

HOME & DESIGN

MAKEOVER

Now able to go with the flow

By Emily Young

Almost everything about Alison and Jeff Goad's longtime Manhattan Beach home seemed like an argument for moving.

To work, Jeff had to set up his desk and two computers in the kitchen because there was no room for a home office elsewhere. To play, the couple's three children had to traipse through the master bedroom to get to the backyard. The cramped quarters also meant that entertaining wasn't an option, plus there was the constant noise and lack of privacy that came with being on a corner lot near a busy intersection.

"We knew we couldn't keep living in it the way it was," Alison says.

So why did they stay and remodel? Three words: Alison's younger brother. He happens to be Ed Ogosta, an L.A.-based architect who'd spent several years at three local firms overseeing office, multi-family and museum projects and who, at the time, had recently launched his own practice.

Although Ogosta was eager to tackle the redo and present it as a future calling card, the Goads — she's a dental hygienist and he's a pharmacy professor — were initially cautious about hiring him. More accustomed to traditional design styles, they wondered if they would like his aesthetic, which skewed more modern. And, after having dealt with a laid-back contractor in the past, they were surprised by his exacting hands-on approach, down to deciding door knobs and drawer pulls.

"I knew this house had to be great if it was going to propel my career forward, so I think I cared about it even more than they did," Ogosta jokes in his defense.

For their part, the Goads gradually came to trust Ogosta, reasoning that *he* was the experienced architect, after all. As Alison put it: "We decided to give him creative rights as long as he gave us the rooms we wanted."

Ogosta delivered what he promised, turning the couple's overcrowded 1950s bungalow into a sleek, spacious refuge. This was no mere renovation, but a total transformation. Even so, it proved to be more practical and affordable for the Goads than trading up in Southern California's real estate market.

Receiving a sibling discount on Ogosta's fee was nice, of course, but even more important was the cost-saving design strategy.

He planned the remodel so that he could demolish only the front of the 1,300-square-foot house and leave the existing master suite, two other bedrooms and the garage intact.

This made way for a dramatic 1,000-square-foot, double-height addition to the common living areas. Under a flat roof, open living, cooking and dining areas flow enticingly from the entry toward a rear courtyard equipped with a grill, fire pit and fountain in the shade of a huge Italian stone pine.

By eliminating an old bay window along one street and relocating the front door along the other, Ogosta was able to line an inside wall with cabinets that provide much-needed storage as well as a visual and acoustical buffer from passing traffic. Clerestory windows wash the interiors with sunlight and frame the tops of neighborhood palm trees. A compartment built into cabinets behind the sofa conceals Jeff's fold-out home office.

"I had never been in a house like this," Jeff says. "It's amazing."

The nearby beach's sea walls, coastal grasses and driftwood inspired the neutral palette of low-maintenance materials. The exterior is white plaster punctuated by vertical fins of cement board that wrap around a corner of the building. Low board-formed concrete garden walls set off the house from the sidewalk. Inside, polished concrete floors, white oak built-ins, white quartz counters and white marble tabletops make for a minimalist backdrop to the large parties and holiday gatherings Alison is able to host now that she has the extra space and an open floor plan.

In addition to improving the home's appearance and enlarging the space, Ogosta made it function more sustainably. Photovoltaic solar panels power energy-efficient appliances and recharge two electric cars in the net-zero project. Folding glass doors and skylights let in cool ocean breezes and natural light. Decomposed granite, gravel and drought-tolerant plants replaced lawn.

The house, which has won awards from the American Institute of Architects, continues to elicit compliments from visitors — and praise from the Goads.

"There was a lot of pressure on Eddie," Alison quips about her kid brother. "If this didn't go well, this house could have messed up the rest of our lives forever."



Photographs by JAY L. CLENDENIN Los Angeles Times

A 1950s bungalow owned by Jeff, left, and Alison Goad was redesigned by her brother, Ed Ogosta, center. Daughter Emma is at right.



THE FRONT is new after demolition, but a master suite, two bedrooms and a garage were kept.



AQUA-COLORED TILE by Heath Ceramics lends a beachy vibe to a powder room.

‘We decided to give him creative rights as long as he gave us the rooms we wanted.’

— ALISON GOAD, who entrusted the redesign of her 1950s bungalow to her brother, L.A.-based architect Ed Ogosta



GIVEN AN OPEN PLAN, the house flows from living room to kitchen and keeps going past fold-open doors to a back patio.



FOLDING DOORS by LaCantina open the living room to the outdoors and ocean air. Charlie enjoys it all from the couch.

This is where it all started



Photographs from Edward Ogosta Architecture

THE ORIGINAL layout felt boxed in, and a bay window seemed old-fashioned. The crowded kitchen had to double as an office.



IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

ROGER SANDOVAL, 60, is afraid he might have to close his Shell gas station in Trona, Calif., which suffered major damage to its holding tanks in the recent 7.1 magnitude quake that struck in the Mojave Desert.

Ridgecrest quake packed the power of 45 nuclear bombs

Despite temblor’s strength, towns were spared from the worst

BY RONG-GONG LIN II

When the magnitude 7.1 earthquake ruptured the earth in the Mojave Desert, it packed the energy of 45 nuclear bombs of the type that fell on Hiroshima.

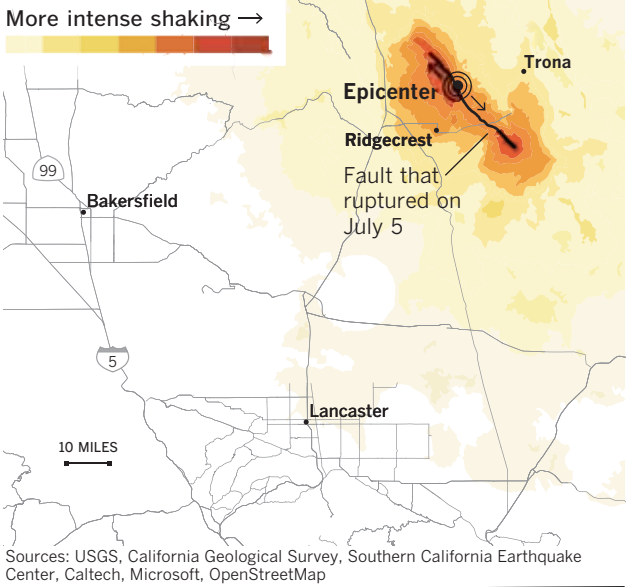
But a variety of factors lessened the potency and impact of what was the most powerful Southern California earthquake in nearly two decades.

The massive temblor, it’s important to note, ruptured on a fault whose northwest-southeast direction pushed the worst shaking away from populated areas.

The area Ridgecrest sits in is riddled with faults — in the Eastern California Shear Zone — that have produced some of the state’s biggest quakes in the modern record, like the magnitude 7.5 Owens Valley earthquake of 1872 and the magnitude 7.3 Landers earthquake in 1992.

A glancing blow

The magnitude 7.1 Searles Valley earthquake that ruptured in the Mojave Desert on July 5 sent the worst shaking to sparsely populated areas.



ZACH LEVITT Los Angeles Times

But this particular fault packed its biggest punch either toward the Sequoia National Forest to the northwest or largely uninhabited expanses of the Mojave Desert. The most populated area that got the worst shaking was Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, which was right on top of the fault rupture and saw damage to its elementary school.

Northern Los Angeles County would have experienced more shaking had the quake occurred on a fault with a different tilt. For example, a rupture on the nearby Garlock fault, one of California’s faster-moving faults that runs on a northeast-southwest alignment, would be capable of directing heavier shaking to areas like Bakersfield and Ventura County.

“If this earthquake had been on the Garlock fault, then, yeah, Bakersfield, the [See [Quake](#), A8]

Labor chief quits over criticism of Epstein plea deal

Prosecutors had challenged Acosta’s account of the 2008 sex crimes settlement with financier.

BY CAROLINE S. ENGELMAYER AND NOAH BIERMAN



ANDREW HARNIK Associated Press

PRESIDENT TRUMP praised R. Alexander Acosta, but didn’t say if he had asked him to stay.

WASHINGTON — Embattled Labor Secretary R. Alexander Acosta announced his resignation Friday amid mounting criticism of a lenient plea deal he struck with a now-convicted sex offender while Acosta was a federal prosecutor in Florida.

Acosta’s departure, which takes effect next week, means acting secretaries will head four major federal departments. He is the 11th Cabinet official to quit or be forced out, several under ethical or legal clouds, since President Trump took office.

Trump told reporters that Acosta had called him Friday morning to resign, adding, “It’s his decision.” Acosta said he wanted to avoid becoming a distraction to the administration so it could focus on the economy.

The resignation came two days after Acosta held a news conference to try to save his job by defending the plea agreement he negotiated in 2008 with Jeffrey Epstein, a wealthy financier, when Acosta served as U.S. attorney in Miami.

The news conference was aimed in part at persuading a president who is happy to gin up his own controversies but tends to resent bad publicity caused by underlings. Acosta’s effort to absolve himself of responsibility failed after prosecutors in Florida publicly challenged his account.

On Friday, Trump praised Acosta but did not say he had tried to persuade him to stay.

“I do not think it is right and fair for this administration’s Labor Department to have Epstein as its focus,” Acosta said as he stood [See [Acosta](#), A8]

CITY LOSES ITS APPEAL FOR LAPD FUNDING

Justice Department’s grant rules do not unfairly punish police in ‘sanctuary’ cities, 9th Circuit decides.

