



FRESNO HIGH
NEIGHBORHOOD
HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

— 2016 Holiday Tour Homes —

The map for the homes on this year's tour is displayed below. On the following pages you will find the home descriptions describing unique details and features of this year's homes.

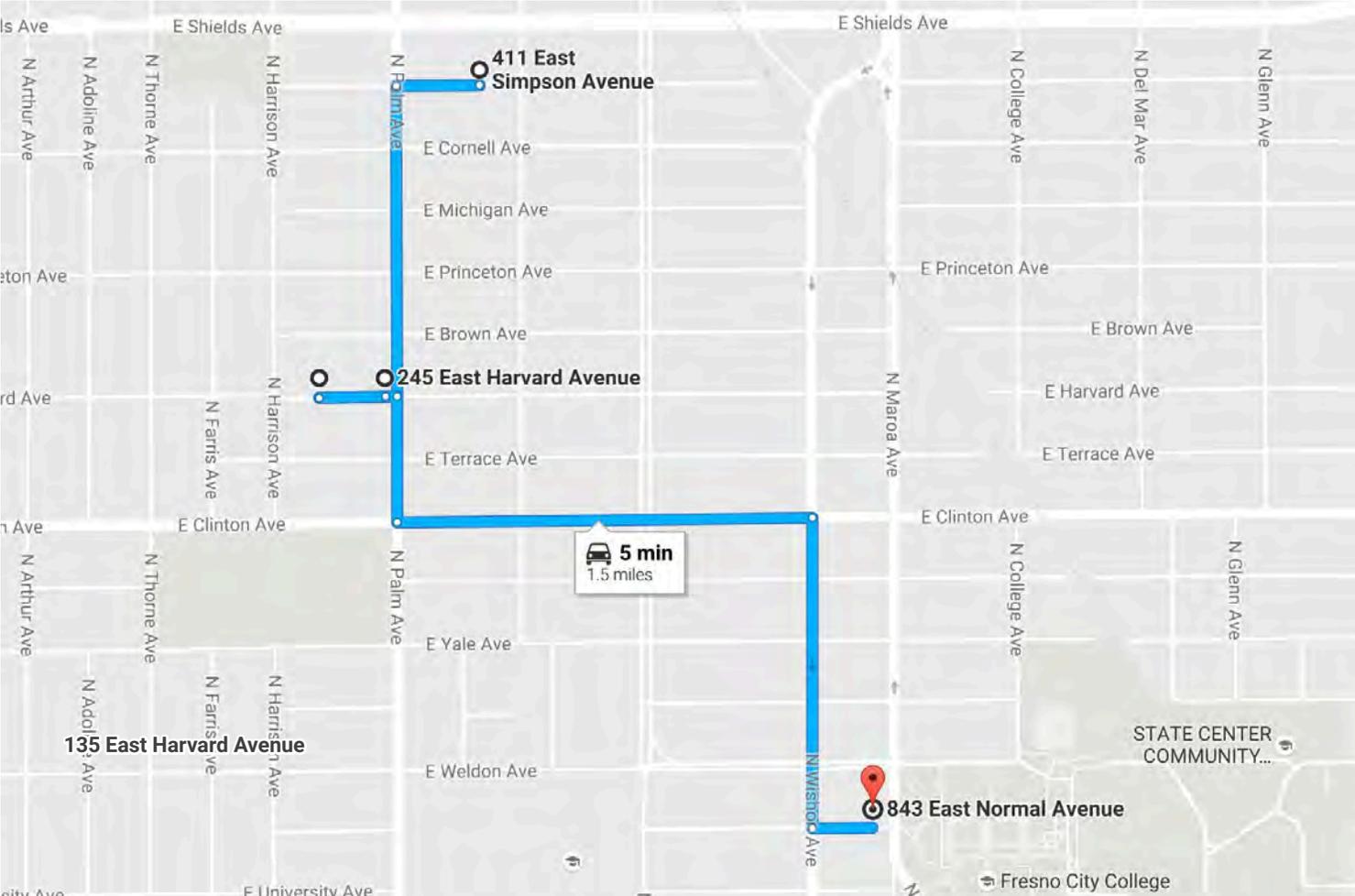
This document has been formatted to be printed out and carried with you on the tour for easy reference.

