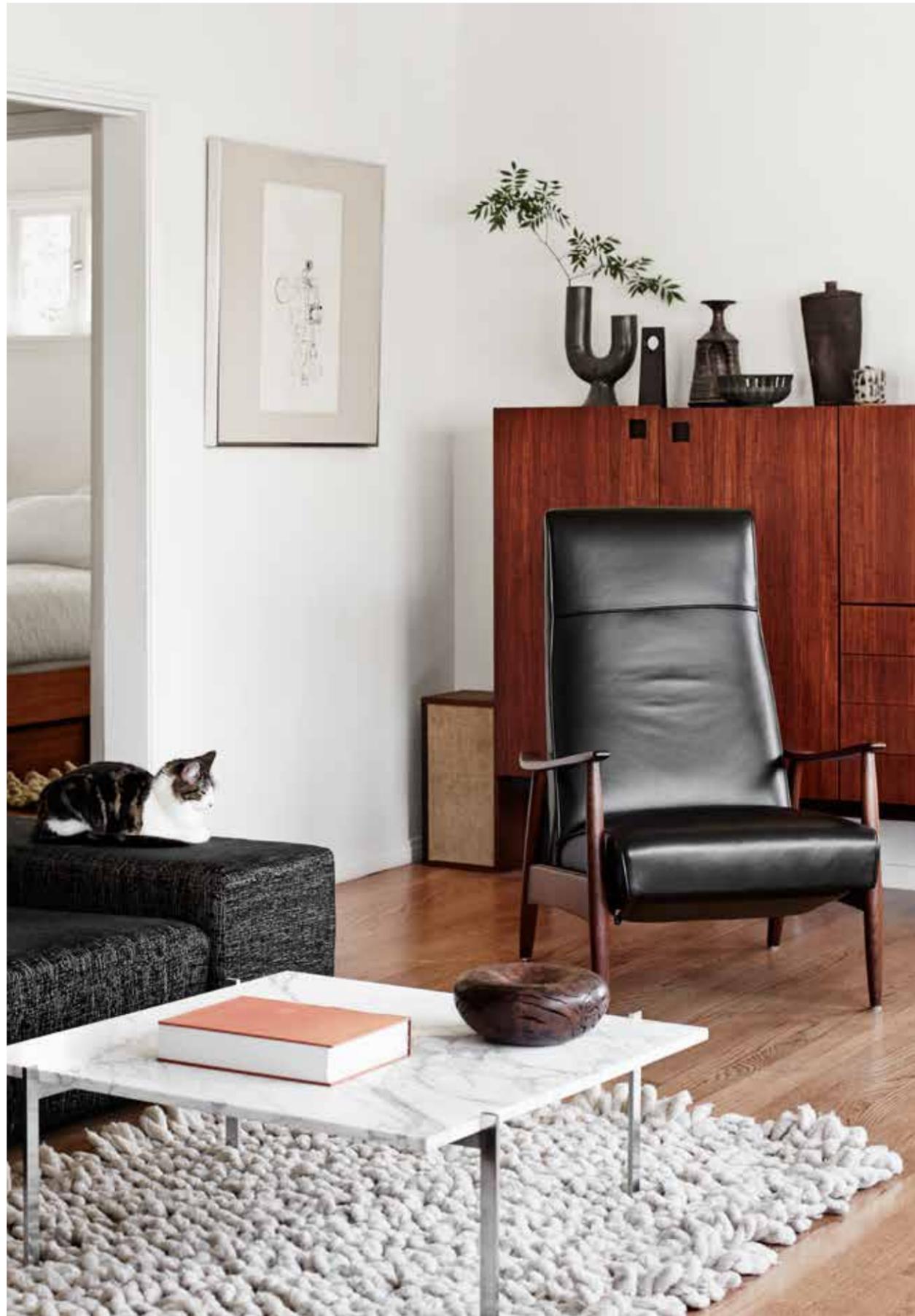


MOMO SUZUKI & ALEXANDER YAMAGUCHI

Momo Suzuki carries her passion for natural fabrics and minimalist design home from work. The Japanese-born fashion designer and cofounder of the independent clothing label Black Crane lives with her husband, fellow designer Alexander Yamaguchi, in the Pasadena neighborhood of Los Angeles. After purchasing their home from the original architect's family, they carried out renovations that preserved the original cabinetry and large windows—elements that initially attracted them to the property. "Sometimes better solutions emerge from respecting the current conditions of the space instead of changing everything," Momo says. "We kept 'simple and functional' as our mantra when renovating our home." Momo and Alexander took down the wall separating the living and dining rooms to create a more spacious area and widened the opening between the kitchen and dining room so they could interact with guests while cooking. They also made use of different materials to add more depth and texture to the interior—including ceramic tiles, oak and walnut wood furnishings and natural fabrics such as linen and cotton—and they only gave the wood elements a light finishing coat to let them age naturally. "I love subtle gestures and imperfect beauty, both of which can be created by appreciating the effect of time passing," she says. Momo and Alexander have similar aesthetic

philosophies when it comes to interior design and enjoy hunting for unusual pieces at flea markets and local furniture dealers. "We both love the concept of timeless, effortless and relaxed decor," she says. "We often sit together on the couch with a cup of tea, looking around the house and discussing what we want to change next." While Momo's taste tends toward the minimalist end of the spectrum, Alexander is more adventurous in weaving different textural elements into the fabric of their house through his assortment of artisanal objects: His extensive collection includes works by ceramic artist Stan Bitters and wood sculptures by Hideki Takayama and Alma Allen. The couple's most treasured items are the steel handles on their front doors, which were a gift from their close friend Yasushi and his wife, jewelry designer Satomi Kawakita. "Yasushi inlaid a very delicate and beautiful gold line in each steel door handle that reminds me of Satomi's jewelry designs," Momo says. "We touch these handles every day—they remind us of the great friendship we have." Although Momo and Alexander's many projects keep them busy, long days begin and end at home with two of their favorite activities: lingering over relaxing breakfasts as the morning light pours through their kitchen window and browsing books in the living room while watching the sun set.





Left: Momo and Alexander's Viesso sofa is complemented by a Milo Baughman chair, a Kneeland Mercado rug and a coffee table designed by Poul Kjærholm. Both the artwork and the ceramics on the cabinet are vintage.



