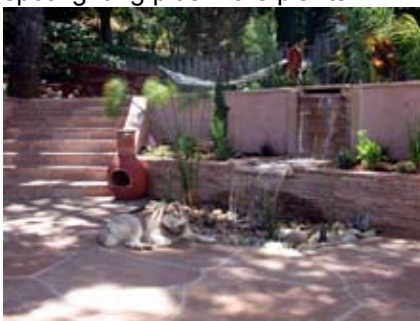


節日快樂

2007: Year of the Backhoe!



The original wood retaining walls in our back yard were deteriorating so we decided to do some minor repairs (*contractor-speak for major landscape project*). For 4 months, we had construction workers on-site continuously as well as a decorative porta-potty asthetically placed in the front yard (*translation: the neighbors hated the noise, the dust, the visual eye sore and the smell*). However every day, TasZ and Asia couldn't wait to see what left-overs were scattered in the yard from the workers lunch. They feasted on such fabulous food delicacies as burritos, pizza, fried chicken and chips/dip. So much for just replacing a retaining wall! We now have a flagstone patio, a retreat area (*contractor-speak for a place for Jon to read*), a water feature (*contractor-speak for a recirculating waterfall*), dynamic lighting and a variety of plants, trees and grasses. For the sake of symmetry, we carried the remodel into the frontyard and added a flagstone entry, path and spot lighting plus more plants.



In order to test our interior project management skills, we decided to replace the carpet in our living room, dining room, stairs, and master bedroom with hardwood floors. While Jon jetted off to Dubai and

India, Care soon found herself solely in charge of sanding and painting risers while coordinating movers, painters and the flooring wizard. She and the dogs camped out in the guest bedroom until the fumes drove them off-site. The results are great but the process was challenging. Fortunately, those memories fade as we enjoy our remodeled exterior room and interior spaces.



We became wiser as the project progressed. While the stairs were being completed, we headed to the Kimberley region of North Western Australia. Our first stop was called Faraway Bay (*"It was remote"*) on the far northern coast of Australia including plenty of ancient rock art and crocs. We then moved inland to the El Questro Wilderness Park and stayed at the Homestead resort. We experienced a very remote part of Australia with a great deal of comfort and style. By day, we hiked some fairly challenging palm-filled desert gorges and at night, we enjoyed gourmet meals served in the company of the other ten or so guests. Also we were fortunate to be invited to Autodesk's "Diamond Club" in Paris where we enjoyed fabulous evenings at the Paris Opera, Louvre, and Versailles.

Domestically, we spent a fall weekend at Sea Ranch and over Thanksgiving took a whale-watching cruise toward the Farallon Islands. In mid-December, we wedged a trip into NYC. It was fun seeing the city decorated for the holidays and wonderful catching up with our friends: Raquel, Lear and Adam.

We enjoyed visits from our Boulder friend, Marilyn, Jon's classmates, Dick and Louie with his wife Kathy, a

former co-worker, Larry, and family members, the Sussmans. Jon particularly likes sharing his flying experiences with our guests.

Jon just completed his 12th year at Autodesk and was promoted to Vice President of Market Development. His work in emerging markets accounts for his global hopping to Europe and Asia.

Care continues her work at Donahue Gallagher. She has been taking Mandarin language courses which Jon initially started as well. She is in her second year but Jon dropped out due to his travel schedule (*to China*).

The dogs hike us regularly on Mt. Burdell and other Marin County trails. Jon was honored this summer by Marin County for his voluntary services to the Trial Watch Program of the Open Space District.



He attempts to fly on a regular basis when he is not a passenger on a jetliner. During the year, he volunteers for Angel Flight including shuttling kids back-and-forth to burn camp.

We look forward to staying home over the holidays and hope to hear from all of you.

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a peaceful New Year.

**JON, CARE,
ASIA & TASZ**

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