

PJ Bremier's Fine Living: Napa Showhouse features rustic inspired living rooms



Annie Bowman, owner of Sunrise Home in San Rafael, sits in the master bedroom of Caldwell Winery estate, this year's Napa Valley Showhouse. Courtesy of Victor M. Samuel Photography

By Marin Independent Journal

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0 COMMENTS

If you attend the third annual Napa Showhouse this month, you might be surprised who inspired the rustic living room in the main house.

It wasn't John or Joy Caldwell, owners of the 123-acre Caldwell Vineyard estate, but their black-and-white dog Buckley — "the ultimate in contrast," says Tiburon designer Cathleen Gouveia of Cathleen Gouveia Design and incoming president of the San Francisco chapter of the professional association of designers known as ASID.

Gouveia says it's Buckley's favorite room.

"Buckley's spirit was curious and welcoming and he tipped his head to one side as I (first) peeked in the door," she says. "I felt like I was intruding upon his sense of place and knew his room would undergo a radical transformation, so I wanted to pay a homage to him with the design concept."

This inspired a room with dark charcoal walls, light floors, a light ceiling and an abundance of textures.

"An Allison Haley Paul painting, 'The Barns,' seemed most appropriate as it brought to the foreground Buckley's stomping ground, a farmhouse setting with barns," she says.

Which is what ticket holders will see at this year's showhouse. They can tour the historic farmhouse, the Cheese Barn, the water tower lookout and sample some Caldwell wine. Participating designers hail from the Bay Area, Truckee, Tucson and Atlanta, and proceeds benefit the Napa Valley Film Festival.

"The hand-blown glass chandeliers with pear-shaped pendants, for some reason reminded me reminded me of dandelions and the field Buckley played in," Gouveia says.

So did a bronze sculpture, "Falling Snow" by Gail Folwell, which brought to mind suggestions of wind and rain, environmental elements to which Buckley might be exposed if he left his cozy room, and a custom-designed elm wood barn sliding door that not only celebrates the landscape but, as she notes, represents freedom and abandon for a dog.

There are also drawings and sketches of dogs by Laura Adler that flank the doorway where Buckley first greeted Gouveia. "I couldn't help but fall in love with her work," Gouveia says.

The room also features antique French garden furniture, a leather chair McGuire, custom nesting tables from Sloane Miyasato, custom Tessera and Shinjuku metallic side tables by Tuell and Reynolds in Cloverdale, a custom bench made by Urban Lumber from sunken lumber timbers, custom window coverings from Hartmann & Forbes, and vintage antiques and artifacts from Ma(i)sonry, Aereana Galleries, Anthem and Cathleen Gouveia Design's Private Collection.

TIMELESS' BEDROOM

Like Gouveia, Annie Bowman, owner of the home furnishings store Sunrise Home in San Rafael, is a veteran showcase house designer and was asked to transform the Caldwell Estate's master bedroom.

"It was very much influenced by the Caldwells' wish for a pared-down and a carefully edited room to relax and recharge in," Bowman says. "They stressed their desire for a timeless and handsome, rather than feminine, aesthetic with classic furnishings."

So, she and Sunrise Home designer Ralf Runge pulled together a room using a soft-blue gray for the walls and pieces selected from her San Rafael showroom.

The mahogany bed with a nubby white headboard, nightstands and custom chair are all by Hickory chair; lamps are by Arteriors; accessories, area rug and window treatments are by Sunrise Home, and bedding is by SDH the Purist.

The owners were not enthusiastic about window coverings, Bowman says, so she and Runge opted for simple off-white, unlined linen drapes.

"Overall, the look is clean and serene," Bowman says, "and emphasizes the beautiful floors, lovely views and easy lifestyle provided by the home."

PJ Bremier writes on home, garden, design and entertaining topics every Saturday and also on her blog at DesignSwirl.co. She may be contacted at P.O. Box 412, Kentfield 94914, or at pj@pjbremier.com.

IF YOU GO

What: Third annual Napa Valley Showhouse

When: Through Nov. 16; 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays, closed Mondays

Where: 169 Kreuzer Lane, Napa

Admission: \$30 to \$75

Information: TraditionalHome.com/NapaShowhouse