

# beachcomber

News and Views of the East Long Beach Area



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Beachcomber Photo by Doug Hammond

SCOTT VIGOR and Ed Sanchez, owners of Window Restoration and Repair.

## Q&A: Ed Sanchez – Window Restoration and Repair

By Elizabeth Pose

Window Restoration and Repair is located at 3371 Cerritos Ave. in Los Alamitos. Their phone number is (562) 493-1590.

*How long have you been in business?*

Six years.

*How did you get started?*

I've actually been in the window business since 1981. Repairing and restoring windows fits my personality better. I just happen to fit a niche that was needed. I like working with old, well-built win-

dows as opposed to replacing them.

*Business opportunity you wish you'd taken or been offered:*

For two years, in between window jobs, I was in the custom boat market. It could have been my career, but I decided to go back to windows. I was happier doing that.

*What's the best thing about owning your own business?*

No one stops me from doing the level of quality work I prefer. Also, no one can pressure me to compromise my integrity.

*What's the worst?*

In the first year of the business I had to do all the paperwork myself.

*What's the strangest thing that ever happened on the job?*

Finding receipts, notes and newspaper clippings in the wall of houses from about 100 years ago. Every day is different. You don't know what you'll find when you open up a window.

*What's your favorite thing about this business?*

Knowing that what's being done to the house will last 40 to 50 years. I'll die of old age before the window needs to be repaired again.

*Describe your business.*

Restoring windows at least as good, if not better, than the day they were built.

*How would you describe yourself?*

I'm a problem solver.

*Do you have a role model (mentor)?*

My father, Vic. He was an upholsterer and later became an interior decorator. He's still in business

## Home Sweet Home



today. He has a belief that if you take care of a warranty customer within an hour of a complaint, you'll always get another job.

*What did you think you would do when you graduated from high school?*

Electronics engineering. I went to Cal Poly Pomona and worked at JPL. Then I found out that I hated engineering.

*What is success to you?*

Knowing you've made a positive difference in the world and you've had something to do with impacting peoples lives.

*What type of windows (and doors) do you repair?*

Wood, steel, aluminum, vinyl windows and sliding doors.

*What goes into restoring and repairing windows?*

Making sure that the frame and sash are structurally sound, sealed tight and that all windows open with one hand.

*In many cases is repairing a window, or door, the solution instead of just buying a new one?*

Some windows are not worth restoring. There are a lot of poorly designed windows from 50 years ago.

*What should people take into consideration as to whether they want to repair or buy windows?*

If they can imagine the window painted properly, would they like the look. If they don't, then it's not worth repairing. If they like it, then how many more years will it have after its been repaired? In most cases the windows will have another 40 to 75 years.

A window may seem out of date today, but it could be a classic 20 years from now. A well-designed window is more valuable than putting in a new one. Many times it pays to repair and restore the window.