



Cynthia Brian's Digging Deep

... read on Page D16

Lafayette remodel features French façade and new front entry



The new front entrance with its French touch

Photo provided

By Jennifer Wake

It's a well-known fact among those in real estate circles that curb appeal can be the difference between a home selling quickly or sitting on the market. Orinda architect Rick Kattenburg, of Kattenburg Architects, says when homeowners consider a remodel, they recognize the front entry as the key part of the overall design. Soon after Steve Umberger acquired a residence in Lafayette,

he decided to upgrade the front façade by adding more symmetry and a French touch. He contacted Orinda resident Bill Hinkamp of Rockridge Builders who partnered with Kattenburg to create the design and finish the project.

The original plan had an awkward indirect entry through a small covered porch that hid the actual door into the house, said Kattenburg. "The owner disliked the way it was. The opening of the original entryway went straight into a dingy porch area. Now it

has a different use." The remodel also extended the distance between the garage and the front door.

"We added three new double inward opening French doors with wrought iron railings above the relocated lower floor windows and the new entry door," Kattenburg said. "We upgraded the existing Mansard roof with new slate shingles, copper gutters and trim, and ran crown moldings below the roof soffit.

... continued on Page D4