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Bloom's 7th annual homes collection

american homes

1. Hope and Jeff Ellington's 1850s farmhouse exudes traditional Americana. Even their wheaten terrier (pictured here) is named Liberty.

2. Antique tiles, found and installed by the home's previous owner, create an arresting tableau behind Sharon and Brad Fugates' stove.

3. The living room of the Judy Rice/Karl Sturbaum home is a picture of California-inspired casual sophistication.

4. Rustic furnishings and accent pieces add warmth to Janet and Randy French's "barn" house.

"Do I contradict myself? Very well then, I contradict myself—I am large, I contain multitudes."

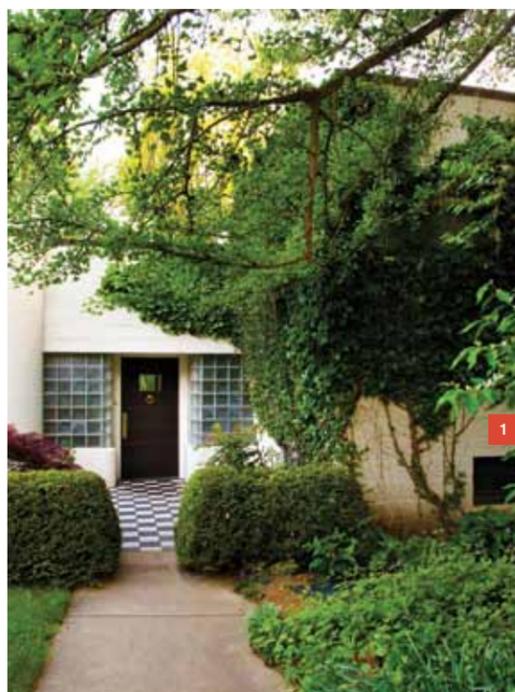
These famous words of Walt Whitman, arguably our most American poet, might stand as a fair overview of American homes.

For in this large country, multitudes of ideas abound. Diversity in design—inside and out—characterizes the American home. It's a point of pride and rugged American individualism to create homes that stand apart from the crowd.

We contradict ourselves—reflecting a stubborn knack for valuing both the communal and the private. We want our homes to have spaces that can accommodate many. But we also like to retreat to our private lairs when the mood strikes.

So, whether they take the form of a Hoosier spin on the International Style, an offshoot of Palm Springs midcentury modern sprouting in the woods, a reincarnated barn, or an historical artifact, the homes in our 2013 collection are diverse, contradictory, individualistic, and distinctively American.

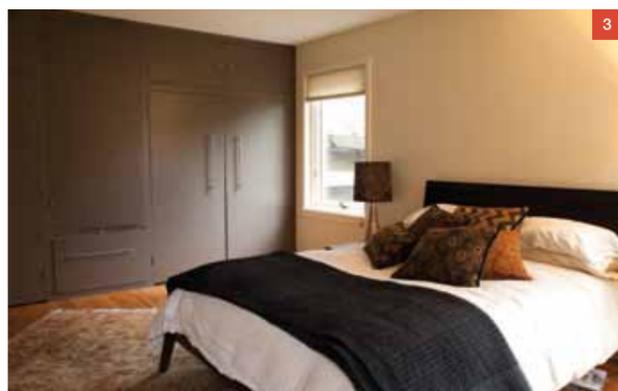
A Modern Home With a Sense of History



Their future home had been on the market for just two hours when Sharon and Brad Fugate stepped inside with real estate agent Scott Owens in April 2012.

"We made an offer on the spot," says Sharon, who owns the Bloomington store Relish with Brad. "We are not impulsive people, but this was so right. We were smitten—it was absolute love at first sight."

Built in 1941 for Walton and Adela Bittner, the distinctive white house is nestled in a wooded half-acre lot in the serene leafy neighborhood Bittner Woods on the city's southeast side. Architect William Strain designed the house in the International Style, which was rare for an Indiana residence in the 1940s. International Style emerged in the United States and Europe in the 1920s and '30s and embraces Bauhaus clean lines and lack of ornamentation. The actual term "International Style" was coined in 1932 by two



American architects, Philip Johnson and Henry-Russell Hitchcock. The Fugates' home was built of materials classic for the style, including cement block and glass brick.

"This is a modern house with a sense of history," says Sharon. "This house has a wonderful ease about it. There's incredible storage for an old house. The other wonderful aspect is that the layout invites you to use most of the house all of the time."

