

Mediterranean dream



By Christina Chomut
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In 1992, Jeff and Tracy Plumer discovered a modest two-story home tucked away in a quiet and peaceful Del Mar neighborhood. West of Interstate 5 and bordering Crest Canyon Preserve, the 2000 square-foot space was a picture of serenity, according to the couple.

"We found the neighborhood and fell in love," said Tracy. "I kept driving around until I saw a 'For Sale' sign in front of this particular home. I thought, 'this is it. This is our house.'"

After renting out the space for a few years while living and working in Northern California, the couple returned to Del Mar in 1998 and decided to renovate their home and make it a more desirable space to live.

"We had an idea of the footprint and type of space we wanted and Sam (Chereskin, principal Chereskin Architecture) really brought it to life," said Jeff. "I think we got really lucky with our contractor John Walters as well. We went through a few contractors who bid on the job and we really, really liked John - he is very much a perfectionist. The neat thing was that (John) and Sam worked really closely together, so John really stayed true to the integrity of Sam's design."

The Plumers decided to do a complete home remodel in order to open up their previously limited space and add a significant amount of open air and light to their home. By articulating a general overview of their desired floor plan to Chereskin, the North County-based architect was able to create a classic Mediterranean-style four bedroom, three-and-a-half bath home adorned with eight sets of French doors and hardwood Oak flooring.

Inspired by the convergence of guests in her kitchen during dinner parties, Tracy decided on an open floor plan from the kitchen into the living room in the lower level of the couple's home. The Del Mar homeowners decided to

use a backsplash design throughout the kitchen with stone and marble mosaic tiles. A solitary accent tile embedded in the backsplash behind the Wolf kitchen range catches the eye. A similar tile purposefully exists in the floor of the couple's foyer, surrounded by stone and Mexican Noche slate tile.

Arched doorways beckon visitors from room to room, each with its own ceiling - ranging in design from barrel to pitched ceilings.

The master bedroom, bathroom and walk-in closet on the second floor of the Plumer's home are northwest, northeast and north facing respectively. The soft daylight streaming through the windows of these areas was a definite consideration when designing the space, according to Chereskin.

An oak staircase leading from the entry way to the second floor landing creates a solid and stable transition from the first to the second floor.

Jeff's office sits at the top of the staircase and faces west with sliding glass doors as dividers for privacy. A deck off the upstairs office overlooks the canyon and the couple's manicured backyard with olive trees, Italian cypress, palm trees, Mexican sage, roses, Japanese boxwood and bougainvillea.

When asked what helped the couple with making decisions for their remodel, Tracy said, "We went on a lot of model home tours. We took a lot of pictures and asked a lot of questions. It helped us immensely in our process. We saw first-hand what worked and what didn't work."

Removed from the commotion of everyday life, yet close enough to the coast to feel the breeze, the Plumers found their Mediterranean dream at home in Del Mar.

Once we decided on this spot, it was about making the space ours.

— Jeff Plumer

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