

2017

Adobe Home Tour
Sunday, March 19
11 am - 4 pm

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Michael Bartholomew Design & Remodeling

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Welcome

To the 2017 Adobe Home Tour

You may visit the homes in any order.
Please see map, along with parking notes, in the centerfold.
No photos or videotaping inside homes, please.
Homes close promptly at 4 pm.

Special thanks to our homeowners:

Scott and Sue Leslie
Diane Reardon and Greg Pearson
Shawn and Robin Rogers
Troy Strand
Robbie and Anne Williams
and
The Ranch at Bandy Canyon

Additional thanks to:
The Adobe Home Tour Volunteer Committee
&
Photographer Jim Clark
&
Our Program Sponsors



Proceeds benefit the Escondido History Center.

An Adobe Photo Album

Here's a preview of some of the unique details you'll see on this tour...





Each home you visit will have distinctive characteristics and one-of-a-kind features.

The Art, Craft and Enduring Appeal of Adobe

By joining us on the Sixth Annual San Diego Adobe Home Tour, you are a part of a movement that values and seeks to preserve a piece of the story of our Southwestern way of life. "There are so many misconceptions about adobe," says Ben Loescher of Adobe is Not Software (AiNS), "from some folks who believe it to be illegal, to thermal performance.... Opportunities like this tour offer a kind of public exposure that is wonderful both for new work and those seeking to conserve existing buildings."

All the homes on this year's tour are from the first phase of mid-century adobe revival dating from 1946 to 1960. It was in this time period that custom adobe home construction gained appeal to those seeking modern living in a rural setting. A wave of nostalgia for old California had gripped San Diego's North County. Some of the homes on this year's tour have only had a few owners so they retain the charm of their original architectural features. These features are being conserved or restored.



Escondido City Hall complex located at Grand and Valley Pkwy.
Built from adobe bricks with the help of WPA labor in 1937-38.

With the exception of the Dennison Harris home, all of the adobe homes on this year's tour are early Weir Brother's construction (pre-1960). For the Weir Brothers, each home was an individual project that took advantage of views and natural landscape. Most were constructed with adobe block made right on the property with native soil, and often carved into an existing citrus or avocado grove. Looking at the many details of these homes, one understands Jack and Larry Weir's love affair with the adobe home that began in 1951 when they moved their business to Escondido, with Larry Weir taking on much of the design work. Adobe block construction was not limited to the houses they built. Projects often included flower beds, garden walls, patios, outdoor barbeques and fireplaces, and ornamental walkways and edges around swimming pools. Some of these features have been restored or reconstructed to retain the original design and sense of place. Others have melted away with the weather.

Early San Diego adobes

The Native American Kumeyaay and Luiseno were first in the Escondido area to use adobe construction after its introduction by the Spanish. During California's Mexican rule, a small group of Kumeyaay families that had been trained in adobe construction at the San Diego Mission built their adobe homes in 1835 in the Pueblo de San Pasqual.

In 1843, Juan Bautista Alvarado received a 12,653-acre land grant named Rancho El Rincon del Diablo. Alvarado's grown children occupied the adobes on his rancho. During the American period, Judge Oliver Witherby purchased the rancho in 1853, initiating the construction of several adobe ranch structures. Located off San Pasqual and Bear Valley Road, over time the adobes fell into disrepair and were demolished in 1927.

Early revivals of the use of adobe as construction material took place throughout the region at various times in the 20th century. As the region experienced waves of rapid growth, adobe building continued. Built entirely from adobe block, Escondido's second city hall, a W.P.A. project, opened its doors on the city's 50th anniversary in 1938. It was later demolished in 1987.

Dennison E. Harris Adobe, 1946

Originally set on 110 acres of prime fruit-growing land, the property was developed by Dennison and Montez Harris, from Portland, Oregon. The ranch's design included a complex irrigation system with canals connecting ponds that fed into a reservoir. It also served as a swimming pool and could hold a small rowboat.

