

U-T SAN DIEGO

# Coastal

SAN DIEGO HOMES



**A NEW TWIST**  
MODERN LIVING IN A  
TRADITIONAL FRENCH  
PROVINCIAL HOME

MAY 2015

# CONTEMPORARY UPGRADE

DESIGN TEAM SAYS ADIEU TO FRENCH PROVINCIAL INTERIOR

**SOPHY CHAFFEE**  
SPECIAL TO THE U-T

When architect Bill Hayer designed this home in the Del Mar Country Club area of Rancho Santa Fe 18 years ago, the interior matched the traditional French provincial exterior, from the copious crown molding to the traditional furniture throughout.

But now, thanks to Hayer's recently completed remodel of the 6,400-square-foot home, guests are in for quite a surprise when they open the doors of the home. It's still traditional on the outside, but modern on the inside.

"That was the intent," said the homeowner, who wishes to remain anonymous, of that element of surprise.

"The house is 18 years old and was ready for an upgrade," he said. "I have grown to appreciate contemporary design, so it was perfect timing."

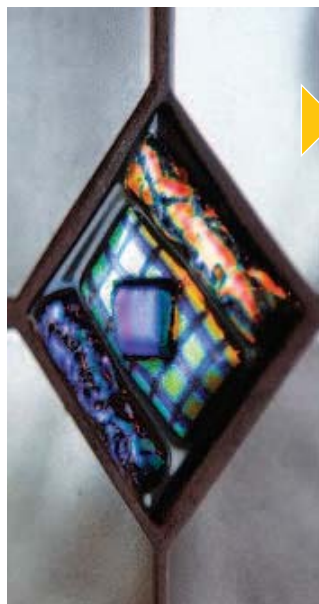
Over six months, Hayer and contractor Hill Construction removed all vestiges of the French provincial style in almost all of the downstairs



The family room changed from traditional to modern. "It's a warmer, natural wood environment here," said architect Bill Hayer. BRENT HAYWOOD

SEE RANCHO SANTA FE • 10

## COASTAL SAN DIEGO HOMES



### PRIVATE RESORT

Coronado condo turned into tranquil retreat for Dallas couple.

**PAGE 14**

### CUSTOM FEATURES

Special touches, including rooftop deck, built into Mission Bay home.

**PAGE 23**

### BALANCING ACT

Feng shui principles apply to Rancho Santa Fe home.

**PAGE 27**

### OUTDOOR DESTINATIONS

Vignettes and seating areas blend natural and man-made materials.

**PAGE 30**

### TAKING THE KITCHEN OUTSIDE

Expert shares key elements to consider for outdoor cooking area.

**PAGE 36**

### CLASSES AND TOURS

A month of resources and events for the homeowner.

**PAGE 38**

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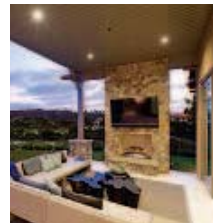
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The front room (above) went from a barely used formal living room to a game room that features designer David Lucas' large sconces flanking the fireplace. Lucas also designed the strap table in the dining room (below). BRENT HAYWOOD

## Rancho Santa Fe

CONTINUED FROM 6

rooms by stripping them down to the studs.

And the only furniture that remains from before the remodel is the billiard table in the game room.

"The entry sets up on what was a formal living room, which so often takes up the prime spot in the house but is the least used space, which was the case here," Hayer said.

"Rather than the fussy living room (which the old house had)," said David Lucas, the Seattle interior designer who worked with Hayer, "the homeowner opted for a game room that he and his family can enjoy together. I am sure you can imagine that the transformation was pretty extreme—in the best way possible."

"A traditional fireplace became



AARON LEITZ PHOTOGRAPHY

a more contemporary fireplace that's wrapped in black galaxy granite with back painted glass with custom sconces on both sides," Hayer said. The large sconces, which Lucas designed, sit on hand-forged bronze shelves.

The master bedroom features

the same black granite for the fireplace, as well as a custom headboard unit with leather panels designed by Lucas. He also designed the nightstands, made from nickel-plated steel, lightly carved oak, and rift oak.

The walnut burl used for the

media cabinet in the bedroom is carried to the entertainment unit in the family room, reflecting the palette for the remodel that the homeowner said was inspired by the family's chocolate lab.

"We didn't move any walls in this bedroom or bathroom. It was just finishes," Hayer said, pointing out the crema marfil marble used in the shower and floors, as well as the new freestanding, space-saving tub.

Walking down the hall to the dining room, Hayer explained how he used varied ceiling heights to help differentiate each space. "One of the things I like to create in an open plan like this house is definition of space through all different volumes."

In the dining area, he straightened out the coffered ceiling. "It originally had a cove in it with crown molding. We just simplified it ... so the table becomes a piece

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The sleek kitchen (above) is now one of the homeowner's favorite rooms and flows far better than the old one. The view of the home from the golf course (below) shows off the traditional French provincial details on the exterior. BRENT HAYWOOD PHOTOS

## Rancho Santa Fe

CONTINUED FROM 10

of art," Hayer said.

Lucas designed the rift and quartered white oak table. "The dining table has a metal strap that has a texture that was created by baking the metal, which created the irregular surface, which is then plated and finished," he said.

Just off the dining room is the kitchen designed by Carlsbad interior designer Cheryl Hamilton-Gray, which includes eucalyptus veneer cabinets, a glass tile backsplash, Silestone quartz countertops and porcelain tile flooring.

Hayer reconfigured the kitchen to eliminate the old, oddly shaped triangular island and add an ample breakfast room space. "It's a very nice open plan now," he said. "This is where the family lives."

Perhaps the most dramatic change is in the family room,



which steps down from the kitchen and now opens completely to the backyard that overlooks the golf course.

"There used to be a very large, two-sided stone fireplace right here, which seemed like a good idea at the time," Hayer said.

"This was a major change," the homeowner said. "Previously there was a large fireplace block-

ing the view and closing off the room. Adding the stacking doors was truly transformational."

Inside the family room, Hayer brought in the walnut flooring used in the dining, hallway and game room, and he had Lucas design floating shelves and a custom sectional.

Hayer also made dramatic changes to the ceiling. "It was a

high-pitched ceiling with exposed wood beams with a more traditional character. We brought a flat ceiling down to create a more intimate space."

The room includes a spiral staircase to the second floor of the five-bedroom, five-and-a-half bath home.

Outside, the team added a loggia, outdoor fireplace, and a barbecue near the existing vanishing edge pool. While the outdoor furnishings are contemporary, exterior details such as the stone fireplace remain true to the traditional exterior of the home.

"It's fun for me to see how the more contemporary interior can transition to the exterior that's more traditional," Hayer said. "There's sort of a contrast that's fun and creates some interest." But, he said, "It's not so abrupt that you sort of go, 'whoa.' It just flows."

Sophy Chaffee is an Encinitas-based writer.