

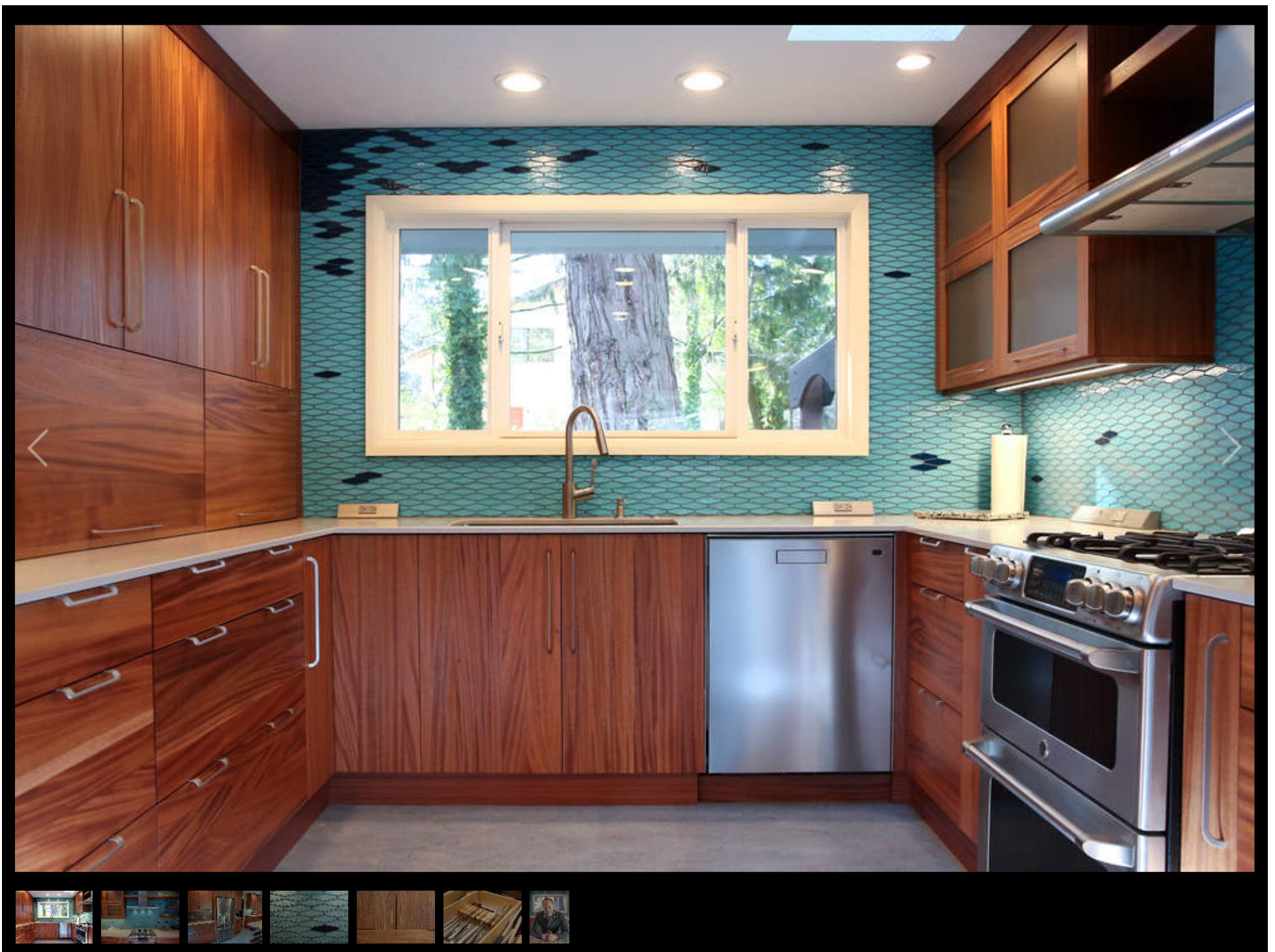
LIFE

HOME & GARDEN

REMODELING

Space-saving kitchen economics

Designer works within existing walls to improve flow, efficiency of growing family's cookery in south Eugene



1/7 - Mahogany cabinets, quartz countertops and colorful walls of custom-designed glass tiles venerate clean-and-simple mid-century modern design character in the Duy/Walloch home's kitchen. (Collin Andrew/The Register-Guard) (Collin Andrew/The Register-Guard)

