

# Architect adds personal touch to charming Leucadia cottage



**LEFT:** Charming Leucadia home of Sam and Pam Chereskin. Photos courtesy of Sam Chereskin.

**BELOW:** Cozy dining area utilizes natural light.



**By Christina Chomut**  
SPECIAL TO THE UNION-TRIBUNE

Built in 1957, Sam and Pam Chereskin's Leucadia home did not begin seeing its true potential until they bought the property in 2000.

"The original home was not very sophisticated, but had charm to it," said Sam Chereskin, principal, Chereskin Architecture. "We wanted to keep that feeling while making the house a more practical and appealing space to live."

Built with pecky cedar wood and painted avocado green, the kitchen and living room walls and ceilings had since been sandblasted by a previous owner and left looking soft and cabin-like.

"You don't have to worry about putting a mark on the wall or putting a nail into it," he said. "We really wanted to keep the whole cabin cottage feeling."

Dutch doors adorned with old-fashioned latches in the living room and kitchen, add to the house's charm and let in the coastal breeze.

Plagued by remodeling faux pas made by previous owners, the couple decided to put Sam's architectural expertise to work and do a large scale remodel.

"We wanted a fixer-upper," he said. "A house that needed some care in a fairly nice area, so we could afford it, and because we like fixing up houses."



**Sam and Pam Chereskin at home.**

It was important to the Chereskin's to integrate natural light into all areas of their home. In order to successfully do so, nine skylights were added to the space.

The Chereskin's added insulation to the entire home, except for the living room, and replaced single pane windows with dual-glazed windows. Fluorescent lighting systems and dimmers were used wherever possible. The couple added energy efficient appliances and a laundry shoot that extends from the closet in the master bedroom on the second floor to the laundry room on the first floor.

The Chereskin's home is set on a quarter acre of land in a serene and peaceful neighborhood with fruit trees and views of the lagoon from their rooftop deck. The quiet, seemingly rural setting allows the couple privacy without obstructing their views of nature with window coverings.

The Chereskin's decided on hickory hardwood flooring throughout the home to tie together the Pecky cedar walls and ceilings and knotty pine cabinets.

The second floor addition and remodel included an overhaul of the master bedroom and bath and the inclusion of an office space for Sam's business, Chereskin Architecture.

"Sometimes when you start with something new, you can create any style you want, but in a remodel with a limited budget, you want to take the house in the direction it is already going if you can," said Sam.

While Pam enjoys her favorite areas of the house; the living room, kitchen and yard, Sam is very happy with his in-home office space - complete with a half bathroom and kitchenette.

"I commute through my bedroom closet," said Sam. "We set this space up with a party wall, as in an apartment. It is a double wall with a certain sound rating. We did that so (Pam) can't hear if we are playing music and such and when the phone rings in the office, it doesn't ring in the house and vice-a-versa. We do have an intercom though, so we can talk to each other during the day."

Although quite satisfied with their space, the couple still has an outdoor patio kitchen, indoor dining room and solar panels on their wish list. As an experienced architect moving forward, Sam extended a solid piece of advice, "Design. Then build."

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