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HUNEEUS RESIDENCE

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Agustin and Valeria Huneeus are a vintner and viticulturist who together created the Quintessa Winery Estate designed by Walker Warner Architects. Located in Rutherford, in the heart of Napa Valley, the estate provided a perfect location for the Huneeuses to create a quiet family retreat. They asked Walker Warner Architects to marry their love of the land with the design principles the architects used in the winery; the result was a pastoral retreat that can host winery-related events ranging from simple lunches for six up to dinners for 200.

As the owners are Chilean, the design references country residences of Central and South America. The L-shaped foot-

print of the house was designed to create a courtyard surrounding two existing sycamores and to open the house up to views of rolling vineyard hills and an adjacent lake on the estate property. The house's shape shelters it and the outdoor spaces from road noise coming from nearby Silverado Trail.

Architecture in South America tends to be simple, bold, and graciously scaled. The architects played with these ideas by embellishing the minimal stucco forms of the house with overscaled doors and windows, wood screen walls that serve as room dividers, and clean slatted cabinet doors. All were custom made from afromosia, an African wood similar to teak. Building finishes were derived to complement the surrounding natural palette with spare and unfettered details, appearing generous in scale.

One of the clients' primary goals was to connect the indoor and outdoor spaces of the house, even in the heat of summer. This required passive cooling solutions that didn't rely on air conditioning or doors and windows kept shut. "We built the walls with Eco-Block, an insulated concrete-form product that uses rigid foam insulation as the formwork," explains Greg Warner, AIA. "This was filled with eight inches of concrete that serves as a thermal mass to regulate indoor temperatures by absorbing heat from the sun during the day and releasing it at night. This is an ancient technology used in the old adobe buildings seen in South America. We also used shading devices such as porches, overhangs, shutters, and stucco window surrounds to minimize heat gain through doors and windows."



Left-to-right:

A courtyard surrounds the plaza and is captured as informal interior space.

The plaster walls, painted a soft eggshell, subtly highlight the home's dramatic elements.

AIA East Bay is an architectural community spanning the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Napa, and Solano. Our many programs include education for architects and outreach to the community on vital topics, such as sustainable design, earthquake safety, and architect-related issues that focus on how the Bay Area community benefits from well-informed design and development.

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