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WRITTEN BY VANESSA KOGEVINAS | PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATTHEW MILLMAN

TUCKED INTO THE RURAL EQUESTRIAN LANDSCAPE OF THE GREATER BAY AREA'S SUBURBAN TOWN OF WOODSIDE STANDS AN ARCHITECTURAL WORK OF ART. "We wanted a home that was architecturally significant and unique, yet simple and comfortable, where traditional elements are expanded upon in a modern way," says the wife of the couple that commissioned Walker Warner Architects to execute their vision, and called upon designer Penny Shawback to outfit the interiors.

ARCHITECTURE Greg Warner, AIA, LEED AP, Walker Warner Architects
INTERIOR DESIGN Penny Shawback, Shawback Design Associates
HOME BUILDER Jim Chesler, Chesler Construction, Inc.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Ron Lutsko, Jr., Lutsko Associates Landscape
BEDROOMS 5 BATHROOMS 5





TAKE A SEAT
The living room, which is open to the dining area, is anchored by a seating arrangement set around a two-piece Dakota Jackson coffee table. The clean lines of a pair of Jens Risom mohair-and-walnut chairs from Ralph Pucci International complement rather than fight the bold architecture.

STYLE SELECTION
Zelé Mané created this rustic meets modern chair using genuine saddle leather, ipe lumber and hand-polished stainless steel. *Riva lounge chair*, \$4,890; zelecompany.com



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 127

The home's form is a compilation of three primary buildings—the main house, an office and a barn—arranged around a central courtyard anchored by a water feature to create a variety of complementary indoor-outdoor spaces and diverse living opportunities. “It’s a contemporary interpretation of rural and traditional dwellings,” says principal architect Greg Warner, who along with associate architect David Shutt, created structures that exhibit a strong, asymmetrical form using a balanced and limited material palette of wood, stone, glass and steel. A fourth structure—the pool house—is a series of three pavilions aligned on the same axis using similar materials as an inventive counterpart to the main buildings.

Located at the front of the property, the barn serves as a symbolic entry, reinforcing the agrarian character of the surroundings. A central passageway through the barn purposely frames the stone façade and main entrance to the residence beyond, and the office stands as its own separate entity. “We liked the idea of that third building to hold its ground in the organization,” says Warner. “In forming a courtyard, it allows for openness between structures, but also creates edges.”



MIX MASTER

Quartzite, cedar, steel, glass and zinc roofing are used as the fundamental architectural materials throughout the project, creating a strong connection to the rural landscape. South Bay Quartzite around the pool site walls ties it to the main residence.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 129

Builder Jim Chesler was the master that brought all the materials together. Stone, cedar planking and zinc roofing, which reference the setting, are juxtaposed with expressed steel and large expanses of glass, which lend a contemporary feel. “Inside the home, we exposed steel framing and used natural stone in the walls and on the floors,” says Chesler. “An enormous amount of glass was also used in order to bring the outside in. It was a creative effort by all involved to bring these materials together.”

Insisting that the project be a bona fide collaboration, the couple brought on Shawback early in the design process. “This is the third project that I’ve done with this family,” she says, “and they are true visionaries. In this case, they wanted to start with contemporary lines and then incorporate traditional and modern touches.”



COUNTER INTUITIVE

In the kitchen, French blue refined limestone countertops and Walker Zanger’s limestone tile flooring complement the custom walnut cabinetry. Gerard iron-and-leather barstools anchor a large island with McEwen Lighting Studio pendants suspended above. Dornbracht fixtures add shine.



LIGHT FILTER
The sections of the custom McEwen Lighting Studio chandelier in the living room play off of the slats in the wooden screen wall, which allows natural light to filter in and provides a barnlike element to the space. A Vladimir Kagan sofa adds comfortable seating.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 130

The primary residence boasts two main living spaces—adjacent living-dining areas and a kitchen abutting a family room. A master suite, three bedrooms and a study make up the second floor.

For the interiors, big, heavy furniture took a backseat to more transparent items so as not to take away from the architecture and exteriors. Yet they were careful to keep them comfortable to allow for the full experience of both the site and the company within it. “We sought out artistically designed pieces that worked in the open, light-filled space,” says Shawback.

Drawing upon exterior colors of greens and golds, a soft palette dominates the interiors. “We were also drawn to the soft powdery look of stones—creamy beiges with tones of walnut,” details Shawback, “and brought bursts of color in through the art.” In the dining room, a glass-top table, set on a Stark carpet of eggplant and gray hues, offers another layer of transparency. Midcentury selections were updated with new contemporary fabrics, mixed with finds from up-and-coming designers

IN-BETWEEN DAYS

The main residence is accessed by a path that traverses through a barn and leads to the home’s front door via a courtyard. Stately ceramic sculptures by Jun Kaneko and a water feature create a calming transitional moment.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 133

that offer their own, modern style. “It’s really a combination of the old and the new to create a lasting, unique look,” says Shawback.

The theme of this artful aesthetic is carried through to the courtyard, where two ceramic Jun Kaneko sculptures sit along the water feature that connects the entry barn to the main house. Landscape designer Ron Lutsko, Jr., struck the fine-line relationship between terraces, water elements, pavings and plantings that are prominent throughout the property. “The project is a good example of combining forward-thinking design with ecological principles,” says Lutsko. “It marries the house to the site and the site to the surrounding regional landscape.”

Warner adds: “We created a home that was fitting to the context of the town of Woodside. Our choice of materials and the use of clustered buildings to break up the overall scale of the project creates spaces that blur the line between the indoors and outdoors.” And delivers what the clients were looking for—an intimate yet grand statement through a thoughtful, livable piece of art. **L**

CLOUD NINE

An oil painting by Ann Hogle above a Vioski bed covered in Jane Churchill fabric sets the tone in the master bedroom. Grounding the vignette is a Lapchi rug, while a Room & Board chair offers a place for reflection beside the windows.



BLOCK ISLAND
A freestanding slab-like tub from Wetstyle is placed on Walker Zanger limestone tile in the light-flooded master bath, giving the space an open, spa-like feel. A spiral metal-and-leather stool from Neiman Marcus drops an architectural hint.

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