

# COASTAL

SAN DIEGO HOMES & ESTATES

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THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

## VINTAGE FARMHOUSE

OLD STOVE SERVES AS INSPIRATION FOR DREAM HOME

## A CLASSIC REDEFINED

UPDATE BRINGS LIGHT INTO MIDCENTURY MODERN HOME

## WORLD OF ITS OWN

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LISTING PROVIDED BY BRITTANY HAHN & ANNA HOUSSELS  
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# LABOR OF LOVE

## FARMHOUSE WITH VINTAGE STYLE INSPIRED BY '50S STOVE

BY SOPHY CHAFFEE

About 30 years ago, Mark Sheddon bought a 1950s Wedgewood stove by happenstance from a guy who kept it on his back porch. In February, he and Jeff Maitner - his neighbor, builder and buddy - finished building the farmhouse of his dreams around it.

"I have always been drawn to the farmhouse style," said Sheddon in the great room of his new Encinitas home, where the refurbished Wedgewood stove now resides in the kitchen area. "I always wanted to build a house around it. That has been one of the inspirations behind this place."

Another was the Lake Tomahawk, Wisconsin, farmhouse owned by his grandmother's cousin in which he played as a kid. After retiring as the associate di-



The kitchen's skylight provides natural light from a dormer window. The skylight is set off against antiqued tin ceiling tiles and vintage beams. The 1950s Wedgewood stove, in the left corner, was the impetus for the whole farmhouse project.

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EDUARDO CONTRERAS U-T

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# Encinitas

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rector of the San Diego Super-computer Center in 2012, Sheddon had the time to replace his original 1950s single-story house with the new two-story, 2,070-square-foot home.

"I moved in here in like 1980 and had a small 900-square-foot beach house and everything was gone with it. So we just decided to scrape it to the ground and start over," he said.

In 2016, Sheddon hired architect Greg Castle to draw up the plans for the three-bedroom, 2½-bathroom home and then brought on Maitner, who had just opened Halcyon Building Trade Co. in the neighborhood. Maitner's role grew beyond contractor when Castle moved out of state.

"I liked Jeff from the moment I met him," Sheddon said. "His artful eye for detail is incredible, and he continually amazed me with his input to my vision during the project."

Sheddon likewise impressed Maitner, with Sheddon working alongside him and his crew digging the 4-foot-deep bioretention basin in the backyard, building patio furniture from construction crates and climbing scaffolding to hand-distress and oil the vintage ceiling beams in the great room.

"He made it clear from the get-go that we were not racing a time-

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**EDUARDO CONTRERAS U-T**  
Vintage "Tassie" wood planks from warehouses in Australia were used for the flooring in the great room (right) and office (above), as well as the custom-made desk.



EDUARDO CONTRERAS U-T PHOTOS

**Builder Jeff Maitner selected recycled barn wood for the kids' guest room, which features beds from the owner's grandmother's house in Wisconsin. The wood was slated to go on the ceiling, but the pair thought it would look better as an accent wall.**

## Encinitas

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line in building his dream home," Maitner said of the project, which began in February 2017. "He'd say, 'If the plans say this is good enough, let's bring it up a notch.'"

Sometimes sketching on napkins, they designed the maple millwork for the windows, crown molding, cabinets, wainscoting and baseboards. "I was allergic to fake wood," Sheddon said.

"A theme throughout the build, in an attempt to build a new 'old' home, was that we were shooting for 'perfectly imperfect' with our finishes," Maitner said.

Most of the wood finishes are reclaimed and come from Vintage Timberworks in Temecula, including the Douglas fir ceiling beams in the great room, heart-grained redwood on the front and back porches and pine barn wood on the accent walls and barn doors in the two upstairs guest



**Mark Sheddon especially likes the window seat and the crown molding he helped design in his master bedroom.**

rooms. All the flooring except the tiled bathrooms are reclaimed Tasmanian oak flooring (Australian hardwood made from three kinds of eucalyptus). And the leftover reclaimed wood was used to build a shed in the backyard, which was landscaped by

Dave Johnston of BioEve Organic Resource Design.

The kitchen features an island topped with handcrafted white oak from a 1920s lumber mill. "It's got breadboard ends so you don't see the ends of the grain of the countertop," Sheddon said.

Tucked under the counter is an auxiliary oven because the Wedgewood can't fit anything as large as a turkey. The refrigerator, dishwasher and other modern appliances are concealed by cabinet fronts, while the wall plugs and disposal button are hidden under the cabinets.

"Anywhere we could hide the modern infrastructure we would," Maitner said. That infrastructure includes a home automation system for climate and lighting as well as for opening and closing the nine fully functioning dormer windows.

Three dormers are in the great room, half of which is open to the gabled roof. With 9-foot-tall ceilings and transom windows above the office, powder room and master suite doors, as well as the doors to the backyard, the downstairs feels light and airy.

All the fixtures, sinks and lighting have a vintage feel, are antiques or were saved from the

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# Encinitas

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original house. Throughout the house are antiques from Sheddon's Wisconsin relatives and wooden toys his grandfather made.

Sherman Williams designers helped them pick paint colors and European Bath Kitchen Tile & Stone designers in Solana Beach helped fit the powder room, master bathroom and the Jack and Jill bathroom upstairs. Joanie Smith and Catie Kendall of Covet Design picked out soft goods and furniture to fill in around Sheddon's antiques.

"If we could nail it to the wall, Mark and I were really good at it. But for things like colors, we're not so fantastic," Maitner said.

Maitner's wife, Tara Carson, also helped with the colors, bringing over her turquoise Le Creuset teapot when they were deciding what color to powder-coat the claw-foot tub upstairs. The color is now on the outside of the bathtub while the inside is white.

At the tail end of the project, Carson and Maitner were cleaning out her grandmother's house and happened upon a photo of her great-great uncle Milton Ivers driving a Wedgewood Range delivery truck.

They brought the photo back for Sheddon, who hung it in the great room. "I had the stove as the inspiration for the beginning and this came around at the end," Sheddon said. "And it just made sort of a full circle."

Sophy Chaffee is an Encinitas-based writer and can be reached at [CoastalSophy@gmail.com](mailto:CoastalSophy@gmail.com).



EDUARDO CONTRERAS U-T

**Sheddon's 1949 pickup is parked in front of the house but usually resides in the garage with the vintage Arden Milk sign, visible from the dining area.**

