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*premiere issue*

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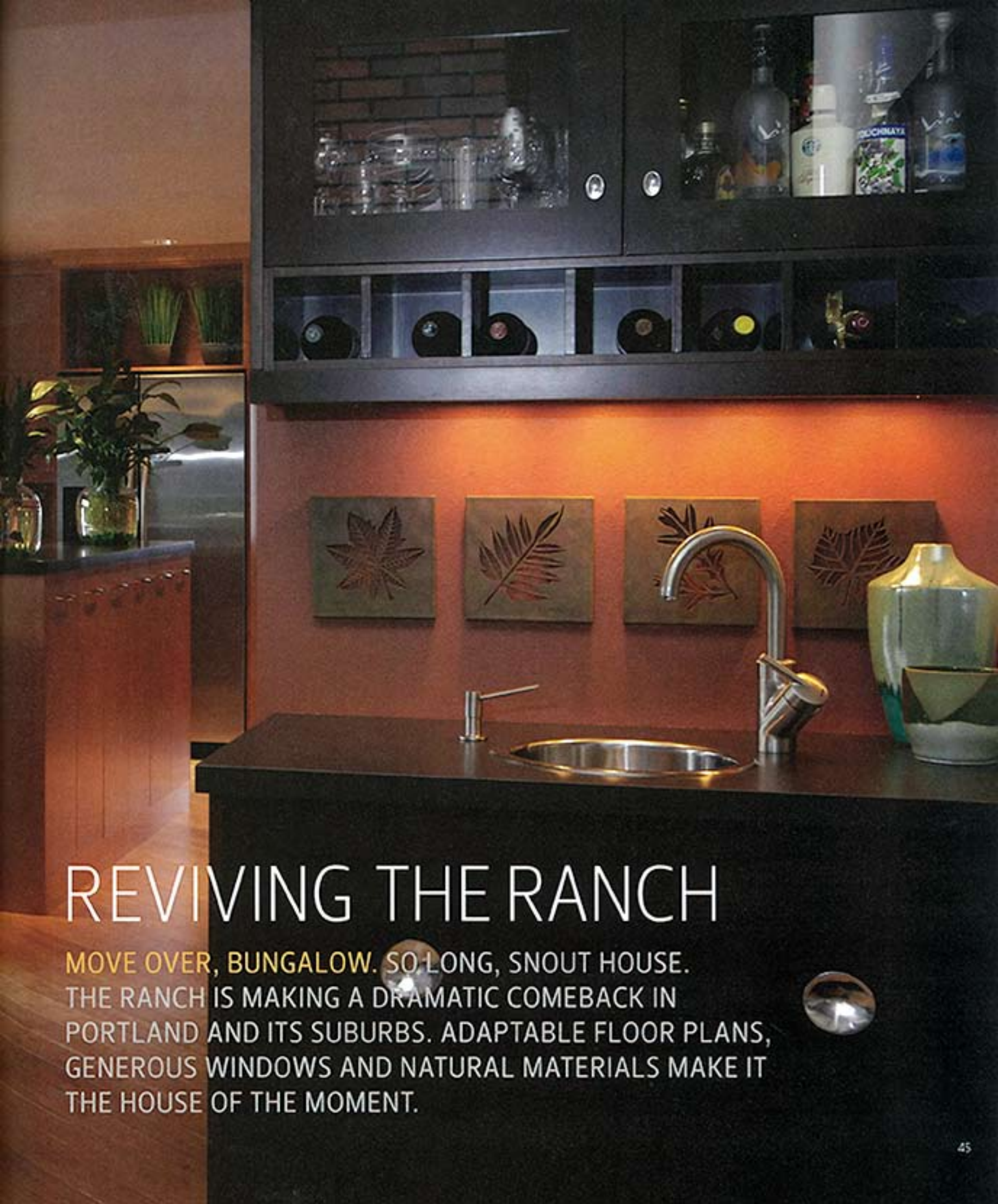
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# REVIVING THE RANCH

**MOVE OVER, BUNGALOW.** SO LONG, SNOUT HOUSE. THE RANCH IS MAKING A DRAMATIC COMEBACK IN PORTLAND AND ITS SUBURBS. ADAPTABLE FLOOR PLANS, GENEROUS WINDOWS AND NATURAL MATERIALS MAKE IT THE HOUSE OF THE MOMENT.



*PREVIOUS PAGE:* The Whites' love of Asian decor shows up in the clean lines and materials used in their newly redesigned ranch home.

The bold, angled windows are quintessential ranch design, aimed at bringing the outdoors right into the living room.



## A RANCH REMODEL EMBRACES AN OPEN FLOOR PLAN AND INVITES THE OUTDOORS IN

Story by Bridget A. Otto  
Photos by Marv Bondarowicz  
and Bruce Ely

It's basically a case of buyers' remorse.

