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Dream creation

Architect's custom home blends vintage cottage charm with modern sophistication.

The dining room feels open and spacious thanks to walls of windows that allow for ample natural light.

VANGUARD PROPERTIES
Stunning sightlines
Architect maintained 'voyeuristic' approach when creating elements of his dream home

By John Perl
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

The smart, understated design is immediately apparent when approaching 6550 Napa St., where a blend of rustic shingles and exposed concrete forms the home's facade. This juxtaposition of materials only hints at the unique blend of country living and modern style within the recently renovated Napa Valley residence.

Here, concrete, stainless steel, and glass mix with cozy cottage finishes like the exposed white beams gracing the living area. The centerpieces of this contrast are the dark and dramatic American walnut-panelled wall that backs the four-storied study well, in sharp and striking balance to the cottage while all around.

These are the types of innovative and thoughtful techniques discovered when an architect designs a home for himself. His life can bring unexpected changes, and now Eric Tokstad's four-bedroom, 3.5-bath revision is on the market for $2.5 million.

"The house is designed as an open, fluid space," says Eric Tokstad, who founded Eric Tokstad Architectural Design in 2010. "An open, fluid space filled with light and views, and organized with ample areas to make our social and busy life easy and enjoyable.

Tokstad was formerly the vice president of store design for Williams-Sonoma and senior director of store design for Bi-rite Supermarket. A San Francisco native, Tokstad earned his architecture degree at UC Berkeley in 1975.

He has designed multiple custom homes in and around the Bay Area, including one for an anonymous celebrity. He also designed the architecture firm Cellino Design's Florida residence. Recently, he and his partner agreed on a change of scenery.

"When we decided to relocate to London, we wanted to get away from the hustle of the city, but we still wanted a home," Tokstad lamented.

The new, 3,400-square-foot structure has impressive presence and presence is evident in the dramatic transformation the 26-year-old ranch-style property that existed before.

In the kitchen, the drab kitchen cabinets replaced the 26-year-old ranch-style property.

The kitchen features beaux-decor walnut cabinetry and white Calacatta marble countertops. The home's country kitchen style and modern style are evident from the rear, right, which also features a patio.

The home's country kitchen contrasts with the working patterns in the white Calacatta marble countertops. Rows of kitchen cabinets and counters are graced with professionally grade stainless steel appliances.

Here and throughout the house, radiant heating makes the house feel like a home.

Utility systems are climate-controlled, extreme attention to detail is evident everywhere the house and smart technology for thermostats and lighting.

If we could avoid an unnecessary expense or detail, we made an effort to eliminate it, she said. The materials areOffset-continuous throughout the house and every design problem, so that only the materials have to be considered. The focus, versus seeing all the materials, becomes the decision, and corners, and finishes that are usually everywhere.

For example, the wood floor planks extend from one wall to the next, with no visible

The master bathroom features a double-view shower with dual shower heads. The living room, below, has a fireplace, and the entire home benefits from radiant heating from under either Danmarke Douglas P1 R or Inset-steel tile floorings.