

Challenge: Modernize a Classic 70s Ranch House

By Sarah Gaffney



Before



After

We all love updating the space we live in. And that's exactly what the homeowners of this 1970s suburban ranch home did.

The San Jose couple had recently modernized their home's interior into a more clean and minimal style but were looking to apply the same aesthetic to the home's exterior facade.

Their goal was to completely transform the exterior, upgrading its outdated, pseudo-Spanish ranch style to a bold modern aesthetic. The main objectives were to abandon the arches at the front porch, create a clearly defined entryway with a strong sense of architecture and give the home more curb appeal with new garage doors and a mix of modern materials such as aluminum, glass and flush-profile siding.

The original façade included faux Spanish-style arches that blocked the view from some windows, dated the look of the house and clashed with some of the home's architectural elements.

A three-car garage faces the street, making its doors a prominent design element for the home. The arched style of the doors echoed the other arches but looked dated and blah.

The owners were interested in using more modern materials such as glass, aluminum and flush-profile siding. The exterior was also remodeled with the principles of universal design in mind so the house can be accessible to people with different levels of mobility.

The result was so dramatically different it looks like a new house. The arches were removed, replaced with vertical supports in dark colors which are much more consistent with the home's architecture. Dark flush siding under the windows contrasts with the stucco and adds visual interest, grounding the house.

The front porch was modernized with a new, wider front door—painted yellow for a pop of color that makes it a visual focal point—and smaller side windows.

Glass and aluminum garage doors echo the horizontal lines elsewhere

in the front of the house, giving the garage a definitively modern look. The aluminum in the doors ties into the modern aesthetic of the steel canopy over the entryway and ensures that they complement the front of the home without overwhelming it. "I love the way it looks now," said the homeowner. "I admire it every time I pull into the driveway."

In order to provide more visual interest to the blank stucco walls at the back of the home, the horizontal siding used in the home's front now highlights key areas in the rear. The siding applications vary between half-wall and full-wall to provide cost savings and visual interest. The old brick fireplace was wrapped in a more modern stacked stone veneer.

The house is located on a large lot set against a backdrop of preserved open space and the new design takes advantage of the location. The spare, unornamented aesthetic fits nicely with the sparse desert landscaping in the front yard.

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