



OPPOSING ELEMENTS

CONTRASTING STYLES SHAPE MODERN VIBE

BY SAMANTHA BEY

Architect Keoni Rosa had spent years designing other people's dream homes. In June 2017, he took the plunge on his own place, a humdrum 1940s house perched on 0.75 acres atop South Park's Juniper Canyon.

He started almost from scratch, taking the two-bedroom, one-bathroom, 1,500-square-foot house he purchased in 2008 down to the foundation and exterior studs. Then, doubling the square footage, he expanded the footprint north, south and west, designing an open-concept, modern layout with a den, office and garage on the lower floor, and the home's entrance, living space, three bedrooms and four bathrooms on the upper, main floor. He did the project himself, with the help of some subcontractors and structural engineer Evan Coles with Solid Forms Engineering.



EDUARDO CONTRERAS U-T PHOTOS

The kitchen, living and dining areas open completely to the covered deck overlooking Juniper Canyon in South Park. The lava rock tiles surrounding the fireplace add a masculine feel.

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EDUARDO CONTRERAS U-T PHOTOS

The walnut cabinets add warmth to the kitchen, which also has green backsplash tiles to tie in with the natural environment outside. A street-level patio on one side of the kitchen allows the breeze to blow through to the open deck on the other side.

South Park

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The main living space of the home he shares with his 12-year-old son and husband, John, is grandiose and welcoming with a distinctly masculine, modern vibe, with pleasing contrasts between warm and cold and hard and soft that continue throughout the house. The living room blends into the dining area and kitchen, where an enormous white Caesars-stone island defines the space. A vintage angular couch and large-scale contemporary paintings by local artists Robert Recht and Melanie Taylor Kent round out the modern vibe.

Rosa chose walnut cabinets for the kitchen and entertainment wall on the opposite side of the room. The wood and the lava rock, cut into smooth tiles to frame the fireplace, bring earthy elements in as a contrast to the stark white island and the porcelain tile flooring made to look like concrete. A green glass backsplash behind the stove ties the space in to the canyon views.



The house, which sits on a slope, has the main living areas and the bedrooms on the upper floor.

“We love that it’s modern, but still so warm,” Rosa said.

The great room opens completely to the outside with 40 feet of 10-foot-tall pocket sliding glass doors, allowing the space to expand to the 1,000-square-foot covered deck he built to the west overlooking the canyon. A large sliding door by the kitchen on the east side of the home also opens to a patio, bringing sweeping cross breezes through the home on hot

days. Rosa built steel fins into the concrete south wall of the deck that can be adjusted so air flows freely from all directions.

“We rarely need the AC,” Rosa said. “Canyon breezes get drawn in like a funnel when we want them to, but we can also close some of the doors or the fins and control how much air we get if it’s chillier.”

Rosa also loves the ease of entertaining in the space. “It’s so open and spacious; we’ll relax on

the open breezy patio but put a fire on inside to pull it all together.” Adding further warmth to the ambiance are the dimming lights on the underside of the walnut shelving surrounding the fireplace and wall-mounted TV.

Throughout the rest of the house, Rosa chose rich, dark honey-hued teak wood for the floors, and stuck with the concretilike porcelain tiles in the bathrooms.

The master bedroom has a deck that also looks out over the canyon to the west. A striking uplit manzanita tree is perched in the corner near the bed, bringing the earthy element into the bedroom. The large master bathroom boasts a stand-alone tub, rain shower, private toilet room, and large counter space, surrounded by the same walnut cabinetry found in the living room and kitchen.

“I wanted it to be a masculine look that was very clean, but also very warm. And I really like the consistency of elements throughout the house. Rather than experiment with trendy patterns, I wanted it to be time-

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EDUARDO CONTRERAS U-T PHOTOS

The master bedroom has its own deck overlooking the canyon. Teak wood floors as well as a manzanita in the corner of the room help bring natural elements into the room.

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less,” Rosa said.

The consistency carries through to the home’s exterior, where Rosa used white stucco and rusted steel columns and panels, lava stone tiles, an oversized aluminum front door with a large glass panel that allows sightlines through to the canyon, and a garage door with a walnut wood appearance. The reclaimed wood fencing along the sides of the home and groupings of succulents throughout the property, again contrast the natural with the industrial.

“I love helping people create their dream homes,” Rosa said, “and it was such a joy to finally get to do my own. After finishing the home in June 2018, he now also uses it as a showroom for his clients. “I get to show them all the textures and materials and show them how a vision for their home can come to life.”

Samantha Bey is a freelance writer based in Coronado.



Large-scale paintings add a modern touch to architect Keoni Rosa’s home he shares with his husband and 12-year-old son. The glass door provides sightlines to the canyon from the front.