KINTERIORS

By Jessica Ritz Photography by John Merkl





86 CALIFORNIAHOMEDESIGN.COM SPRING 2024



Thomas Hayes Studio stools upholstered with Skandilock sheepskin linen facilitate convivial and cozy gatherings. Wyatt Studio fabricated the custom open-frame brass shelving. The Bronson Collection buffet is from Croft House.



IN THE CHOREOGRAPHY of an interior design project that factors in place, period and people, the Napa Valley getaway Kristen Peña completed for her San Francisco-based clients reflects a careful balance. Above all, the result prioritizes the way in which individuals spend their time.

"Did we think about it in terms of Napa? Yes, in the sense of what the Napa experience is for these homeowners," reflects Peña, who founded the firm K Interiors in 2011. But creating this property was about more than just directly responding to the immediate surroundings. "It is about hosting dinner parties and drinking wine and lounging at the pool. It is a sleek, sophisticated environment. That's the kind of life they lead," the San Francisco designer explains about the clients, a married couple who work in tech and finance. The dogs are always in tow, but otherwise these wine country visits are adults-only happenings. Peña's team could dream big without the need to accommodate younger and/or older generations of visitors.

"The house needed a lot of soul and personality," Peña adds about the contemporary new build. She delivered idiosyncratic character in the form of an urban edge, with a sharp selection of furniture, art and accessories that wouldn't feel out of place in a Pacific Heights residence overlooking the San Francisco Bay rather than a low-slung structure set atop a hill within Napa County's pastoral landscape. That said, this natural light-flooded refuge is intended for relaxation and connection—not just to showcase stellar art and design.

"Luxe and comfortable was our through line," Peña says. Sexiness and "a wow factor" were additional goals that were entirely feasible thanks to the open-



88 CALIFORNIAHOMEDESIGN.COM SPRING 2024

-WINE COUNTRY RESIDENTIAL INTERIOR DESIGN





mindedness of the wife, who's passionate about art. "We wanted to use all of the different materialities to create that layered feel and interest," Peña states. In the living room, a woven leather and sisal rug from Ashe + Leandro's collection for Merida sets the foundation and tone of the space, atop which stand a pair of curvy Formal Group sofas by Philippe Malouin sourced from the Future Perfect. Conversation can unfold over the travertine and patina brass coffee table by Banda from the U.K., which anchors the grouping. Nearby, pronounced figure-forming lines in a painting by L.A. artist America Martin complement the dramatic sculptural console by Casey McCafferty from Coup D'Etat, a favorite resource for this project.

Shapely wood, brass and stone components appear throughout the house, such as the LOC dining chairs from Stahl + Band that surround the unconventional, multi-angled custom dining table fabricated by Tomlinson Woodworks. In the wife's cocoon-like home office, drenched in Farrow & Ball's Dead Salmon and capped with a pink-hued raw silk ceiling treatment, an oversize black-and-white photo of Stevie Wonder from the Morrison Hotel Gallery makes for another delightful surprise, whether it's sinking into TRNK's deep Maura modular sofa IRL or spotting the vignette via Zoom.

"She gave us free reign to embrace contemporary makers and artists' creative points of view," Peña says. Anything expected or ho-hum was a nonstarter. "We won the lottery in that she loved the uniqueness as much as we did."



A quiet yet intense image by John Casado hangs above the vintage stool sourced from Love Adorned in New York. The rug is from Marc Phillips.