

# THE *Reinke* FAMILY HOME

## ADAPTS FOR THREE GENERATIONS

**WHEN LONGTIME CLAREMONT HOMEOWNERS, ALAN AND KAT REINKE, DECIDED TO MOVE, YOU WOULD THINK THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN A BIT SAD TO LEAVE THEIR FAMILY HOME OF 35-YEARS, BUT AS IT TURNS OUT, THEY WERE GLAD! THEIR ELDEST SON NAT REINKE AND HIS WIFE SLOANE ARE NOW THE PROUD OWNERS OF THE FAMILY HOME, MAKING THEM THE THIRD GENERATION OF REINKES TO OCCUPY ONE OF TUNNEL ROAD'S GRAND, HISTORIC HOMES.**

Alan's parents, Albert Reinholt Reinke and Florence Stratton Reinke, moved into the house in 1942. Soon after Alan's youngest sister was born, Albert passed away. A young widow with three children, Florence survived by renting rooms to UC Berkeley students. Many years later, Alan and his wife Kat, moved into the home with their two young boys. It was around 1980 and living just around the corner, I personally remember how excited I was to hear the news since my husband Fred and I had two young boys of our own at the time.



(L to R) Nat Reinke, with mother and father, Kat and Alan Reinke, wife Sloane Reinke, and the family dogs Cooper and Kodiak (laying down).

### meet your neighbors

By Julie Nachtwey  
Photos by Andree Duggan

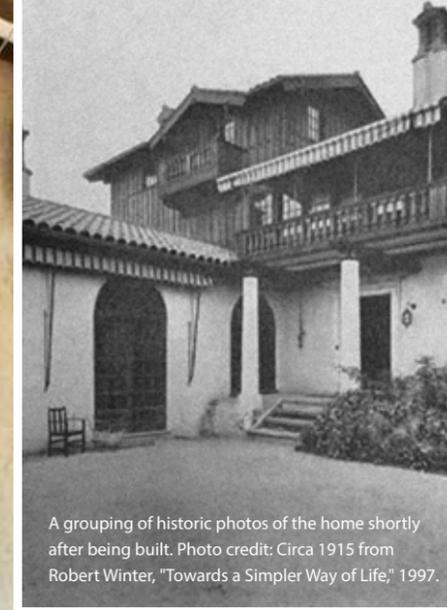
Alan remembers that there were dividing walls going every which way for the tenants when he and Kat purchased the home. Of course, they had to be removed. It seems each successive generation has its own ideas about how to improve the home. Alan felt his mother Florence had saved all the work for him. Nat laughs when he hears that story and says, "My dad has been saving all the work for me!"

Alan and Kat have fond memories of raising their two sons in the home, which sits on a large, 1-acre

lot on the corner of Tunnel and Bridge Roads. They recall entertaining friends and family in the large, double-tiered, elegant living room. The house was built in 1914 and designed by Henry H. Gutterson, who studied architecture under John Galen Howard at UC-Berkeley. The Dutton House, as it's called in architectural heritage circles, "demonstrates Gutterson's willingness to design for the programmatic needs of his clients. In this case, the client wanted a performance stage. Gutterson designed the living room so it could double



Nat and Sloane Reinke, the 3rd generation occupants.



A grouping of historic photos of the home shortly after being built. Photo credit: Circa 1915 from Robert Winter, "Towards a Simpler Way of Life," 1997.



The historic family dining room with original flooring, paneling, windows, and doors opening to the front patio.



A close-up view of the living room's upper tier performance area, now sitting room. You can see this room from the exterior historic photo. This room looks down into the living room.



Master bathroom with an airy glimpse to the Bay thru the tall redwoods.

as a theater by providing staircases at either end of a raised section that is used as the stage. The stairs at either end provide the stage exits. Gutterson's penchant for incorporating the garden into his homes is seen in the provision for the living room and dining room to open to the garden through various sets of doors.<sup>1</sup> Alan says that the living room and grand pianos have gone hand in hand from the very beginning.

Nat loves the house and always dreamed of living here and raising his own family. As a child, he mostly loved the expansive outdoor spaces. Vicente Creek in the front meanders down the canyon from Grand View. Nat remembers exploring the hillside with his brother Peter and their friends. They gave names for their secret places along the way. He says the route was sometimes a jungle of blackberry bushes (and poison oak). Kat recalls ●●●



Sitting area at the top of the stairs.



Kodiak seems very proud of his new doggie niche by the back door, complete with name tags for he and Cooper.



Fun upgrades to kitchen include a quaint herb rack.

...

how the boys would roam for hours in the forests along the backsides of the homes bordering Tunnel Road.

Nat has already planned several improvements to the property. And while Nat focuses on the outdoors, Sloane is busy leading interior improvements. In just one month, the couple has painted the walls, fixed up the stairwell sitting niche, refreshed the dining room and pantry, completely renovated the kitchen and attached powder room, refinished the floors in parts of the home, and perhaps most importantly, have created an adorable doggie area for the family's beloved Golden Retrievers, Kodiak and Cooper. Here too is a bit of tradition, with Cooper, the older Golden, belonging to Alan and Kat, and Kodiak, the younger, belonging to Nat and Sloane.

We're still neighbors and it will be fun to see how the house and property once again transform to meet the needs of the next generation of Reinkes.

## LANE McNAB INTERIORS

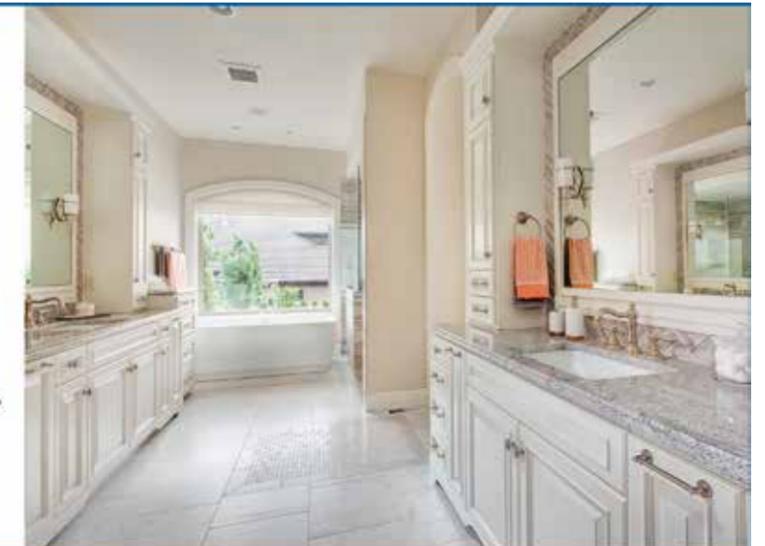
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