

APRIL 2023

# HOUSE & HOME

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# The Home Front

Gillian Atkins' top tips for updating the exterior of a house.

Balboa Mist (OC-27), Benjamin Moore.



Q

I need help with the façade of my house. We repaved the driveway and painted the siding blue, but we don't know what to do next. Can you suggest a colour to paint the base of the house, and do you have any other advice? — M.W., Salmon Arm, B.C.

**A** It's wonderful that you're rehabilitating your 1960s West Coast split-level. These houses are a great canvas for quick, easy accents that will make the façade feel more contemporary. Unfortunately, the temporary blue paint job has to go. Start by cladding those areas with horizontal fir or cedar siding. Choose a water-based stain that works with the carport railing or, better yet, swap the crosshatch lattice for horizontal boards as well. Paint the window frames and soffits off-black and the cement-parged base of the house the same colour as the stucco above.

Finally, complete the look by replacing the white house numbers, sconce and mailbox with modern black ones that will pop against the wood siding — and a sturdy,

good-quality entry set is always a sound investment. Plant a single evergreen species in the bed below the window and add a few groupings of simple, round planters on the crushed stones. Keep the door black; it looks great!

Gillian Atkins is a senior designer at Lynda Reeves Design Studio, LRDS.

1. Ackvedukt door mat in Beige/Brown, \$25. Ikea.
2. Cedar siding panels by Quadra Cedar, \$5.79/ft. Rona or realcedar.com.
3. Lausanne Tubular entry set in Flat Black by Emtek, \$775. ADH Fine Hardware.
4. 5-inch Floating house numbers in Black by Hillman, \$14 each. Lowe's.
5. Chicago Industrial Style Wall-mounted mailbox in Black by Nach, \$47. Wayfair Canada.
6. Small Camber Outdoor sconce by Matteo Lighting, \$190. Light House Co.
7. Guilford Fiberglass planter in Stone Gray by Campania International, \$350. Wayfair Canada.



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