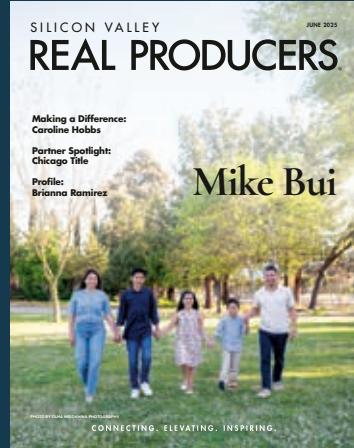
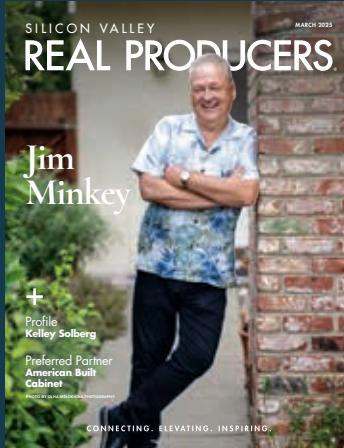
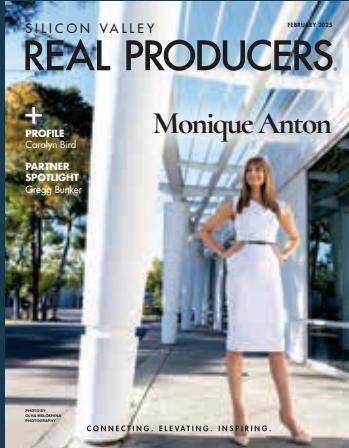


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# 2025 YEAR END REVIEW

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If you are interested in nominating people for certain stories, please email us at: [sandra.magana@n2co.com](mailto:sandra.magana@n2co.com)



Olha Melokhina Photography



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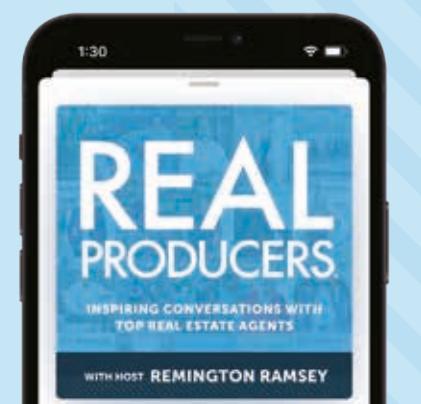
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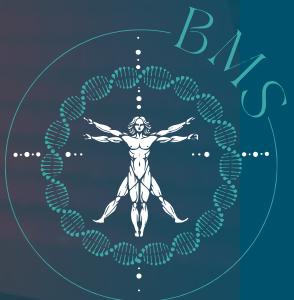
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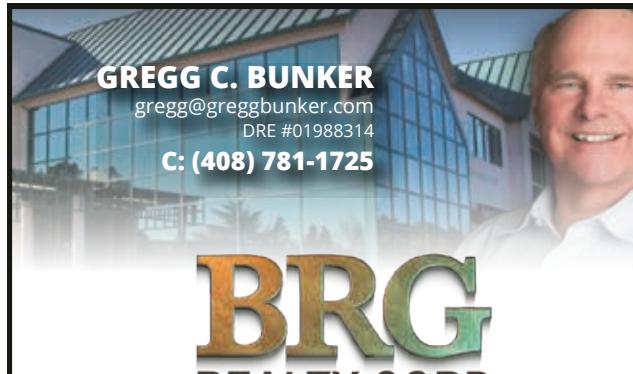
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# MIKE ANDRIOLA WITH MIDMODBIRD

## DESIGNING LASTING CONNECTION

BY CHRIS MENEZES • PHOTOGRAPHY BY OLHA MELOKHINA PHOTOGRAPHY

Creativity takes many forms. For Mike Andriola, it's split between two worlds—one digital, one handcrafted—each rooted in the same eye for design and storytelling. As the founder of Graffeks Digital Design, Mike brings ideas to life through motion graphics, animation, and film. Through MidModBird, he channels that same vision into handcrafted, mid-century modern birdhouses—small architectural sculptures built from reclaimed wood and imagination.

"I'm a full-time creative director focused on visual and video production: special effects, video projects, and all that," Mike says. "But during the pandemic, I needed something new. I had all this reclaimed wood in the garage, I love mid-century modern, and I thought, 'What can I make?'"