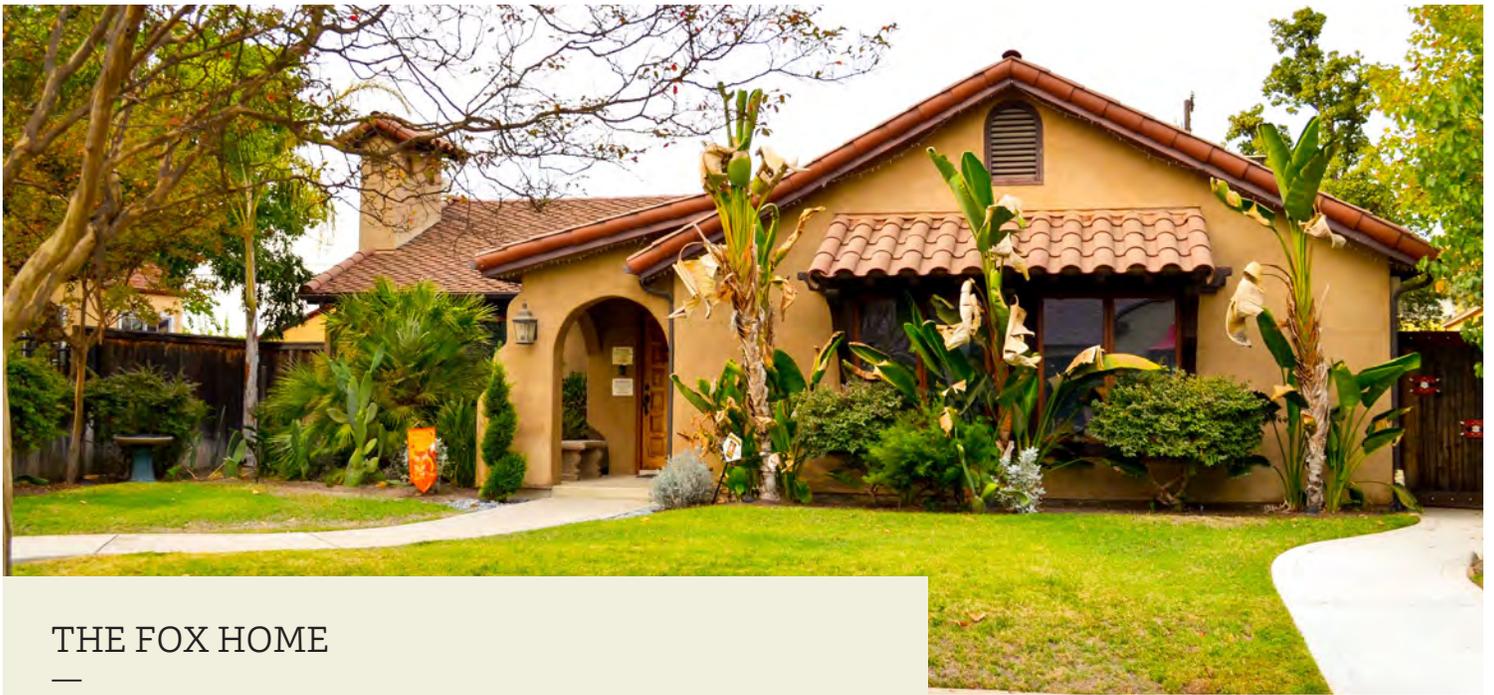
Enjoy the tour!

Tour Etiquette

- Your ticket will be validated at the entrance to each home please have your tickets ready to ensure entry.
- Getting Started: In order to see all the homes in the time allowed, please begin the tour promptly at 6:00 p.m.
- Be sure to wear comfortable, low-heeled walking shoes. All guests will be provided with paper booties to wear over their shoes – one size fits all.
- Please be careful with steps and stairs – because these are private homes, handicap accommodations may not be available. It is recommended that you bring along a flashlight.
- Children must have their own ticket and those under the age of 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Please hold small children by the hand while touring the homes. No strollers, please.
- No photos are to be taken inside the homes. Photos of the homes will be available on the website after the tour.
- No food, drinks or smoking will be allowed inside the homes.
- Restroom facilities will not be available in any of the homes.
- Please make every effort to complete your tour by closing time at 9:00 p.m. Remember, this event is staffed by students and held on a school night.

Tour Map





THE FOX HOME

—
411 E. Simpson Avenue

The original home on this property was a bungalow style built in 1947. Sometime much later, there was a fire, the house was condemned, and a builder named John Cerda, a local custom homebuilder, bought the property. Using the original footprint, he rebuilt the home in a Mediterranean style and moved into it in 2004. He also renovated three other homes on this block. Cerda moved out around 2007 and his adult daughter moved in. The Foxes bought it from her and they moved into the home in 2015. Although it is completely new, it is very much in keeping with the homes in the area.

Charlie was born and raised on a farm in Iowa until age seven, then he moved to Fresno. The Foxes have both been teachers: Charlie at all levels, primarily junior high and high school, and Valerie at the elementary level. Valerie's first career was with Tandy Leather Company where she achieved Master Craftsman status. She was one of five women in the world at the time at this level.

The floor tile in the LIVING ROOM is Argentinean tile, 1 – 4 inches thick. Because it varies in thickness, it had to be individually floated and set. Small glass accent tiles surround the gas fireplace. Charlie built the pub table near front window and the coffee table. Valerie made the art above the fireplace as well as the wreath

to the left of the hall. On the coffee table is a book written by the builder of the home, John Cerda. The title is Building a Quality Custom Home, and there are pictures of this home in the book. The bench is a replica of a springboard bench similar to what people once sat on while riding in wagons. The Foxes like to collect antiques. The school desk came from Jefferson Elementary School in Clovis. When the school was being updated, all of the desks were taken out and thrown in a pile to be set on fire. Charlie's brother rescued some. Both rocking chairs by the fireplace are from the late 1800's. The larger one was used for years by Charlie's family. The Ansonia clock on the wall is from 1878, and Charlie winds it every Saturday. The suitcases stacked near the fireplace were used by Charlie's family during the Depression and are made of cardboard. The ship's lamp that hangs on the wall is mounted so that it moves with the sway of the ship without falling over. The builder included niches in the house walls and there is one in this room. The memorabilia on the wall is in honor of Charlie's brother who was an airman in the Army Air Corps in WWII and in the US Air Force during the Korean War. The violin in the frame above was mounted by Valerie's grandparents who also built the frame, aged the paper and hand copied the music. Near the

entry to the home is Charlie's father's travel trunk from around 1915. On top of it is an original gold scale used to measure gold dust purchased at an auction.

On the right side of the HALL is one of Charlie's collections. A U.S. Marshall's badge is above some replica guns he has collected, including a Peacemaker and his own toy guns from his childhood. Also displayed are two swords, one of which is a Civil War Artillery Officer's Sword dated 1865 and some knives. On the opposite wall Charlie and Valerie's diplomas and certificates are displayed as well as Charlie's mom's 8th grade graduation photo (the highest grade at the time) and his parents' marriage certificates from the state of Iowa -- one for the bride and one for the groom. The halltree near the bathroom was refurbished by Charlie. His parents' birth certificates are above on the wall. Outside the guest bathroom is a laundry cabinet on one side and a storage cabinet opposite.

