



A SOPHISTICATED HOME IN WINE COUNTRY

DESIGN

INTERIOR DESIGNER JEFF SCHLARB HAS ADDED A TOUCH OF GLAMOUR AND A SENSE OF EASY LUXURY TO THE RUSTIC BEAUTY OF WINE COUNTRY.

Photography by Aubrie Pick

CAPTURE: As we move through this challenging pandemic, how do you envision design will change in the future?

JEFF SCHLARB: I think we will see more homes that have varied feels in different spaces of the home. We used to try to tie all the rooms together and have a consistent common thread woven from room to room. Now I think we will see clients want to have dramatic differences in rooms such as an exciting dining room or a media room that is more innovative and creative. Since we can't travel freely, all of us need spaces to get away, even if it is only steps away.

C: Could you tell us a bit about the creative process behind the design in this wine country home?

JS: The clients were looking to update the aesthetics of this home from the then quasi-craftsman appeal to a sophisticated wine country retreat. We selected sculptural and meaningful furnishings that tied to their unique lives. Dr. Blatt is a musician and that is reflected with the light fixture in the formal living room as well as the custom walnut guitar presentation wall in the family room. Nicole loves the soft movements of the marble in the Kitchen and also the unique colors of the onyx in the master bathroom, she is really interested in the beauty of fabrics and materials.



C: Was there a connecting link that pulled the rooms together?

JS: We cleaned up the material palate by re-staining the flooring, removing tile in the entry and creating that through-thread from the first step into the home all the way to the corners of the guest suite. The carpentry of the home had an unbelievably refined craftsmanship, though the colors of the natural cherry wood wasn't working with our colors, so we painted the beams and windows a classic Jet Black, and the rest of the trim and cabinetry was the ever-irrefutably fresh, white dove. Also, the color palate for all the bathroom tiles were a handsome mixture of natural stone and beautiful porcelain.



C: You are known for incorporating unusual and bold art and accessories into your design. I'm curious...where do you go to shop?

JS: Locally Coup D'Etat and De Sousa Hughes showrooms. Domestically we work with galleries such as Madison Art Gallery. Internationally I like Palau de Casavells Galeria Miquel Alzueta- and lastly, we Instagram stalk amazing providers and designers to find unique design offerings.

C: Do you have a favorite fashion designer you like to wear?

JS: I am always on the go as a dad and an interior designer, so I like Ben Sherman shoes and Scotch and Soda for their northern European vibe that suits the San Francisco climate. I love Klein, Epstein and Parker because they are form fitting custom suits, allowing me to wear it all day and I can jump off a plane and go right to dinner at Cotogna.





C: What textures do you love most?

JS: I love wool sateen, boucle, and other wintery fabrics. And you didn't ask for patterns, but I LOVE plaid, though I do not get to use it much!

C: Do materials dictate the design, or do you have a vision of what you want to create and choose the materials accordingly?

JS: We start with a design concept, directive and even a utility of each space. Having a road map to what and where we're going helps us decide on materials every turn in the road and ensure that each material fits purpose.



C: Is there an iconic designer alive or dead you would like to work with on a project?

JS: My buddy Gregor Jenkin is a furniture and industrial designer in Cape Town. He is incredibly creative, and I would love to design something with him. Who knows what it will be? But it will be exciting!