

materials

13 TACTILE REMINDERS

MIX AND MATCH

Designer Jennifer R. Macdonald and architect Luke Wade worked together to infuse a St. Helena retreat with a rich backdrop. Reclaimed wood lines the walls of the great room and frames a fireplace marked by a darkened steel surround. Integral color concrete grounds the space. jrobininteriors.com; wade.design.com



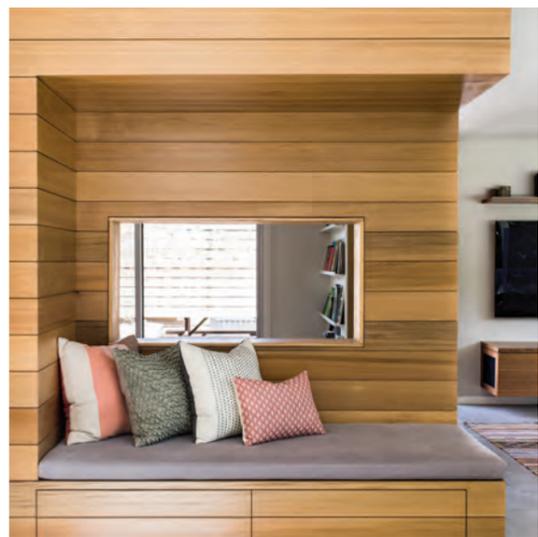
▼ BRING NATURE HOME

For a Martis Camp residence, architect Clare Walton drew inspiration from the forested site in selecting the wood, stone, steel and glass that define the structure. The entry's ceiling is clad with clear cedar, which builder Marshall Williams fit on site. waltonae.com; crestwoodconstruction.com



▲ OUT OF THE BOX

In updating an 1889 farmhouse in Calistoga, architect Richard Beard turned the interior siding inside out and painted it white, lending character to the living room. He then introduced a modern element to the space with a blackened steel fireplace surround and restored the house's original double hung windows. richardbeard.com



▲ WARM FRONT

When renovating a midcentury modern residence in Alamo, designer Melissa Winn and builder Jim Wood brought in wood elements to warm up the stark interiors. To play off the kitchen's white cabinetry, Winn designed a built-in seating nook clad with horizontal cedar. melissawinn.com; rjconstruction.com

14 ELEMENTS OF DESIGN

Collaboration with great partners means great results, says architect Stephen Sutro. For example, Sutro worked with designer Claudia Juestel on this Sonoma County home with a contemporary aesthetic and a warm palette, as exemplified by the open kitchen. The clients were looking for a light, calming and warm interior, says Juestel. Here, both professionals weigh in on the role of materials in achieving that result. sutroarchitects.com; adeenidesigngroup.com

How did you achieve this modern yet timeless look? **SS:** We used natural appearing materials with a variety of textures and placed them in a sleek configuration. I think the result hits our intended mark, and the open storage system also relaxes the look.

Tell us about the material palette. **CJ:** The island in the kitchen is a gathering place, and we wanted it to be minimal yet still interesting and low maintenance. **SS:** The counter on the island is crisp compared to the grain of the walnut.

What did the homeowners request? **CJ:** Since this is a green project, our clients asked that we use fewer and sustainable materials. The pale gray concrete countertops are custom, and the backsplash is made from the same concrete embossed with texture.



15 THE HOT LIST

FIVE BUILDING PROFESSIONALS SHARE WHAT'S ON THEIR RADAR AND THE HOME INNOVATIONS TO WATCH FOR THIS YEAR.



ANDY BANNISTER

When remodeling... Make sure you plan! The more design choices that can be made in advance, the better, and it allows the contractor to thoroughly price the project and prepare for lead times. **What's catching your eye right now:** Big openings to the outdoors and making that transition feel seamless can be really cool. The right use of materials for the floor surfaces and minimizing the track details for the door can make a room feel massive. earthtoneconstruction.com



STEVE NICHOLLS

Material of choice: Wood is so versatile, craft able, flexible and finish able. Whether it's a traditional or contemporary space, wood provides warmth and a handmade quality. Plus, it works as flooring, stairs, wall paneling, built ins, ceilings and doors. **Splurge worthy:** Windows and doors are essentially covered holes in the envelope of the building. The better quality products last longer, work better, look good and don't leak. mnbuid.com



JOEY TOBONI

Current trend: A few homes we've built in the past year combined aspects of traditional design within a modern backdrop. For example, we maintained the crown molding but eliminated multiple layers and bevels. The concept is to incorporate older design principles while giving them a sleek feel. **Keys to a successful remodel:** Preparation and organization, and trying to flush out the unknowns as early as possible. thetobonigroup.com



JIM MURPHY

Favorite material: I have a real fondness for masonry finishes, both inside and out. The use of stone based finishes and details can help ground a home into the earth. **Why do you feel kitchen remodels are so important?** A kitchen is one of the most used spaces in the house. I believe they work best when they are incorporated into a very open plan that allows owners and guests to share in the meal preparation experience. jm.a.com



PETE KASTEN

Splurge worthy: Homes today should be efficient, so we focus a lot on building performance and smart design. People are making investments in the kitchen and entertainment areas, along with indoor outdoor connections. **What's catching your eye?** It is great to see homes being designed to accommodate family and friends in one common area, such as a great room that integrates a kitchen and a dining space. kastenbuilders.com

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