

Coop De Ville – Elsons**Coopsters:** The Elson Family

14370 Miranda Road, Los Altos Hills, CA

Contact: robert.elson59@gmail.com**Description:**

Coop is a split level condo. Ground floor is an indoor/outdoor covered patio with views to the compost pile and backyard. A sloped ramp leads to the grand room for entertaining, socializing, and dancing. From the grand room it is either a hop into one of the two nest boxes, when a hen feels like giving back to the landlord, or it is a jump to one of two roosting bars for a good night sleep. The entire coop is stained to match the main house exterior doors and windows.

Uniqueness:

Coop was designed on a CAD program to fit in a very specific area in our backyard. My youngest son and I built the coop mostly out of 2x2s and plywood. The coop is integrated with a totally enclosed chicken run, to keep the predators out, and links to our enclosed raised bed gardens so they have extra area to roam and fertilize during the fall and winter months. Coop cleaning is literally a ten minute process due to positioning of hinged doors relative to compost bins. In addition, egg collecting can be accomplished without the risk of a shoe-poop encounter since accessing the nest boxes does not require entering the chicken run.

Offering:

Apple slices from our front orchard or lemonade.

SILICON VALLEY TOUR DE COOP

**OCTOBER 27, 2012**WWW.TOURDECOOP.ORG

Coop Guide

Kasso Coop

Coopsters: Chris and Suzanne Kasso

90 Marvin Ave, Los Altos, CA

Contact: ckasso@gmail.com

Description:

The coop currently houses five spoiled hens: Spook, Lily, and Dina all Americanas, Carrot a Rhode Island Red, and Justine a Barred Rock who provide an assortment of colorful eggs (Green, blue, peach and light brown). Spoiled hens, in a back yard coop???? Yes! The girls have free range of the yard during the winter months when the garden is not planted. And are fed fresh produce from the garden when they are confined to their run. We love our ladies so much that we even performed surgery in our kitchen on one of our hens after she developed an impacted crop. It's true that super glue and sewing thread can be used to close a wound! To help protect our spoiled laying ladies, the garden surrounding the coop is patrolled by Ratatouille, our barn cat who's primary function is to keep the rats out of the coop and the squirrels out of the garden.

Uniqueness:

The Kasso Coop was built by three generations of Kasso's (son, father and grandfather), and is attached to a large shed where we harvest rain water and store it in barrels. The rain water is used to water the vegetable garden during dry periods in the winter months.

Our spoiled hens are actually working girls. We annually donate a three-month long, weekly-delivery, fresh egg "subscription" to the Convington PTA auction. This auction item is surprisingly one of the most competitive of the evening with past winners battling it out with new hopefuls. The Kasso hens have raised hundreds of dollars for the school. When they are not laying for the auction winner, their extra eggs are donated to Community Services Food Bank so that they can further contribute to the community.

You will easily find the Kasso coop. Just look for the home-grown giant pumpkins marking the entrance of the driveway! As you leave the Kasso Coop, be sure to look for the bee hive tucked near the vineyard in the front yard.

Offering:

We will offer mini crepes with home-made lemon curd. The lemons are via our backyard tree.

Chicken Spa of Los Altos

Coopsters: Terese Tricamo and Ron Hess

595 Avon Way, Los Altos, CA

Contact: rhess595@gmail.com

Description:

We have a beautiful coop (we call it a spa) in Los Altos, off of Covington, near Foothill Expressway.

It is part of our sustainable organic urban farm.

We grow all sorts of vegetables—and have been removing lawn to grow more: tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, string beans (which will turn into white beans if left on the vine), cabbage, lettuce, Swiss chard, kale, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, peas, celery, rhubarb, corn, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, oranges, lemons, tangerines, figs, apple-pears, pluots, apricots...I'm sure I'm forgetting something! Oh, wheat—the squirrels got to it while we were on vacation.

We treat our little sorority of hens well and they help enrich our soil.

They enjoy our excess bounty and contribute to our rich compost.

Uniqueness:

Our coop has many innovative features: a window covering that can be removed in summer to let in more air; a trap door in the roosting area that closes in winter to keep them warm—but allows them to come and go; a built in storage area; a grain shoot. It's beautifully built: gutters on the roof; painted to match our house; and, located remarkably close to our bedroom windows.

