



ARCHITECT OF RENEWAL

CHRISTI AZEVEDO
AZEVEDO DESIGN
SAN FRANCISCO

In the 15 years after graduating from UC Berkeley's architecture program, Christi Azevedo made things—mostly out of metal, sometimes wood. She made furniture that was sold at Limn. She made staircases, gates, fireplace surrounds and more furniture. She made her 1885 Victorian in San Francisco's Mission District into a modern duplex with a metal shop in back.

But when she wanted to build out a multiunit building in Oakland in 2007, she finally needed to get her architect's license. That process paid off when photos of her own respectfully renovated home were published this summer in *Dwell*. "People really respond to this place," says Azevedo. "When they see a Victorian with modern furniture, it doesn't have that highfalutin distant-architecture feel. It's very approachable."

"Approachable" is the perfect description for Azevedo, who has fabricated metalwork for architects such as Olle Lundberg, Robert Swatt, Joshua Aidlin and David Darling. Her current clients include a neighbor, her mortgage broker and friends who know that conserving resources—both historic and financial—is at the top of Azevedo's list. "I can ride my bike to most of my projects," she says of the remodels and additions she's doing for young families in city flats and modest bungalows. "Plus, this area has the best housing stock. Some people might go for a mid-century Pierre Koenig masterpiece, but we have incredible houses from 1900 with wacky staircases and historic details. You love them, but you have to modernize them so they speak to the way you live now." —Sarah Lynch