The GUEST BATH has marble countertops and Mediterranean designed tile in the shower. Handcrafted tile is on the floor. There is a low window by the toilet that Valerie refers to as a "Strategically Placed Ventilation System."

The GUEST ROOM is referred to as the "Hollywood Room." Both Charlie and Valerie are big fans of old movies and the posters and photos on the walls reflect this. Charlie especially liked Alan Ladd and there is a letter from Mr. Ladd mounted on the wall. Valerie was fond of Gene Kelly and corresponded with him over the years. A letter from Mr. Kelly is also mounted on the wall. Charlie built the window seat box and the cabinet to the right. The wicker baskets in the cabinet are craft storage. In the corner by the closet is a small family sewing table and a drop leaf table and chair from Charlie's kitchen when he was a little boy.

On the walls of the MASTER BEDROOM are several pictures. The two large and two small pictures are originals by Don Price, an artist born and raised in the San Joaquin Valley. They are signed and dated. The lighted branch over the bed is a manzanita branch. To the right of the bed are several Thomas Kinkadee prints. Other pictures in the room are of New Mexico, a state Charlie and Valerie like to visit. The builtin dresser is

lighted and next to a wall length closet. A walkin closet is behind the open bedroom door.

The BATH has marble countertops that match those in the guest bath. Special features are the arch, the storage niche, built in cabinets and a low window next to the toilet like the one in the guest bath. On the wall is a "Stinky Sun" purchased in New Mexico.

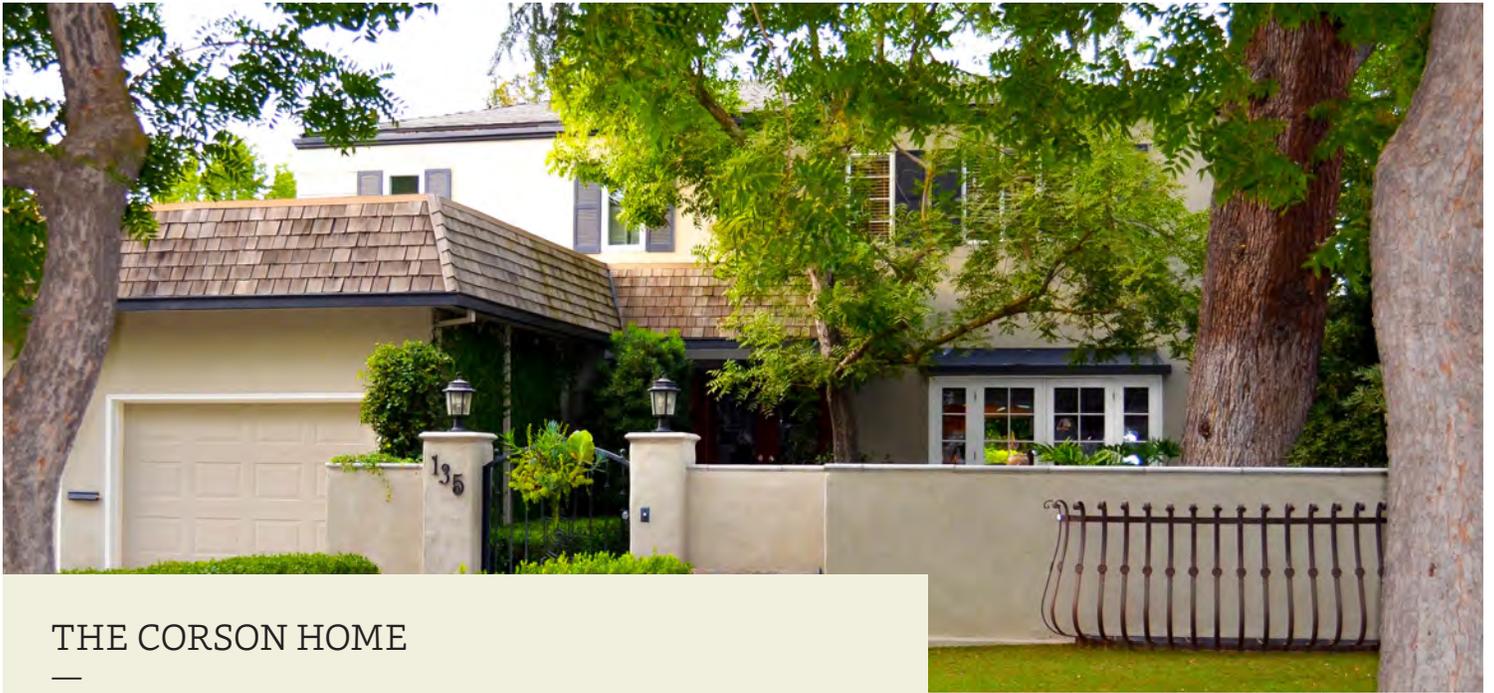
The table and chairs in the DINING ROOM belonged to the previous owner. The builder, the previous owner's father, selected them specifically for the home and laid the floor tiles to frame the table. The glass tiles are the same surrounding the living room fireplace. The texture on the walls is called Mediterranean Knock Down. The arches, floors and niches of the house all reflect the Mediterranean character. On the wall is another of Charlie's collections: a horse collar, a lasso, horseshoes and a double tree — a long piece of wood with hooks at either end. The double tree hooked onto the horses so they could pull a wagon. Also on the wall is a photo of Charlie and his horse, Cricket. The dishes and aluminum pans above the doorways were used by Charlie's family.