What began as a creative outlet quickly took flight. Each MidModBird piece is designed and built by hand, inspired by the clean geometry and playful lines of mid-century icons like Eichler, William Cody, and Palm Springs architecture.

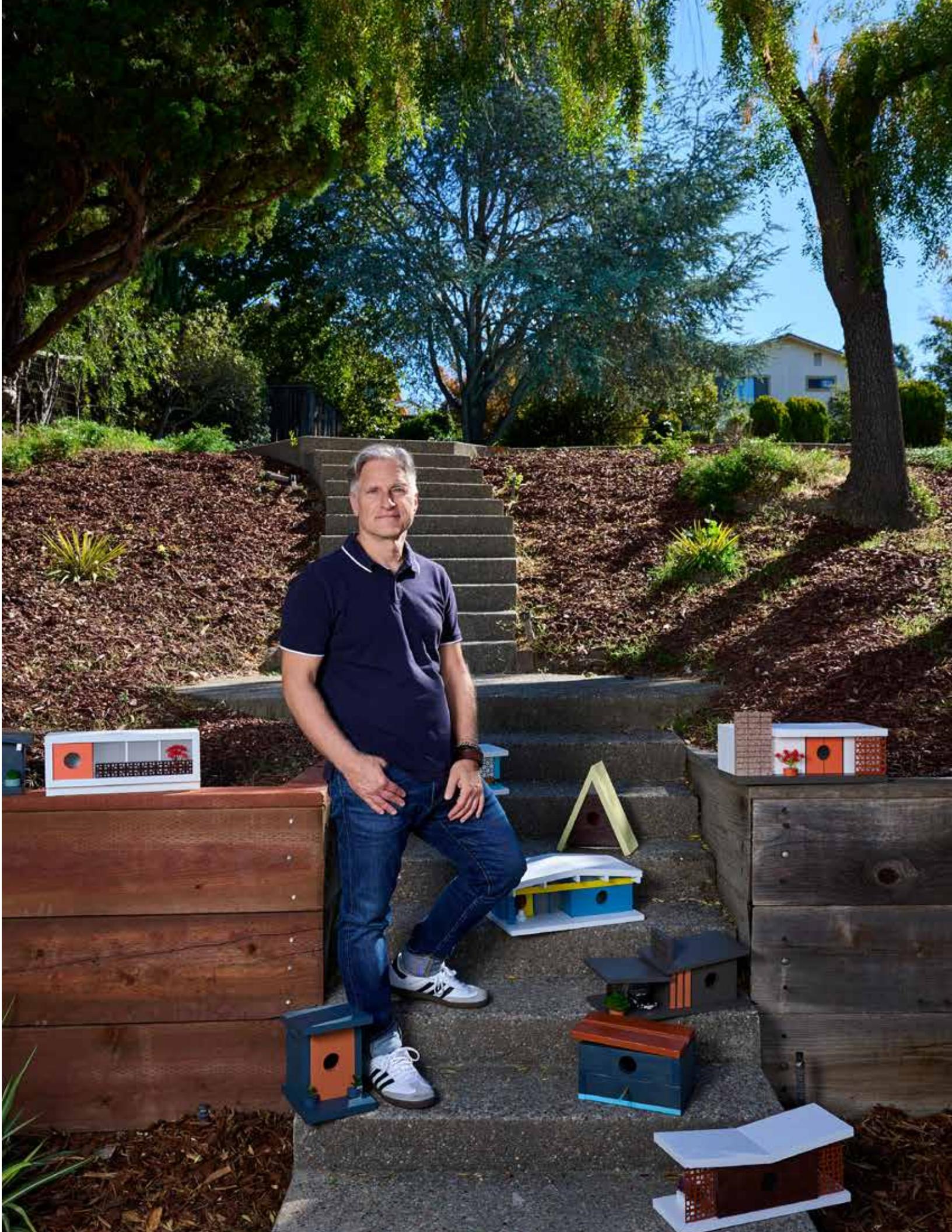
"Some designs are based on real homes, others are custom pieces for clients, and others are things I just make up," Mike says. "I listen to what the client wants, sketch it out first to show them, and then I build it. Everything's made by hand—no machines."

The result is a collection of one-of-a-kind creations that strike a nostalgic chord, and, increasingly, a business opportunity for real estate professionals looking for



meaningful closing gifts. One recent commission came from an agent who wanted to commemorate a client's former

home, a simple two-story ranch that held deep sentimental value to the seller. "That's what I love about these," Mike





says. "They carry a personal story. When people see it every day in their yard, they remember where it came from—and the person who gave it to them."

