

Poway home's remodeled kitchen is up for national design award

BY ELIZABETH MARIE HIMCHAK

Semi-retirees Steve and Barbara Velazquez said they enjoy hosting their large extended family in their Poway home.

But the frequent gathering spot, their relatively dark and dated kitchen, was not as hospitable as the rest of their Old World-styled home that has undergone several renovations over their 30 years there.

"We have a large family and host a lot of family functions at the house," Steve Velazquez said. "The kitchen is where everybody congregates ... so everything needed to be new and made nicer."

They decided to make a change — one that cost \$300,000 and took nearly a year.

Now their extensively remodeled kitchen is up for a national design award after winning the Southwest region honor in the "residential kitchens over \$150,000" category.

Jackson Design and Remodeling, based in Kearny Mesa, is vying for two Contractor of the Year awards presented by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. The winners will be announced on March 6. The other award is for a whole house remodel in La Jolla.

Tatiana Machado-Rosas, the company's design department head and senior interior designer, worked with the couple on the project at their Acacia Terrace home in Poway's The Palisades neighborhood.

"They have a beautiful home that is really elegant," Machado-Rosas said. "The kitchen they had before was very dated and had no relationship with the rest of the house. Besides looking 1980s, it had a very low 8-foot ceiling that had the feeling of walking in a little cave from the family room that had a huge ceiling.

"It was a contrast from the already remodeled family room ... but a bad proportion," she said. "The two spaces were not connecting."

She said she transformed the cabinets and space by raising the ceiling and expanding the kitchen into the backyard.

Planning began in September 2019 and construction in January 2020. It was finished in August 2020, about eight



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JACKSON DESIGN AND REMODELING

Steve and Barbara Velazquez's kitchen before its extensive remodel. They described it as dark and dated.

months later.

Barbara Velazquez said Machado-Rosas nudged them out of their comfort zone.

"Tatiana ... was able to utilize the space in the kitchen so well, in ways we couldn't imagine," she said. "She was absolutely right, she had a vision. ... We are absolutely thrilled."

Her husband agreed.

"Tatiana is an incredible person and designer who knows how to utilize space," Steve Velazquez said. He said the kitchen and other remodeling aspects made their home "1,000 percent more functional and beautiful. She had the creativity and vision."

While the expansion added 75 square feet on one side of the kitchen, Machado-Rosas said relocating its large island, changing the room's flow and other modifications gave the

SEE REMODEL, A22



The new kitchen at the Poway home of Steve and Barbara Velazquez. Features include the new barrel ceiling, tall cabinets, island and attached seating area.



Tatiana Machado-Rosas, senior designer at Jackson Design and Remodeling, with her design assistant Ivan Soto and homeowners Barbara and Steve Velazquez in the remodeled kitchen.



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Southern California Ballet to present 'Alice in Wonderland' after two-year delay

Shows are March 26 and 27 at the Poway Center for the Performing Arts

BY ELIZABETH MARIE HIMCHAK

For 18-year-old Lily Hofstetter, dancing the lead role in Southern California Ballet's upcoming "Alice in Wonderland" is a dream come true.

"I didn't expect it at all," Hofstetter said. "I'm super excited to dance it. It is more hours in the studio learning choreography. I love it as it is so much fun."

"Alice stays on stage almost the entire ballet," she explained. "There is not a lot of rest time."

Other than playing Clara in "The Nutcracker" at 11, the Westview High senior and Torrey Highlands resident said she has never had a lead role during her decade studying ballet at the Carmel Mountain Ranch studio.

Had the pandemic not occurred, she likely would never have danced as Alice on the Poway Center for the Performing Arts stage.

The ballet was scheduled for late March 2020 when Hofstetter was cast as the Alice understudy. But the show was postponed indefinitely when everything shut down on March 13. Two years later, Southern California Ballet can finally stage its original ballet set to a variety of music by Pyotr Tchaikovsky.

The delay meant roles had to be recast as



Misha MacGowan of Poway will dance as the White Rabbit on March 26.

dancers graduated, outgrew their original roles or advanced in skills making them eligible for new parts, said Toby Batley, Southern California Ballet's co-artistic director.

With the original Alice having graduated, Hofstetter was moved into the role. To give more students an opportunity for lead roles, Batley said the show is double cast with Hofstetter as Alice on March 27 and Emilia Wightlin as Alice on March 26.

Literally outgrowing a role is what happened to 16-year-old Misha MacGowan. Two years ago she was cast as the Dormouse. Batley said



PHOTOS BY VLADIMIR ZABEZHINSKY

Lily Hofstetter, a Westview High student, will dance as Alice on March 27.

MacGowan's height gain over the past two years made her too tall to still fit into the teapot. Her skills also advanced, so now she was cast as the highly energetic White Rabbit for March 26. The role will be portrayed by Zach Ong on March 27.

