



FEATURED
May
2013

↑ Best Statement Piece

NEIGHBORHOOD: Rancho Santa Fe
DESIGNERS: Homeowners Greg Koch and Sara Tobin
WHAT WE LOVE: We can't think of a finer place to sit and watch the sunset than in this natural wood rocker. (Beer in hand, of course!)

As CEO and co-founder of Stone Brewing Co., Greg Koch has built an empire, and helped make San Diego the most famous craft brewing city in the world. But at the house he shares with Sara Tobin, life is quiet and serene—just the way they like it. The couple's scenic perch on one of the home's decks faces mostly west toward San Elijo Lagoon and overlooks part of the garden, which has orange, avocado, lime, lemon, plum, and apple trees. Koch (pronounced "cook") bought the property in 2007, from its original owner and architect, Daniel Salerno. Soon thereafter, he traveled to Chiang Mai, Thailand, to buy furniture. The rocker is made of natural, weathered driftwood. "I loved the uniqueness of it!" he says. "It's a great conversation piece." Koch shipped back a 40-foot container filled with similar items that were "appropriately harvested" and made from trees that fell during a public works project to widen a river. "They weren't felled for their wood; they were saved for their wood."

Get the look



Can't make it to Thailand? This driftwood coffee table from Crate & Barrel offers a similar aesthetic (\$699).



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← Best Use of Wallpaper

NEIGHBORHOOD: Solana Beach
WHAT WE LOVE: The bold colors turn nondescript hallways and walls into works of art.

Wallpaper has made a major comeback. Case in point: the Solana Beach home of Shannon Lerach and Todd Murphy. "I knew I'd want to wake up every day to something that made me happy and inspired me," explains Murphy, an artist and DJ by trade. Together, the couple worked with Sol Quintana Wagoner of Jackson Design & Remodeling to realize their vision. They were thrilled when they discovered NYC-based wallpaper company Flavor Paper. Now almost every room in the house has a statement wall with a different pattern on it. "We didn't just want to cover our walls with stuff," Lerach says. The upstairs hallway mural is called Undertow, designed by Steve Ellis. In the converted garage and man cave, photo wallpaper of the Brooklyn Bridge gives Murphy's office serious street cred.



BEHIND THE DESIGN



Sol Quintana Wagoner
 Jackson Design and Remodeling

Why it works

The wallpapers evoke life experiences the homeowners have shared, including vivid sunsets like the one in the upstairs hallway.

Get the look:

Surfer (510 D-5)
 by Behr



Brooklyn Bridge Wall wallpaper, designed by Boone Speed and Jon Sherman, available at flavorpaper.com

Designer tips

→ Wallpaper is a great way to introduce the "WOW" FACTOR into any space. Today's patterns offer unlimited possibilities.