Mike's instinct to connect through design traces back to his childhood in Atlanta, where creativity surrounded him from the start. His father ran an Italian barbershop next door to the historic Fox Theatre, a 1920s architectural landmark. "Whenever they ran Disney films, my dad would tell me, 'Go next door,' and I'd sit there all day watching movies," Mike recalls. "The architecture of that building inspired me as much as the films did."

That blend of art and storytelling stayed with him. After high school, he studied print design at Georgia State University, where he worked on the school newspaper and at the campus radio station. Not long after graduation, a friend called from the local ABC affiliate and offered him a job as a Paintbox

artist. "That was basically the original Photoshop," he laughs. From there, Mike's career took off. He moved from ABC to FOX, helping shape the fresh, fast-moving look of the network during its rise in the '90s, creating promos for The Simpsons and Married with Children. He joined the creative team for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, then worked in post-production and later at Turner Broadcasting—contributing to projects across Cartoon Network, TNT, and Turner Classic Movies. He even helped launch Adult Swim in 2001.

After leaving Cartoon Network, Mike launched Graffects Digital Design, a creative studio specializing in visual effects, animation, and video production. Over the years, his team has worked with networks, brands, and tech companies to craft stories that move audiences—and he's now bringing that same expertise to help REALTORS® stand out in an increasingly visual market. "I can help agents with listing

videos, lifestyle pieces, or even bio videos about themselves," he explains. "There are tools now that let us create beautiful, high-end visuals quickly and affordably. Those blueprint-to-3D transitions you see on home shows? That's right in my wheelhouse."

For agents competing for attention in a scroll-happy world, Mike's approach offers both artistry and strategy. His work with Graffects helps real estate professionals with cutting-edge video—while his MidModBird designs help them leave a lasting impression.

"Everything I do comes back to making an impression," Mike says. "MidModBird lets me build something people can touch. Graffects lets me build something they can feel. Either way, it's about creating something that connects—and lasts."

To learn more, visit [MidModBird.com](http://MidModBird.com) and [Graffects.com](http://Graffects.com).

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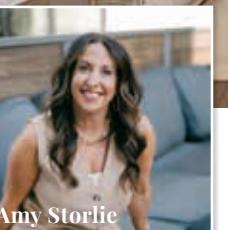
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# YEAR IN REVIEW

As we close out another incredible year, I want to take a moment to reflect with deep gratitude on everything we've accomplished together in 2025.

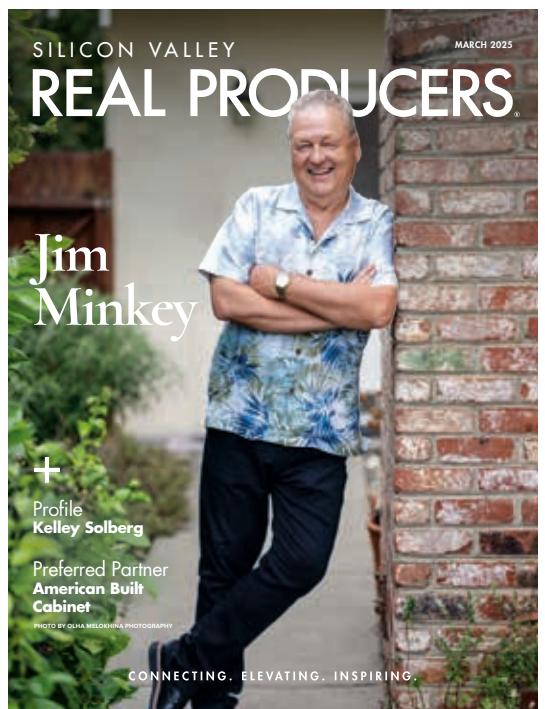
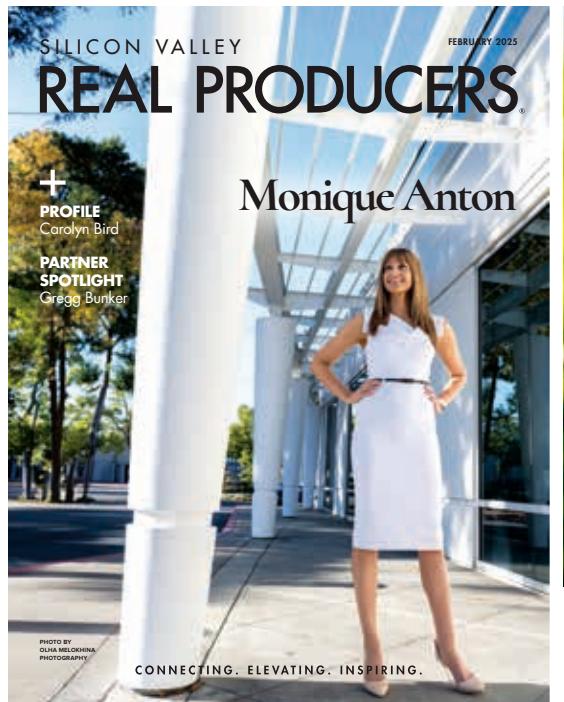
This year, Silicon Valley Real Producers had the honor of featuring so many remarkable agents whose passion, dedication, and heart continue to inspire our real estate community. Each story shared has reminded us of the power of connection, collaboration, and authenticity that defines our network.

