

There is nothing like watching a summer storm  
in Florida roll in over the water,  
except for maybe enjoying a crisp fall breeze  
drift in off the river at sunset.

**For local builder, David Rinzler,  
it doesn't matter what time of year it is; when he is home  
he is soaking in life on the river  
and loving it.**

Floor to ceiling glass doors and windows are used throughout the house, allowing the home to be filled with an abundance of natural light and providing views of the outdoors from every perspective. They are hurricane proof, of course.

# Bringing the Outside In

Living Mid-Century Modern  
in the 21st Century

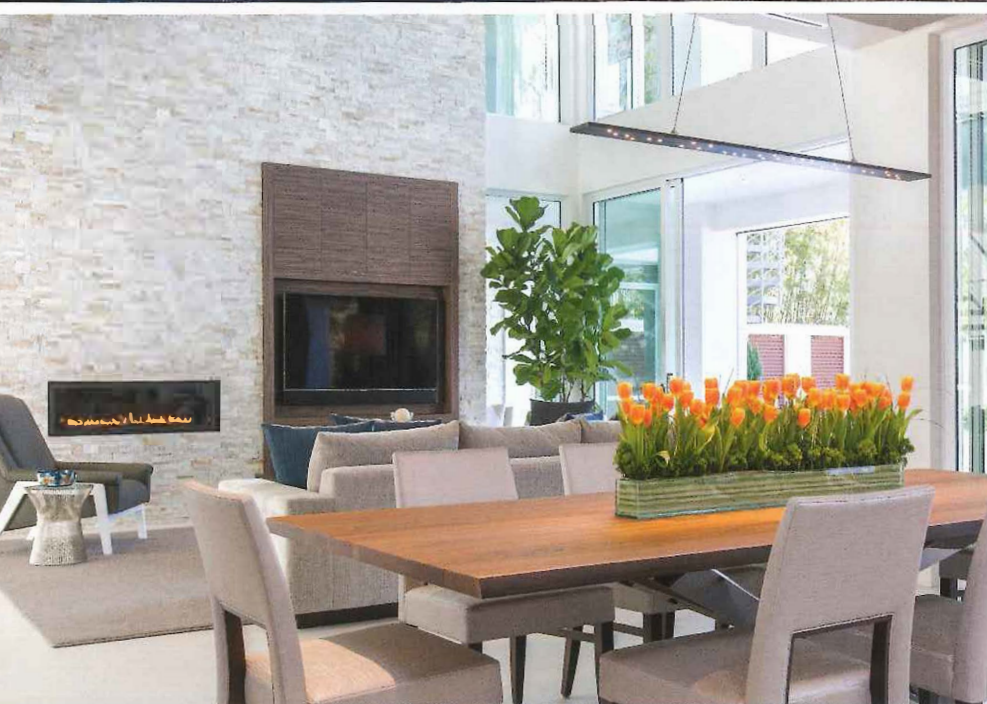
By Christi Elflein  
Photography by Michael Pelzner and Michael LeGrand





Mid-century modern homes were primarily built between 1945 and 1979. Characteristics include:

- Flat planes, geometric lines and flat roofs.
- Large windows and sliding glass doors allowing lots of light in.
- Changes in elevation and split level spaces.
- Integration with nature by providing multiple views and access points.



The contemporary mid-century modern home features an open floor plan with warm modern interiors. The stone fireplace is the great room's architectural focal point. The same stone is repeated on the exterior of the home to bring the outside in. "It is a quartz stone. I didn't want the stone to have too much drama, but wanted a warm feel. It actually sparkles a little bit at night because of the quartz," says Rinzler.

"I kid people it is really difficult to wake up in a bad mood when you roll over and look outside and the view is so relaxing and peaceful," he says. The view of the St. Johns River follows him down the stairs to the kitchen as he brews his coffee, to his living room while he reads his paper, and greets him when he unwinds with a glass of wine after work.

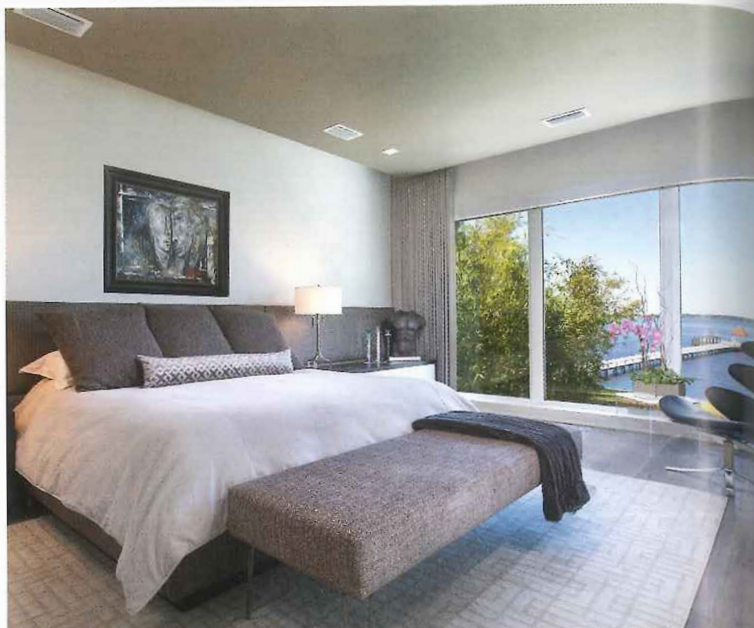
"I find myself staying at home a lot more, because it is just really nice," he says.