My husband did it all—drawing on memories of the local chicken farm he worked on while growing up in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Offering:

We would love to have folks come and admire our coop and our yard.

We'll serve lemonade; zucchini bread and pumpkin bread (home-grown), with honey from our bee hive.

Bird Farm

Coopster: Debbie Nielsen
728 Chimaius Drive, Palo Alto, CA
Contact: debbienielson@me.com

Description:

Our coop is designed to match our home. It has the same materials and colors. Our chicks have what I have always wanted, a screened in porch (better known as the run). It constructed on a cement slab and bolted to the foundation. The door handles and hen house latches were hand carved. It is topped off with a copper Hen & Chicks weathervane.

Uniqueness:

I am an designer and with my son, sister, and friend, have designed the ultimate chicken coop, run and yard for the busy urban family. Through collaboration we have incorporated all elements of great design into a joyful chicken ownership experience. I would love to share my knowledge with others.

Little Ren Hen House

Coopsters: Sharon Erickson
4075 Laguna Way, PA
Contacts: sharon.winslow.erickson@gmail.com

Description:

Our current six hens are the latest generation of chickens that have inhabited the back corner of our edible garden for the last 50 years or so. The ladies live happily in a house and coop that I hammered together out of salvaged lumber about 20 years ago.

Brewer Coop

Coopster: Laura Brewer
33 Lyell Street, Los Altos, CA
Contact: lauraquicktext@gmail.com

Description:

Our coop was just built this summer. We chose to put it in the front yard, where it has quickly become a neighborhood gathering spot. Everyone loves it, especially our hens! It is built around our oak tree, and we have added power to it so that we can keep our hens warm on the coldest winter nights and supplement the light for better laying in the darkest days of the winter.

The design of our coop is unique not only because it is built around the oak tree in our front yard, but because a jackhammer was used to dig an 8-inch trench in order to lay 2x8 beams for the foundation. The henhouse, reminiscent of arts and crafts construction, is built with panels, so it can be (and now has been) expanded easily. It's pretty, with a unique, attractive roofing material. I love being able to look out my kitchen window and seeing my hens! The henhouse has windows with glass and two laying boxes.

Our hens are only 4 months old, so they haven't started laying yet, but we expect to have home-made egg nog this Christmas.

Coup De Plume

Coopsters: The Hurxthal/Collins'
440 Sequoia, Palo Alto, CA
Contact: anwyn1@mac.com

Description:

Homemade coop for two indulged hens with requisite coop-curtains and loft with view.

Uniqueness:

Our coop is coordinated with our home and is part of a outdoor "living area" so is built to be pleasing to look at as well as a happy living space for our two hens.

Rancho Adobe Coop

Coopsters: Greg and Kate Evard
416 Lerida Avenue, Los Altos, CA
Contact: greg@evardarchitect.com

Description:

A redwood coop with corrugated sheet metal roofing and salvaged iron hardware.

Uniqueness:

The coop and it's three resident hens share the yard with a bunny hutch and three resident bunnies!

Offering:

Cookies served while they last!

Cleo Coop

Coopster: Mary Gospe
320 Verano Dr. Los Altos, CA
Contact: mary@gospe.com

Description:

Our coop was built without buying any new material. We used recycled wood from a nearby remodel (with permission) and roofing material and other supplies we had on hand. The coop has a main area with roosting bars and then a laying area with a flip up lid for easy access to eggs. The coop is in a pen that we close a night and it is completely predator-proof.

Uniqueness:

Our hens spend the day in a "play pen" that is adjacent to their coop area. It is fenced in but roomy and during the summer they are shaded by a Satsuma plum tree. They also hide out under a huge rosemary bush.

Offering:

Our garden was on the Common Ground garden tour in 2011 and we grow lots of fruits and vegetables. So folks can have a tour of the garden in addition to seeing the coop and our 3 hens. We will serve ice water with lemons from our tree.

