



THE 2010 CROCKER HIGHLANDS HOME & GARDEN TOUR OAKLAND, CA

When: Sunday October 3rd from 10 am -4 pm.

Where: Homes will be featured on Barrows, Carlston, Larkspur, Longridge, Sunnyhills, and Trestle Glen.

Tickets: Advance tickets are priced at \$40 each and are available through the Crocker Highlands Home and Garden Tour website - <http://www.crockerschool.org/hometour/>

Beneficiary of the Event: Through fundraisers such as this, the Crocker Highlands PTA raises \$200,000 each year to fund the salaries and equipment needed for the Physical Education, Music, Art, and Computer programs. The PTA also pays for a librarian, and discretionary teacher-directed projects and scholarships and programming for children at risk.

Attendance: Approximately 300-500 tickets are sold each year. Attendance includes residents of Oakland, Berkeley, Piedmont, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, San Francisco and other California cities.

Fundraising to date: More than \$90,000 has been raised from the two previous Home and Garden tours (2007 and 2008). The goal for the 2010 tour is \$60,000.

Historical Background: Founded in 2007 and followed in 2008 with the Shades of Green Home and Garden Tour, the 2010 Crocker Highlands Home and Garden Tour is the third tour to date.

Scope: The home and garden tour will showcase eight homes and gardens. Efforts are made to group homes into clusters that so that visitors can walk between homes. This not only keeps traffic and parking to a minimum, but also invites visitors to enjoy a popular Crocker past-time: strolling our beautiful tree-lined streets.

Some homes may be open in their entirety, while others have select rooms on view. Docents are assigned to each home to help guide visitors through in an orderly manner. Usually a walk through a home ends with a visit to the garden.

About the 2010 Homes and Gardens

- Built in 1928 and designed by architect Hamilton Murdoch, this 4,000 square foot corner-lot home is an example of the gracious standard of living that was typical of the Oakland Hills early in the century. It includes a butler's pantry, tea room, library, and piano alcove. The unusual layout is based on two wings, which allows the main rooms to have windows on three sides. The house is *an architectural gem, with copious period details including glass, wood, tile, and metalwork that have been carefully preserved.*
- A Mediterranean home designed by noted San Francisco Architect W.W. Dixon was built in 1929 just before the stock market crash. It features period details such as stenciled beams in the living room and intricate period ironwork on the stair railings. The current owners have lovingly restored the home, carefully preserving existing elements, and *going to great lengths to have new decorative features custom-made to suit the period style.* An extensive recent renovation includes a "forever" kitchen

designed to be timeless, historical, and personal. Custom tiles set the tone and color palette for several rooms, echoed most notably in the lavishly glazed cabinetry and beautiful terraced garden.

- Built in 1927, this property shows how a traditional house can be adapted to a contemporary taste and lifestyle. This home has a great street presence, with Mediterranean-style landscaping complete with potted plants and palm trees. The home also features many *generously-scaled arched windows, and an open-flow plan that was several decades ahead of its time*. It also offers a great indoor-outdoor living aspect, with upstairs balconies and a deck just off the kitchen.
- A 1925 Tudor including ogee arches throughout and leaded details on the windows. *The house has been renovated top to bottom by the current owners*, beginning with a new foundation and extending to designer furnishings, a custom-designed kitchen with a magnificent honed Carrara marble entertaining island, and an outdoor patio kitchen equipped with a dishwasher, warming drawers, and an Italian pizza oven. All the outdoor stonework, including a handsome outdoor fireplace, was built with salvaged cobblestones from 19th century San Francisco streets.
- Purchased twelve years ago as a “fixer” this house was so overgrown with ivy that the current owners didn’t even know they were buying a Tudor-style home. In the intervening years *every inch has been restored or rebuilt, a third level has been dug out of what was the basement, and the kitchen has been extended to include a banquette-style eating area with windows opening onto the surrounding garden*. The occupants have designed the home so that their two boys have plenty of room to play – including separate bedrooms, a media/game room, and a baseball cage on the large upper terrace behind the house. At the same time, the adult zones, which include the kitchen, dining room, living room, office, and lower garden, are maintained in a completely adult manner, featuring unpainted gum wood trim and decorated with rich colors and contemporary artwork.
- The oldest home on our tour this year is a charming cottage-style house was built in 1922 on an unusual triangular lot. The interior features high-beamed ceilings in the living room, restored molding, an updated kitchen with French doors leading to a brick patio. *The exterior features period landscaping with well-established plantings, combined with fresh accents and welcoming enclosed outdoor area. A vine-covered trellis, hanging plants, lanterns, and bird house complete the cheery country-style garden*.
- This tiny garden is pure flight of fancy. Inspired by a trip to Europe, the owners commissioned Enchanting Planting to recreate a French street scene, complete with doors, windows, and lanterns.
- This classic Crocker Highlands home has undergone extensive remodeling thanks to Architect Jack Backus, who designed a handsome master bedroom suite and charming upstairs guest bathroom two years ago. This year, Phase II of the project involved removing several interior walls and relocating the kitchen to create a new kitchen/family room living area overlooking the courtyard.
- Fall 2010 will see the unveiling of Phase I of Crocker Highlands new Edible Garden Outdoor Classroom. Designed by Tyrone Perry Landscaping, the school’s interior courtyard has been completely rebuilt with custom designed concrete raised beds, benches, and dining tables. The garden features fruit trees, a butterfly habitat, vegetables beds, and native plants, each of which has been integrated into the science, literary, and arts curricula. Phase II will include beautification with mosaics and other artworks created by the students. Built entirely with PTA moneys, this is an example of how funds raised by the Crocker Highlands Home and Garden Tour directly impact and enrich the educational experience of our neighborhood’s children.