The home's initial phase began in 1939, while construction of the larger adobe portion began after WWII, in 1946. According to the Harris's grandson, "All of the adobe blocks were made on the original ranch property from clay soil located at the bottom of the hill on the west side of Mary Lane. My grandfather was very concerned about earthquakes and seismic activity. The footings were all much deeper than required by code."

Visitors will note the concrete floor tiles that were designed by Harris and brought from Mexico by him and his brother, who were raised in Chihuahua, Mexico. The home's design reflects a desire to replicate an authentic Mexican hacienda. Large cedar wood beams in the living room were part of a special order that came from Northern California, and all of the closets were lined with cedar. For his wife, Harris broke with tradition and installed state-of-the-art kitchen appliances.



Montez and Dennison Harris did not live long after the completion of the adobe addition; she passed in 1950 and he in 1951. The ranch was bequeathed to their six children and would be subdivided and sold in parcels over the next decades. Second owners Edward and Dorothy Whelan purchased the home in 1966 and lived in it for nearly 40 years. Mr. Whelan, a pharmacist, opened Whelan's Prescription Pharmacy in Hillcrest which he owned and operated for 27 years.

The current owners are the third keepers of this gem. Lower down on the property note the "granny flat" where the current homeowners' parents live; they have restored a number of adobe homes in the San Diego area and feel very much at home here!





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Almand Adobe,

This is a home that gardeners will delight in touring – leave plenty of time to walk the entire property. The current homeowners are landscape design/builders, so you'll come away with inspiration and useful ideas for hardscapes, eclectic repurposing of old garden equipment, pottery and antique shop finds, and a remarkable range of lush, low-water plants.

Entering the home, you'll pass through an inner courtyard with a pond-like swimming pool and a separate pool house behind it. Note the construction: The pool house was added in recent years using adobe façade bricks which match the home beautifully.

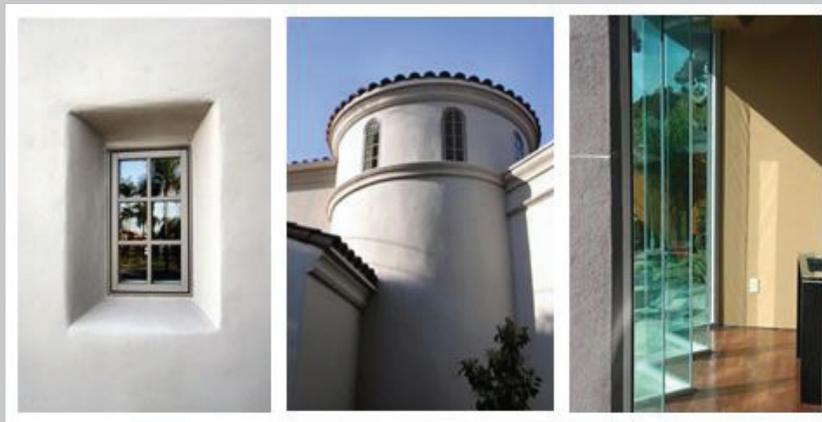
Be sure to explore the creatively furnished outdoor rooms: Look for the alfresco dining room, the outdoor pizza oven and the iron bed that the owners love to use on warm nights.

This home has had nine owners and the current family has restored the house with great care for its Weir Brothers roots, while taking it in a Mexican hacienda-inspired

direction. Note the varied wall treatments and use of stippled color, as well as the spots where the adobe brick is exposed. The current owner had the ceiling sand blasted to expose the reclaimed wooden pier planks, a Weir staple, because it's fully dried. "Wet" wood changes shape as it ages, which can cause adobe walls to crack. The rustic style of this adobe has its roots in a California Ranch style called rancheria, originally developed by Cliff May. The house has classic elements of heavy rafters, thick walls, Mexican tile floor pavers, entrances with glass doors for enhancing the California lifestyle of bringing the outside in by fitting the shape of the lot and taking advantage of views. Nestled in the lower reach of Quiet Hills, this house was constructed for the first homeowner, Peter Almand. A young contractor, Peter Almand and his wife Judith registered their deed in June, 1960. The Almand house was sold in 1967.