For first-time homebuyers James and Shelli White, new construction in the Bethany area seemed a wise choice.

That didn't last long. They didn't like some of the materials or finishes, and they longed for a larger yard. But they felt guilty remodeling a new home; it seemed wasteful.

They started looking around — and that proved to be a good move.

Soon after ringing the bell at a modified ranch-style house in Rock Creek, the Whites joined the craze that has, at times, caused demand for the midcentury icon to outstrip supply in the Portland metro area.

The vintage '60s house was solid, spacious and welcoming — but dated.

Yards of gold drapes dressed the giant window overlooking the backyard.

Paneling and floral wallpaper covered the family room. A cramped galley kitchen came with '60s appliances and stamped glass in the cabinet doors.

*Continued on page 48 →*



### THE HOMEOWNERS

James and Shelli White with their children, John, 8 (left); and Benjamin, 5

**HOUSE:** Built in 1968 in the Rock Creek area of Washington County

**ATTRACTION TO THE HOUSE:** The spacious yard and rooms, as well as the expansive living room window. James White says it reminds him of his childhood.

**DECOR:** Function is important to the Whites, so they designed their living room to be user-friendly yet stylish. The boys know that roughhousing is confined to the downstairs family room.

### THE DESIGNERS

Arlene Lord and Erin Davis

**FIRM:** Mosaik Design

**PHILOSOPHY:** "We are an all-inclusive remodeling team with an eye for clean, simple, classic design. Our remodeling projects and designs are thoughtfully approached and constructed. From the beginning, we team with you so you can 'live your style.'"

**CONTACT:** 503-726-2222;

[www.mosaikdesign.com](http://www.mosaikdesign.com)

**MORE ABOUT MOSAIK DESIGN:** page 52 →

**DESIGN TIP:** TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GOOD BONES OF A RANCH. THE WHITES LOVED THE WINDOWS AND ADOPTED A DESIGN THAT MADE THE MOST OF THEM.

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The front entry was OK and led to the formal living room, but the kitchen entry was down a narrow hallway, and the formal dining room was uninviting. Each room was closed off from the next.

The couple — with sons Benjamin, 5, and John, 8 — moved in, but didn't settle in. They unpacked only necessities and began planning the renovation.

They didn't need the family room off the kitchen — there was a family room downstairs. Besides, that space could

become part of Shelli's dream kitchen.

"When I saw that space," she says, "I knew I could have a huge kitchen and a huge pantry."

They also wanted to open up the floor plan and bring the outside in through the windows and doors.

But when it came to visualizing how their new home would come together, they were stumped.

"That's where Mosaik came in," Shelli says of the design firm they hired.

Although the conversation began

with the kitchen, it wasn't long before James thought: "Boy, we could really use a bathroom here," and the remodel started to spread.

To the powder room.

To the wet bar.

And to the revamped living room and entryway.

"There was no way you could just do the one area," Arlene Lord of Mosaik Design says.

Structural changes were needed to accommodate the kitchen Shelli wanted,

## BEFORE



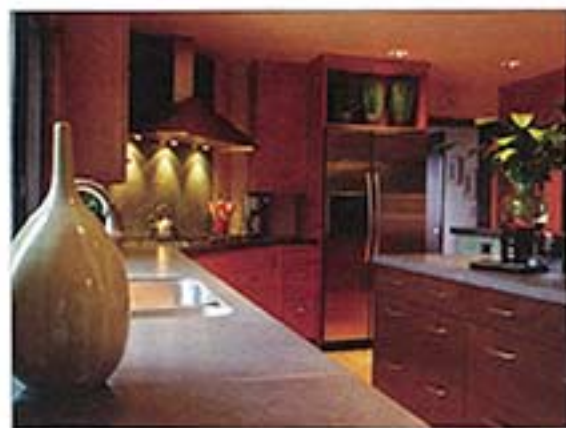
The original floor plan had a formal living room walled off from the kitchen. The kitchen was essentially shut off from the adjoining family room by a row of hanging cabinets and a long counter.



## AFTER



The Whites removed walls, hanging cabinets and the long counter to open the floor plan and enlarge the kitchen. A new front door highlights the architecture of the entry.



*Nestled among soaring fir trees, the Whites' home sits in a quiet, settled Rock Creek neighborhood.*

add the bath and wet bar that James wanted, and create the open floor plan that they both wanted.

The wall between the old kitchen/family room area and the living room had to come down. Two feet of space was stolen from the adjacent garage to widen the new kitchen area and add a powder room.

Knowing Shelli's love of Asian decor, the Mosaik team opted for bamboo flooring and clean, crisp cabinetry.

The trio — Lord, Erin Davis and Scott Jaworski — swapped out the old kitchen window for a sliding door to access the outdoors and allow more light in. Plenty of cabinets provide the storage Shelli sought. And most important, the pantry doorway, formerly in the garage, is now inside, just a step off the kitchen.