BY MAURA DOLAN

When Los Angeles police officials requested \$3.125 million in federal funds in 2017 to hire 25 officers, they said their focus would be on “building trust and respect” through community policing.

In keeping with long-standing city policy, they did not cite “illegal immigration” as a focus for the new officers or indicate that the proposed hires would work with immigration agents to help deport immigrants being held in local jails.

The grant money went elsewhere, and Los Angeles sued, saying it was being punished for its stance.

A federal appeals court rejected that lawsuit Friday, ruling 2 to 1 that the Trump administration may give preference in awarding grants to police departments that help federal authorities nab immigrants.

The ruling by the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals was a setback for Los Angeles, which won a nationwide injunction against the grant application process last year.

Los Angeles City Atty. Mike Feuer said the city [See [Grants](#), A10]

Vietnam’s a winner in U.S.-China trade war

BY DAVID PIERSON

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam — The requests that textile factory manager Huynh Thi Ai Diem receives are almost always the same: A foreign company is desperately trying to relocate production from China to Vietnam. Tariffs imposed by the U.S. have eaten away its profit margin. Can she help?

Huynh would like nothing more but is swift to provide a reality check. She only has enough workers, raw materials and factory space to produce one-fifth the volume of bath towels and apparel churned out by her chief competitors in China. Her prices are competitive, she says, but contrary to popular belief, they aren’t cheaper than those of her Chinese rivals.

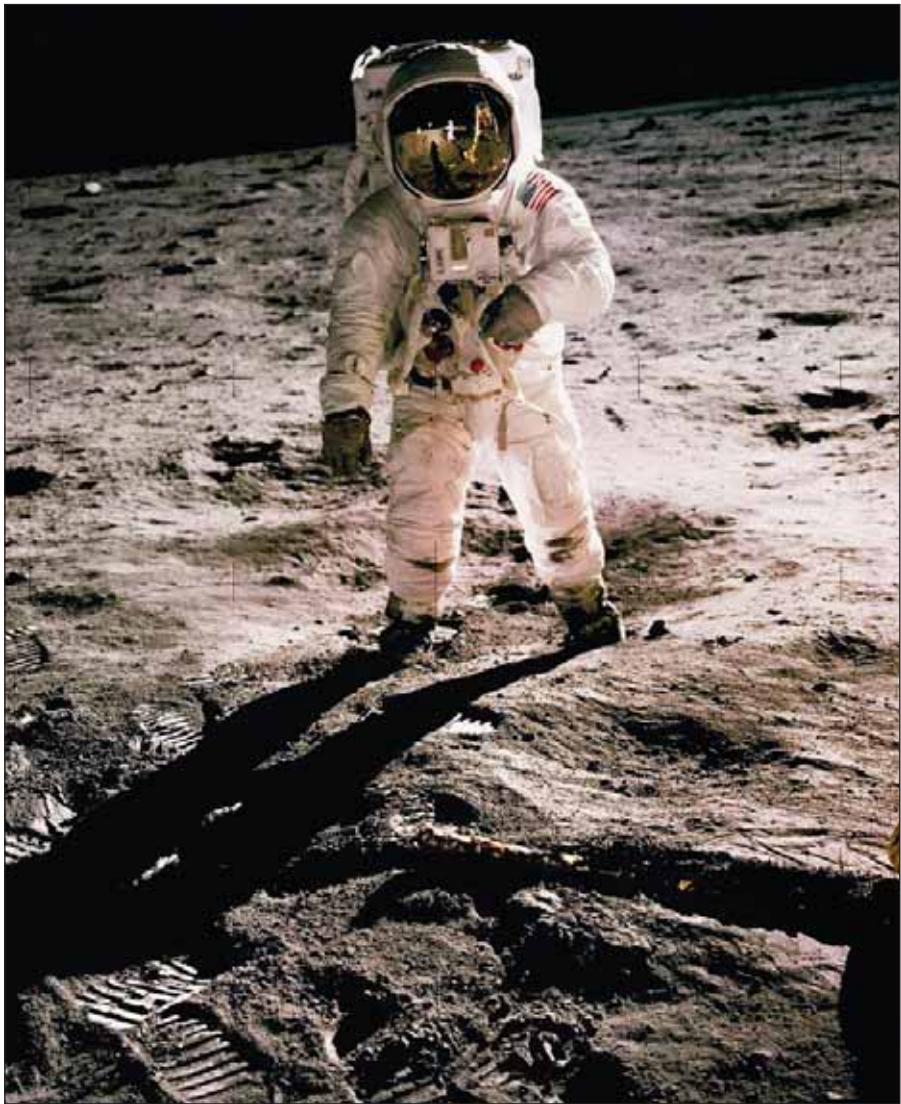
“Our prices are reasonable and we can deliver good quality, but we can only take small orders,” said Huynh, a manager at Phong Phu, a 54-year-old manufacturer.