The KITCHEN is a mixture of textures. Imported tile is mounted above the stove. There are stainless steel appliances, wood cabinets, and granite countertops. Valerie likes to cook and the sub-zero refrigerator and convection oven help with that. The builder installed an open, lighted, pull-out pantry so the cook can easily see what is available. A built-in skylight lets in so much light during the day that it makes the owners think they have left a light on. Also mounted in the kitchen ceiling, as well as in the rest of the house, are speakers that allow music to be heard everywhere. Charlie's grandmother's wooden cabbage slicers are mounted over the sink.

The DEN is the room where the Foxes spend the most time. On either side of the gas fireplace are shelves holding more of their collections. There is a small planetarium, a sextant, Charlie's wood carvings, an old railroad lamp and an old car lamp. The two small tables in front of the fireplace were Valerie's grandparents. They had fallen apart and Charlie restored them. Near the windows to the backyard are two old sewing machines. The Singer with the white knobs belonged to Charlie's mother. On top is the Royal typewriter Charlie

used to write his Masters and PhD dissertations. Nearby is a toy typewriter that was Charlie's when he was a boy. On the wall is a Seth Thomas clock over 200 years old. Charlie winds it once a week and it still runs perfectly.

The Host Table is located in the PATIO. Behind the table is a garage that contains a half bath, an office and a crafts room. There is an outside kitchen complete with sink, oven and refrigerator. Charlie has mounted both his and his dad's old tools on the inside overhead beam near the edge of the patio roof. The red seats located between the bedroom and the den doors are old tractor seats. The Mediterranean-style fountain on the back wall of the house was installed by the builder.



THE CORSON HOME

—
135 E. Harvard Avenue

This home was built by Taylor-Wheeler in 1939 for a cost of \$8000.00. The Corsons purchased it from the Helm family, early Fresno pioneers whose most prominent legacies are the historic Helm Building on the Fulton Mall and the historic Helm Home aka The Alamo House on L Street downtown.

The Corsons moved to Fresno from Vancouver, Washington when Brent was transferred from the NW Division of Foster Farms Human Resources Department to run the largest Foster Farms Complex in Southern California. Brent and Karen share an appreciation for architecture, collecting eclectic antiques and art pieces and have artistic personalities. They lived in three different Fresno locations before finding the home of their dreams in the Fresno High Neighborhood. Relocating from Oregon/Washington to the hot, dry valley in Central California, they dreamed of finding a Spanish Colonial style home with a pool. After searching for 10 years, what they found was a friendly, architecturally interesting neighborhood with a Mansard style home that allowed them to use their artistry and imagination to create the European style home of their dreams. Brent and Karen have three sons: Adrian married and living in Sacramento, Vincent graduated from the University of Oregon and lives in the Tower

District, and Nick lives at home while preparing for a second bachelor's degree at UC San Diego to become a nurse anesthetist. The family is pictured in the portrait featured in the Master bedroom with Brent's favorite dog, Wylie. As you tour this home, you will feel the love and care that Brent and Karen have spent the past 3 ½ years to create a beautiful home for their family.

As you look around the LIVING ROOM you'll see the stunning marble fireplace purchased in France and installed by former homeowner Nancy Helm. A pair of Victorian era chairs belonged to Karen's great-grandmother and the 1930s Stiffle lamp belonged to Karen's parents. The Corsons are eclectic collectors and have a special affinity for the many clocks you'll see throughout the home. The grandfather clock in this room is a replica that Karen purchased. She also loves the way oriental rugs make rooms feel rich and homey at the same time. The hand carved wooden swan and goose, signed by the artist, were purchased in Pendleton, Oregon. A special art piece is the hand carved, balsa wood cherub with blue eyes purchased on a trip to Lake Chapala, Mexico.

The FAMILY ROOM was originally part of a porch enclosed in the 1960s by a former owner. Brent and Karen really wanted to create a warm space that reflected the Spanish feeling they had desired and installed the Saltillo floor tiles and hand painted Taveras tile insets that flow through the family room, casual dining area, kitchen and laundry. The tiles were purchased in Guanajuato, Mexico. The vintage Foo Dogs are part of Karen's collection and the angels and swan are by the same artists as the pieces in the living room. A special piece for Karen is her grandmother's Victorian era mirror. Before we move to see the dining room you'll see the family Christmas tree decorated with special ornaments collected for and made by the Corson boys.

Dominating the DINING ROOM is the incredible chandelier, a sixteen light Spanish Brass centerpiece nearly thirty inches wide with 150 crystals purchased from an antique dealer and restored by the Corsons. The amazing mirror was purchased on an "antique hunting" excursion and is reportedly from the Armenian Home in Reedley. The Howard Miller Presidential Clock was purchased for a five-year anniversary. The hand made Shaker-style solid cherry wood table and chairs are signed by the artist. The antique buffet is hand carved oak from France from the late 1800s.

From the CASUAL DINING SPACE you can see the incredible back yard and 45 year-old pool and formal garden that is perfect for entertaining! You can also see the first of the re-imagined bathrooms---this one attached to Brent's home office.

THE KITCHEN was gutted to the studs and completely re-imagined by Brent and Karen to have a very European feeling with Spanish and Moorish design accents. The larger, Moorish-style tiles were designed by Brent and all of the tile pieces were hand painted in Mexico. The hand pounded brass lamp fixtures are Egyptian. Karen loves to cook for her boys and adores her restaurant grade Thermador stove! The window was enlarged to bring in more light to the space, something very important to the Corsons — a light filled space for entertaining.

In the MASTER BEDROOM with beautiful views of the back yard you will see the family portrait. Before

stepping into the new master bathroom you'll pass the antique Empire Chest made of flame-front mahogany. Passing through the archways added by the Corsons is a closet space that was originally a dressing area. The original BATHROOM was gutted down to the studs and recreated in the style you see including two sinks and the two vintage mirrors recovered from a 1930s New York hotel. The same hand-painted tiles from Mexico were used to compliment the Moorish, European style favored by the Corsons.

