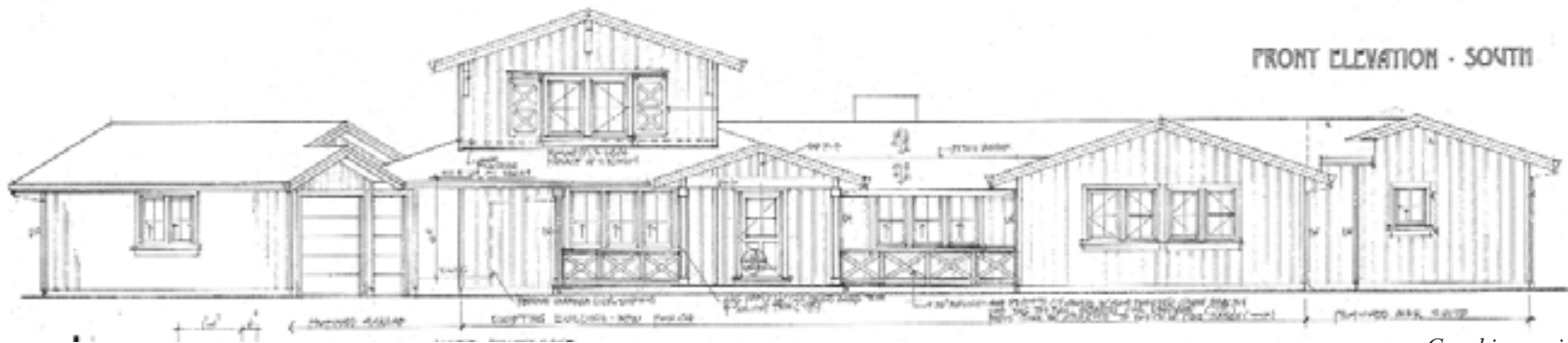


From "Fixer" to Farm Fresh

...continued from page D4



Graphic provided

For Soto, who loves decorating, the fun comes as she restores "a bit of history" in an area where farm houses and orchards once were common.

One challenge the two faced was complying with setback requirements, since the house sits at an angle on the property. Expanding the footprint was a trial and error process McClain referred to as "a Gordian knot."

In the end Soto and McClain claimed a five-by-five foot bump-out in the kitchen for a seating nook and expanded the house 11 feet along the front. Amid

the challenges, McClain said he enjoys the "new house smells" of lumber, carpet and paint.

The two plan a second local joint remodel in 2014, although Soto and McClain say "finding the next property" is its own challenge. Soto confided, "This is my dream house."

"Every house we fix is your dream house!" McClain said quickly.

**AFTER YEARS
OF HELPING
OTHERS MOVE,
IT WAS TIME
FOR A MOVE
OF MY OWN.**

ORINDA

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Amy Rose Smith
Village Associates
Realtor DRE #01855959
Cell #925-212-3897
amy@amyrosesmith.com
www.amyrosesmith.com
www.iloveorinda.com

AMYROSESMITH