

North County



Tribune photos by Tony Dubois

Eric Rohlfing stands on the porch of the nearly 100-year-old Escondido cottage he and his wife modernized by with a two-story addition that matches the original structure, while Valley keeps an eye on the back yard

Historic cottage expands into modern times

By Vern Griffin

Tribune Staff Writer

JENNIFER AND ERIC ROHLFING had a small problem three years ago when they bought a nearly 100-year-old, 800-square-foot Escondido cottage with an add-on kitchen and bathroom at the rear.

They had fallen in love with the old, simple and cleanly designed home at Sixth Avenue and Juniper Street.

And they were proud to be the owners of a historic piece of Escondido's past — but they had that problem:

The house was too small.

The challenge was to modernize and expand the house while preserving the past.

The Rohlfings did it.

They literally disguised a two-story, 1,600-square-foot addition to the back of the cottage that is part of Old Escondido's historic preservation district.

"Our whole idea was to preserve the one-story character and roof line of the original home but still add the space and conveniences we needed with an addition on the back of the house," said Eric Rohlfing, a mechanical engineer who did much of the design and

must the construction on the remodel himself.

Jennifer did much of the interior decorations and woodwork inside the original house as well as in the addition.

She also did the painting inside and outside, matching the old with the new so well that one has trouble distinguishing where old meets new.

"We both wanted a historic home," said Jennifer, a computer analyst with the San Diego Unified School District.

"But the whole point of our remodeling was that we didn't want the new part of the house to look like just an

addition."

Still, even with the blending of the old and new, the new construction results in an airy, well-lighted area that offers modern living combined with Escondido's historic past.

Eric said the home is three or four months away from being finished inside, but the exterior is virtually complete.

The home is on a key corner of the old Escondido historical residential area where city officials and residents are making every effort to preserve

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Tribune photos by Tony Daudet

Eric Rohlfing works on plans to modernize his historic Escondido home

ESCONDIDO: Couple remodels home

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Escondido's 100-year-old history.

The Rohlfings' efforts — done with self-design and long hours of work — has been a more than two-year project that is drawing favorable notice from the neighborhood.

Nearby residents give the young couple high marks for their design and work.

"They've made a really nice-looking place of it," said next-door neighbor Charles Barber, whose home was built by his father in 1939.

But Eric said adding 1,600 square feet onto the back of a home without overwhelming the original structure was a real test of design.

It's a challenge that Eric and his wife have met. Indeed, Eric said he's taking classes now to pursue architectural work. He said he used an architectural consultant on his home design.

He stressed that it's environmentally and

the window and other architectural treatment, it is hardly noticeable except from the side and rear of the lot.

Indeed, it adds to and enhances, rather than destroys, the integrity of the old cottage.

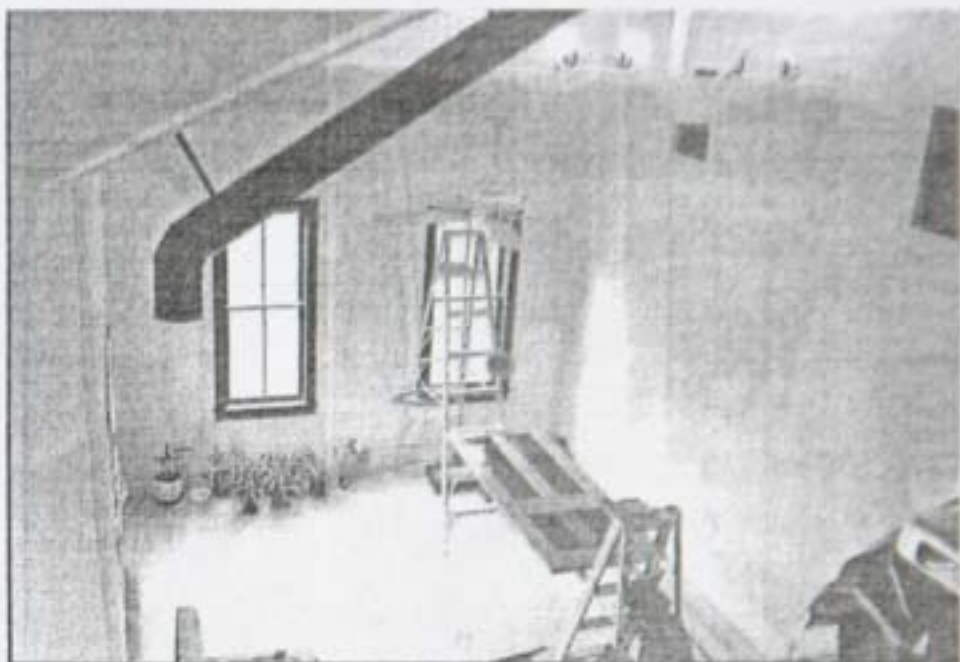
Rohlfing said he never would have considered demolishing the old home for a new home, not with the treasures to be found within the 100-year-old abode.

The old wooden floors, now refinished in the old part of the house, still show the burn marks from embers

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from the old wood stoves that used to heat every room, he said.

But the addition didn't come easy.



The home's master bedroom overlooks the des, top; it's no bathroom features an old-fashioned claw-footed bathtub and pedestal wash basin, left and plenty of room for Valerie, the dog out back, above