

COASTAL

SAN DIEGO HOMES & ESTATES

NOVEMBER 2020

THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

MODERN MAKEOVER

OVERHAUL OF HOME REPLACES
1990s LOOK WITH 2020 STYLE

BACKYARD RESORT

POOL, DINING AND SITTING AREAS
ANCHOR HOMEPORT DESTINATION

GRAND VISION

COASTAL ESTATE BLENDS OLD WORLD
STYLE WITH MODERN AMENITIES

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ON HOW YOU CAN OBTAIN THIS VIEW
SEE PAGES 10, 11

LISTING PROVIDED BY ERIC IANTORNO AND TYLER POLAN
PACIFIC SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY



FUNCTIONAL AND FESTIVE

YARD REDESIGN PRODUCES KITCHEN AND EDIBLE, ORNAMENTAL GARDENS

BY NICOLE SOURS LARSON

When Tim and Sarah Leonard purchased their Encinitas home with an ocean view, they focused first on updating the interior to accommodate their growing family. Redoing the yard, which had a deck and a grass-covered slope, needed to wait.

Two-and-a-half years later, now with a 3-year-old toddler and an imminently arriving baby, they were ready to create a family-friendly yard suited to their love of the outdoors and supportive of their interests in gardening and cooking.

To undertake the redesign of their landscaping, the couple turned to Brooks and Jenny Crawford of Brookside Landscape Design, a small, family-owned firm in Carlsbad known for making good use of space. Brooks

serves as principal designer, overseeing all aspects of hardscape, while Jenny manages the selection of plant materials and decorative elements.

The Leonards were clear in their goals: grassy lawns both in front and back for their children to play, covered storage for recreational equipment, a hot tub with a nearby shower, a deck incorporating an outdoor kitchen, plus a kitchen garden.

“They also wanted bold colors and a tropical feel,” Jenny explained.

Just east of Interstate 5, the house with white siding and brick, which was built in 1973, sits on a challenging 9,720-square foot sloped lot.

In the front, they left the slope alone but added fruit trees in a line along the lawn and low-grow-



Turquoise tiles on the retaining wall by the hot tub and deck as well as the outdoor shower add pops of color in Tim and Sarah Leonard’s Encinitas yard.

EMMA ALMENDAREZ PHOTOS

ing succulents, including blue agave and paddle leaf cotyledon, in beds and boxes on both sides of the home's new front entry porch made of mangaris wood.

"We tried to incorporate as many fruiting trees as possible, since Tim likes cooking and trying new recipes," Jenny said.

On the east side of the house, Brooks designed an attached white, open-air canopy to provide shaded storage for the family's collection of stand-up paddleboards, kayaks, bikes and strollers, which can be accessed through a gated wooden fence.

Jenny planted purple-tinged bromeliads along the retaining wall and hung kokedama, Japanese-style moss-covered balls of soil containing ornamental



Senecio radicans 'fishhooks' drape off the tile retaining wall, which was designed to be utilized as a planter box.

EMMA ALMENDAREZ

plants, from the canopy's edge. She added fragrant stephanotis vines to trail along the gray-trimmed rear roofline.

For the shaded flower beds by the back of the house, Jenny chose the contrasting colors of lime-green asparagus, or foxtail fern, interspersed with green- and red-leaved bromeliads and the purple foliage and lavender blooms of tradescantia.

To level the ground in the rear of the yard for a flatter lawn, contractors had to cut and excavate the area and bring in fill dirt. Brooks designed a white stucco retaining wall along much of the property's east side with attached beds for planting, incorporating a mangaris-wood deck and a cedar-encased hot tub. Jenny lined the property fence in back of the retaining wall with a hedge of purple-tipped cordyline 'Soldad,' which tops out at 8 feet tall; the Leonards didn't want to block their neighbors' ocean view.

"Sarah really wanted a fishtail palm tree, which grows very tall,"

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JUST LISTED



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EMMA ALMENDAREZ PHOTOS

An L-shaped counter along the edge of a new lower deck forms an outdoor galley kitchen, which includes a built-in concrete sink, a smoker and a pizza oven. Tim Crawford once worked in a pizzeria and enjoys creating unusual pizzas.

