

Modern Heirloom

Inspired by a sense of past and place, a Woodside family abode is born.

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Architecture: Timothy C. Chappelle, Arcanum Architecture, Inc. **Interior Design:** Jennifer Robin, Jennifer Robin Interiors
Landscape Architecture: John Merten, Studio Green



This Woodside residence with soaring stacked-stone walls features a side approach—just one of many unique design details. “This is more like a building that was retrofitted than a typical house,” says architect Timothy C. Chappelle. “It doesn’t have a traditional front door facing the big street. It wasn’t designed that way.”

It’s not often you hear a house referred to as a “found object,” but that’s how architect Timothy C. Chappelle describes a residence he designed in Woodside, a small town with a big sense of history. It’s a wooded area where equestrian paths line the narrow, sidewalk-free streets and remnant sawmill buildings tell an old, but not-forgotten tale. Although it’s home to some of Silicon Valley’s elite, it’s the kind of place determined to retain its charm and eschew big money’s largesse.

This bucolic setting inspired the abode, and Chappelle came to the project with a unique perspective: He’s a Woodside resident. “There’s a part of town with older, historic buildings from the 1800s,” says the architect, who worked in concert with project manager Austin Riley. “We had those in mind. We didn’t want this to feel like a new dwelling. Instead, we envisioned it as a spread out, aged agrarian compound. We think of places like this as ‘quiet architecture’—buildings that are at peace with their settings.”

That sense of calm is present as you approach the residence, which sits on a corner lot surrounded by stately oak and evergreen trees. Lush grasses give the front yard an informal character, while mature plantings lend to the home’s sense of longevity. “It feels as though you are walking through a meadow to get to the entry,” says landscape architect John Merten.

The dwelling itself comprises a trio of gabled buildings topped by a rustic metal roof and connected by glass-enclosed breezeways. Two are clad in stone (the larger edifice holds the living areas, and a smaller one contains the primary bedroom suite), and the third is a wood-clad structure housing the garage. In keeping with the small-town sensibility, you’ll find a front porch with a swing where the homeowners often relax.

Inside, designer Jennifer Robin and project manager Dani Souza married the husband and wife’s distinct styles while honoring the architecture’s timeless nature. “He was attracted to clean, modern lines and more masculine design elements, while she gravitated toward traditional, feminine forms,” says Robin. “We carefully wove

these together for a transitional vibe that reflects their tastes in a harmonious way.” Throughout the house, the designers performed a delicate balancing act, blending blond woods for texture and warmth with hints of antique brass, black accents and sophisticated millwork. For instance, light-hued perimeter cabinetry in the kitchen is juxtaposed against a dark island and a large black range hood, while the patterned tile backsplash whispers traditional and fresh in one breath. In the open-concept living and dining room, a white sofa sits opposite a dark media wall with a striking gray onyx fireplace surround. The dining chairs and benches are a modern shape, but Robin added nailhead detailing for a classic touch.

In select spots, exterior finishes drift indoors for a seamless look. “We want a connection between the inside and out,” Chappelle says. “One way to do it is with large windows and doors, but it is also important to bring the exterior materials inside.” The strategy is evident in the breezeways, where residents witness the exterior and interior materials blending through the glass walls as they travel from space to space.

The main bathroom is an exquisite example of blurring lines—the soaking tub sits in a niche that appears to jut through the exterior wall, with stonework hugging the space. Robin was careful to offset the heaviness of the material with lighter elements. “I selected a delicate marble mosaic for the floor along with feminine glass knobs and linen insets for the vanity to create a yin-yang balance,” she says. In the sleek main bedroom, equilibrium is found between large and intimate elements. The voluminous, light-hued room is grounded by a custom bed and floating nightstands. Opposite the bed is a wall composed of floor-to-ceiling sliding doors that provide direct access to the backyard.

At the end of the day, the homeowners often find themselves following a narrow path that leads to a seating area under a large oak where they can relax and enjoy the view of their new, harmonious abode. “I have a respect for great materials and craftsmanship, and people collaborating and working well together to create something spectacular,” the husband says. “I think we achieved that here.” ■

“The husband was attracted to **clean, modern lines and more masculine design elements**, while the wife gravitated toward **traditional, feminine forms.**”

—JENNIFER ROBIN



Designer Jennifer Robin outfitted the living room with a Holly Hunt sofa and leather lounge chairs. A Christopher Farr Cloth textile covers a bench by Brett Design and, along with the Hermès printed fabric pillows, brings texture and warmth to the room. The gray onyx fireplace surround anchors the media wall. An Ochre chandelier hangs above it all.



Above: Tucked into a sunny corner, the breakfast nook features a built-in bench with storage. The Tod Von Mertens table's heavy legs contrast with the Pinch chairs' delicate wood frames. Adding a hint of glam, the bell glass pendant by Coup Studio features gold detailing.

Opposite: The kitchen offers a lesson in balance, its rich azure island a departure from the light wood perimeter cabinetry. Black-and-white backsplash tiles from Cement Tile Shop harken to the home's historic nature while adding a bit of fun to the sophisticated lines of the millwork, quartzite countertops and large black range hood.



A mix of Altura Furniture chairs and benches upholstered in Garrett Leather surround a Joseph Jeup table, all sourced from De Sousa Hughes. An Ochre chandelier mirrors the fixture in the living room. Peering through to the kitchen reveals Powell & Bonnell stools covered in Holly Hunt leather.



Robin designed a custom bed, a collaboration with Kroll Furniture and Matthew Chase Woodworks, that features a television lift at the foot. Pendants from Holly Hunt illuminate a lounge chair by A. Rudin and artwork the homeowners brought to the project. In the bathroom, dainty glass drawer pulls on the custom vanity soften the stone wall backdrop.

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