

# Mission Hills Craftsman refreshed



**LEFT:** The addition in the Linda Stouffer's home blends with Craftsman style of the original house built in 1912.

Photos by John Durant

**BELOW:** Much effort went into finding hardware, lighting and bath fixtures that is consistent with the historic style of the home.



**By Louis Shook**

SPECIAL TO THE UNION-TRIBUNE

Originally built in 1912, this Craftsman home in Mission Hills has been lovingly modernized while keeping true to the original classic style. Linda Stouffer recalls that the house was in severe disrepair when she purchased it ten years ago. It took nearly three years to upgrade and expand the house to its current shining glory.

Stouffer is a senior commercial Lender at Torrey Pines Bank. She lives in the home with her cat, "Smokey" and likes living among other Craftsman-style homes in Mission Hills. She noted that there is an application to designate the neighborhood as an historic area.

The original home was 2,300 square feet and needed a lot of work when Stouffer purchased it. She wanted to expand the space as part of the restoration and keep everything in the Craftsman style.

Sam Chereskin AIA, of Chereskin Architecture in Encinitas, was called upon to guide the restoration and design the addition in a manner that could meet the criteria of its historic designation.

Stouffer enjoyed the process of working with Chereskin. "Sam has a wonderful artistic capacity as well as an excellent eye for detail," said Stouffer. "He really listens to his clients," She added. Chereskin worked closely with Stouffer to design the addition that included a new kitchen and family room on the first floor. Upstairs, the master suite was expanded. A basement/laundry room was also added. The house is now approximately 3,700 square feet and has four bedrooms and 2.5 baths. "The entire restoration process took nearly three years to complete," Stouffer said.



The interior of the home features box-beam ceilings, oak flooring, leaded glass windows and built-in bookshelves.

It was important to her that the additional space would preserve the original architecture style. "A lot of time was spent reading about Craftsman homes," said Stouffer. "We did a lot of research on the materials that were used."

The interior of the house is painted in warm colors and has beautiful oak flooring throughout. There are box-beam ceilings in living and dining room that are a distinctive feature of the home. The box-beam ceilings were seamlessly incorporated into the new addition. The home has many fine details that complement the Craftsman style such as leaded glass, oversized window casements, built-in bookcases, antique door hardware, ceiling lights and custom cabinets. The kitchen has modern appliances but keeps a balance between vintage style and modern convenience.

She is now in the process of landscaping the front yard. "I'm planning an Asian theme which will be compatible with the Craftsman style." The yard has a lemon tree and she grows tomatoes every year. "The tomatoes didn't do very well this year due to the cooler-than-normal temperatures we've had," she explained. She's moving the tomatoes to the side of the house that gets a little more sunshine.

These days Stouffer likes spending time in the upstairs nook off of the master bedroom. "It really lends itself as a nice area to sit and read. It's very cozy and bright." With the restoration project complete, the home now proudly displays its historic-landmark designation.

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