As we look ahead to 2026, we're filled with excitement for the growth, new partnerships, and inspiring stories yet to come. Thank you for being such an essential part of this journey and to our amazing partners we couldn't do this community without you. Thank you so much for everything you do.

— here's to another amazing year together!

Special Thanks to Our Incredible Photographers I want to give a heartfelt shoutout to our amazing photographers, Olga Melokhina and Ashley Maxwell. Your incredible talent and creativity are the driving force behind the beautiful photography that graces our pages each month. I'm so proud of the stunning work you deliver issue after issue—thank you, ladies, for bringing our stories to life through your lens!"

2025



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SEPTEMBER 2025

Trisha Motter & Michael Gordon

**+**  
Profile: **DONNIE TERNIAN**  
Profile: **LEYLA REZAKHANI**  
Rising Star: **YASMIN SOTO**  
Partner Spotlight: **FIDELITY NATIONAL HOME WARRANTY**  
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PHOTOS BY OLHA MELOKHINA



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JUNE 2025

**+**  
Making a Difference:  
**Caroline Hobbs**

Partner Spotlight:  
**Chicago Title**

Profile:  
**Brianna Ramirez**

**Mike Bui**



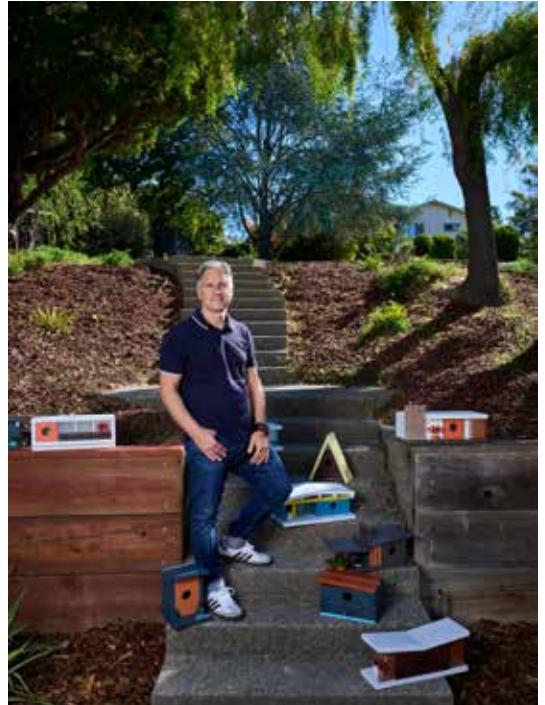
SILICON VALLEY  
**REAL PRODUCERS**  
NOVEMBER 2025

**+**  
Profile: **KEVIN CRUZ**  
Partner Spotlight: **LAWYERS TITLE**  
Partner Spotlight: **JAE RO WITH CHANGE HOME MORTGAGE**  
Rising Star: **PAYNE SHARPLEY**  
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PHOTOGRAPHY BY OLHA MELOKHINA PHOTOGRAPHY

**Wen Guo**





# 2025 SILICON VALLEY REAL PRODUCER FEATURES

As we look forward to 2026 we cannot forget all of the amazing articles that we were able to publish in 2025. Here's a list of all the featured Silicon Valley Real Producers. Thank you for allowing us to share your stories.

