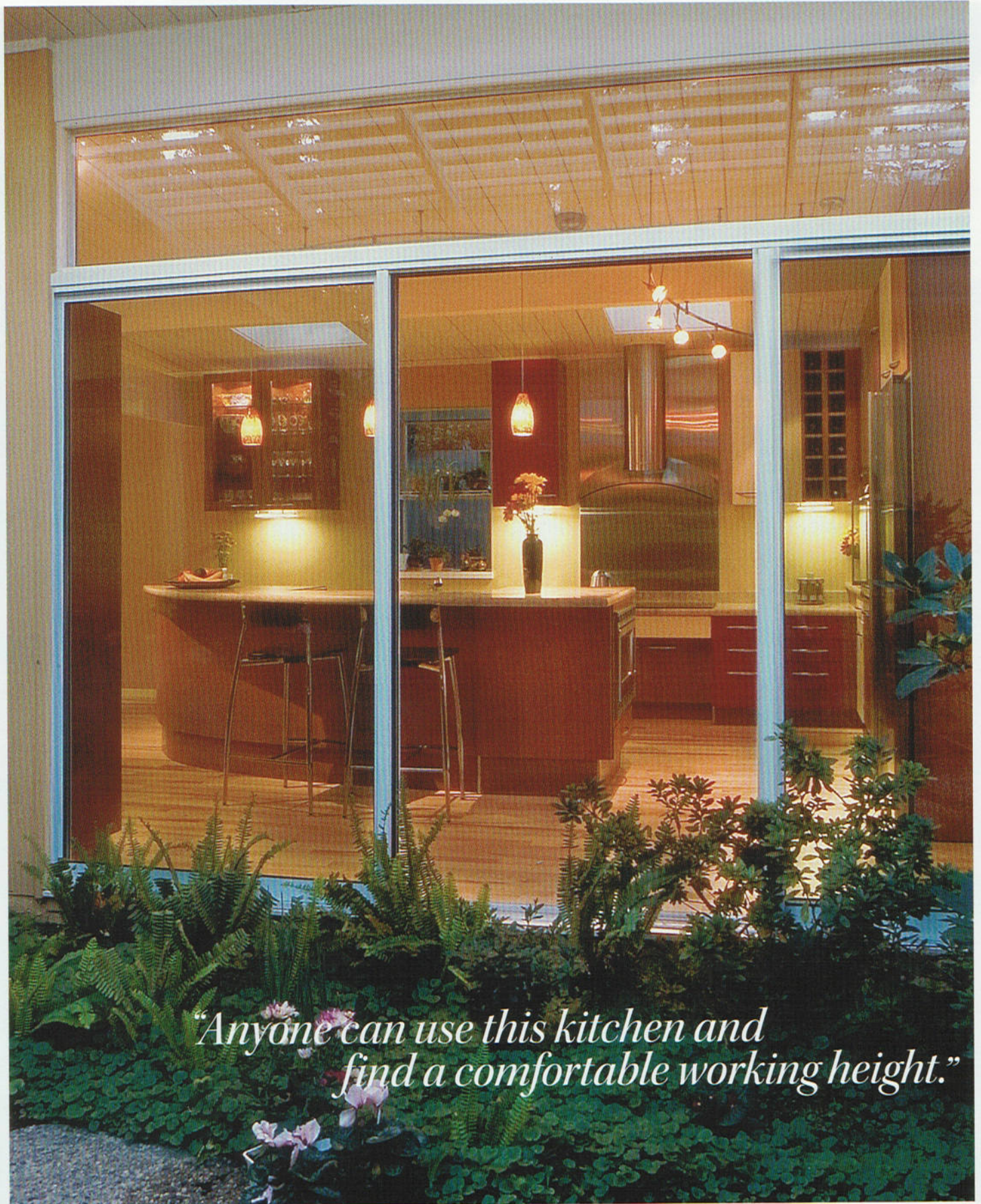




Freewheeling Space

When Menlo Park architect and interior designer Richard Morrison remodeled a Palo Alto Eichler, his main challenge was to create a kitchen for two clients, one of whom was often confined to a wheelchair. With a background in hospital design, Morrison was used to thinking about issues of universal access. For this project, he lowered the primary work areas—sink and stove—and recessed lower cabinets to allow clearance for knees. He also designed the kitchen island to include both a lowered counter and a standard-height counter. “Anyone can use this kitchen and find a comfortable working height,” says Morrison. “Even if you aren’t in a wheelchair, a low countertop could be helpful if you’re using a big mixing bowl or kneading dough.” The appliances are easily accessible, and include a side-opening oven and a dishwasher drawer. Morrison worked with Deganit Albalak of Palo Alto’s European Kitchen Design to customize the colorful Alno cabinetry. In many places, he opted to install drawers in lieu of traditional cabinets for ease of use. “We wanted to keep the contemporary feel of the Eichler while working with a fun palette,” says Morrison. —Lydia Lee



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