BY PAUL OMUNDSON

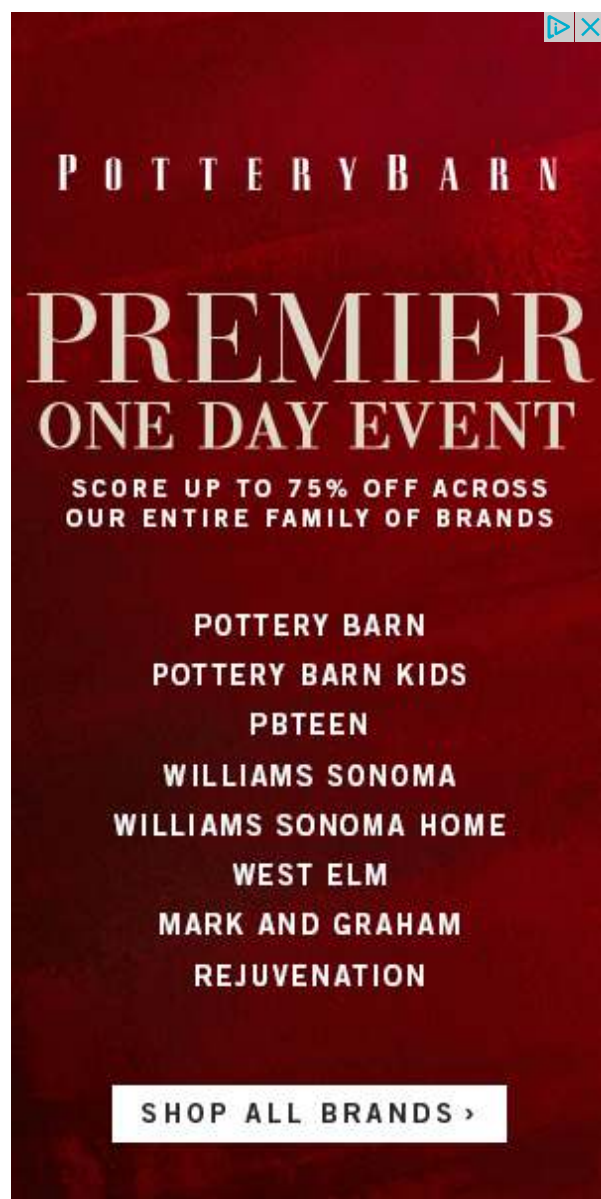
FOR THE REGISTER-GUARD

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If you love spending a lot of time in the kitchen, make that area as functional and aesthetically pleasing as you can.

That was the thinking of University of Oregon economics professor Tim Duy, known for providing economic forecasts for the state of Oregon. But at the end of the day, when he heads to his 1959 mid-century modern home tucked in the Eugene south hills, the educator who slices and dices numbers all day puts that aside to slice and dice vegetables and meats.



"I love the kitchen, and I'm the chef here," Duy says with a grin. His wife, Heather Walloch, a local attorney, heartily agrees. They have two middle-school kids, and human foot traffic has increased accordingly between garage and home — with the main thoroughfare going straight through the middle of the kitchen.

The chef realized that he needed to reclaim his territory. A redesign was in order.

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"The kitchen was tired, with wasted, unattractive space," Duy explains. "It wasn't just the unwanted central pathway and unused eating nook."

Poor lighting, old and unattractive cabinetry, and lack of space for food preparation and utensils were other factors. "Besides, counters and corners were getting harder and more difficult to clean," he adds. So after owning the home for five years, the couple decided "it was time to take the kitchen down to the studs and start all over. Our goal was to have a nicer-looking and much more efficient kitchen."

The caveat



To stay true to the home's overall mid-century modern look, no walls could be removed. Stefanie Rotella of Neil Kelly Design-Build Remodeling in Eugene had to work within the existing footprint.

That was fine with designer Rotella. She, like the homeowners, admires the mid-century look that broadly describes architecture, furniture and graphic design from the mid-1930s to mid-1960s.

The style is distinguished by clean lines, soft curves and geometric forms. It's uncluttered, and it mixes traditional and non-traditional materials in styles emerging from The Bauhaus, an influential school of design founded in 1919 in Weimar, Germany.

