

COASTAL

SAN DIEGO HOMES & ESTATES

OCTOBER 2018
THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

ELEVATED STYLE

RENOVATED LA JOLLA
PENTHOUSE OFFERS
LUXURIOUS TOUCHES

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LISTING PROVIDED BY ERIC IANTORNO,
PACIFIC SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

FINDING ROOTS

OWNER CONNECTS WITH
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MIDCENTURY STYLE

ALOHA SPIRIT

ISLAND STYLE HOME EMPHASIZES
INDOOR-OUTDOOR LIVING



HAND-MADE FLAIR

REMODEL FOCUSES ON INDUSTRIAL MODERN TOUCHES

BY LILLIAN COX

Todd Noe is sentimental about Leucadia. It's his hometown. Nearby, at his alma mater, the San Dieguito Academy, metal shop teacher Roger Taylor inspired Noe's career in metal design and manufacturing.

In 2000, Noe opened Noe Design Co. in Sorrento Valley where he and his team fabricate custom staircases, wine rooms, home theaters and luxury outdoor living areas.

Leucadia is also the site of Noe's first collaborative effort to remodel a home. In November 2014, Noe assumed the role of general contractor, partnering with friend Scott Stevens, of Stevens Investments, and recruiting Jean-Louis Coquereau, owner and principal of JLC Architecture in Solana Beach, whose work Noe had

long admired.

The plan was to transform a two-story, 3,459-square-foot 1970s house with what he described as industrial modern touches with influences of contemporary and mid-century modern.

"The house looked very dated and was extremely boxy," he said of the five-bedroom, four-bathroom house that stands on a one-third acre lot. "I look for a house with good bones and, with the modern design, we can use the original architecture without having to change too much."

"There are few homes these days that aren't cookie-cutter designs. It seems that most are Tuscan, which I don't like. This home is eclectic and contemporary," said David Pelling, who purchased the house in August 2015. He has recently put it on the market.

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Metal designer Todd Noe added industrial modern touches with a steel and glass pivot door and a cantilevered roofline. Inside, walls were removed to create an open floor plan. The family room features a built-in storage area Noe designed.

Industrial

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The redesign, which was completed in December 2015, included five projects that Noe designed. All those components were fabricated by his company.

To open up the house, an enclosed staircase accessing the second floor was removed and replaced with a floating steel staircase with solid walnut treads that Noe designed with a steel floor-to-ceiling screen that is transparent while being strong enough to be a guardrail.

"There are seven of us who are highly skilled artists with sculptural and casting backgrounds," Noe said. "The way we work is a slower, methodical approach where products have to be perfect before leaving our workshop."

Upstairs, his team reconfigured bedrooms and bathrooms, as well as relocated doors to make the areas more spacious. "In the afternoon, I can see the ocean from the second floor. Sunsets are really nice," Pelling said.

The front-entry door was replaced with a steel-pivot door manufactured by Noe's other company, Maiden Steel. In addition to a dramatic entrance, a pivot door takes up less space than conventional doors since pivoting requires less clearance than a swinging door.

"These oversized doors are beautiful and are really a statement piece of the house," Noe said. "Everybody talks about it. People interact with it. It's awesome to walk through."

The family room to the left of the pivot door now includes a walnut built-in cabinet storage system, with bookshelves above and room for media components below. The walls to the right were removed, creating an open dining area and kitchen, with a large walk-in pantry, a Thermador stainless-steel cooktop and Caesarstone counter tops.

The dining area and kitchen open to a two-tiered Brazilian deck made of redwood, another of Noe's designs. "The idea was to create a deck that was functional and beautiful," he explained. "Because it's such a huge space, we didn't want it to look boring. To give it character, we added the tiers and platforms for plant boxes to stand on."

Noe replaced the flat roof, leaving the support structure intact, and added a standing seam-



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The floating staircase Noe added to the Leucadia home has walnut treads. The steel bars function as a guardrail and screen.

metal roof in which ridges overlap to connect a seal and make it waterproof.

"Unlike the flat roof on the original house, the cantilever off the side of house today creates depth and dimension," he said.

The house was given a smooth stucco finish and painted white, with one corner covered with ipe wood shiplap siding to create in-

terest. In addition to being decorative, the overlapping boards provide a water barrier similar to the metal roof.

The final touch was the construction of a freestanding garage with built-in cabinets and an anodized black metal door, as well as a window frame and fascia that matched the exterior window frames of the house.

"You need a garage to sell a house," he remarked.

Since this project, the trio has remodeled another home. "We remodel a house every couple of years," Noe said. "It allows us to express our creative freedom."

Lillian Cox is an Encinitas-based writer who has been covering North County for the Union-Tribune since 2002.