

# FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

A dual-focus house unites seemingly opposing styles



Contractor Jeff Fargo of Four by Four Construction installed a front door that melds modern with beach-cottage style to engage the first floor in a dialogue with the contemporary portion of the home's second floor. "It's not just traditional on the bottom and then contemporary on top," architect Jennifer Bolyn says.

The makeover agenda to add sleek, contemporary design to a humble cottage without losing the home's laid-back, quaint appeal may have seemed a tad ambitious, but architect Jennifer Bolyn took on the challenge with gusto.

"Samuel Mockbee, a well-known architect in Arkansas, did this playful language in his design that juxtaposed traditional vernacular and rural aesthetic with modern style," Jennifer says. "I thought about him when I was doing this project."

The real charm of the Solana Beach home rested in its covered front porch and the 75-year-old trumpet vine trailing overhead.

"The vine was hearty and not difficult to save," Jennifer says. "Also maintained was the location and style of the original French doors and the well-crafted stone porch floor and entry stairs."

Stepping back the second-floor addition and retaining the roof's pitch on the porch preserved the single-story front and kept the reference to the original architecture clear.

"Modern exterior materials of corrugated and standing-seam metals were played against a traditional board and batten, as well as tongue-and-groove siding to bring in a contemporary feel," Jennifer says.

For a twist on traditional cottage character and to inject more architectural language, Jennifer replaced undersized, square porch columns with rustic, 8-inch, double-round ones. For a richer, natural look, stained wood was used on the columns, the doors and three windows.

"We surface mounted those windows in a square pattern," Jennifer says. "Instead of recessing them, we lagged the windows on the wall face to create a shadow effect."



On the top level, installing siding horizontally and changing the roof's pitch to be more triangular added to the modern feel.

The dance between the two styles moved the home a step beyond its pure beach-cottage pedigree into dynamic, interactive design. ❖