Step down the hallway to view the two additional BEDROOMS with original linen closet between them.

Before leaving the second story living spaces you can peek into the GUEST BATHROOM: the only bathroom with original tile and fixtures from the late 1930s.

As you take the stairs down to the ENTRY you will notice beautiful art work and the entry light fixture that Brent converted to add light and texture to the entry space.

Brent designed his "Man Cave" in the BASEMENT for the men in his family; you can imagine watching a football game while playing pool or table-top tennis. The windows in this space are original to the home while the marble tile was added by Brent. The walls are purple because purple is his favorite color.

As you exit through the LAUNDRY ROOM you'll notice that the Corsons have added a stacking washer/dryer in the original space for the utility sink common to homes of this era. Across from this is an additional BATHROOM.



THE HOLT HOME

—
843 E. Normal Avenue

The home of Jaime Holt, purchased in 2010, is classic California Mediterranean Revival Style, indicated at first glance by the use of arches and curves, white stucco and a terra cotta tile roof. From the front yard the newly refurbished 1916 Administration building at Fresno City College, originally the Fresno State Normal School, is visible. The building permit for the Holt home was issued in 1924 to the owner/contractor, J.E. Sailor. The original building permit is on file with the city but is too light to read. Based on educated guesses, the original build date was 1925. Enter through the unique arched front door into a small foyer with a coat closet and a original Art-Nouveau revival light fixture – if the door was rectangular it would hit the fixture! Throughout the home, the original 2 1/4" solid red oak floors have been refinished in a two-tone color scheme, with a darker border on the perimeters.

To the left is the LIVING ROOM. The trio of symmetrical arched doors leading to the front porch (long since painted shut) echo a common theme of symmetry in the common area of the home. Notice the built-in bookcase to the left of the fireplace, balanced by what was a French door to the right. The fireplace itself is decorated with 1920's Claycraft tile, a Los Angeles company known for early 20th century tiles in a raised relief Arts And Crafts style. The company was in business from 1921 to 1939.

These tiles depict Mission scenes and are very colorful. Claycraft tiles are now collectible and can be found listed online for between \$250- \$2500. The chairs next to the fireplace were rescued from a 1970's office space, as Jaime has a habit of rescuing things. Her dogs, Little Edie and L'il Wayne, also benefit from her generosity.

Our Homeowner is a musician who has performed in our local Rogue Festival, as evidenced by the collection of guitars next to the piano in the north side of the living room. Over the piano is a print by Sheperd Fairey, the artist of Obama's Hope poster fame, titled "Clean Energy for America." In addition to supporting environmental causes, Ms. Holt has installed solar power on the hidden flat roof – offsetting the cost of electricity and ensuring that she can keep the original doors and window that show off the age of her home and most other homes in the area.

In the DINING ROOM there is more pleasing symmetry. The large china hutch was purchased from the previous owner and is flanked by twin French doors leading to the back patio. On the left is a curio cabinet with collections of mementos from Jaime's travels. On the right is another Fairey poster "Urban Roots," which depicts not just Jaime's connection to the Central Valley, but her initial roots from a small town in Oklahoma.

The KITCHEN AND THE NOOK have been remodeled. Most homes of this age did not have oak hardwood in the kitchens, but usually some sort of vinyl or linoleum. The floor in the kitchen is now a beautiful Brazilian Cherry installed by the previous owner. The Hunter Green cabinets, use of beadboard trim and granite tile countertops (trimmed with mahogany) create a cozy feel. Not visible on the tour is an innovative pantry to the left of the entry door and the access to the unfinished basement to the left of the rear exit door. The "Pie Safe" cabinet in the NOOK is a family heirloom that is over 100 years old; it was transported via covered wagon into Oklahoma during the land rush of the 1800's. Behind it you can see an interruption in the plaster texture indicating there was once a door to the nook from the living room. The nook was most likely not wide open to the kitchen in its original plan, nor is the unique divided window likely to be original.

