

# Arch Street: A story

I have loved and lived at 1345 Arch Street since 1988. We moved into a funky brown shingle home with a 3-year-old, a 7-month-old and a baby on the way.

The vision was immediate. This was going to be the Berkeley Brown Shingle of my dreams. I lovingly restored everything you see here in conjunction with **Artistic License**. The house was taken down to the studs and reimaged as an arts and crafts revival.

On the first floor, all cabinetry was designed and built with exquisite attention to detail (note the Z joints at the ceiling). **Erik Kramvik** and **Bill Eichenberger** designed and built the cabinets and mantels. The walls in the dining room are hand stenciled and designed by **David Dunning** of **Magic Brush**. All faux finishes were done by **Magic Brush**. Fireplace tiles were sourced from **Fulper** tiles in Ohio. Dining room ceiling fixture by **Sue Johnson**.

This house is an ideal family home with lots of rooms and space. Over the years, bedrooms were exchanged, family rooms moved around and guest rooms always available. Our au pair lived upstairs when she cared for the children and later with her husband as we became an extended family. Thanksgiving and holidays frequently saw 25 people around tables for dinner, as well as fifteen 6 year olds eating cake. We have had weddings, graduations, and scores of birthday parties.

The yard had many iterations as it grew with the family. We had swing sets, wading pools, sandboxes and of course the obligatory redwood fort set. Dogs, reptiles, fish and birds populated our lives here. I actually had an aviary in the yard and bred parakeets and canaries. If you go up the block to Rose and Scenic, you will be delighted by an outdoor parakeet cage, and further up there are chickens and ducks. These were a constant source of amusement on our family strolls around the neighborhood.

The **Codornices Park**, a Berkeley landmark, and its 40-foot slide is just up the hill (bring or find cardboard!) as is the rose garden. **Live Oak Park** is just down the hill. There are too many convenient amenities all within walking or stroller distance to list. I think our family single handedly supported **Peet's** and **The Cheeseboard**. I can't imagine the pounds of pasta we ate at **Lo Cocos**, a North Berkeley landmark. Adult nights out were spent at the many restaurants just a short walk down the block, including the beloved **Chez Panisse**.

I specifically chose this wonderful location for the walkability score and the amenities for our family of children. It is with mixed emotions that I leave Arch Street. This house is/has been well loved and I am hopeful that someone will love it just as much as we have.

*—Michelle*