

March 05, 2024

Re: 4601 Chiappero Trail renovations

David and Emily Tucker:

Thank you for recently sharing your latest remodel/renovation plans for our old family home at 4601 Chiappero Trail in Austin that you purchased from us a couple of years ago.

We can see that you have again invested considerable time, energy, and passion into your plans to modernize the home to accommodate your family's needs, while paying tribute to our father's original 1960 Mid Century Modern design.

We especially are in favor of keeping the front elevation mostly true to the original design.

Our preferences would be to retain all the original ledgerstone and redwood siding on those portions of the house visible from the curb.

As discussed, my father's original intention was to leave the redwood untreated and allow it to naturally weather to a gray color. Unfortunately the original builders errantly applied a "redwood" stain to the redwood.

The effects of the stain can be mitigated by following recommendations from the California Redwood Association (attached).

We are in favor of your plans to retain the ledgerstone planter and chimney, as well as to retain the ledgerstone on the interior walls (entry/dining and the hearth wall).

And we would also be in favor of retaining the original jalousie windows on the living room wall facing the street, acknowledging that they are not energy efficient.

In regards to the spiral staircase on the front of the house, our parents added it as a cosmetic feature in the mid-1990s, so it is neither part of the original design nor MCM. Repurposing the staircase to the backyard studio concept or elsewhere would be appropriate in our opinion.

Best regards - Robin Willhoite. cell (936) 462-34