Mosaik's initial design called for a stunning green Iranian granite countertop on the large island, but it proved too

*Continued on page 50 →*



*Doing away with the wall that originally divided the living room from the kitchen and adjoining family room opened the main floor of the Whites' tri-level ranch.*

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**DESIGN TIP:** SPEND MONEY ON THE THINGS THAT ARE MOST IMPORTANT. FOR THE WHITES, IT WAS A VIKING COOKTOP.

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costly. Soft-black porcelain tiles went in instead. That pop of green came in via slate tiles for the cooktop backsplash. A spacious chocolate-brown appliance garage shares a wall with a desk. Hemlock cabinets stained either chocolate or latte provide generous storage.

Shelli made other cuts in the budget to accommodate the expense of a Viking cooktop set in the far corner.

"I wanted a cooking shrine," she says, adding that she wants to be a gourmet.

"And that hood," James interjects. "I'm sorry, it's just stunning."

Fresh furnishings, carpet and paint were all the now-opened-up living room needed. Once the gold drapes were removed from the window, its glorious large panes brought the outside in.

A wider entry to the adjacent dining room further opened the area — as did a new front door and sidelights.

"That door was awful," James says of the old dark-wood, raised-panel version. "I can't believe that we didn't insist that be replaced."

But the Mosaik team knew.

"They were open to all our ideas and gave us freedom to do things," Lord says of the four-month project.

James and Shelli compliment Mosaik for incorporating what they wanted into the design and then helping dial back costs.

"You guys knew what you wanted," Lord says of the Whites.

"We did and we didn't," Shelli says. "I didn't know it would be this nice and pretty. That's a nod to Mosaik." ♦

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The new front doors weren't in the original plan, but when the Whites ran into trouble replacing the locks on the old doors, new doors seemed like a good idea. "I'm so glad we did that," James White says.

## CURBING THE BUDGET, KEEPING THE BEAUTY

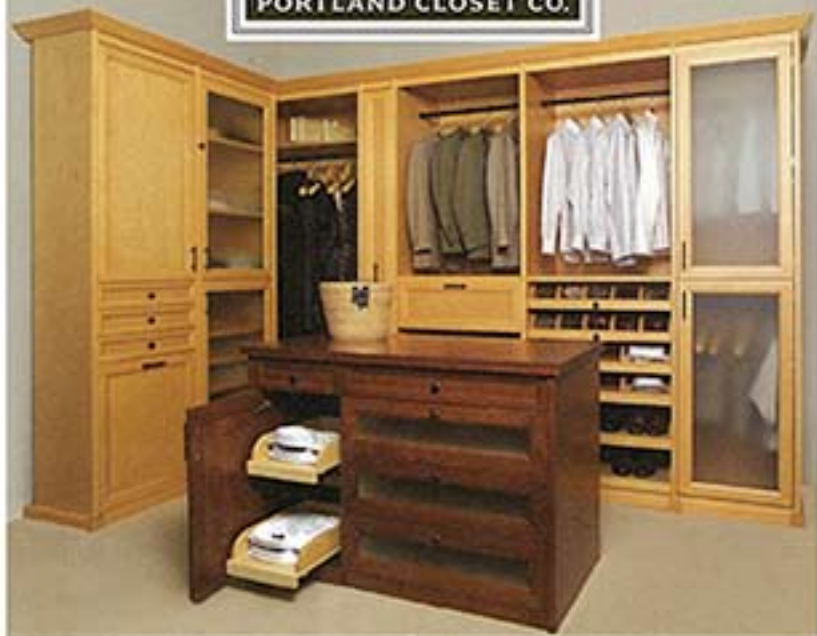
When the Mosaik design team showed their initial plans to James and Shelli White, they included everything the Whites wanted and some "nice things to have," as James refers to them.

Some of those nice things hit the cutting-room floor to keep the project within budget.

The Whites' choices make a good lesson in getting the most bang for your budget without compromising a plan's function and beauty.

### OPTIONS

- 1 Tile is beautiful but costly to install because it is labor intensive. Ask yourself: Is it necessary to have a tiled entryway to eliminate tracking the outside in? The Whites opted for doormats outside and small throw rugs inside to trap dirt.
- 2 The Whites had wanted the bamboo floor in the living room as well as the kitchen but opted to save some money by carpeting the living room. Arlene Lord chose caramel-color carpeting that echoed the hue of the bamboo floor, creating an almost seamless change-up in materials.
- 3 Granite slab for the countertops is gorgeous, but it is expensive. There are loads of less-costly options. The Whites opted for porcelain tile, which is more textured than granite but intriguing and handsome nonetheless.
- 4 The Whites' kitchen island is two-tiered. Instead of repeating the more expensive porcelain tile on the upper surface, which will get far less wear, they used black laminate. The laminate is almost identical — and far less expensive.