Dana Meadows Organic Childrens Garden

Coopster: Karen Harwell

1335 Dana Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301

Contact: karenharwell@gmail.com

Description:

Ten years ago, we went on a field trip to Half Moon Bay Feed and Fuel to learn how to start raising chickens and while we were there, the manager kept putting these precious 5 day-old-baby ducklings in our hands as we were learning all about Rhode Island Reds and all the different breeds of chickens we might raise - well, you guessed it, we came home with 3 baby ducklings and got busy building a duck pen and pond that has evolved into a brook flowing thru the backyard based on how nature works! When we arrived home with the ducklings our neighbor who grew up on a farm exclaimed "Duck eggs are to die for especially when you are baking as they make everything light and fluffy and we certainly concur! Over the years, we have enjoyed the hatching of 4 groupings of baby ducklings and we currently are loving 3 Welch Harlequin ducklings named Pitter, Patter and Carzone - yes, there is a story that goes with her name - the children name all the animals - and three adult ducks - 1 female mix of mallard and pekin (a wild mallard was flying over our garden one afternoon and noticed our pond with ducks swimming in it and decided to join in on the fun) and 2 male white pekin ducks. You will also meet Flower and Tofu, 2 sweet bunnies who live in a secret garden within our garden.

Uniqueness:

Our 1/6 of an acre urban farm in the middle of a residential neighborhood is planned, planted and cared for by the children of our neighborhood. Over the years together we have planted 19 fruit trees so that we are harvesting fruit every month of the year - apples, apricots, avocados, figs, grapefruit, lemons, limes, oranges, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums. In the spring, we plant seeds and seedlings in our portable greenhouse for a summer garden of corn, tomatoes, melons, peppers, green beans, cucumbers, carrots, radishes all the while enjoying our raspberries, blueberries, strawberries and grapes. In the fall, we plant cover crops in order to put nitrogen back into our soils. We also have a Kale forest mainly for feeding our bunnies! And we grow asparagus, artichokes, and potatoes. We work with Tom our beekeeper supporting our honey bees - our one hive is described by Tom as the strongest and gentlest of his 35 hives he tends. In 2010, our one hive produced - are you ready? 440 lbs. of honey! We water our seedlings with water from our rainwater catchment barrels and enjoy knowing our electricity is generated on site with our Sunslates solar shingle roof and our hot water warmed by the sun shining down on our Alten solar panels on our roof! We learned through an energy audit of our home that the biggest user of energy in a home is the refrigerator, which runs all day and all night, so we decided we could do better with a Sunfrost Refrigerator, which has the best energy rating in the world and is manufactured in California!

California Coop

Coopsters: Jon and O'Malley Stoumen

1630 Castilleja Ave, Palo Alto, CA

www.workdaychickenpictures.com

Description:

Small footprint 5.5 ft x 5.5 ft with an attached yard. Built from recycled wood and on concrete pavers so no critters can dig under. The upstairs (ramp) has nesting boxes and their sleeping area and the ground floor has a feed hopper and automatic water. There are moveable roosting bars and it is very light and airy. My husband is an architect so the design is gorgeous!

Uniqueness:

Come visit the home of the www.workdaychickenpictures.com website and the original six hens who started it! Their fame hasn't gone to their heads though, and they continue to produce wonderful fertilizer for our organic garden, beautiful eggs, and still have time for their modeling job. But the things they look forward to the most are their mini holidays when I run a temporary chicken wire fence around each veggie bed and let them out to rework it before it is planted.

Silicon Valley Tour De Coop 2012 Information

The Silicon Valley Tour De Coop 2012 is being funded by GreenTown Los Altos.

The event is free but if you wish to make contributions to help cover event costs, please visit the Green Town site donation website page at:

<http://greentownlosaltos.org/event-donation/>

If you wish to make your own SV Tour De Coop t-shirt using an iron-on printout or posters you can easily make with an ink jet printer, visit the Tour De Coop Posters/Shirts Page at:

<http://tourdecoop.org/postersshirts/>

Volunteers

Special thanks to the following people and organizations for there contribution and volunteering efforts to help make this happen.

Our Coopsters – Be sure to thank them personally at each of the coop stops. With them ,this tour wouldn't be possible!

GreenTown Los Altos – Margaret Suozzo

Morachs - Alex, Kim and Annie

Vanderlips – Tay and Molly

Randall Braun