



Ideas Turned Reality

Check Out the Tour of Architects

BY JILL STAFF PHOTO BY DON LARKIN



Do you have an idea in your head of your perfect home? Perhaps it has a library room, or a wall of windows or a gourmet kitchen perfect for entertaining. Maybe you already have a home you like and want to turn it into a home you love. Chances are if you can dream it an architect can help you make it a reality.

You can meet some of the area's top architects from 14 firms during the fourth annual Tour of Architects March 23 and 24. Tour custom homes, remodels and more and get expert advice. There will be open houses throughout the Escondido and SanDiego.

"Architects will be on hand to meet and greet the public. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own home design ideas to discuss with architects," according to Liu Gualdoni who helped organize the event. "Homes that will be open to the public include award-winning new construction, remodels, and accessory dwelling units."

"The home tours enable the public experience first-hand the rewarding effect that excellent design can have upon their senses," Gualdoni added.



A



C

B

Check Out This Remodel

Architect Don Larkin of Newcastle helped a Redmond family turn their up-level home into one of the event homes on their block thanks to a two-phase remodel project. It's one of the homes that will be showcased during the Tour of Architects this year and an example of how even the most basic homes can be transformed if you have the right team.

"The clients are very happy with the results, and appreciate the time and effort that went into it, Larkin said. Others who worked on this

project include designer Elle Baker of Soleil by Design and contractor Steve Layman of Bloc Construction. "The finished spaces have improved their lifestyle and quality of life, which makes this my favorite part of the project."

The before and after photos are so dramatic, some people might wonder why the family didn't just move to a new home. The answer was simple: "They love the location of the home, and they wanted to keep the two children in the same school," Larkin said. >>

A. This cozy window seat was added to the remodeled master suite. A larger closet was also added.

B. It took about eight months to complete the first phase of the project, which included a full kitchen remodel.

C. The ceiling of the kitchen was raised during the remodel and finishes were updated in the kitchen, dining and living room to make the home look more modern and fresh.

When You Go

Tickets for the Tour of Architects are \$20 for one day, or \$35 for a weekend pass. Get yours at tourofarchitects.com.

D. When the plans for this house were submitted to the building department the reviewer asked, "Do you know that you have a tub in the shower?" Indeed Larkin did — he designed it that way on request of the homeowner who is from Japan, where this configuration is a traditional design feature.

E. The square footage before the remodel was 2,110. During the remodel, 401 square feet was added to the lower floor, 250 square feet to the upper floor and a new deck was built.