## Cover Stories

Monique Anton  
Jim Minkey  
Dana Carmel  
Elena Licari  
Mike Bui  
Lauren Ronan  
Nicky Banucci  
Trisha Motter and Michael Gordon  
Francesca Lampert and Bob Johnston  
Wen Guo

## Profiles

Carolyn Bird  
Kelley Solberg  
Judith Vandsburg  
Brianna Ramirez  
Caroline Hobbs  
Christa Nielsen  
Sal Esposito  
Tatiana Narkiewicz  
Donie Ternian  
Leyla Rezakhani  
Christienne Hadley  
Lana Miles  
Kevin Cruz

## Rising Star

Caleb Fenner  
Bonnie Michalek  
Jessica Bermea  
Yasmine Soto  
Rachel Sudano  
Payne Sharpley

## Partner Spotlight

First American  
Gregg Bunker  
Nevarez Moving Company  
Design by Mish  
Chicago Title  
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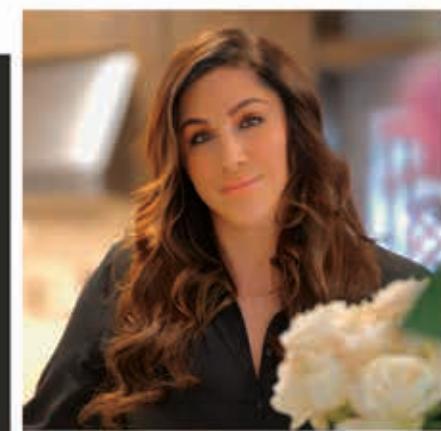
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# HOME METHOD CO

Holiday Ready: Effortless Elegance Through Organization  
Thoughtful tips from the professional organizers at Home Method Co.

## 1. Curate Your Pantry

A well-edited pantry sets the tone for effortless entertaining. Clear the shelves, discard expired items, and group essentials by use — baking, snacks, holiday staples. The result? A space that inspires creativity and calm in equal measure.

(Photo: Team member thoughtfully organizing pantry shelves.)

## 2. Elevate the Kitchen Experience

Now's the moment to take inventory. Check your cookware, polish the stemware, and ensure every serving piece has its place. Set aside a few signature dishes and linens for the season — so when it's time to gather, the stage is already set.



## 3. Prepare the Guest Retreat

Give your guests the gift of comfort. Fresh linens, plush towels, and a simple bedside touch — a candle, a carafe, a sprig of greenery — make all the difference. Order meets warmth, transforming a guest room into a true haven.

Pro Tip: Begin your holiday shopping list now — from pantry staples to hostess gifts — and stock up before the rush. A little foresight turns holiday chaos into calm confidence.



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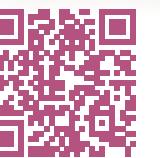
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# OLHA MELOKHINA PHOTOGRAPHY

Tips from behind the lens for capturing your family's holiday spirit.

BY OLHA MELOKHINA • PHOTOGRAPHY BY OLHA MELOKHINA PHOTOGRAPHY

## Picture-Perfect Holiday Photos

The holidays are one of the most popular times of year for family photos, and for good reason. Everyone's together, the atmosphere feels cozy, and the scenery naturally adds a touch of magic. As a photographer, I've learned that great holiday photos come down to three things: color coordination, comfort, and connection.

## Choose a Simple Color Story

Coordinating outfits doesn't mean everyone has to match. Instead of putting the whole family in the same color, pick two or three tones that look good together. Think cream, olive, burgundy, or soft gold for a timeless holiday look. Start with one key piece, like mom's dress or a patterned shirt, and pull complementary colors from it for everyone else.

Avoid neon shades, busy prints, or anything with large logos. These distract from faces and make the photos feel less natural. Layers photograph beautifully, so add a sweater, scarf, or jacket for texture and depth.

## Pick the Right Location

Your backdrop should fit the mood you want to create. For a classic holiday feel, evergreens, open fields, or a cozy home setting always work well. For something more modern, try a downtown street or a neutral wall that lets your family stand out.

The best time to shoot is usually an hour after sunrise or before sunset when the light is soft and flattering. If you're indoors, use window light and skip harsh overhead bulbs.

## Comfort Over Perfection

When people feel comfortable, it shows. Choose clothing that feels good to move in, especially for kids. Bring small touches that show your family's personality, like mugs of cocoa, a cozy blanket, or your pet. These little details make the session feel natural and relaxed.

Trust your photographer's direction, but don't stress about perfect poses. The best moments often happen in between—the laughter, the side glances, the kids being silly. Those are the photos that tell your family's story.



