

Modern Farmhouse

TAYLOR LOMBARDO ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNER REBECCA LOEWKE STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN RURAL AND CONTEMPORARY
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Sofa and chairs by Restoration Hardware, with Perennials Dove cushions. Maker & Moss Indigo Ombre coffee table. Ortal fireplace



THE MODERN FARMHOUSE ESTATE on 15 acres in Sonoma, completed by Taylor Lombardo Architects last year, began as a rather different project.

“It started off as a very modern spec house,” said Tom Taylor, partner at the San Francisco-based firm. “But the owners sold it before we started construction. The new owners came in, loved the floor plan, but wanted something less modern.”

After an extensive redesign, the estate - with more than 10,000 square foot of indoor space across three buildings - reflects the owners’ vision for a second home that should still feel like a family home. There is plenty of space for their young children - including a playhouse in a barn. For large gatherings, Taylor created sophisticated indoor-outdoor open-plan rooms, including one with a dramatic vaulted ceiling.

Taylor said that striking a balance between rural and contemporary was a critical factor. The mostly flat acreage includes a working vineyard, while a two-story barn is designed to hold farming equipment.

“We were going for a contemporary farmhouse and didn’t want it to be very rustic,” said Taylor. “A lot of times, when people think of a modern farmhouse, they think of something that’s slightly rustic but has modern features. The clients definitely wanted something more overall polished than that, while keeping the openness of a modern house.”

The main house is 6,600 square feet and arrayed in an easy flow with oversized windows and doors (including some that are 40-foot wide) that let in plenty of light. Taylor said that the selection of doors and windows was amongst the most “hand-wrangling” of aspects of the job.

“We were trying to find a balance between something slightly traditional and more modern,” he said. “The original design was for aluminum doors, and that worked fine then. But it didn’t feel right for the redesign. We went with a mixture of steel in a couple of places, while most of the house has wooden doors for a more traditional look. And that ended up being a good choice.”

The original more modern design had flat roofs, but the pitched roofs are now an important aspect of the design.

A guest house is a cozy 600 square feet, while the garage/barn, at 2,800 square feet, can be seen from the main house so the children can play in its upstairs playroom and still be within sight of their parents.

BELOW In the great room, pendants from Paul Ferrante. The 10’ dining table is from Restoration Hardware’s Reclaimed Oak Parsons collection, with chairs from West Elm Slope Leather in Aegean Blue with antique brass. Center table by Arteriors Seren. Custom sofas through Rebecca Loewke.





In the kitchen, the backsplash tile is Cream Crackle by local company Sonoma Tilemakers. Cabinetry is Hardwood Habitat. The hood is custom through Lux Metals in Santa Rosa, with fittings by Waterstone in Antique Pewter, and pendants from Paul Ferrante. Artwork is Matt Rogers from St Helena.



Taylor Lombardo worked with Peninsula-based interior designer Rebecca Loewke, who continued the modern-yet-warm aesthetic. The interiors have a clean and neutral background - 40x40" porcelain tiles that look like concrete, soft white walls, warm and light woods. Jeff Wollmer, founder of Wollmer Custom Building in Santa Rosa, was the general contractor on the project.

Loewke said that despite the scale of the home, the overarching goal was to create a place that was warm and inviting.

"The most important thing to the family was to have a place where they could come up on the weekends or spend the summer and not worry about anything," said Loewke. "Everything needed to be family-friendly."

Loewke, who had worked with the owners before, helped achieve this ease and accessibility in a number of different ways; the bathroom floors are covered in porcelain tile for efficient clean-up,

cabinets work smoothly and are chip- and dent-proof, and the seating areas are designed for long lounging sessions.

"We kept a neutral foundation with lots of soft tones, knowing that they could add art here and there," said Loewke. Pops of color came in areas like the powder room, rendered in an intense midnight blue. The family room has accents of orange and grey, while turquoise and blue tones up-lift the great room. Ensuring a seamless indoor-outdoor transition was key; one wall opens up entirely onto the outdoors, and the same flooring continues between the indoor living room and the outdoor dining area. Dramatic lighting, from Paul Ferrante and Circa Lighting, anchors many of the spaces.

Taylor agreed that keeping the happiness and safety of the children and their friends was paramount.

"That was the primary motivation for the owners," he said. "There's a barn to play in, a forest, a creek, and everything is viewable from the house. It's a fun place to be a kid." CH

RIGHT A bucolic setting frames the Sonoma house designed by Taylor Lombardo Architects and Interior Designer, Rebecca Loewke. The homeowner wanted a natural palette and a place where they could bring families and friends for the weekend.

BELOW The powder room has porcelain tile faux wood floors and fittings from Newport Brass. The mirror is by Restoration Hardware. Paint color is BM 2062-20 Gentlemans Gray. Pendants by Arteriors.



LEFT In the master bedroom, white oak flooring by California Wood Floors. All lighting by Circa Lighting. Floating oak nightstands are custom made through Jeff Wollmer. Accent pillows are from Room and Board. Custom headboard and rugs through Rebecca Loewke.

BELOW The Sonoma estate strikes a balance between rustic and contemporary.



ABOVE The master bathroom has fittings by Sigma in Slate finish. The tub is MT1, pendant by Paul Ferrante. Limestone tile through Da Vinci Marble.

