

## Luxury Homeowners Put a Ring on Jewel-Box Homes

Newlyweds to empty-nesters are trading big, high maintenance homes for smaller square footage packed with



Jennifer Bunsu remodeled the dining room of her 2,400-square-foot Midcentury Modern home in Miami to include vintage rosewood credenza, dining table and Möller chairs, along with a Lindsay Adelman handblown-glass light fixture called Knotty Bubbles. ALEXIA FODERE FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Jennifer Bunsu, an interior designer, lives with her husband, Bryan Whitefield, 44, a project manager for construction, and 5-year-old son, Jack, in the 1948 Midcentury Modern house in Miami that was once her childhood home.

Ms. Bunsu, 40, bought the 2,400-square-foot house from her father in 2013 for \$495,000, and began renovating it in stages. She has spent over \$280,000 to date.

Apart from its emotional pull, the house fit the family's lifestyle: Trading up to a bigger house would have meant moving away from Miami's urban center to the suburbs.

"I think it's the perfect layout. It's just the right amount of space, so we can be together as a family but also split off and do our own thing," Ms. Bunsu said.

The house hadn't been updated in decades. Ms. Bunsu tore out the pocket doors that closed off the kitchen, replacing aging melamine with custom walnut cabinetry, and putting in a ceiling-high slab of Calacatta gold marble for a backsplash.

She relocated the hallway that connected the master bedroom to the living room from the center of the rooms to one side, creating space for a media wall.

An open-air sunroom, called a Florida room, was enclosed with hurricane-impact windows. "So now it functions as my office and a playroom," Ms. Bunsu said. One of the room's original, 1940s jalousie windows has been repurposed as part of a dividing wall for the adjacent guest room.

The home's limited square footage meant Ms. Bunsu could splurge on materials such as handmade Moroccan tile for the foyer and hand-blocked wallpaper for the kitchen and Florida room. The handblown glass chandelier in the dining room—Knotty Bubbles by Lindsey Adelman—has a list price of \$20,790.

"It's such a central element—it's not a precious item in a room you never go in," she said.



# A Look Inside Jewel-Box Homes

Modest exteriors hide elaborate interiors



Jennifer Bunsu remodeled the sunroom of her 2,400-square-foot Midcentury Modern home in Miami to include at one end a hand-blocked wallpaper by Marthe Armitage and vintage furnishings, such as a 1960s flip-top desk by Peter Lovig Nielsen, at right. ALEXIA FODERE FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



The sunroom, which also has space for a playroom and seating area, has hurricane-impact windows, a vintage Moroccan rug and Cherry Bomb pendant glass light fixtures on brass chains by Lindsey Adelman. ALEXIA FODERE FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



The kitchen was redone with a Calacatta gold marble backsplash, walnut and white lacquer cabinetry and Bertioia bar stools from Knoll. ALEXIA FODERE FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



Ms. Bunsu whitewashed the home's original white-oak floors for a lighter look and enlarged many windows, including in the guest bedroom. ALEXIA FODERE FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



In the dining room, a Midcentury Modern rosewood credenza, dining table and vintage Möller chairs are juxtaposed with a Lindsay Adelman light fixture of handblown glass, called Knotty Bubbles. ALEXIA FODERE FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



Ms. Bunsu, who bought the two-bedroom Miami house from her father in 2013, has been renovating it in stages over the years, spending more than \$280,000 to date. ALEXIA FODERE FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



Ms. Bunsu in the garden of her Miami home, where she lived as a child and now shares with her husband and 5-year-old son. ALEXIA FODERE FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL