



MJC Development's Matthew Cook
and Andrew Johnston craft
a premium wine country estate.

SMOOTH FINISH

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When we first caught up with developers Matthew Cook and Andrew Johnston, they had just completed a project in Yountville that was snapped up by RH CEO Gary Friedman. That was just over 18 months ago. Since then, Cook and Johnston have been hard at work building two new wine country estates—each with its very own distinctive vibe. “We never want our projects to be cookie-cutter,” relates Johnston. Cook agrees: “For us to pour our time and passion into the projects, they have to be unique. We have to keep challenging ourselves, challenging our team.” The show stopper of a home presented on these pages serves as case-in-point. “We’ve never done anything this contemporary,” says Johnston. “This is a home for someone who embraces modern, clean lines and is all about entertaining.”

Set on approximately three acres and surrounded by Chardonnay grapes, Cook and Johnston devised a sleek look and feel for the approximately 4,000-square-foot home that features five bedrooms and five-and-a-half baths. The house is laid out in an L-shaped design hugging a spacious patio and a spectacular 40x20-foot pool. A 400-square-foot pool house is set just steps from the pool’s edge. The resulting effect is resort-like.

The two-story family room (below and bottom right) opens to the swimming pool and terrace making for a seamless transition between indoors and out. The living room (with windows on three sides) embraces the spectacular Napa Valley views.





An open-plan kitchen with two massive islands is perfect for entertaining. The chic minimalist space is open and airy and flows beautifully during parties.





“The interior spaces open to the patios with a seamless transition,” notes Cook. “In many ways the home is all about indoor/outdoor rooms—and enjoying Wine Country life to the fullest.” To enhance their vision, Cook and Johnston partnered again with Jennifer Nagle, whose keen design eye and sense of style has earned her an impeccable reputation in the design world.

Nagle says of the project, “I wanted it to be minimal and modern with a few details that have a decadent bohemian edge.” In the great room—a fabulous cathedral-like space—Nagle grounded the design with three carpets from Loiloi. A pair of ivory rugs from Loiloi’s “Trousdale” collection defines the seating area near the fireplace and under the dining table. A third rug in Mediterranean green from Loiloi’s “Sahara” collection grounds the center of the room and is topped by a pair of Regina Andrew’s “Geneva” chairs.

The dining room features a jaw-dropping temperature controlled wine cellar wall perfect for showcasing favorite vintages. To balance the contemporary lines of the cellar, Nagle selected furnishings with distressed wood and leather. A custom dining table by Furniture Classics is surrounded by banquettes by Four Hand upholstered in a Schumacher linen with dining chairs from Noir Furniture. Fascinating art selections line the walls, including Wendover Art Group’s *Distressed Pier* and Steve Klein’s *Woman and Horse*. Boudreaux light fixtures from France & Sons lend a mid-century modern vibe.

The master suite feature a spa-like bath and gracious balcony perfect for morning coffees and enjoying the sunset with a glass of wine. The home is surrounded by 3 acres of Chardonnay grapes.



A stunning 40 x 20-foot pool lends a resort-like grace to the MJC property. “Beyond the pool is a series of elegant outdoor rooms,” relates designer Jennifer Nagle. “They are set up similar to an interior great room with sitting, lounging, and dining spaces.”



The kitchen and family room space circulates beautifully for entertaining on a large scale. Double islands with waterfall stone counters elegantly blend with sumptuous furnishings, including ivory sofas by Cube, and France & Sons “Chieftan’s Lounge Chair.” Presiding over the dramatic stairs with custom glass railings is *Neon Portrait I & II* by Left Bank Art. The family room continues at the top of the stairs with a casual gathering space, including pairs of “Maxx” and “Regent” swivel chairs by Four Hands surrounding an upholstered cocktail ottoman.

A true safe haven, the master suite overlooks the vineyards and valley. A delightful terrace provides the perfect spot for a morning coffee. Nagle added the richly upholstered “Aria” sleigh bed by Gabby Home and a luxurious rug from Loilo’s “Javari” collection.

When asked about their favorite aspects of the final project, Cook and Johnston point to the flow. “The indoor/outdoor living aspect is so special here,” cites Cook. Nagle concurs: “The outdoor great room flanked by a dining/living space is so welcoming, but on a cool night the dining area in the great room is magical.” ♦