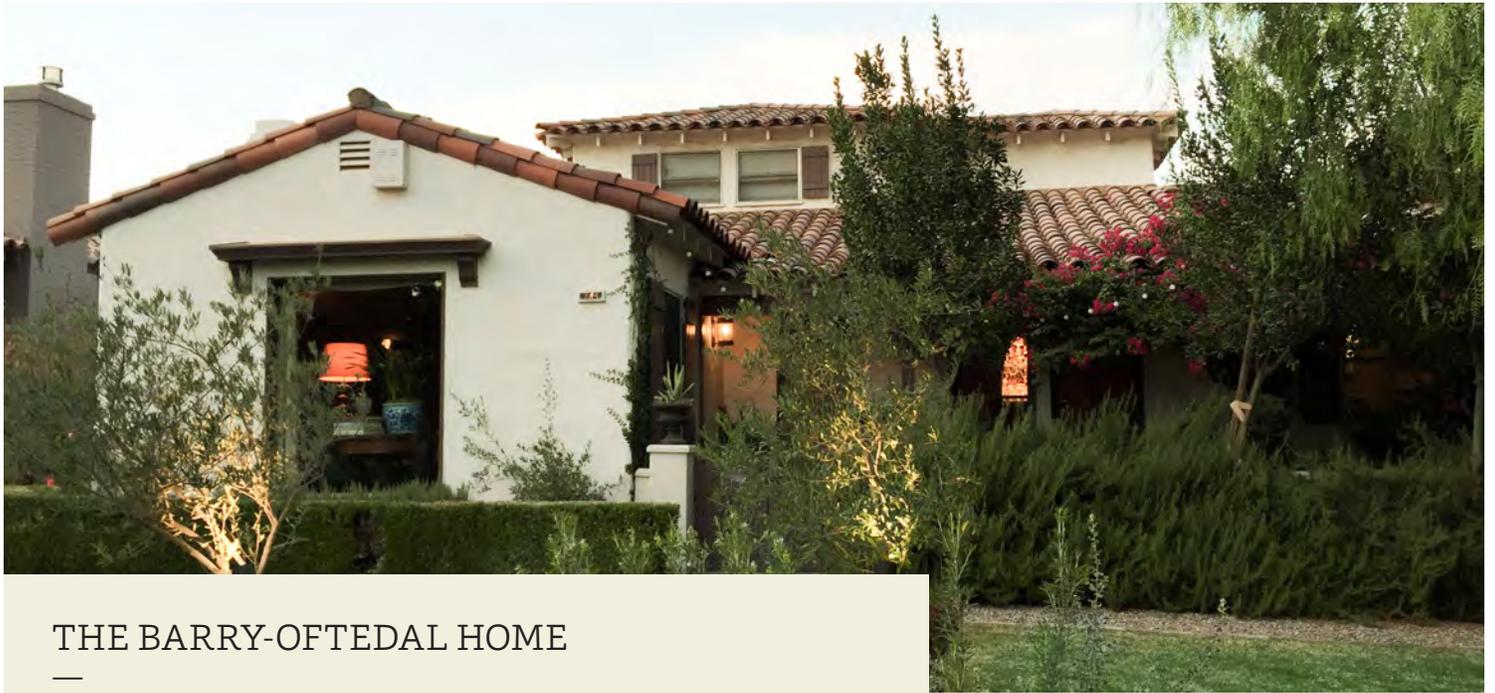
By 1936 C.I. Cook was the owner of the home. In 1949 Taylor-Wheeler was hired to demolish the original GARAGE on the east side of the rear of the property and construct a new two-car garage with living quarters above. After exiting the kitchen you can see this addition, which was completed for the whopping amount of \$5,000. The garage apartment stairway is off a common entry/mudroom with access from the garage and the driveway. Upstairs is a full bathroom, a living room with knotty pine paneling, a kitchenette with a fabulous porcelain sink cabinet and miniature sized appliances. To the left is the bedroom with the customary Taylor-Wheeler built-in ironing board. Jaime's friend, who is a traveling cardiac nurse, lives here when she is in town.

The MASTER BEDROOM was once the third bedroom. One closet has been converted to a powder room and the garage addition included a large "1939" new closet on the north side of the room. The two-tone oak hardwood continues. The photography on the north wall is from the "Burning Man" festival: "Once a year, tens of thousands of people gather in Nevada's Black Rock Desert (also known as "the playa") to create Black Rock City, a temporary metropolis dedicated to community, art, self-expression, and self-reliance. They depart one week later, having left no trace whatsoever." Jaime took the photos over the bed in Paris.

Down the hallway, where there are two built-in linen closets, is the BATHROOM original to the house. It has been remodeled: an original would probably not have two sinks---that is a decidedly modern phenomena. If you look closely, you can see the difference between the original yellow tiles on the walls and the countertop as well as the location of the original smaller central mirror (probably a medicine cabinet). The color combination of yellow, tangerine and black is original, as are the black octagon tiles on the floor. On the walls are photos of California landmarks, including the Cliff House in San Francisco.

Jaime's mom stays in the second BEDROOM when she comes to visit. It contains family photographs, a cedar chest, and things to make Mom feel at home! All the bedrooms have the standard picture rail from the building period: plaster is much harder to put a nail in to hang a picture so wall decorations were hung from a wire and hooked to the molding higher up on the wall.

The last bedroom is Jaime's OFFICE. She was an exchange student and has traveled extensively. She studied in Australia, South Africa and Paris. Her exchange student jacket decorated with buttons is on display in this room. The large map to the left is "Iceland." The photo over the west window is a depiction of the oldest and largest brick fort (structure) in the western Hemisphere: Fort Jefferson located in Dry Tortugas National Park west of Key West, Florida. This room has direct access to the living room and French doors leading onto the large front porch.



THE BARRY-OFTEDAL HOME

—
245 East Harvard Avenue

On June 6, 1939, Taylor-Wheeler pulled permits for a new house at 245 East Harvard Avenue. Photographs taken a few years before that time show little beyond Palm Avenue but a dusty hilltop with a few eucalyptus trees. When the new house was complete, and Ben and Marian Sarkisian moved into the home in which they would raise their children Tom and Mimi, they called it "THE HOUSE ON THE HILL." Full of hope for the life they would have in this Spanish Revival home, the Sarkisian family hired San Francisco-based interior design firm Sloan to outfit each room, from the grand piano placed in the living room picture window to the early American-style furnishings acquired for the pine-paneled upstairs sitting room. Nearly seventy years later, Martin Oftedal and Trent Barry purchased the home from the family of the most recent owner, and embarked on a journey of discovery, restoration, and fulfillment of dreams in a place they would call "THE HARVARD HOUSE." Recently Barry and Oftedal made contact with that little girl who grew up THE HOUSE ON THE HILL, Mimi (Sarkisian) Gunner, and have been able to share their process with her and learn many fascinating details about the home they have worked diligently to preserve and protect. Coincidentally, Mimi is married to Richard Gunner, who grew up a few doors down the street at 135 East Harvard Avenue (the Corson Home). Martin and Trent

moved to this address after discovering it entirely unintentionally; they had just finished renovating a smaller home nearby on Adoline, and happened to see signs for an open house. On a whim, they looked, and disregarding input from family and friend alike, decided this house was the next big project—and a long-term home where they would have room to entertain dinner guests, put up friends and family visiting from out of town and, most importantly, raise a family. Today, the house has been under some level of renovation or construction for nearly nine years, and is the proud home to their seven-year-old son Hudson, two Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Henri and Louis, and a Lhasa Apso, Topher. It is a home where precious meets comfort, where one leaves shoes at the door, but dogs lay on the sofa, where kids run screaming through the halls, while their parents enjoy a quiet tête à tête on the terrace.

