

SONOMA

SANCTUARY

A WINE COUNTRY RETREAT REIMAGINES THE CONCEPT OF MODERN FARMHOUSE LIVING.

By Alexandra Albanian // Home Photography by Paul Dyer
Portrait by Quinn Wharton

Forget the "modern farmhouse" trend that's setting legions of design lovers on a barn door, berhooose building frenzy. When San Anselmo-based Wade Design Architects were tapped to create a rural Sonoma retreat, they ignored abundant agrarian decorating clichés and instead created a stunning compound that bears its own code of wine country design code.

"From my first meeting with the Wades, I mentioned a modern farmhouse. I always loved the wine country aesthetic, but wanted a more modern approach," says the homeowner, a bachelor based in San Francisco who says the home's location—and easy bike ride into town—was part of its allure. "Also important was an open, indoor-outdoor layout to accommodate entertaining."

In order to realize his vision of an open-flow Sonoma sanctuary, the firm created a 6,700-square-foot residence that's strategically situated to invite dramatic views of nearby Mount Veeder, while providing a vital home base from which to entertain anywhere from five to 50 guests. "From the living room wall, which opens completely to the patio, to built-in luggage racks in each bedroom, the house was made for entertaining," says the homeowner, who brings his two Labrador retrievers over for weekends. Together, they can roam throughout the three-acre property that's dotted with native oaks and accessed via an old rural bridge.

Not surprisingly, food and wine are central to the home's design. An open kitchen—where a dramatic blackened steel wine storage unit makes for a stunning focal point—provides easy access to a large-scale outdoor entertaining area. "Indoor-outdoor design is about more than just big door openings," says architect Luke Wade. "Creating good flow and outdoor spaces that are attractive and thought through makes the outdoors inviting. On this project, a covered outdoor dining area anchored by a pizza oven blends with a woven willow trellis over lounge space. This is a place you can spend hours outside."

It's exactly that which keeps the homeowner coming back to his second home: "I miss the ability to be outside, especially in the evenings when it can get quite chilly in San Francisco," he says. "This outdoor lounge is such a great place to do just that, whether it's relaxing on my own with a good book, or entertaining friends and family. It's the perfect connector between the kitchen and the pool area and the covered area keeps everything cool even in the height of summer."

Wade balanced those expansive public areas with a series of private rooms—inviting contemplation and retreat. Interior designer Bryan Fox worked meticulously to echo that distinction. "While the public areas of





Located on 8 acres in the
hills of Sonoma, this
modern 7,000-sq-ft house
features a long, rectangular
pool, a 1,000-sq-ft
main house and a
500-sq-ft guest house.



the house are concerned with large, flowing finishes, the private areas contrast by reducing scale and tone to much smaller increments," says Fox. "In the master bathroom, silver travertine is used, but the scale creates a tight texture appropriate for the space." Even the statement-making wallcovering in the master bedroom manages to convey an intimate sense of pattern: Upon first glance, the wallpaper makes a sweeping geometric shape. Move up close, however, and a floral, decorative pattern begins to emerge.

Today the homeowner frequents the home to routinely entertain friends and family in gatherings both intimate and grand. "I can sleep about nine people but have entertained groups as large as 65 comfortably for a pool party," he explains. "The house is better than I envisioned." ■



Clockwise from top left: Architects Luke and Jo White; the architects and interior designer worked closely to create a contemporary home that wouldn't sacrifice coziness. In the living room, a stunning stone fireplace is softened with neutral-colored plush furniture and leather. The master bathroom combines concrete counters with Ann Sacks' Travertine floors.

The entry hall makes a striking opening statement. Glass walls and a steel support with a box up from below are flanked white mosaic artwork that flood the space with light.



DESIGN DETAILS

RESIDENCE

Single-family home

LOCATION

Sonoma

ARCHITECTURE

Wade Design Architects
wade-design.com

INTERIOR DESIGN

Five-Design
five-design.com

LANDSCAPING

Marta Fry Landscape
mfxstudio.com

VENDORS

ANN SACKS

Living room wall tile, master bedroom floor tile
annsacks.com

BENJAMIN MOORE PAINTS

Used throughout
benjaminmoore.com/en-us

DESOUZA HUGHES

Dining room table and chairs, kitchen bar stools
desousahughes.com

DONGHIA

Upholstery for dining room chairs, living room sofa and daybed, and master bedroom bed
donghia.com

FOX MARBLE AND STONE

Kitchen counters and fireplace wall slabs
fox-marble.com

JUNO LIGHTING

Recessed ceiling lighting in kitchen, living and dining rooms, and master bedroom
junolighting.com

KNEEDLER FAUCHER

Living room daybed
kneedlerfaucher.com

MAGNOLIA LANE

Living room window coverings
magnoliаланe.com

STARK CARPETS

Carpeting in master bedroom
starkcarpet.com

TROVE

Wallcovering used in master bedroom
troveinc.com