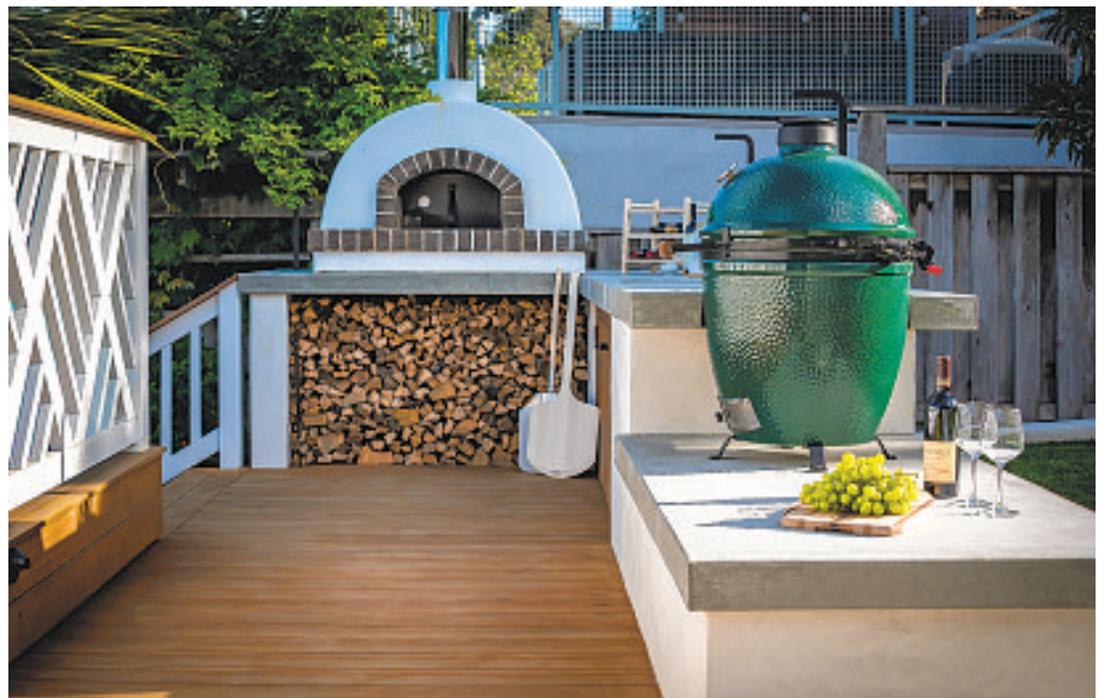
Landscape

CONTINUED FROM 27

Jenny said. They opted to plant the palm in the property's north-west corner, away from neighbors' sightlines.

Just beyond the storage canopy, the Crawfords installed an outdoor shower with a foot-washing station featuring a pebble-covered floor. The shower's vivid turquoise-blue glass tile blends with the handmade blue Spanish tile that is part of the retaining wall.

The outdoor kitchen presented its own challenges, Jenny explained. Next to the existing large deck, the landscapers designed a smaller deck with a low retaining wall topped by a concrete pad to form an outdoor kitchen area. The pad holds the Leonards' beloved Green Egg smoker, partially encircled by a cut-out in the concrete counter, which also includes a hand-



Both the pizza oven and smoker are fueled by wood, which eliminated the need for a gas line. The stairs in the back left corner lead down to the vegetable garden.



EMMA ALMENDAREZ

The Leonards wanted an area where they could grow their own fruits and vegetables, including lettuce, carrots, zucchini, bell peppers, artichokes tomatoes and blueberries.

shaped sink. A pizza oven at the end of the deck was difficult to install because of its weight.

Both the smoker and oven use wood for fuel and didn't require gas lines. Tim, a teacher, once worked in a pizzeria and loves making unusual pizzas and smoking meats.

A new set of stairs leads from the pizza oven down to the kitchen garden, where the Leonards filled their new raised boxes with tomatoes, lettuce, carrots, chiles, zucchini, bell peppers and artichokes, along with raspberries and blueberries. Crushed rock covers the pathways.

To add privacy, the Crawfords placed a fence along the western property line and planted a red

Cape honeysuckle hedge with overhanging wisteria along the northern fence.

Lighting along the stairs, decks and pathways, plus up-lighting among the plants, enhances safety at night.

Jenny brought in more color with turquoise-blue containers for potted plants and vivid succulent arrangements from Encinitas-based Barrels & Branches.

The five-month landscaping project wrapped up just as the pandemic hit. The Leonards have been able to spend the lockdown savoring their newly created garden's outdoor pleasures.

Nicole Sours Larson is a San Diego freelance writer.

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