The Fugates are just the third owners of the 72-year-old house, which was on Indiana Landmarks' Mid-Century Modern Home Tour in early June. At approximately



1. Architect William Strain designed the Fugates' 1941 home in the International Style.

2. Sharon and Brad Fugate, owners of Relish, prefer an eclectic aesthetic for their home's interior design.



3. The master bedroom has built-in closets that were added in the 1950s.

4. The living-room sitting area near corner windows allows a great view of nature year-round.

5. Sharon and Brad say they were "smitten" when they first saw their house.

INTERNATIONAL STYLE *emerged in the United States and Europe in the 1920s and '30s and embraces BAUHAUS clean lines...*

3,000 square feet, the house has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a living room with the original oak parquet flooring. Previous owner John Hartley, who lived there for almost 25 years, contracted Stone Cabin Design to make period-appropriate updates that enhanced the house's functionality, including new kitchen cabinets, a remodeled upstairs bathroom, and built-in cabinetry and shelving on the lower level.

"John did the heavy lifting, and we are in the position to enjoy what he did," says Brad. "We made some small changes but mostly just freshened up the interior paint."

The house's white walls offer a gallery-like display of Brad's artwork that includes many large mixed-media pieces and paintings. Notes Brad, "The corner windows free up wall space, and the understated trim doesn't compete with the artwork. We previously lived in a Victorian cottage. This is much different."

Originally from Missouri, the Fugates moved to Bloomington from North Carolina in 1987, with Brad planning to pursue an M.F.A. at Indiana University. Several years later, Sharon and a friend opened Grant Street, a home-furnishings store that was the precursor to Relish, which the Fugates started in 2004.

The Fugates are clearly enamored with their new home. Two upholstered chairs from Relish face out from corner windows in the living room, where Sharon says she and Brad like to sit in all seasons and gaze at the landscaping around the house's concrete patios.

"You are always aware of the outdoors when you are in this house and aware of its interior when you are outside," Sharon says. "It's a special place to be at all points of the day."



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6. The lower level of the Fugate home, which includes this TV room, was once a garage.

7. Corner windows throughout the house allow for an abundance of wall space for displaying Brad's art.

8. In the kitchen, a large antique Chinese cabinet is topped with a pepper mill collection.

9. The former owner renovated the kitchen in the 1990s to complement the house's International Style.

10. Large porches and a pergola provide outdoor living space for relaxing and entertaining.

11. The Fugates were swept away by the dramatic staircase.



Karl and I love PALM SPRINGS, a mecca for the MIDCENTURY MODERN style of the 1950s and early '60s.'

1. Judy Rice and Karl Sturbaum bought their 1979 ranch in June 2003 and have been working on it ever since.
2. Karl and Judy "took the rustic out" of what was formerly a rustic contemporary ranch. Today, its vibe is sleek and modern.



A Palm Springs Aesthetic

When Judy Rice and Karl Sturbaum bought their current house in 2003, they already were experienced at home renovation. The couple had previously owned and transformed two fixer-upper contemporaries, but this time was different. They planned to hold their wedding at the new house, just three months after they closed on the purchase.

Explains Judy, "Karl's brothers, Chris and Ben Sturbaum, and Karl's son, Sam, of Golden Hands Construction, helped with the initial interior. We planned to have an outdoor wedding, so we also did some landscaping, paved the driveway, and stained the decks. Chris crawled under the decks to reinforce them in order to host ninety guests for the wedding."

Located on five wooded acres east on State Road 46, the house was built in a style that Judy and Karl call "rustic contemporary."

"We wanted to get rid of the 'rustic,'" says Karl, a securities lawyer. "The house was designed by Bloomington architect Richard Hartung and built in 1979. It had good contemporary



bones but many rustic finishes that were either popular at the time or seemed appropriate for the wooded setting of the house—dark Styrofoam ceiling beams, Brown County stone fireplaces, cedar siding on the walls, et cetera."

In 2004, Judy and Karl hired Bloomington architect Christine

Matheu for the second phase of remodeling, focusing on the lower level. The space includes a family room, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, and Karl's office. Again, Golden Hands did the work, including installing a 30-foot steel beam in the family room to allow for the removal of structural posts supporting the house.

3. Though it's nestled in the woods of eastern Monroe County, the house has a California vibe.



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Additional renovations have occurred in increments since then and continue to this day, inspired by a Palm Springs aesthetic.

“Karl and I love Palm Springs, a mecca for the midcentury modern style of the 1950s and early '60s,” says Judy, a retired IU administrator. “Although our house was built after this period, its modern design makes it easy to incorporate walls of glass, clean lines, minimalist décor, and sleek fixtures into our space. In addition, since we have a large set of decks and a pool, we can visually combine the inside and outside spaces of the house, which is in the woods but, unfortunately, not surrounded by palm trees.”