Few countries have benefited more than Vietnam from the year-old trade war between the United States and China. Companies, already under pressure from rising production costs in China, have been scrambling to identify factories to work with in the Southeast [See [Vietnam](#), A4]

COLUMN ONE

Moon’s allure still resonates

50 years after Apollo 11, legacy of lunar landing is undeniable



NEIL ARMSTRONG NASA

BUZZ ALDRIN on the moon on July 20, 1969. The photo was taken by fellow astronaut Neil Armstrong, whose reflection can be seen in Aldrin’s helmet.

BY DAVID SHRIBMAN

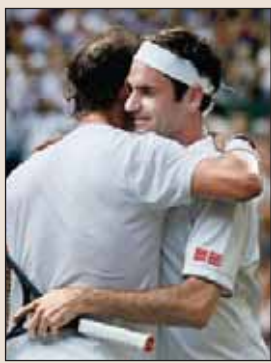
Loudon Wainwright Jr., father and grandfather of songwriters and musicians, was a prominent literary balladeer of 1960s culture, and — just as Americans might tire of 50-year commemorations of humankind’s greatest space adventure — he felt a creeping sense of tedium, almost boredom, at Cape Kennedy as he awaited the launch of Apollo 11.

But the night before the liftoff, Wainwright heard this observation:

“What we will have attained when Neil Armstrong steps down upon the moon is a completely new step in the evolution of man. For the first time, life will leave its planetary cradle, and the ultimate destiny of man will no longer be confined to these familiar continents that we have known so long.”

Those words were spoken by Wernher von Braun, and they jolted Wainwright, stirred him, as he put it in a Life magazine essay, “in ways that no amount of engineering brilliance, astronomical competence, and the cool confidence of the entire Apollo project ever could.”

Consider what we know now since Armstrong fulfilled President John F. [See [Moon](#), A6]



ADRIAN DENNIS Pool Photo

A Wimbledon win for the ages

Roger Federer, right, with Rafael Nadal after beating him in the semifinals. Federer, 37, faces defending Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic in the final; he could become the first man over 30 in the Open era to win five Grand Slam titles. **SPORTS, D1**

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MARIAH TAUGER Los Angeles Times

ANA LILIA, holding burning sage, leads breathwork: a mix of breathing exercises and guided meditation. Why breathwork? “It makes me feel better,” she says.

SPIRITUAL QUEST

Millennials are turning from organized religion, toward crystals and meditation

By JESSICA ROY >>> *I love myself.* ¶ *I am beautiful.* ¶ It was an unseasonably chilly night for June in Los Angeles. About three dozen people, mostly women in their 20s and 30s, were spending their Friday evening lying on yoga mats on the back patio of a shop a few blocks from Hollywood Forever Cemetery and the Paramount Pictures lot. Attendees had been invited to bring whatever they needed to make the space cozy: Blankets. Pillows. Crystals. ¶ *I am powerful.* ¶ Ana Lilia was leading them in affirmations, closing out a 90-minute breathwork session celebrating the summer solstice. ¶ *I am a bright light.* ¶ *I am ready to be seen.* ¶ Most days, Lilia works with individual clients. In the evenings, she teaches classes or puts on events, such as the solstice gathering. She first got into breathwork four years ago and started taking classes to become a teacher six months later. If you’ve never done it before, it’s a mix of breathing exercises and guided meditations meant to relax you and help connect with your thoughts — a cross between the last 10 minutes of a yoga class and a therapy session that takes place entirely in your head. ¶ She’s one of a growing number of young people — largely millennials, though the trend extends to younger Gen Xers, now cresting 40, and down to Gen Z, the oldest of whom are freshly minted college grads — who have turned away from traditional organized religion and are embracing more spiritual beliefs and practices like tarot, astrology, meditation, energy healing and crystals. ¶ And no, they don’t particularly care if you think it’s “woo-woo” or weird. Most millennials claim to not take any of it too seriously themselves. They dabble, they find what they like, [See **Spiritual**, F5]

HOW TO PREPARE
FOR WHEN THE
BIG ONE STRIKES
HOME & DESIGN



Getty Images

WEST ADAMS? YES!
FOUR HOURS

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WE ARE NOT KEEPING UP
WITH OUR AGING POPULATION

Pledge to protect our older adults.

15%

OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY
IS OVER 65 YEARS OLD

BY 2050 THE PERCENTAGE
WILL DOUBLE TO

30%

AGE ON.
RAGE ON.™