The LIVING ROOM purposefully/consciously introduces the aesthetics and interests of the homeowners; its eclectic décor reflects years of curating and collecting objects and art from family heirlooms to objects discovered on world travels or excursions as immediate as the famous Harvard Block Sale. Music has filled this room since the home was

built; Mimi is a pianist while her mother Marian was the second-chair violinist for the inaugural year of the Fresno Philharmonic. Trent is a professional musician, and continues the tradition of music in this home, entertaining guests with classical music interludes after dinner parties, and famous cabaret-style performances and sing-alongs at any opportunity. The home's signature holiday decor, visible to passers-by through the picture window, is the all-red Christmas tree that showcases Martin's passion for design. The vintage hand-knotted Persian rug has some whimsical moments—the dye hue in a given section may abruptly change to a slightly different color. The bas relief tile unique to this fireplace and found in variation in many Taylor-Wheeler homes was unexpectedly uncovered when the homeowners removed a large brass fireplace insert installed by a previous owner. The large 1880 charcoal study of a male figure was drawn in Paris by Louis Booksin, who later emigrated to San Jose, California, where a local school is named for the artist. The room's two oil paintings are by Trent's uncle Durrell Salisbury, who was a professional artist. The homeowner's house-wide collections are prefaced throughout the living room: blue and white porcelain including the Chinese pottery pieces fashioned into table lamps, Baccarat, Waterford crystal and Lalique glass, antiquarian and large-format coffee table books, wooden and upholstered chairs of diverse character and pedigree fill the house with moments of visual discovery for the visitor, but most important to the homeowners is that the home feel welcoming and comfortable. No matter where you are in the house, there's a place to sit down and chat with a friend, enjoy a glass of wine or pick up a good book.

The walls of the FOYER are covered in fabric and grosgrain ribbon. Take note of the signature Taylor-Wheeler speakeasy in the original front door. The vintage gilded chinoiserie mirror was a Terrace block sale find.

The DINING ROOM is set with the family's every-day Spode Blue Italian dinnerware. Each individual goblet in this set of Waterford crystal glasses was signed by the designer Jim O'Leary specifically for Martin, who takes particular delight in designing tablescapes for dinner parties, while Trent prefers to toil in the kitchen. The original swinging door to the kitchen had been removed, and the homeowners discovered this period

door, salvaged from a nearby home "modernization," rescued it and restored it. Almost every other door in the home (there are 31 in all) is original, including hinges and doorknobs. The pencil signed Picasso lithograph commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Eiffel Tower, and the unusual Lladró statue of the gardener were each birthday gifts. The 1830's gold leaf mirror was Trent's first antique purchase at age seventeen. The dining room chandelier was hanging in the stairwell when the homeowners purchased the Harvard House. The silk curtains and valances were sewn by Trent, who made most of the window treatments, bedding and throw pillows in the house.

The homeowners recently added the iron railings in the STAIRWELL. The walls of the stairwell have become another gallery space, specifically for more antiquated European-style or origin oil paintings. The large unfinished oil painting depicting an elderly woman and young boy was a Harvard Block Sale find. The casement clock, which belonged to Martin's grandparents, is early 19th-century.

The BLUE GUEST ROOM was originally called The Early American Room with its knotty pine paneling and coved ceiling, now painted, and lantern-style light fixture—the only original found in the home. The art collection continues in this room, including pieces by Martin's grandfather, a Pearl Harbor Survivor, who was a Fresno Police officer by day, Renaissance man by night. The Sarkisian family used this room as a sitting room, and apparently used the built-in shelving for storing printed music. When the room was being prepared for paint several years ago, faint pencil-written words on the shelves could be seen labeling "piano music," "orchestral scores," "violin music," "blank ruled music." The antique brass table lamp is fitted with new hand-blown shades from Phoenix Studios artisan glass gallery in Harmony, California. The vintage brass floor lamp belonged to Martin's grandmother. The brass microscope, dated 1874, was the laboratory microscope used by Trent's great-grandfather, Dr. William Barry, who was Surgeon General of the Santa Fe railroad around the turn of the last century.

THE PRINCESS GUEST ROOM, a favorite hideaway, has seen many out-of-town guests in the past nine

years. The reviews have been great—the bed is very comfortable, and the monogrammed “245 East Harvard” white terry cloth bathrobes and fresh home-baked chocolate chip cookies help guests feel right at home. The drop-leaf walnut writing desk (ca. 1900) belonged to Trent’s great-grandmother. The unusual Louis-Quatorze-meets-1930’s-art-deco-style chairs belonged to Martin’s great-grandmother. The carved wooden headboard was yet another find at the Terrace block sale. The French engravings were purchased at an estate sale from a couple who had acquired the art in Paris while on honeymoon.