The house today bears no resemblance to the one the couple purchased a decade ago. Although the multiple renovations have translated into a

completely new look, they have added only 500 square feet to the house’s original 3,800 square feet. In addition to three bedrooms and two and a half baths, the house has two office/practice rooms. Karl and Judy, both musicians, spend time practicing. Both are cellists in the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra, and each has other musical interests as well.

With their latest home-improvement project recently completed, Judy and Karl are ready to do some entertaining and enjoy their beautiful home.

“Nancy Hiller [of NR Hiller Design] just finished refacing the existing kitchen cabinets and added some stainless/frosted glass cabinets,” Judy says. “She used a teak finish with a horizontal grain to give the kitchen a very contemporary style. Hopefully, after ten years of remodeling projects, this will be the last one!”



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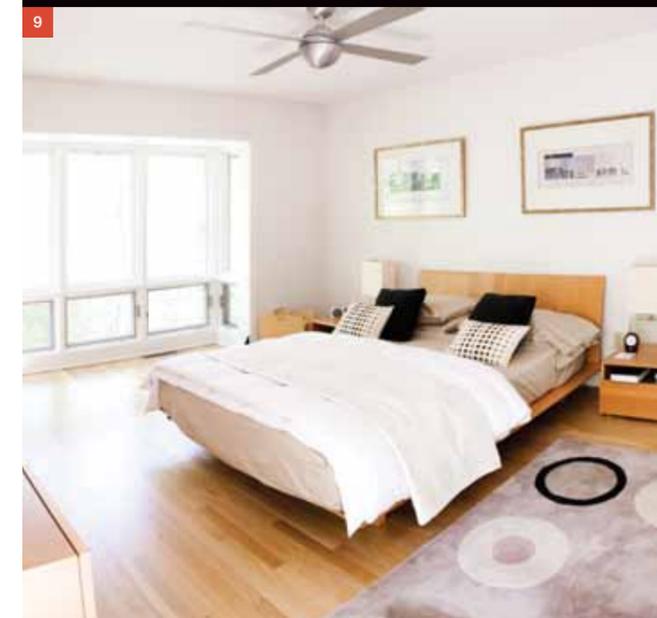
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4. Bloomington cabinetmaker Nancy Hiller resurfaced the kitchen cabinets with teak and added minimalist stainless pulls.

5. The vaulted ceiling and the interior décor’s neutral palette create an open, airy feel.

6. A wall of windows in the living room showcases the home’s wooded setting.

7. Every room invites the occupant to relax.

8. Karl’s large collection of vintage model trains occupies a room on the lower level.

9. The house has golden oak floors in the master bedroom and throughout the house.



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Hoagy Slept Here, Probably

It's a labor of love, say Hope and Jeff Ellington of their rambling 1850s brick farmhouse. For 19 years, the couple has been working together to restore this piece of Bloomington history.

"The house starts showing up in the tax records around 1854," says Jeff, who has discovered some of its fascinating history and lore. One of its previous owners was John Crafton, a local limestone and railroad baron who perished on the Titanic. In the 1920s, another famous resident was apparently a boarder at the house.

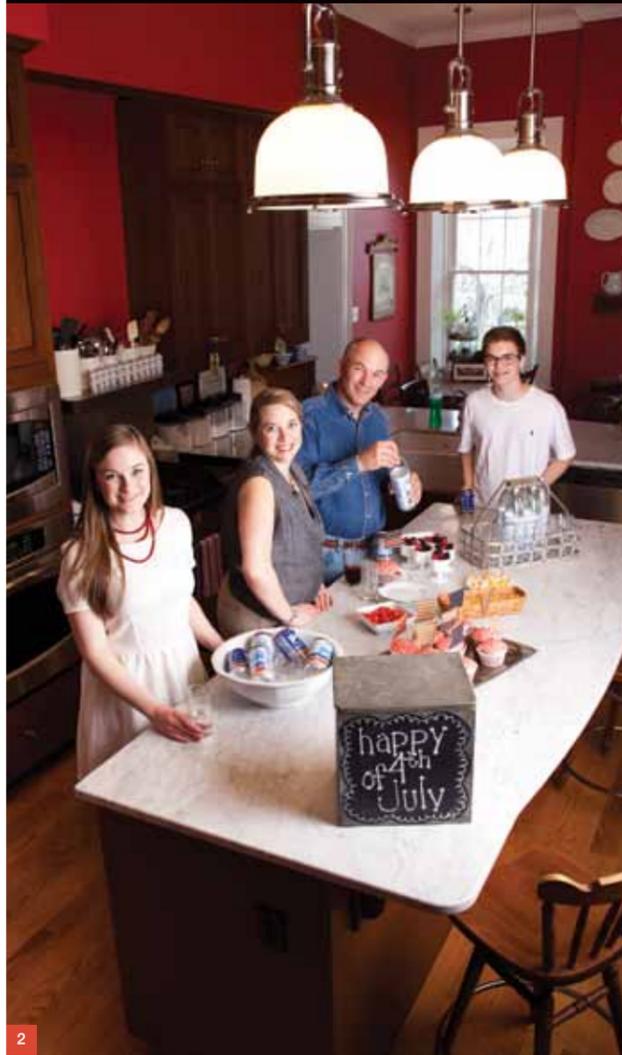
Explains Hope, "We have been told that Hoagy Carmichael often took the train from Indiana University to the little town of Clear Creek, which is where we reside, to board upstairs, presumably in our son Lincoln's bedroom. There used to be a water faucet outside the bedroom that provided a simple comfort to farmhands and boarders. We have other Hoagy Carmichael ties, as well." Hope's paternal grandfather, Arnold Habbe, was in the band