"Really nice" is an understatement. Walking up to David Rinzler's Frank Lloyd Wright inspired home brings you back to another era. Then, walking in the front door brings on another set of emotions. It's very current, warm and inviting, yet minimal and open. The first thing that catches your eye is the grand view of the awe-inspiring St. Johns River. "When most people first walk in, there is usually a dead silence. People just need a minute to take it all in," he says.

Rinzler, President of Browdy & Browdy homes, built his own home. He and his family have been building luxury custom homes on the First Coast for over forty years. His mother, Sharon Browdy, was a pioneer as one of the first female builders in the region when she started the company in 1975. Rinzler grew up in the business working around his



A wine cellar is a modern luxury twist to the mid-century modern style home. By bringing it out into the living space of the home, architect Phil Kean describes displaying wine cellars as, "making art out of your wine collection."



**Above:** The floating bath tub, tall glass walls and amazing views in the master suite make you feel like you are at a luxurious hotel or resort spa. The concept is light and airy, Rinzler says.

**Below:** Rinzler's kitchen blends into the mid-century modern design with its clean lines and flat panels. However, as Kean says, "It's not a Betty Crocker kitchen." It's very current and part of the open floor plan.



mother's job sites and joined the company in 1982. Browdy recently retired and Rinzler has taken the helm.

Browdy & Browdy builds all styles of homes, but recently Rinzler has discovered a new love for an old style, the mid-century modern home. He had an opportunity to tour the New American Home built for the 2012 International Builders Show in Winter Park, FL. It was a contemporary interpretation of a mid-century modern residence designed by architect Phil Kean.

Rinzler met with Kean and told him, "I love this and I want you to design a home for me to build in Jacksonville. I want to show this off. I want to introduce this to the North

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Local builder David Rinzler of Browdy & Browdy has built many homes on the First Coast, including his own contemporary mid-century modern home on the St. Johns River.



Rinzler's house is designed for entertaining. The kitchen opens up to a gorgeous poolscape, giving guests room to flow in and out while he prepares the meal.



Florida market, because I feel like a lot of people think that they don't like modern until they see it, and they go, 'I do like it. I had no idea that this is what modern was all about.'

Being able to celebrate the gorgeous landscapes and waterscapes of North Florida in everyday life is the luxury that this style of architecture brings to the home owner. Rinzler says, "It's the ideal location because of the backdrop."

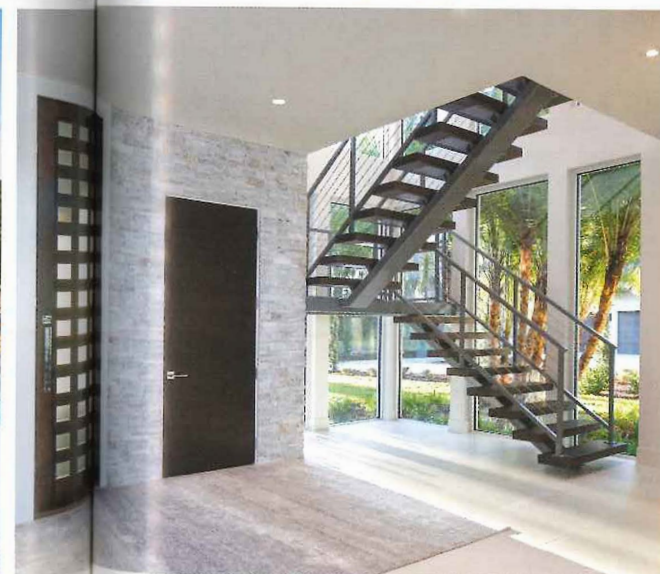
Bringing the outside in is key to Kean's design, of what he calls his WAYCOOL homes. "We maximized the views with floor to ceiling glass," Kean says. His design allows the colors of the vista outside to bring warmth to the interior versus using wall paint to create that effect. "I kept asking him if maybe we needed an accent wall to warm it up, and Phil said 'No David! Stay the course. This will work.' And he was right." 🐢



The pool's geometric angles and simple modern furniture blend in with the mid-century modern style.



With a view of the St. Johns River, the outdoor space appears to go on forever.



The stairway doubles as a sculptural element. It appears to be floating in the corner of the room surrounded by glass. The clean lines allow you to see through it, bringing in ample light. "The architect had a vision of doing it all in wood, but I felt like it would be too heavy. I told him that I wouldn't let it feel too heavy or industrial, that it would feel like a work of art," says Rinzler.

Want to learn more about the history of mid-century modern design? Visit us online at [firstcoastmag.com/midcenturymod](http://firstcoastmag.com/midcenturymod).