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# NASHVILLE

# NEAT

INSPIRED BY MID-CENTURY-MODERN CLASSICS, ARCHITECT PRICE HARRISON WARMS UP A NASHVILLE HOME WITH RICH, NATURAL MATERIALS.





Ash floors, a limestone fireplace and mahogany-framed windows give warmth to the loftlike living area; the sofa, armchairs and coffee table are all from Minotti. Right (from top): Homeowner Joe Rowland (left) and architect Price Harrison; the living room opens onto a pool deck; an outdoor dining area is screened in by a wall of Tennessee limestone (behind the wall, a staircase leads to the second-floor master suite).







# When

Joe Rowland spied a modest brick house from the '60s for sale while jogging through Whitland/West End, a leafy and much-coveted Nashville neighborhood, he went right home, called the owner and made an offer.

Rowland hired architect Price Harrison, a Tennessee native who had recently returned to Nashville after working in New York for more than a decade, to build a new house. "‘Less is more’ is my philosophy," says Rowland, a financial advisor and fan of modern design. He knew that Harrison, who worked for modernist masters Paul Rudolph and Richard Meier, would deliver the warm take on contemporary architecture he envisioned. "I didn't want it to be stark and cold," says Rowland. "I like organic, natural materials," Harrison says. "Plus, to do a clinical, white-on-white house would be alien to this neighborhood."

Rowland and Harrison razed the old house and started from scratch to create two homes on the parcel. Rowland's two-story home is attached to a single-story house—where Harrison now lives, a sure sign that the client-architect relationship was a friendly one.

The ground floor of Rowland's 2,700-square-foot house contains a kitchen, guest bedroom and bath, and a 20-by-40-foot living/dining room; upstairs is Rowland's master suite. Stone and stucco walls, dark bronze fascias and huge expanses of windows and doors give the exterior a welcoming appearance. "Every room opens to the outside, which is not typical of Nashville houses," says Harrison.

**PRODUCED BY LINDA O'KEEFFE. PHOTOGRAPHS BY CATHY TIGHE.  
WRITTEN BY RAUL BARRENECHE.**





*What the Pros Know* Homeowner Joe Rowland wanted more built-ins and less furniture. But architect Price Harrison was concerned about getting custom cabinets with a furniture-grade finish. So he hired trusted cabinetmakers DW Woods, Ltd., with whom he'd worked before, to do the job, even though they're in Brooklyn, New York. Everything was shipped to Nashville and installed by trim carpenters there. Harrison made careful drawings of the house once the drywall was installed, so there would be no discrepancies between the plans and the built walls. DW Woods finished the mahogany cabinet fronts with a satin varnish; the fronts in the bathroom look like they are finished in traditional lacquer but have been sprayed with a tougher conversion varnish.



## Inside

mahogany-framed windows provide a pleasing visual contrast to the simple, whitewashed walls, many of them ten feet high. Tawny ash floors warm the living areas, kitchen and bedrooms, as does French limestone in the bathrooms and surrounding the fireplace. "Joe wanted to be very involved in selecting the materials," says Harrison. "He's very detail-oriented."

Instead of filling up rooms with furniture, Harrison designed custom cabinets and built-in shelves and storage units throughout the house. Mahogany cupboards that give the kitchen a cozy feeling are echoed in the master suite, where wall-to-wall bookshelves create a headboard to the custom bed.

Rowland's friend David White, an interior designer and partner at the Nashville design firm Erwin & White, helped Rowland pick out the furnishings, clean-lined pieces from B&B Italia, Minotti and Christian Liaigre's designs for Holly Hunt. Harrison had no objections to Rowland and White's choices: They are crisp, modern, dark and sympathetic to the architecture.

Though it sits comfortably in its wooded setting, Rowland's house stands out from its neighbors. "People raise their eyebrows, because it's different than every other house in the neighborhood," says Rowland. "But as contemporary as this house is, it's awfully warm and inviting." Rowland loves to invite a dozen or so friends and clients for dinner, especially in warm weather when they can dine outside. He's also coordinated open houses with Harrison and his wife, Stacy, next door.

Rowland still considers his home a work in process. "It will take years to get the soul of the house to where I want it to be," he says. "Now I'll focus on putting on the finishing touches." ❏  
*See Resources, last pages.*





In a corner of the dining area, long, thin windows in a pinwheel pattern frame slivers of the landscape. Homeowner Joe Rowland bought the Christian Liaigre dining table and mismatched chairs at Holly Hunt's Chicago showroom. In the living room, another Liaigre piece, a long bench, sits beneath a painting by Nashville artist Kit Reuther.







In the master bathroom, where steps help access the tub, French limestone floors and countertops mix with custom cabinets designed by architect Price Harrison. Tiny drawer pulls, expanses of mirror and a sleek stainless-steel ceiling fan add to the modernism, as do the proportions of the windows and shelving spaces. Opposite (from top): The kitchen, with its Bertoia bar stools, uses many of the same materials as the master bath; the bedroom is as well-fitted as a yacht cabin.