

Patterson Development Company 1976-1996

George Patterson, Owner
Adobe Home Designer/Builder
Escondido, California

George Patterson traces his love of adobe and the hacienda style of architecture to his youth. Born in Boston, George's father moved the family to Los Angeles in the mid-1930s where his father eventually owned a garment-manufacturing business. As soon as he was old enough to drive, George began to travel to Baja California to pursue the great fishing he'd heard about, especially in Ensenada. In later years, George and his family traveled extensively throughout Mexico, and it had a profound effect on his career in adobe home design and construction.

The lure of Mexican culture inspired George to take an interest in decorative construction material for its uses in home décor. He incorporated fired Tecate floor tiles, roof tiles, Talavera tiles, hand-painted tile, iron work, large ollas, iron lighting fixtures, and many crafted items into his contracted projects. Each home he designed had unique details woven into its construction.

George's wife, Margaret, also grew up in Los Angeles, but had family ties deeply rooted in Escondido, in San Diego's inland North County. Margaret's mother owned 10 acres of land on the corner of Bernardo and Hamilton roads, near Felicita Park. George molded his first adobe blocks near that corner lot using topsoil from the acreage. He estimated he had made 12,000-15,000 adobe blocks on that site. Later, the property was divided between Margaret and her siblings, leaving them one acre. Here he constructed his first hacienda-style adobe.

George experimented with custom designs and artistry on this home, and would later apply what he'd learned to his other adobe design/builds, though his adobe home experiment nearly didn't happen. He had used all of his savings on the brick making and related expenses, and just as it appeared he would have to give up, two investment bankers came to the adobe lot and asked if he needed a loan. One of the bankers, Peter Meyer, was interested in having an adobe home constructed in Ramona, so he arranged a bank loan for George, who would later say, "it was a real miracle in my life."

From his first adobe home built in 1976, where he and Margaret raised their family, George went on to build adobe homes through the 1980s in Escondido, Ramona, and San Pasqual Valley in San Diego County, and one project in Ridgecrest, California. George and Margaret remained in their home past his retirement, and in 2013 moved to Rancho Bernardo.

Source: Interview for Adobe Home Tours Committee—Escondido History Center
July 29, 2014 Alexa Clausen, volunteer and Tom McCoy, founder Escondido Adobe Home Tour