

Home at Last

HEATHER HILLIARD DESIGN, SUTRO ARCHITECTS, AND AARON GORDON CONSTRUCTION TEAM UP IN SAN FRANCISCO TO CREATE A WARM CONTEMPORARY RETREAT FOR A PAIR OF BUSY YOUNG TECH STARTUP FOUNDERS

TEXT BY SUZANNE ENNIS | PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID DUNCAN LIVINGSTON



Restoration Hardware Provence Classic Swivel lounge chairs and a Luxe sectional offer cozy seating around the roof deck's fire table.



A

FTER PURCHASING A PROPERTY IN San Francisco's Cow Hollow neighborhood, a young couple tapped Heather Hilliard Design to transform it into a serene retreat from their busy lives as tech-startup founders and executives. Like a startup, however, the project required vision and tenacity as it scaled up—in this case, from a modest renovation to a top-to-bottom overhaul.

Built around 1908, the house's original appearance had already been extensively altered, says principal architect Stephen Sutro of Sutro Architects. His mandate was to make its facade congruous with the neighborhood's historic architecture and, in conjunction

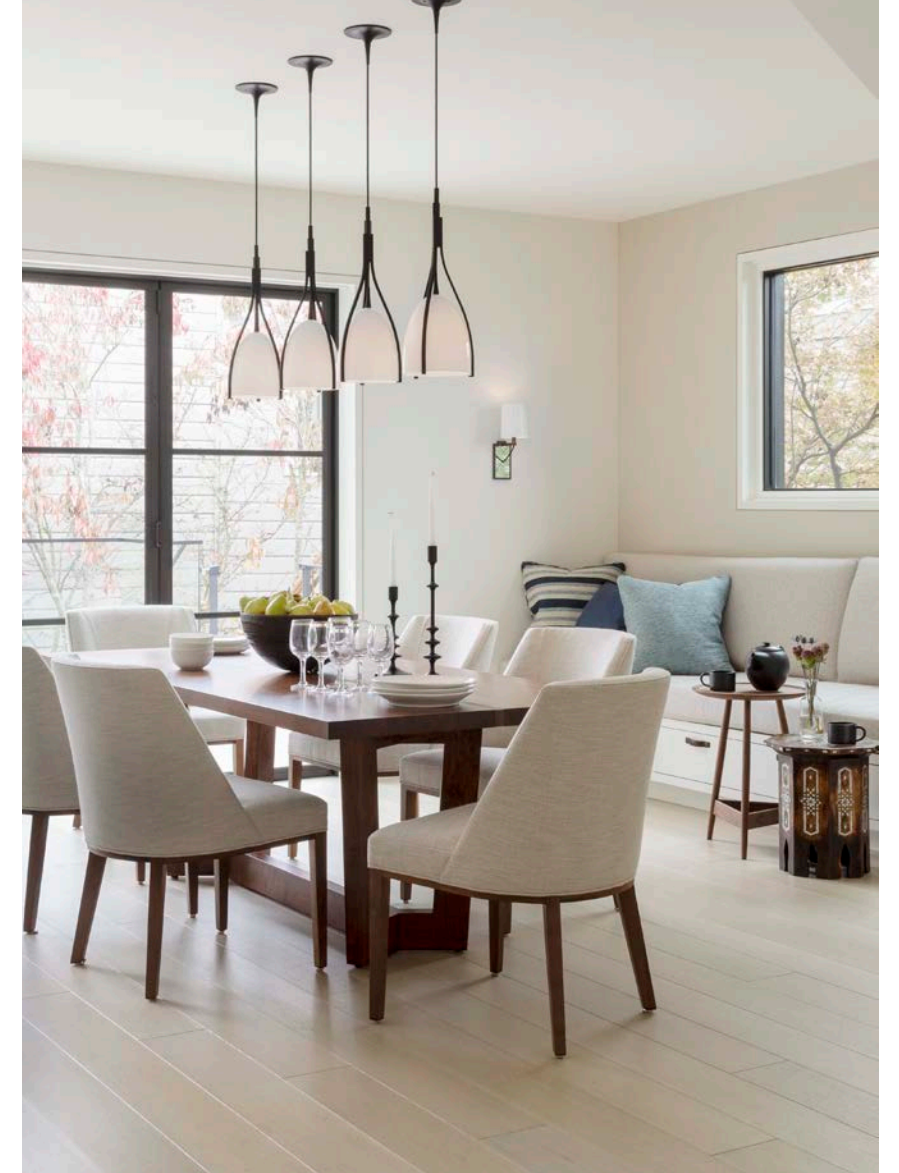
with Heather Hilliard Design, create a bright, modern interior, with a seamless connection between indoors and out. Down went interior walls; in came steel-framed glass doors leading onto a kitchen terrace and out from a new lower-level media room and office. Up went a rooftop deck—accessed via a sliding glass skylight—that affords sweeping views of the bay, Alcatraz, and Golden Gate Bridge.

