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# A DRAMATIC COMPOSITION

Jeff Schlarb helps newly married couple  
build out their wine country dream home

PHOTOGRAPHS AUBRIE PICK WORDS HEATHER SANDY HEBERT

When Lawrence and Nicole Blatt approached designer Jeff Schlarb, the newly married couple had just acquired a 4,200-square-foot home in the wine country and wanted to make it their own.

Lawrence Blatt, a virologist and founder of a biopharmaceutical company, is also a philanthropist committed to the wine country, donating generously to victims of the 2017 Wine Country Fires through his foundation. Though the couple's primary residence lay in San Francisco, they found themselves spending or and more of their time 60 miles to the north, in the charming town of Healdsburg. Their newly acquired home just a few miles from Healdsburg's picturesque town square would become their home base in the wine country.

"We were creating a place for them to build their collective new life together," says Schlarb. "Lawrence is artistic, he is a musician. We wanted to create a place that is creative, polished and refined, but also a home that is comfortable."

The designer brought the whole team to the table, completing the project in just nine months. Schlarb's use of deeply saturated hues and sculptural wall treatments, accented by light fixtures that function as objects of art in themselves, creates a choreographed sense of drama, punctuated by lighter, softer moments that reflect Nicole's vision.

That the design is very much an expression of the couple's personalities and passions is clear in the family room, with its inviting air and display of guitars ready to play. In the

library, Indiana Limestone provides a subtle reference to Lawrence's attachment to the University of Indiana, his alma mater.

The formal living room is Jeff Schlarb's favourite room. He cites the blue hues of the vaulted ceilings, the rug's cumulous pattern, and the social nature of the curved sofas. "It's perfectly sculpted, like the soft lines of 18<sup>th</sup> century paintings from Antwerp." One such painting hangs in the room, set against the contemporary lines of a floor lamp by Bec Brittain.

"Our vision became completely intertwined with theirs," says Schlarb. A commissioned sculpture by artist Kelly Farly, whose work the couple loved, became the jumping off point for the dining room, with walls and furnishings in hues of complementary green.

Like the adagio stanzas in a musical composition, the designer knows where to keep it light, skillfully weaving moments of quiet into the design. The kitchen's clean, white palette provides a visual breathing space, with standout lighting and bar stools backed in strapped mahogany leather providing just enough gravitas. The serene master bedroom and bath feel like a cocoon, allowing the view to take center stage. The astounding patterning on the fireplace surround lets nature to provide the artwork.

When asked what he loves most about the house, Jeff Schlarb cites the way the living and family rooms interact with the exteriors, the way the master bedroom embraces the views, the coolness of the house, but then settles on something else entirely. "Lawrence and Nicole love it all, and so do we," he says. "The process was simply perfection."



PREVIOUS PAGE A sculpture by artist Kelly Farly is complemented by the jewel green tones of Fleecer dining chairs by Caste, and Kintsugi wallpaper from Porter Teleo. The custom Alexander dining table is from Evan Lewis, and the Linus chandelier is from Arteriors.

ABOVE Vaulted ceilings covered in Brushed Herringbone wallpaper from Newwall and a Cumulous rug from FloorDesign bring a rich, saturated palette to the living room. A pair of Ivory Odilla sofas from Randolph & Hein add a playful element.

The library feels intimate and collected, with Buffa chairs from Coup Studio pulled up to the Tray Cocktail Table by Cliff Young. The rounded lines of the furnishings are deftly complemented by the Porter Teleo wallpaper in Painted Plaid.



In the bedroom, the designer plays with light and space, accented by a mid-century modern pendant.



## About Jeff Schlarb

Creative, driven and relentlessly optimistic, Jeff Schlarb has become one of the most well-connected interior designers in San Francisco. Jeff's portfolio includes homes throughout the Bay Area, as well as Wine Country, Hawaii and even Cleveland. His expertise includes custom decoration projects, interior architecture for new construction, kitchen and bathroom renovations. Once described by a writer as, "Curiosity without the chaos." He is passionate about constructing comfortable, artistic residences that embody an exciting combination of inspiration and the amplification of client's dreams. Jeff draws on time spent living in Europe, travelling the globe and an earnest pursuit to seize every day.

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