

Backyard Hope

How California Homeowners Are Creating Housing and Community. Right Behind Their Homes

"We didn't just add square footage—we added purpose."



1947 North Chappel Drive
Spanish Fork UT, 84660



A True Story from the Ashes of Altadena

In January 2025, wildfires swept through Altadena, leaving blackened lots where family homes once stood. What came next wasn't just cleanup and insurance paperwork...

It was the hard question every homeowner dreads:

“Now what?”

For two Altadena families, the answer wasn't to wait years or spend millions. It was to think differently.

This is the story of how Diana and Jorge turned disaster into opportunity, and how you can too.

Diana: From Couch-Surfing to Courtyard Living

Diana, a real estate agent and longtime Altadena resident, lost her home in the fire.

She didn't have interim housing. Her insurance payout came as a lump sum—and no one knew how far it would stretch. With cleanup dragging and debris scattered, she moved from couch to couch, wondering when her life would start again.

But she had one thing most people don't: a former tenant named Mike.

Mike had lived in Diana's ADU. When the fire took both the main house and his home, he stepped in as her project manager. He had a construction background. He had seen Iron-town Modular on YouTube. And he had a plan.

Together, they built a custom ADU using modular units:

- **Two Cabana 200s** (for bedrooms and bathrooms)
- **One Cabana 700** (for kitchen, living, and a third bath)
- An open-air courtyard connecting the structures

The design wasn't just functional, it was beautiful.



Peaceful. A sanctuary in a place that felt like a ghost town.

And when Diana locked the original gate, one of the only things that survived the fire, she cried.

Because even if everything else had changed... she finally had a place to call home again.





Jorge:

A Smarter Rebuild, Half the Cost

Jorge didn't lose his primary home in the fires. He lost a rental property. But he faced the same brutal reality: rebuilding in Altadena would cost \$700–\$900 per square foot.

And that didn't include driveways, garages, or landscaping.

Instead, Jorge went modular. He worked with Irontown to design a customized **Nordic Modern Bunkhouse**:

- ~1,600–1,700 sq ft
- 3 bedrooms, 2 baths
- Two-story layout with bunk room, balcony, and vaulted living room
- Solar prepped and fire sprinkler-ready
- Extended footprint and front deck

Estimated cost? Just \$350–\$400 per sq ft. Half the price. Months faster.

Better yet, his tenants may buy the finished home. If they don't, he'll rent it again—or build an ADU above a future garage out back.

From disaster to a smart investment, all in under 12 months.



Why We Built in Our Backyard

Diana's story and Jorge's rebuild echo a growing movement across California: building in the backyard.

For one Altadena family, it started with a simple idea:

What if we could use our yard to help someone stay in our neighborhood?

Their backyard became a place for a loved one to recover, for an aging parent to stay close, or for a local teacher to afford to live in the community they serve.

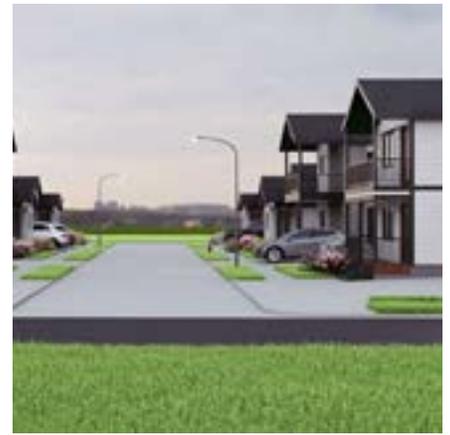
They still barbecue. They still watch sunsets. But now, their backyard also holds purpose.

Things We Wish We Knew About ADUs

- California actually wants you to build one
- Small yards work—even under 5,000 sq ft
- Modular makes the process faster and easier
- We expected it to feel cheap—it looks incredible

Quick California Facts:

- You're allowed one 800 sq ft ADU—even on small lots
- No extra parking needed near transit
- Cities must approve ADUs under state law
- Modular builds and pre-approved plans = faster move-in





Why We Chose Irontown Modular

We spoke with multiple companies, but only Irontown made the process feel human.

They build in a clean facility in Utah and deliver complete homes directly to your lot. **That means:**

- No chaos in your yard for months
- High-end modern finishes
- Fire-safe (WUI-compliant) construction
- Help with everything—permits, zoning, timelines, and options

They didn't just build a home. They built peace of mind.

Your Backyard Can Make a Difference

Whether you're rebuilding from a disaster, housing a parent, or offering stability to someone you love... an ADU isn't just about square footage.

It's about freedom. Stability. Community.

At Irontown Modular, we help families across California:

- Rebuild faster
- Design beautifully
- Stay compliant with state and local ADU rules

You don't have to wait years.
You don't have to spend millions.
You just need to start.

Call or Email Us!
1-877-849-1215
sales@irontownmodular.com

Sources & Legal References:

- California Department of Housing and Community Development – [ADU Handbook](#)
- California Senate [Bill 9](#)
- Los Angeles County [ADU Ordinances & Incentives](#)
- UC Berkeley Turner Center – [ADU Policy Brief](#)
- [Cal Fire](#) – WUI Code Summary
- [California Government Code](#) §65852.2

Whenever you're ready, here are 4 ways we can help you build faster with modular:

- Watch our 2-minute walkthrough, see what makes Irontown Modular different: [Watch here](#)
- Get a personalized quote, tell us a bit about your project and we'll run the numbers: [Start your quote](#)
- Not sure where to start? Let's talk through your ideas: **Call 877-849-1215**