Meanwhile, Hilliard and senior designer Fleur Keyes imbued the home with a warm, contemporary aesthetic. Bleached white oak floors; a hand-troweled plaster fireplace; honed stone slabs on the bathroom floors and walls; Calcutta marble and suede-finished granite in the kitchen; and wool, alpaca, and cashmere textiles in the living and bedrooms appealed to both homeowners' penchants for tactile, natural materials. "Anywhere that we had a choice to do

something with a hard edge, she always chose the soft curve," Hilliard adds. Touches of the client's favorite shade of blue punctuate the neutral palette of café mocha and crème fraîche.

Such personal touches, as well as flush and trimless features, abound. In the master bedroom, Heather Hilliard Design custom-designed bedside tables that hide wireless chargers, as well as his-and-hers rift white oak closets tailored to the clients' clothing and accessories. ("He was inspired by [a closet in] one of James Bond's films," says Hilliard. "Everything has a place.") Concealed, automated blackout shades lower with a flick of a button, and along the staircase, a light reveal suffuses the treads and wall with a warm glow. "We suffered over all of those little details," laughs general contractor Aaron Gordon of Aaron Gordon Construction.

From the initial "Let's get started!" to move-in day spanned three years, during which time the couple welcomed a daughter and three rescue dogs. Fortunately, everyone's investment of creativity, hard work, and patience paid off: the clients love their new home. They even mentioned future collaboration, Sutro says, which may be the most telling feedback of all. "To have someone at the end say, 'Gosh, this is so gratifying and lovely, let's do it again,'" Sutro says with satisfaction, "is a



ABOVE In the dining area, Holly Hunt Black Cat pendants in Anthracite hang above a walnut Altura Duette V Base table.



LEFT A living wall by Rock & Rose Landscapes in San Francisco adds a verdant element to the outdoor kitchen and terrace.

OPPOSITE The client's love of taggen blau (a "German blue," per Hilliard) inspired blue accents throughout the home, including the kitchen island, which is painted with Benjamin Moore Hudson Bay.



A Corbin Bronze Split Level table, Silvia Poloto's Wabi Sabi (2015, mixed media on panel), and a Vertigo pendant from YLighting lend contrast and curves to the living room décor.

“To have someone at the end say, ‘Gosh, this is so gratifying and lovely, let’s do it again,’” Sutro says with satisfaction, “is a testament [not only] to their grit, but also to a successful project.”

- ARCHITECT STEPHEN SUTRO



ABOVE Heather Hilliard Design created the custom bed, headboard, nightstands (with built-in wireless charging), and coverlet in the tranquil master bedroom.

RIGHT Waterworks Formwork wall-mounted sconces illuminate a bathroom’s stone slabs.

OPPOSITE In the lower-level media room, Naomie Kremer’s Littoral (2016, oil on linen) and the rich wood frame of a De La Espada sofa from The Future Perfect echo the adjacent backyard’s colors and textures.

