



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

ABOVE: A room inside Yiu's inn. **RIGHT:** A reflection of Yiu appears in a mirror inside her inn.

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cultures. I wanted to own a hostel. But with my own bathroom.”

After their first few trips to Astoria, the family became so enamored that Dua thought they should buy a vacation home. They started looking for properties in town.

“My heart just stopped when I saw the listing for this beautiful historic Franklin Street Station with six bedrooms,” Yiu said.

Yiu dreamed of purchasing the location to open a hostel but she and Dua had recently invested in a Portland restaurant.

“I didn’t tell him that it was a crazy dream I’d always had. I kept it to myself but I would look at that listing online every day, thinking about what I’d do with it. Imagining the décor, how I’d change this and that, all the little details, what I’d even serve for breakfast,” Yiu said.

After Yiu explained to Dua that opening a hostel was a dream of hers, he agreed to buy the property with her.

“All of a sudden, the stars were aligning,” Yiu said.

Things did not go exactly as planned,

though, since Yiu took over the property last March, just in time for the pandemic to take hold. She spent the three months of lockdown managing reconstruction, design and shopping as her guesthouse became a reality.

Around the same time the inn was purchased, Yiu and Dua embarked on another new enterprise, Slurpalicious, a food delivery service named by one of their sons. The service is provided locally.

Her inn has two family rooms, where kids have dedicated space to play and have fun. She also wants to encourage adult guests to interact with each other.

“It’s crazy that I wanted to create a space where people would put away their phones and devices and immerse themselves in all the wonderful things there are to do and see here. And with the history. I wasn’t sure how people would react with the historic furnishings and décor,” Yiu said. “But Astoria’s past is so rich, I wanted people to step back in time and appreciate it like I do.”

Near the Pier was fully booked over the summer. Her enthusiasm for Astoria has not diminished, nor has her husband’s.

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