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Gallant Adobe, 1959

Located on an expansive five-acre lot in a semi-rural neighborhood, the Gallant Adobe, like many Weir homes, has an unassuming front side that doesn't prepare you for the breathtaking surprise once you enter the inner courtyard and look south. An angled ranch style, the design life-style intent was clearly indoor-out-door, with larger windows and entrances sited to take in the boulder garden, pool area and the wide open views beyond. The property extends down the hill, where the owners are creating distinct garden spaces for succulents, cacti and other drought-tolerant plants.



This section of Poway was slowly developed into a small, rural neighborhood called High Valley. First owners Mary and Andrew Gallant purchased a 10-acre parcel and later subdivided. A niece remembers making adobe blocks near the site of the home. (The Weirs often invited their clients and friends to participate in the adobe construction.) Civic-minded Mary was President of the Poway's Woman's Club in the 1970's when they launched an effort to build a Poway Community Center, while Andrew was active in a citizen's planning group that gave input for the Poway Planning and Development Program. Later, Gallants sold the home to Oceanside residents

Dean and Mildred Hart in 1972. This home has escaped three wildfires. In 1968, most of the area's homes were spared, though a large avocado grove was nearly destroyed. The 2003 and 2007 wildfires came close to destroying this home. The current owners purchased the house in 2009 and have furnished it in an understated, California style, including a beautifully remodeled kitchen. Original



elements such as built-in pine cabinetry and heavy exterior wood doors, unfinished exterior brick and steel casement windows maintain the integrity of the original design. Elements such as massive wood beam ceilings, concrete floors, a fireplace niche and window placement to maximize the view of Twin Peaks and the Poway valley give the home its unique character.

"People become romantically involved in their adobe homes. My home has character that you can't match with plaster or dry wall. When you walk into an adobe home, you want to sit down and put your feet up on the coffee table."

Architect Tom Hayward, an adobe champion, having designed 40 adobe homes including one for himself.

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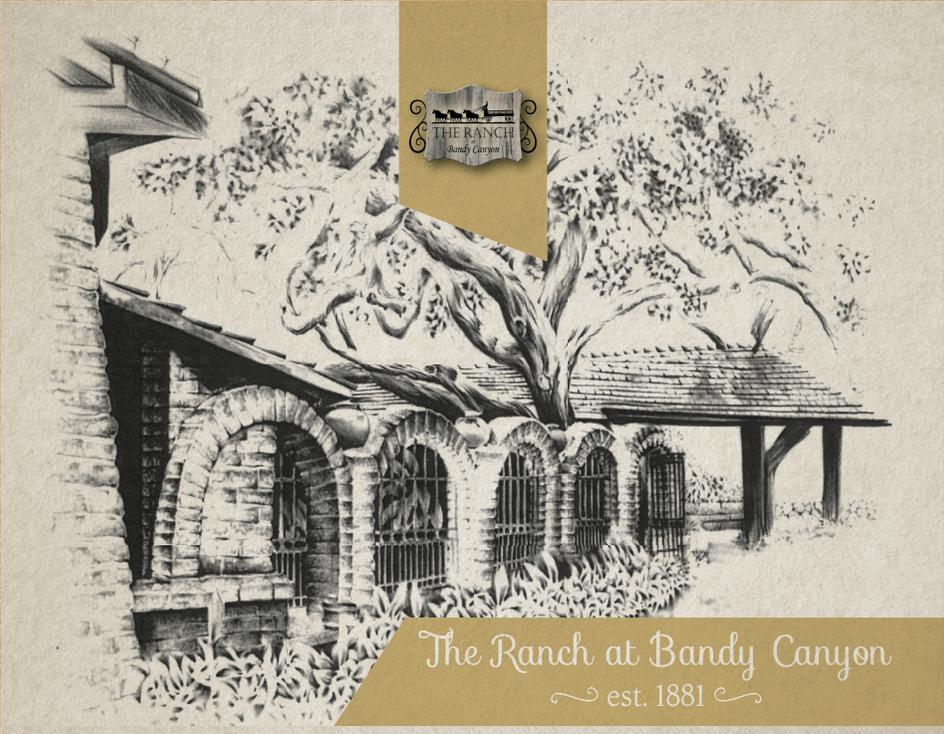