"The White Rabbit is really fun," said MacGowan, who has danced at SCB for 13 years. "It requires lots of jumps. Like a marathon, it needs so much stamina."

MacGowan said depending on the scene, the way she presents those jumps vary. Some are upbeat. Others are frantic because the rabbit is

Southern California Ballet's "Alice in Wonderland"

When: 7 p.m. Saturday, March 26

and 1 p.m. Sunday, March 27.

Where: Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Road.

Tickets: \$14 to \$48, with student, senior, group and military discounts available.

Buy at: tinyurl.com/SCB-Alice2022 or the PCPA box office at 858-748-0505 (noon to 5 p.m. Fridays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays).

Good to know: COVID protocols (including mask requirements for audience members) will be whatever is required by PCPA at the time of show. Check the PCPA website at powaycenter.com for details before arrival.

late.

Getting herself into the physical condition for the role requires a lot of rehearsing in and out of the dance studio. The Poway resident's classmates at Rancho Bernardo High have likely witnessed some of her jumps.

"I often practice at school, in the middle of the hallway," the RBHS sophomore said. "The

SEE BALLET , A27

FROM REMODEL , A10

appearance of doubling the kitchen's size even though in reality it grew by about 30 percent. The island had to not only provide functional work spaces, but places for the couple's family and friends to gather. A round seating area was added to the island.

"The challenge was to make it spatially proportional due to the very low ceiling contrasting with the high ceiling," she said.

The solution was having the kitchen's new barrel ceiling peak at 11 feet. She was able to raise the ceiling because it is a one-story house.

Machado-Rosas also incorporated other revisions, so the

entire remodel exceeded \$300,000. This work included replacing the flooring and repainting the family room. She also changed the back doors that previously made the room feel enclosed and dark.

"It opens nicely to the backyard, with natural light due to an added window," she said.

Wainscoting from the family room was extended into the kitchen so there would be a visual blend between the rooms, and the home's bar was turned into a walk-in pantry. She said a wine refrigerator was installed and storage system built.

A laundry room was also created, with storage and a sink where the couple can bathe their dog.

This is the 65th time the company is up for a Contractor

of the Year award in at least the past 14 years, according to Jackson Design and Remodeling spokespersons. For the kitchen category, judges consider factors such as the final design, aesthetics, site challenges and solutions used to overcome these challenges. It takes into account the project as a whole, not just the kitchen.

Machado-Rosas said this kitchen remodel was based on a very classic Tuscan design, with tall cherry cabinets, wrought iron corbels on the cooktop hood and natural stone elements to give an Old World elegant feel.

"They were delightful," she said of working with Steve and Barbara Velazquez. "They are really nice people who were very involved in every single detail."

FROM PAPER , A8

Property owners agreed to dedicate footage for the widening and our member of the Board of Supervisors was supportive. Federal funds were sought. News about the project would be featured prominently for the rest of the year, by which time construction had been approved.

The United States was in the midst of the Cold War with the USSR and there was a scattering of articles about the "Red" menace and civil defense. It had to be a relief when it was announced that San Diego had been removed from the list of likely targets, should "Mr. Kruschew have a hankering to drop a megaton bomb."

In May, Poway voters overwhelmingly voted for school "unification," combining existing elementary schools with the new Poway High, which had been part of the Escondido Union High School District.

There was celebration when Poway High captured the CIF Class A baseball championship with a team that included only three seniors, a hint of more success to come. Those three seniors would be among the 44 members of the school's first graduating class in June.

That same month, radio and television celebrity Art Linkletter lent his star power to the opening of the new Garden City development, located south of

Garden Road.

The Garden Road Baptist Church and Mt. Olive Lutheran Church both dedicated new buildings and Poway Rotary received its charter.

In October, the Chamber of Commerce launched a committee to study whether Poway would be best served by annexation to the City of San Diego, incorporation as a city or maintaining the status quo. Over the years, an attempt to annex would be rebuffed and an election on incorporation would fail once before being approved by the voters in 1980.

Traffic accidents, and all too many fatalities, were frequently in the news, along with reports of stray bullets in homeowners' yards, house fires and a variety of crimes. The closest sheriff's station was relocated from downtown San Diego to Vista, supposedly reducing two-hour response times. Having "our own" station was years away.

On a personal note, in September I began my "career" as a writer with a "From the Bleachers" column in the paper, covering Poway High School sports. My mother and I had been attending a summer league game and sat with the mother of one of the players, who complained that there was no sports coverage in the paper. "Oh, Mary could do that," Mom said. And so it began.

Shepardson is president of the Poway Historical and Memorial Society.



ART LINKLETTER looks up from an ad layout featuring the Poway development he has been promoting on his tv programs. Linkletter will appear personally in Poway Sunday afternoon to MC a Poway "house party."

In 1962, radio and television celebrity Art Linkletter promoted the new Garden City development in Poway.

COURTESY MARY SHEPARDSON