## Enjoy the Moment

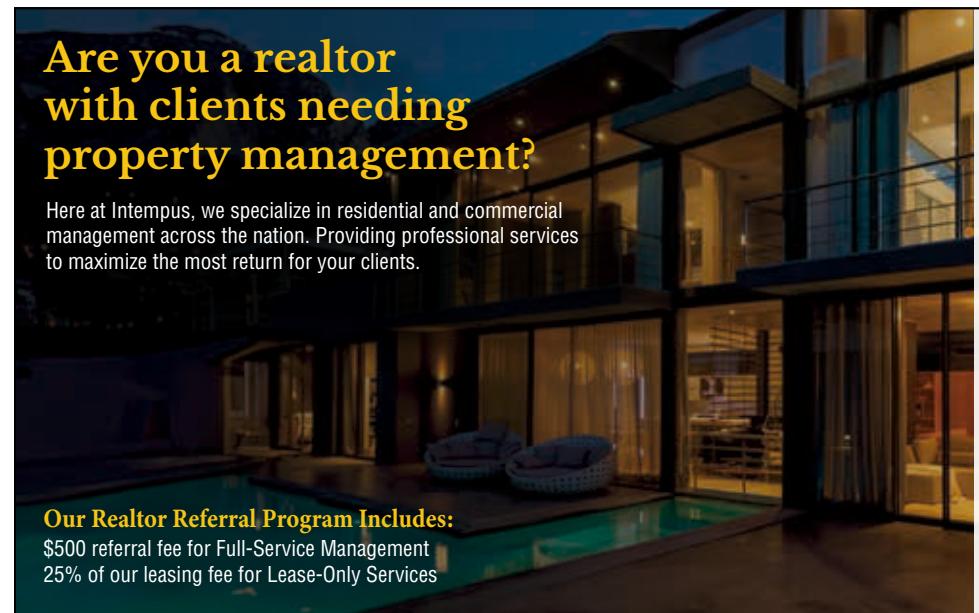
The goal isn't just a pretty photo; it's a memory. Don't worry about perfect hair or matching smiles. Focus on enjoying the time together. The more genuine the emotion, the more beautiful the result.

When you look back at your holiday photos, you should feel the same warmth you did in that moment. With a little planning and a relaxed attitude, your family's personality will shine through, and that's what makes a photo truly timeless.

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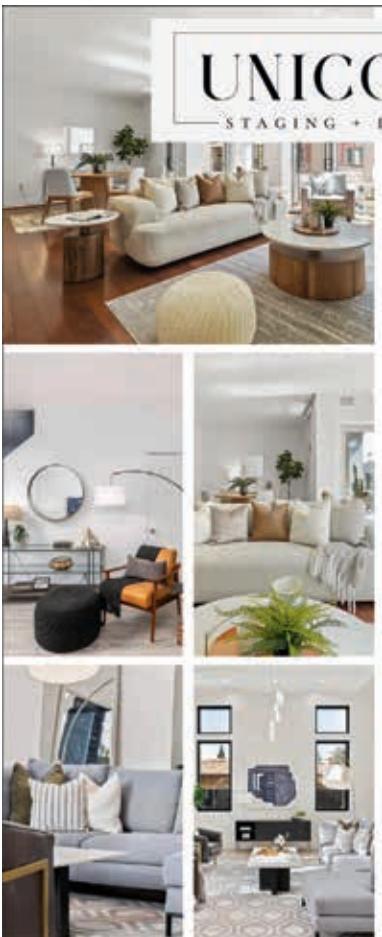
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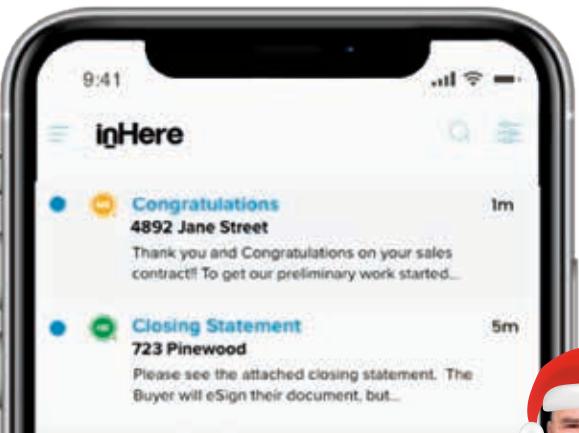
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