

NASHVILLE'S GREATEST EATS AND TREATS

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COWBOYS & INDIANS

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 147010000191806 1704 M/17 5505
 *JOHN L WONG
 SVA GROUP
 2200 BRIDGEWAY
 SAUSALITO CA 94965-1750
 05505
 P758
 #120#
 581



VINEYARD ESTATE

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settings that relate to the surroundings starts with developing a set of contrasts, such as formal versus informal, natural versus manicured," Wong says.

Wong studied the home's architecture, noting the strong roofline that flows down to melt into the earth. He also found inspiration in the nearby vineyard and pond.

"We pull elements from the architecture and surrounding environment and abstractly portray them in the design," Wong says.

The primary outdoor living area is a paved and covered patio connected to the home. From there, the landscape cascades gently down into a series of soft grassy terraces edged in Corten, a type of steel that rusts over time. Stone steps, which complement the geometric design, lead down from the patio to the swimming terrace. Vertically separated from the patio, the pool harmonizes with the rectilinear elements. On the far side of the pool, the sunning deck takes on an amphitheater-like quality when dusk descends.

To accommodate the client's desire for an outdoor gathering and dining area, Wong created a walkway from the main patio to the side of the house. There, he installed an elongated pad of crushed rock perfectly sized for a large farm table. Rather than a trellis, six deciduous trees line the sides providing an organic canopy of shade.

From the outdoor dining room, a second set of stone stairs leads down to the pool. In the center, a cut-out channel of water tumbles from the top down to the pool creating ambient sound.

"Like many aspects of the design, the water is a metaphor," Wong says. "It starts from the home flowing down the channel into the pool before splashing over the infinity edge to water the valley below."

RENOWNED FOR ITS TEMPERATE climate and iconic vineyards, the rolling countryside of Sonoma Valley is a haven from the busy urban centers of California. For one couple, it was also the perfect place to build a home where they could enjoy abundant outdoor living.

Constructed on top of a knoll with

steep vertical hillsides above and below, the spectacular home site boasts stunning views of a 50-acre vineyard and sprawling valley beyond. Wanting to take full advantage of the challenging site, the couple contracted with landscape architect John L. Wong, principal designer and chairman of SWA Group.

"Designing a landscape with intimate