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Weir Brothers Adobe Home Design

The homes on the 2017 Adobe Home Tour were all constructed by the Weir Brothers between 1954 and 1972. A Weir home can represent different styles because the brothers, Larry and Jack, worked closely with each owner. Additionally, many signature features of a Weir adobe are rooted in the contemporary style of the decade in which they were built. Most adobe homes were primarily Ranch style, one of several subtypes of architecture style identified as Mid-century Modern. This architectural style dominated the American landscape from the mid-1940s into the early '70s.

The ranch house originated in California in the mid-1930s, taking its inspiration from the one-story adobe “rancho” buildings of the Spanish Mission. Elements of the ranch were borrowed from the Craftsman and Prairie styles of the early 20th-century. The rambling form of the ranch house – ideal for post-WWII/baby boomer families – necessitated a larger lot since many were built with an attached garage. Defining features include:

- Single-story construction
- Exposed ceiling rafters
- Wide eave overhangs
- Low-pitched roofs
- Large picture windows in living and view spaces
- Bits of Spanish Colonial revival

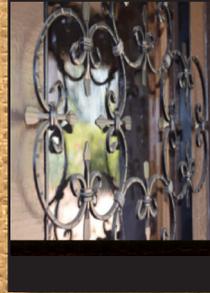
At the core, the Weir home was built in a ranch style as identified above, however, many Weir homes feature unique and eclectic elements, several of which are attributed to Larry Weir. These include:

- Rotundas
- Exposed beam ceilings constructed from salvaged materials
- Emphasis on outdoor living with verandas, patios and pools
- Whimsical designs such as small towers or rounded corners
- Wagon-wheel windows or skylights

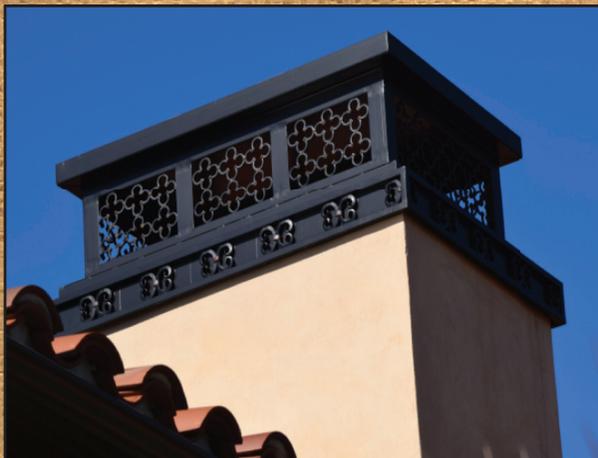


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Fenton Adobe Lodge / Bandy Canyon Ranch, 1958 16251 Bandy Canyon Road, Escondido, CA 92025

It's challenging to categorize the architecture of the Justine Fenton Adobe Lodge. Built in 1958, it's a bit of everything blended into its own creation, an adventure in custom building, a trademark of Larry Weir.



After the death in 1951 of her husband Henry Fenton – landowner, building material contractor and rancher – Justine commissioned the Weir Brothers for the construction of the lodge. She was 36 years younger than her husband and enjoyed the ranch for another half century.

The original idea was to remodel an old cookhouse, but it blossomed into an extensive project for the lavish parties and charity benefits for which Justine was famous. The lodge had no bedrooms; sleeping accommodations were in small camping cottages. Justine's personal quarters, the Queen's Cottage, would be lost in the 2007 Witch Creek fire.

In 1970, Justine hired Larry Weir to design additions to extend the dining space, patio and entertainment area. Weir came up with a mix of ultra-modern conveniences and the rustic nostalgia of the Old West. Visitors will note the “new” patio graced with a wall of arches and iron grillwork, a design reminiscent of the wall at the Mission Inn in Riverside, whose antiques were purchased by Mrs. Fenton for this project.



