

ROOMS *WITH A* VIEW

The organic elegance of this classic Napa Valley home reflects its stunning scenic vistas.

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Exposed beams and two 5-foot-diameter chandeliers visually lower the 17-foot cathedral ceiling in the great-room. A working kitchen is hidden behind the range wall, keeping dirty dishes and ungainly appliances out of sight. A distinct herringbone-pattern oak floor adds subtle dimension while echoing the warmth of the beams.





Considered in terms of wine, one might describe Jill Conn's home nestled in California's renowned Napa Valley as bold and organic, with undertones of wood, metal, and stone that are infused with slight hints of glamour and topped off with high notes of subtle textures. "We wanted something timeless but that also reflected the rural setting in wine country," says Jill about the home perched on 5 acres of steep hillside property near St. Helena. "We also wanted a barnlike ambience with an open floor plan, where the inside naturally flows to the outside and maximizes the incredible views."

An amalgam of organic elements—such as white-oak cabinetry, granite and soapstone countertops, oak floors, plaster walls, a limestone chimney, and exposed beams—unite the home with the spectacular terrain in which it's cradled. "The home's design is based on the simple, agrarian forms that are prevalent in the Napa Valley," architect Karen Jensen says. "On arrival, it feels like a single-story house, but then you walk into the great-room and see the 36-foot-wide retractable panel doors that open up to the multilevel pool and patio area. The view of the rolling hills becomes intimate. Surprises like that make this home atypical."

Interior designer Jennifer Macdonald selected furnishings and rugs that further establish the home's natural, rural aesthetic—think materials such as jute, velvet, and reclaimed wood. But unexpected touches of glamour keep things visually interesting. "I call it organic glam," Macdonald says. "There definitely are quintessentially organic wine-country elements throughout the home, but we also wove in moments of elegance."

To complement instead of compete with its surroundings, the home features a non-trendy, neutral color palette of cooler light grays and blues that creates a calm aesthetic. "We didn't want anything that would feel dated in 10 years," Jill says. "We wanted something timeless and sophisticated."

While the home was designed for entertaining friends and family, it also has to withstand other forces of nature: two children and two dogs. As such, durable and functional materials such as stainproof furniture fabrics and outdoor rugs amiably rub shoulders with the more sophisticated elements. "Every material was thoughtfully selected to withstand wear and tear," Macdonald says.

But in the end, the house is all about drinking in the surrounding wine country vistas. "The whole house celebrates both its surroundings and indoor-outdoor living," Macdonald says.

FOR RESOURCES, SEE PAGE 100.





White-oak cabinets, a limestone-clad fireplace, a velvet-covered bench, and a coffee table built from reclaimed oak slabs provide a balance of light and dark, and masculine and feminine in the great-room.





OPPOSITE: The master bedroom features curvy furniture that echoes the natural undulations of the view. CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT: A small bump-out in a guest room was fashioned into a window seat complete with storage drawers. A 14½-foot-long U-shape sectional anchors the media room. A cathedral ceiling adds a sense of spaciousness to a guest room. Antiqued-brass plumbing fixtures bring refined elegance to the clean lines of the master bath. Sliding pocket doors invite the outdoors into the master bedroom. The white-oak master bath vanity mimics the custom cabinetry in the great-room.



RIGHT: The master bedroom suite, which occupies the home's upper level, overlooks a serene infinity pool and a multilevel stone deck that includes a built-in barbecue grill and pizza oven. "Last year, we cooked our entire Thanksgiving meal in the pizza oven," homeowner Jill Conn says. OPPOSITE: The great-room, anchored by an oversize dining table crafted from a bleached white-maple slab, offers expansive alfresco living thanks to a wall of doors that slide away, erasing the line between inside and out.



Floor plan

TOTAL SQ. FT: 5,888
 BEDROOMS: 4
 BATHROOMS: 4 full, 1 half



Floor plan © Karen Jensen Architecture

“Good interior design is full of layered subtleties that, as a whole, create something greater than the sum of their parts.”

INTERIOR DESIGNER JENNIFER MACDONALD

