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IN THE SPIRIT OF ITS NAPA VALLEY SURROUNDINGS, A RESIDENCE IS PARED DOWN AND REIMAGINED TO ENCOURAGE A SOPHISTICATED YET EASY LIFESTYLE WITH A STRONG OUTDOOR CONNECTION.

WRITTEN BY JOANNE FURIO PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATTHEW MILLMAN

**INTERIOR DESIGN** Kara Mann, Kara Mann Design  
**ARCHITECTURE** Andrew Mann, Andrew Mann Architecture  
**HOME BUILDER** Wes Thollander, Thollander Construction, Inc.  
**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE** Scott R. Lewis, Scott Lewis Landscape Architecture  
**BEDROOMS 2 | BATHROOMS 3 | SQUARE FEET 3,500**



Re enters live with the notion of accepting what they cannot change on a daily basis. For Noreen McGuire, a part-time resident of Napa Valley, she had to be equally accepting. Although she liked the scale and L-shaped layout of the shingle-style home she rented in St. Helena, she found the Tuscan-inspired interiors dark and the color scheme busy. When McGuire got the opportunity to buy the house, she was ready to change things up and put together a team including designer Kara Mann, architect Andrew Mann, builder Wes Thollander, and landscape architect Scott R. Lewis to create a home more in tune with its surroundings.

"The light is so beautiful in Napa, it makes the colors almost ethereal," says Kara Mann, who is based in Chicago and New York and had worked with McGuire on two of her previous residences. "The client has a pared-down, sophisticated aesthetic and likes palettes that are subtle, a little earthy. I wanted to take what she likes and merge it with the colors and textures of Napa." But first there were additional matters to deal with. The house, along with its guesthouse, was spacious enough to accommodate visits from McGuire's daughters and to host



Designer Kara Mann infused a St. Helena house with sophisticated and earthy elements. Brass floor lamps by Richard Shapiro Studiolo accent the living room, which architect Andrew Mann defined with V-groove paneling. *Opposite top:* New French doors open to the house. *Opposite bottom:* Mirrors by BDDW hang in the entry.



The designer kept to a muted palette in the living room and chose two Ochre sofas, which she covered with a Holland & Sherry fabric, to face custom selenite-topped tables by Blackman Cruz. The woven drapery fabric is by Toyine Sellers in France.



In the living room, the designer topped a chevron-patterned chest by Bradley with a metal-and-glass lamp and crocodile-embossed porcelain box, both purchased from Anthem. The photograph hanging above is *Bank Swallow* by Sharon Beals.

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lunches with friends, but it didn't engage the property. And the 1-acre grounds, with its formal boxwood hedges and putting green, left a lot to be desired. "She saw herself doing more entertaining outdoors," Kara Mann adds. "She really wanted to use the whole property."

To handle the structural transformation, McGuire turned to Andrew Mann. "She wanted the same feel of the house, but a crisper, more contemporary version of it," he says. "It was all about paring down and simplifying." The architect kept the basic footprint of the main house, but gutted the structure to redesign the kitchen, put in new floors, and eliminate one bedroom to create a new master suite, complete with a luxurious master bath. "We spent a good deal of time with the



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limestone wall in the bath, as it wraps with miter cuts into the shower,” says Thollander. “Tolerances needed to be spot-on to look correct.” While Andrew Mann kept the shingled exterior, he added V-groove paneling to accent the main public rooms inside. “It’s evocative of a traditional farmhouse, but used in a contemporary manner,” he says.

The architect also ramped up the home’s connection to the outdoors by adding French doors to all of the main spaces, allowing them to spill onto a large deck. And the outdoors were transformed as well. In reimagining the grounds, Lewis kept only six mature olive trees and the swimming pool, which was retiled. The landscape architect replaced the front lawn with native grasses and, in the back, suggested adding a pavilion. Sited far from the main house, it takes advantage of the “borrowed landscape” of neighboring grapevines. “It looks back at the house,” he says, “yet you feel as if you’re in the middle of the vineyards.”

Connecting the kitchen and living room, the dining room features wood wing chairs from Lucca Antiques in Los Angeles and a vintage marble table by Angelo Mangiarotti. A glass-and-metal chandelier from Liza Sherman in New York crowns the space.



Andrew Mann designed the kitchen with entertaining in mind. The ceiling and the large island are accented with V-groove paneling, and Caesarstone crowns the countertops. Kara Mann added Gwenwood Hang pendants by The Urban Electric Co. and Jim Zivic counter stools from Ralph Pucci International.



Easy maintenance was the goal in the guesthouse, where the designer chose slipcovered sofas from Crate & Barrel to pair with twin Lucite trunk tables from Jayson Home in Chicago. The custom ceiling fixture is from Form & Reform.



Above: The architect also updated the guesthouse with a shed roof and three sets of French doors opening to a new deck. Left: In the backyard, landscape architect Scott R. Lewis kept a quartet of mature olive trees and surrounded them with lavender, a signature of the Napa Valley landscape.

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Inside, Kara Mann worked with a Napa-inspired palette of creamy white, weathered taupe, smoky lavender, and chocolate brown. Known for a luxurious yet edgy style, the designer kept the interiors simple but worked with eye-catching accents and tactile materials. A marble pedestal table pairs with sculptural wing chairs in the dining room, and the designer centered the living room with gray selenite-topped tables. “The selenite shimmers in the light and feels very glamorous yet earthy,” says Kara Mann. “The tables elevate the space with an elegant edge.” She finished the room with sinuous sofas by Ochre covered with a taupe-hued fabric and draperies woven with metallic threads.



The airy pavilion contains both dining and sitting areas. Leather-and-metal foldable armchairs by Dedon pull up to a Restoration Hardware table in teak. A sofa and chairs, all from Restoration Hardware, face a trio of sculptural Gervasoni ceramic tables.



Above: The landscape architect utilized a combination of drought-tolerant ornamental grasses and Mediterranean plants near the guesthouse. Grapevines grow up the sides of an existing arbor. Left: A 17<sup>th</sup>-century bronze Buddhist sculpture from Nepal was found at Artefact Design & Salvage.



An Agape soaking tub, with Dornbracht fittings, backs up to a limestone wall in the master bath. The floor is tiled with white Ann Sacks marble in a basket-weave pattern, while glass mosaic tiles, also by Ann Sacks, sheath the walls of the shower.

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Lighting was also an important component of the design. "It's like jewelry in a space," says the designer. "It can change the whole mood of a room." A striking metal-and-blown-glass chandelier hangs in the dining room, and Ingo Maurer's Birdie fixtures lend a whimsical touch to the master bedroom. A calming monochromatic scheme marks the private space, and the designer chose equally serene hues to appoint the guesthouse and pavilion. In both cases, she created "simple, comfortable and sophisticated spaces" with slipcovered sofas to keep things feeling relaxed.

"I wanted the home to honor the beauty that surrounds it, not compete with it," says McGuire of the finished product that does just that. "It's quiet and understated, just like the Northern California lifestyle." **L**



In the master bedroom, the designer placed a 1970s bench reupholstered with suede at the foot of a custom bed, and hung two of Ingo Maurer's Birdie fixtures in the room. A Roman Thomas sofa and a chair by Century Furniture appoint a sitting area.