



Macdonald selected Palmer Hargrave's Left Arlus Sconce to echo the pitch of the horizontal stair rails. She counterbalanced the sleek minimalism with a rustic wooden tripod table. **OPPOSITE** In the dining area, Kerry Joyce's pale blue fabric covers Ralph Lauren chairs which surround a custom Statsky Design dining table.

# *The* HOUSE WHISPERERS

DESIGNER JENNIFER MACDONALD TEAMS WITH WADE DESIGN ARCHITECTS

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**N THE LIVING ROOM OF A ST. HELENA CRAFTSMAN STYLE HOUSE,** Peter Samuels' life sized photo of a chestnut horse welcomes visitors. The image reflects the homeowners' passion for equestrian life, which includes a nearby horse facility. They found a kindred spirit in their interior designer and fellow equine enthusiast, Jennifer Macdonald of Jennifer Robin Interiors. To create the contemporary rural home of their dreams, the existing French farmhouse style interiors required an extensive remodel.

Macdonald's firm Jennifer Robin Interiors teamed with Wade Design Architects to translate the couples' vision into reality. The designer met husband and wife team Luke and Ani Wade when they worked together at the prestigious firm, Backen & Gillam Architects. After founding their companies ten years ago, the trio has collaborated on various commissions. Luke Wade described the St. Helena project, "In 2001 the clients built a house perched on a bench overlooking Napa Valley with splendid views to the south. They loved their home and location, but the house did not adequately open up to embrace the setting, the kitchen was undersized, and the master suite was a jumble."

**ABOVE** At the sink window, Waterworks' Regulator Gooseneck Double Spout Marquee Kitchen Faucet with Matte Black Wheel Handles stands out against the verdant landscape. **OPPOSITE** "The existing kitchen floor had a great color but was severely cracked and needed a new radiant system underneath. We worked overtime to match the original concrete color and its patina, but it's all new," explained Ani Wade.



**BELOW** A close up of the kitchen displays the designer's flair for working with layered neutrals. **RIGHT** Macdonald built the living area around the client's fireplace, "I loved the existing mantle and surrounding stone and didn't want to change it" she says. She surmounted the mantle with a mirror from Lucca Antiques to reflect the great room.





A cricket table from Sonoma Country Antiques joins the sofa and lounge chair upholstered in a blue gray Rogers & Goffigan fabric. Stark Carpet's sisal area rug grounds the space.

The reconfigured master bedroom suite features a rustic canopy bed. At the end of the bed, a bench from Briggs House of Antiques provides functionality. **OPPOSITE** Wade Design Architects and Macdonald designed a luxurious master bath for their clients. A trio of sconces from The Urban Electric Co. adds an elegant touch.



The architects replaced existing hinged doors with oversized sliding barn doors linking the pastoral landscape to the casual interiors. An entry hallway leads to an expansive great room with soaring cathedral ceilings. Macdonald unified the living and dining spaces with a pale color palette punctuated by shades of amber and blue. She centered the seating group on a rustic mantle with arched keystone opening. A massive coffee table fabricated by Statsky Design from 100-year-old oak floor joists anchors the living room. Macdonald sourced the soft furnishings from Dmitriy and A. Rudin.

Placed behind the sofa a metal waterfall console table delineates the living and dining areas. A pair of black cage lanterns from Ironware International illuminate the rectangular oak Parsons dining table surrounded by wicker chairs. In the adjacent kitchen, the Wades expanded the space by incorporating square footage from a hallway. To provide continuity, they matched the existing stained concrete floor. Macdonald selected the gray soapstone counters to play against the stark white cabinetry and installed a quartet of glazed stoneware funnel pendants over the kitchen island.

After a day spent riding and caring for horses, the couple retreats to a tranquil master suite. The architects and designer transformed the incoherent jumble of private rooms into a cohesive statement. Macdonald said of the completed project, "The home now has a modern country, California vibe." CH