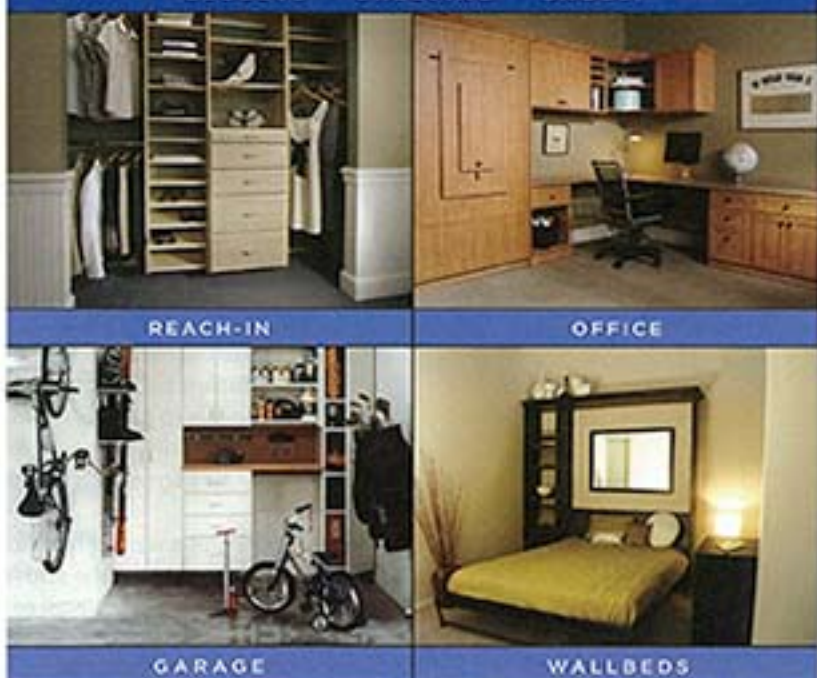


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## THE DESIGNERS: ERIN DAVIS AND ARLENE LORD, MOSAIK DESIGN

By Bridget A. Otto  
Photo by Fredrick D. Joe

**A**rlene Lord and Erin Davis instantly bonded when Lord interviewed at the Portland remodeling company where Davis worked.

"It was . . . instant kismet. I was like, 'Done,'" Davis says, smacking her hands together.

The two used their newfound synergy to open their own design-build firm, Mosaik Design, in 2002.

Lord says that Davis, a Michigan transplant, and she, a Washingtonian, are yin and yang.

"We support each other," she says. "I have a different point of view because of my background than Erin does. But we come together to suss out what the best thing is. It just happens."

Although they may approach their work from different angles, Davis says they are on the same page with the big things: Where they are going; how they'll get there; what is the image of Mosaik.

"On the important things," she says, "98 percent of the time, we're on the same page."



Erin Davis (left) and Arlene Lord enjoy getting caught up in the design process. "I am at my happiest when we are in a design jog," says Lord. Davis agrees: "We say 'What if we did that? Oh, oh — look at this!'"

### Q: What attracted you to Portland?

Lord was introduced to Portland through work at the Art Institute of Portland, and she stayed.

"I love it. It's the perfect size," she says of the city. "Interesting things are going on. It's the perfect city for floating out new ideas."

Davis moved here after school in Colorado. She didn't have a job, but something about the culture attracted her.

"The pioneer attitude," she says. "People here are more forward-thinking and accepting — especially concerning the environment."

### Q: How much does living in the Northwest influence your work?

Davis: I draw a lot of inspirations from what's natural, what's living here. The oceans. The mountains. The Douglas firs. The seasons. People are connected to nature.

Lord: I think it has a lot to do with the connectivity: people to nature, feeling comfortable in your own skin. You want to feel comfortable in your surroundings and drawing from nature.

Davis: We put a walnut Marmoleum on the floor of a client, and she said 'It feels like I'm walking on a bed of pine needles.' That's what I love.

Lord: I feel free to try new things here because of the open-mindedness. There's a tradition base — there's safety in that — but there's the indie element — the indie fashion, the influx of green. As a designer, it's very freeing to think out of the box.

### Q: Where do you find inspiration?

Lord: Artwork. Great restaurants. When the leaves fall on the concrete. The contrast between the gray and the colors that are in the leaves. It's literally everywhere. Each other's work.

Davis: I find my inspiration through two reality shows: "Top Chef," the cooking show where the great chefs put together these amazing presentations — the colors and textures. And "America's Next Top Model." I love the fashion and the makeup and the creativity; looking at other artists and drawing from that.

The chefs, fashion, art — creativity is universal.

### Q: If you could give our readers just one design thought to keep front of mind, what would it be?

Lord: Edit.

Davis: Simpler is better.

Lord: Don't be afraid.