The world-traveler theme in HUDSON’S ROOM, depicted in wrap-around murals, takes us on a journey from the Great Wall of China to the Taj Mahal to Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament to Sacré Coeur and the Eiffel Tower, then back to the Palace of Fine Arts and the Golden Gate Bridge, all viewed by a little boy on a mountain top peering through a telescope. The mural was painted by Trent before Hudson’s birth. After his adoption, Trent added the hands on Big Ben to reflect the time of Hudson’s birth and added a third bird flying below the Golden Gate Bridge representing their family. Hudson is a seven-year-old first-grader at Dailey Charter Elementary School, and is proud to be an International Baccalaureate scholar, and future Fresno High School student. It turns out his bedroom was first inhabited by Mimi, who also attended Dailey, and subsequently Hamilton and Fresno High. Hudson is an avid fan and talented player of soccer—and is mildly obsessed with anything pertaining to Lionel Messi or Team Barcelona! His room is decorated in dark colors to facilitate napping and early bedtime, as it faces west and gets full sun all afternoon. The heavy lined draperies and bedding are also custom made for Hudson by Trent. Interestingly, like his fathers, Hudson has acquired a taste for collecting; he has amassed quite a collection of marbles (some vintage), books, globes, Legos, Pokémon cards and soccer balls. His Christmas tree showcases his collection of sock monkey ornaments as well as Dave Thomas’s Annual Celebrate Adoption blown glass ornaments by Christopher Radko. He has one for each year of his life. He finds the process of home remodeling interesting, and actually surprised his parents when he got online one morning, looked up light fixtures, and found one he thought would work for the hallway. “It’s so us,” he said. He was right, and it now hangs in the downstairs hallway.

A favorite room of all guests to the Harvard House is subterranean. THE STAR ROOM is named after the art deco-inspired dining room at the favorite Tower District haunt The Daily Planet, which until its closure in 2005 had been a setting for many memories for Martin, Trent and their friends. This basement room was originally the Sarkisian’s BOOM BOOM ROOM—and Ben himself proudly converted what had been a simple knotty-pine paneled basement into the stunning below-level lounge you see today. He cut every panel of birch and beveled the edges before installing them in a checkerboard of alternating wood-grain directions. He build in the wall clock above the bar, added a ventilation system that goes all the way to the roof, a state-of-the-art (for mid-century) stereo system, with turntable, radio and built-in wall speakers. And, with the help of his brother, built the upholstered wet bar and bar stools to match. Nine years ago, the original mid-century mini-refrigerator was still running perfectly, tucked into its hidden compartment behind the bar, and under the stairway. The restoration of the basement bar involved mostly cosmetic touch up, but homeowners added the brown corduroy fabric-covered walls in the stairwell, punctuated with 150 framed, postcard-size vintage Vanity Fair magazine covers. The portrait is of a San Francisco socialite named Adoline, a Nob Hill neighbor of the Hearst family. The mid-century round mirror is by Louis Bierfeld. The whimsical vintage-inspired Christmas tree is rose gold foliage decorated with teal martini glasses.

The MASTER BEDROOM is designed to be a calming sanctuary, with its subtle blue-green color scheme, tone-on-tone stripes on the walls, and layers of pillows for lounging. The 19th-century engravings above the headboard (once hand-colored, now faded) are from the Cries of London series, examining themes of suffering among the less-fortunate. The Lladró Atlas was a birthday gift, while the Lladro Father and Son, which is hand signed by Lladró’s grandson, was a gift in anticipation of the adoption of Hudson. The male portrait studies are vintage.

The collections of books necessitated designating this former sitting room the Harvard House LIBRARY. The original blueprints to the house depict this as the fifth bedroom, and the glass wall now facing the family room was then a wall with a window. The gallery theme here is

contemporary Fresno art, with work by Jane Whitehurst, Thomas Greteman, Stephanie Pearl, Mimi Mott Smith, and Seth Duran. Book collections combine some antiquarian books from Trent's mother's collection, with art books of Trent's and coffee table books collected by Martin. Occasionally, the library table is cleared and this room is used as a dessert buffet for parties. The spacious closet has been converted into a butler's pantry, containing a number of china patterns and crystal stemware.

Updating the KITCHEN was a necessity on every level. Aesthetically, the original kitchen had been modified, with dropped grid-style ceiling and fluorescent lighting, outdated tile, layers of wallpaper—it truly didn't represent the history of this house. Functionally, adding ventilation and a professional Viking stove brought this diminutive galley kitchen into the 21st Century. With preservation and integrity in mind, the kitchen was rebuilt to resemble closely how it was originally, with much research into period kitchens and visiting intact kitchens. To that end, of the 27 cabinet doors, only two are new. The decades-old, banged up doors were stripped, reinforced and carefully restored. In the laundry room is Trent's childhood desk, ideally positioned for checking email while remaining at the heart of the house. The kitchen light fixture is new, but built from vintage glass molds and hand painted to match their favorite green, a color that has been used in every one of their residences. The vintage urns on the counter are Chinese wedding jars. Assorted green pottery in the window above the sink includes family heirlooms and collected treasures.

The BREAKFAST NOOK corner cabinets are classic Taylor-Wheeler, as is the original telephone niche. The vintage hexagonal pecan wood table and matching French provincial-inspired chairs were Trent's grandmother's. The chalkboards (originally cupboard doors) were salvaged from Trent's father's first classroom when the school was demolished. The art deco pendant light fixture above the table was salvaged from a 1920's home in Visalia. The Christmas china settings on the table were a gift from Martin's grandmother. The homeowners hang Christmas cards in this room from the red ribbons.

The FAMILY ROOM was added to the house in 1948. This glass box has remained essentially unchanged

since then, aside from covering the damaged terrazzo floors with carpeting and energy upgrades. This room is the gathering spot for Hudson's entertaining: movie nights with popcorn and candy, video games, even Lego building extravaganzas. Above the secretary (an award-winning design by Martha Stewart) hang two framed architectural diagrams of Italian iron balcony details. The Christmas tree, all gold, is decorated with dozens of Eiffel Towers, a reminder to the homeowners of special memories of Paris. Notice their photograph, in Paris, on that tree.