1. The Ellingtons have been told that Hoagy Carmichael boarded at the house in the 1920s. Hope's paternal grandfather played in Hitch's Happy Harmonists, a band that recorded Hoagy's first songs.

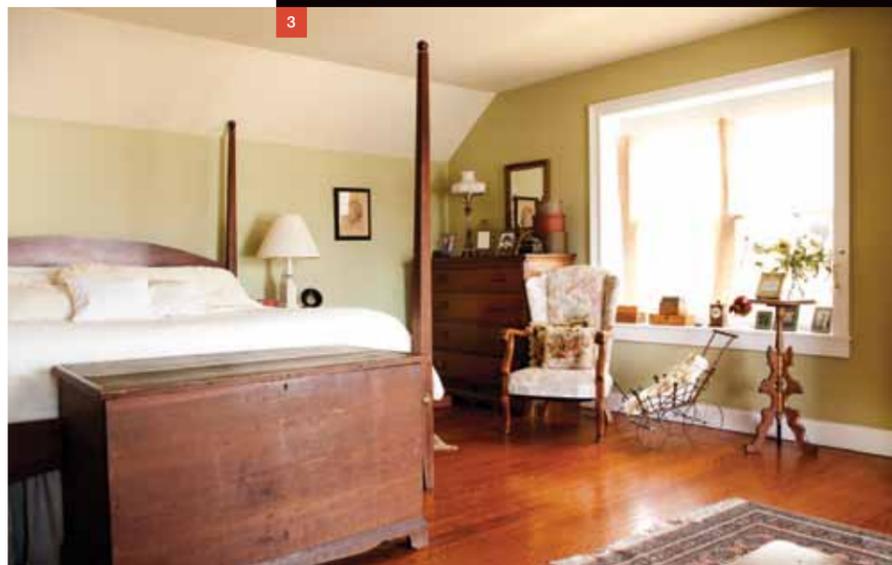
2. The big country kitchen is the heart of the Ellington home. From left: Lindsey, 20, a junior at Indiana University, Hope, Jeff, and Lincoln, 16, a junior at Bloomington High School South.

3. The master bedroom is furnished with antiques and has burlap window treatments fashioned by Hope.

4. The house has nearly 13-foot ceilings and pine flooring. Hope used period-appropriate colors and patterns throughout the house.



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'The best part of living in an OLDER HOME is the sense of SECURITY. It feels so solid and joyous.'

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5. Lindsey's bedroom has a preppy pink-and-green color scheme.

6. Lincoln's collection of old license plates runs along the ceiling of his room.

7. The dining room has original poplar flooring and one of the house's three fireplaces.

8. Hope's vintage flowerpot collection makes an eye-catching display.

9. The master bathroom was renovated in 2002.



Hitch's Happy Harmonists, which accompanied Hoagy in his first recordings.

The Ellingtons moved into the house with nine acres of land in 1994, when their daughter Lindsey was about two years old. "We worked on the house for eight months before we could move in," recounts Hope. "The first project I remember doing was re-puttying and painting the windows, because we were intent on keeping the old wavy glass. Eventually, we had to undo all of that hard work and install new windows because the originals were not energy efficient—they would ice over and wind would blow through in the winter, and flies would come in in the summer!"

Over the years, a number of major home-improvement projects ensued, with assistance from local craftspeople. Today, the house is approximately 4,500 square feet with four bedrooms, two and a half baths, an office, a pantry, and a studio.