The clean, eclectic look and style of mid-century modern design still appeals to many homeowners today.

For Rotella, the question was how to open up a small U-shaped kitchen without tearing down a wall or two.

"That main path of travel from garage through kitchen created a natural division of space, making the kitchen feel cramped and the dining nook impractical," she explains. "Our goal was to create a larger, functional kitchen. In order to do that, we needed to tie the two spaces together, since removing walls was simply not an option."

Rotella moved the refrigerator about 5 feet into the existing dining nook. Across from that, she and her crew added "a standing peninsula" (a cute little table for two).

Functional space savers

The home's previous, vexing space-planning issues have been resolved.

Duy can cook and bake with his utensils and ingredients near at hand, in spaces customized to his personal style and preference. As the kids come in from outside, they take a different path and throw their things into large storage areas created to make all that previous clutter disappear.

What's especially striking is how the designer stayed so true to the owners' intent of sticking with original mid-century modern aesthetics. The area is a more expansive space with bold, natural mahogany cabinets; quartz countertops; and striking aqua wall of custom-designed hexagonal glass tiles. Darker sapphire tiles accent the sea of aqua.

Functional additions include a large pantry, open shelving and appliance cabinets with easy open/close doors.

Call it mid-century "with a modern twist," Rotella says with a wink.

Duy gets his most satisfaction out of a key mid-century modern tenet that states form follows function.

In this case, it's the new sitting nook Rotella crafted as a "peninsula," a zany, alluring table-for-two that totally exhibits the spirit of mid-century modern. It allows him to engage in nice informal kitchen chats with his kids in a comfortable space.

He thinks out loud that, someday, it might be a wonderful, intimate spot for he and Heather to enjoy gourmet meals together.

Writer Paul Omundson can be contacted at hg@registerguard.com.

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At the home show

More than two dozen homebuilding and remodeling companies will be at the Lane County Spring Home & Garden show March 8-11 at the fairgrounds' Lane Events Center in Eugene. Neil Kelly Design-Build Remodeling of Eugene, featured in the story here, will be in exhibitor spaces 255 and 266 (see directory/map on Pages 5-9).



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Local

ENVIRONMENT

Oil spill prompts closure of three McKenzie River boat ramps

A ruptured hydraulic line at International Paper sends 200 gallons into the water south of Hayden Bridge

SPRINGFIELD — Authorities on Wednesday shut down three boat ramps along the McKenzie River and warned the public to avoid the water while crews assess and clean up a 200-gallon hydraulic oil spill about 800 ...

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- Lane County students join national school walkout for tougher gun laws

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Sports

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Former Oregon Ducks women's coach Jody Runge complimentary of current Ducks team, has fond memories of coaching at Oregon

The echoes of a proud past have been stirred by the recent rebirth of the Oregon women's basketball program under Kelly Graves. But no matter how big the games are at Matthew Knight Arena, which ...



- No. 6 Oregon Ducks open Pac-12 softball play with three-game home series against No. 3 UCLA Bruins
- Marcus Arroyo and Mario Cristobal don't plan to make big changes when they run the offense for Oregon Ducks
- Experimental rules in NIT didn't bother Oregon Ducks in win over Rider

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Arts

THEATER

Hip to be 'Squared': NW10 Festival returns with 10-minute plays that run the gamut

The festival kicks off Thursday and runs through March 25 at the Oregon Contemporary Theatre

With a collection of plays that are everything from timely and dramatic to fall-out-of-your-seat funny, the NW10 Festival is back, premiering eight 10-minute plays this weekend and next at the Oregon Contemporary Theatre. This year's ...



- Female landscape: 'Nudes' exhibit features work by Carl Hall, who merged his love of women and nature
- Roving Park Players to present 'Harvey'; Eugene Symphonic Band to perform winter concert
- Delgani String Quartet, ESCO to perform world premiere; All That! Dance Company benefit to help foster children

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Home & Garden

HOME & GARDEN SHOWS

Birdhouse penthouse

Eugene hobbyist's elaborate structures, some up to 12 feet high, can accommodate up to 70 swallows

To say Ron Coble builds birdhouses doesn't do justice to these structures. Not even close. They are masterpieces. Works of art. You could plunk one down right in your living room and no one would ...



- Colorful home on the wild side
- Adorable loo redo
- 'Three cousins' of veggie planting

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