



**Architecture:** Philip Pitzer and David Stocker, SHM Architects **Interior Design:** Fran DeLeo and Thic Hoa, DeLeo & Fletcher Design  
**Home Builder:** Neal Calhoun, SCH Homes **Landscape Architecture:** Jason Osterberger, Jason Osterberger Designs, LLC

# A Fine Blend

Inspired by the ethos of California wine country, a design team imagines a new Dallas house ready for effervescent entertaining.

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Life always felt full to the brim for one young Dallas couple, their days overflowing with two lively children, many friends and a carousel of festivities. Their formal French Provincial-style house, however, seemed too stiff for their jovial gatherings.

“They did not want anything too traditional,” recalls designer Fran DeLeo, who the couple recruited alongside fellow designer Thic Hoa to build a new custom abode in Westlake. “They told us, ‘We’re young. We’re fun. We have a family. We want our home to be light, fresh and relaxed.’”

Imagining this feeling within four walls, the couple kept returning to memories of Napa Valley wine country, drawn not to a particular architectural style so much as the atmosphere. “They love all those wonderful California organic textures and lots of natural light,” DeLeo observes. “It has a casual luxury that fits their lifestyle.”

Embracing this directive, architects Philip Pitzer and David Stocker brought a West Coast influence to the home’s arrangement of courtyards, building up the progression of indoor and outdoor spaces. The final layout unfolds as an elegant enfilade branching into outdoor areas. Some, such as the expansive pool terrace and cabana, set the scene for animated get-togethers, while other pocket-size courtyards add beauty and flood the interiors with sunlight and greenery. Landscape designer Jason Osterberger cultivated a distinct character for each alfresco interlude, from a romantic fire pit alcove engulfed in hydrangeas to an outdoor sculpture garden featuring a David Harber sphere nestled in drifts of Mexican feather grass.

Natural, tactile materials further deepen the interior’s sunlit warmth. Abundant rich caramel tones run through the wire-brushed oak floors, cerused rift-sawn oak cabinetry and knotted timber beams on the ceilings. The design team also drew inspiration from a residence they encountered in Napa, incorporating coarse stone walls and fireplaces both indoors and out. “But we made them Texan with Lueders limestone, which is native to this area,” DeLeo adds.

These rugged finishes still strike a contemporary profile thanks to streamlined detailing by builder Neal Calhoun’s tireless team of craftspeople. There’s a satisfying geometry to the precise wood elements, such as a basket-weave screen punctuating the front

entrance and the cantilevered staircase with floating treads. The meticulous grid of stonework also flows seamlessly. “From inside to outside, around windows, doors, fireplaces and wall heights, there’s no odd shape or cut,” Calhoun says.

Alongside these organic features, the interiors exude inviting intimacy through thoughtful proportions. “We really watched the scale of the rooms, creating spaces the family can enjoy together but that also work well for entertaining,” Pitzer explains.

The result makes celebrations feel lively at any size. A separate scullery complete with an oven services the main kitchen, freeing up space for gathering around the elongated quartzite island. The adjacent family room carves out distinct but flexible areas of conversation. Exchanges flow between the deep-seated sofas nestled by the fireplace and a cluster of emerald-velvet swivel lounge chairs.

Dining, in turn, shifts from the easeful elegance of the formal dining room with its live-edge table and crystal-slab chandelier to the cozy intimacy of the breakfast nook’s ribbed white oak banquette. In a nod to the home’s Napa Valley influence, a dedicated wine-tasting room with wall-to-wall refrigerated cabinetry housing an expansive bottle collection enlivens cocktail hours. Meanwhile, a colorful guest apartment connected to the main house by a breezeway welcomes visitors in style after late-night festivities. “It has an artistic flair to it,” Hoa remarks, pointing to the green-velvet bed dotted with geometric-print pillows and the bathroom’s graphic black-and-white tile.

The home’s furnishings, however, maintain clean, crisp lines so as not to compete with other architectural elements but weave in little details that make each piece special, such as the quilted leather upholstery of the study’s lounge chairs or the contrasting wood tones of the dining room’s console.

A more adventurous spirit guided the eclectic art collection, which includes a prismatic Tom Hoitsma abstract, an undulating painted silk tapestry by Kenny Nguyen and a scattered porcelain thumbprint installation by Christina Watka. “When a client appreciates art as much as we do, we go all out,” Hoa says with a laugh.

Like a well-balanced wine, the space now feels infused with warmth and character. “This home has an everyday, livable luxury,” DeLeo observes. “It’s a fun place to live.” ■



In the family room, conversations percolate by the fireplace around matching The Bright Group sofas and an Alfonso Marina Basiglio marble cocktail table. Holly Hunt swivel chairs wearing Pollack velvet create another gathering space that surrounds a pivoting coffee table from Global Views.





**Above:** Material warmth envelops the entry thanks to European white oak floors from the Premier Surface Group, LLC and a multidimensional basket-weave screen by Modular Arts. *Mysterious Sea No. 2* by artist Kenny Nguyen draws the eye down a limestone-lined hallway.

**Opposite:** An Artitalia Group live-edge table and Holly Hunt Hampton chairs anchor the dining room, illuminated by a rock crystal chandelier from Wired Custom Lighting. On the wall hangs a yellow-centric abstract painting by Tom Holtsma. A Perennials Tibetan rug adds lushness underfoot.





Covered in Edelman leather with a Villa Nova Kente print, a custom banquette carves out an inviting breakfast nook. The Robert James Collection Abaco table and chairs from Thomas Hayes Studio complete the cozy corner.







**Above:** A guest bath keeps to monochromatic tones, incorporating a black Ann Sacks Savoy tile backsplash, graphic LiLi Cement Tiles floors and Arctic White quartz countertops from MSI Surfaces. Glints of brass come from the Brizo wall-mounted faucets and Hudson Valley Lighting sconces.

**Opposite:** Upholstered in Pollack green velvet, a bed from Cantoni centers an artful guest room. Arhaus' Engles leather chairs provide ample seating. The uber-modern Hinkley chandelier and Rousseau floor lamps from Visual Comfort & Co. give an avant-garde edge.







**Above:** On the veranda, a deep Gloster Grid sectional makes for relaxed lounging around the RH aluminum coffee table. Just beyond, a Robert James Collection cast-stone table and a set of Bernhardt Santa Cruz outdoor armchairs establish the alfresco dining space.

**Opposite:** A Cantoni Savana desk and The Bright Group swivel chair populate the study, alongside a more relaxed seating area formed by a pair of the brand's leather Adil lounge chairs. The custom fireplace features a Grand Noir marble façade fabricated by Aria Stone Gallery.