"Jerald and Marge Butcher did our plaster work and much of our painting," says Jeff, a full-time Bloomington fireman and owner of J.R. Ellington Tree Experts and Phoenix Demolition. "Doug Bruce was our architect for the addition we put on in 2000. He did a tremendous job. Randy May of May Brothers Construction rescued our bathroom that was literally falling through the floor."

Next on Jeff and Hope's renovation list is the garage, which is adjacent to Ellington's Mercantile, a gallery space Jeff created for Hope and a group of her artist friends (visit magbloom.com/ellington for a story on the gallery space). Hope, who studied apparel merchandising at Indiana University, creates shabby-chic accessories from vintage jewelry in her home studio.

"The best part of living in an older home is the sense of security," remarks Hope. "It feels so solid and joyous. I know there were happy times here before us. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't place a flower in a vase, make a little vignette, or put a piece of white ironstone [pottery] in a cupboard that I don't think of the love of our family and of making this our special home."



Barn Again!

When Janet and Randy French's newly renovated home was destroyed by fire in January 2012, they were determined to rebuild. With pioneer fortitude, they did so from scratch, using reclaimed wood from a 19th-century barn for their new house.

The couple worked with Dean Smith, owner of Timeless Barn Company in Frankfort, Indiana, to design and build their future home.

"The Frenches' barn came from Logansport, Indiana. We estimate that it was built in the 1850s," says Justin Smith, the historical consultant for Timeless Barn. "Most likely it was sourced and hewn locally before being assembled on the original foundation in Logansport."

For the French house, ground was broken for the foundation in March of last year, and the couple moved in a few days before Christmas. The house has 2,600 square feet of multipurpose living space on three levels.

Remembers Randy, "The first time we were in the loft, I told Janet, 'I feel like I'm in the church choir!'"

The open loft doubles as an office and guest quarters. The main floor has a master bedroom suite as well as a great room consisting of an open kitchen, dining area, and living room. On the lower level is a media room, additional sleeping space, and a full bath.

In spite of its rustic DNA, the house is the antithesis of a drafty barn. Large high-efficiency windows allow its interior to be bathed in natural light, and



'I always wanted a house with big OPEN SPACE where I could see the beams. Every time I look up, I go, "WOW."'



1. The house's massive round "Hobbit" door creates a dramatic main entrance.
2. The wood from an 1850s barn was used to build the house and add rustic charm to the interior.
3. After a fire destroyed their former home, Janet and Randy French regrouped and built their dream home from the wood of a 19th-century barn.
4. The great room's ceiling is 23 feet high.



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radiant heat under the stained concrete flooring on the lower level ensures comfort.

For Janet and Randy, who works in environmental construction, architectural details were important. The windows and much of the interior are trimmed with barn wood that was handcrafted by Dean's Amish crew, which also installed the reclaimed staircase. Gerald's Wood Shed of Bloomington laid the Indiana walnut flooring. The Frenches' daughter, Leah Stafford, an artist living in Alpena, Michigan, made the knobs on the kitchen cabinets and the earthy, pottery-like bathroom sinks. The cabinets were made by Tom Replogle of Clarity Designs.

Says Janet, "I always wanted a house with big open space where I could see the beams. Every time I look up, I go, 'Wow.'" Janet teaches physi-

cal education at St. Charles Catholic School and has been a member of Bloomington's High Flyers Family Circus since 1991. "Wow" is often what guests say, too, when they enter the Frenches' great room for the first time and spot the black silk rope hanging from the 23-foot-high ceiling, on which Janet practices her aerial exercises.

The house's exterior is just as distinctive as its interior. Janet, who affectionately refers to their property as "The Shire," commissioned Doors by Decora of Montgomery, Alabama, to make a massive circular front entryway that she calls the "Hobbit" door. This theme extends to the roof, where a dragon weathervane, named Smaug after the gold-hoarding antagonist in *The Hobbit*, shows which way the wind is blowing. ✨

5. The bedrooms and the rest of the house have Indiana walnut flooring.

6. The Frenches' daughter, Leah, an artist in Alpena, Michigan, made the pottery sink in the downstairs bathroom.

7. The kitchen cabinets were made by Tom Replogle of Clarity Designs. The countertop is granite. The cabinet knobs were made by Leah.

8. Janet, a member of Bloomington High Flyers Family Circus, practices her aerial exercises in the great room.

9. The little bear in the lower level guest room/play room survived the fire and is a precious keepsake Janet bought in Chicago years ago.