Note the enormous dining room table on a wine barrel base. The seven-foot circular terrazzo tabletop has a copper Lazy Susan that spins so that dishes may be passed around. Many Weir homes have similar dining tables.

Today Bandy Canyon Ranch is a venue for events just as in Justine's day, when she was involved with numerous organizations, including the San Antonio de Pala Asistencia. Justine Fenton passed away in 2001. The current owners remain committed to preserving the home and are committed to maintaining it as a resource for the community.

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Helen “Pat” Kennedy Adobe

Like many Weir design-builds, the Kennedy Adobe is sited on a hilltop with sweeping views of the area’s dramatic rocky hills above lush valleys. Entering through the front door, note the minimalist windows on the street side, then as you enter, the vast expanses of glass that brighten the home and bring the outdoors in with no loss of privacy. The Weirs were masters of site placement, and when they built more than one home in an area, made sure that neighbors were not looking into one another’s windows!



Every vintage homeowner’s dream is to inherit the original blueprints for their house, and such is the case here. The plans are dated 7/22/1955, and titled, Weir Bros. made for Helen “Pat” Kennedy. The following year, the San Diego Union announced the marriage of John Dean Kennedy and Helen Reeves Allen. John was employed by Astronautics, and later was an instructor at Convair.

Second owners Albert and Harriet Church, both of whom were active in the Escondido community, added the swimming pool and a small patio. In 1978 the house was sold to Harriet’s cousin, Virginia Thomas, and her husband, Ed, when the Churches could no longer care for the property. After nearly four decades, the Thomas family sold the house in 2016, leaving the original Weir Bros. floorplans and the landscaping plans. The current owner is the fourth, and he’s enjoying its original features such as steel casement windows, a craftsman brick fireplace that thankfully has never been painted over, and a ranch-style layout that places the two bedrooms on opposite wings of the home – comfortable for overnight guests. Out back, the pool area still has a low, curved adobe wall that kept splashing kids separate but easy to keep an eye on. Note the low, curved wall dropping from the roof, and look up to see the unique adobe chimney.





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Hotchkiss Adobe , 1962

This California Ranch adobe was built by the Weir Brothers at a time when wide-open spaces among old fruit groves were available to clients who sought a home constructed of adobe block. The two-bedroom house, sited on two acres, was the first to be built on this hill. The current owners, the home's fourth, have owned the property for 15 years and while restoring it, have stayed true to the fabric, style and artistry of the original construction.



Original owners Roland and Edra Hotchkiss moved to Escondido 1964. Roland had worked in Los Angeles as a detective assigned to high-profile cases, including the death of Marilyn Monroe in 1962. To build their retirement home, Hotchkiss purchased this entire hill, and

later sold off some parcels. The street is named Donee, the nickname of his wife. In 1965, Roland and Donee opened their home for an adobe home tour fundraiser for the Escondido Chapter of American Association of University Women.

Taking advantage of sweeping San Pasqual Valley views, all the walls facing east have large picture windows. The current owners have transformed the driveway area into vignettes of Southwestern water-wise gardens. The original flat-tile roof was replaced by the current owners, who combined salvaged original tile with new from Tecate, Mexico. As you enter the front door, note the ironwork grill that forms an "H" for Hotchkiss.

Note the flagstone and terrazzo flooring throughout the home, both signature Weir materials. The open-beamed ceiling has its origins in California's early ranch house and Mission construction, as well as mid-century. Off the dining area, note the wine room, formerly an office space. The kitchen was remodeled in 2005. Windows are wood trim inside and copper clad outside. The patio and pool area extend living spaces from indoors out to a gazebo bar and fountain. Look for six tiles with animal footprints hanging on the patio cover posts, salvaged from the original roof. Gardeners will love the terraced planting spaces out back, all low-maintenance landscaping, and the vegetable garden off the kitchen. The pool, original to the home, was remodeled in 2004.



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Office hours: Tue-Sat 10am-4pm

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