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Fall
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PERK UP
YOUR TABLE
WITH COLOR
FRESH
FLAVORS
FOR A FALL
MENU



Farm Raised

ON A RIDGE OVERLOOKING
A BUCOLIC VALLEY, A BUILDER
CULTIVATES A HOME—AND
FAMILY BONDS—TO LAST
A LIFETIME

WRITTEN BY SALLY FINDER WEEPIE PHOTOGRAPHY BY MANOLO LANGIS





Even when he was barely nose-high to a Holstein, Andrew Patterson dreamed of owning a farm. As a boy, his Grandpa Fred's love of animals and yearning for the country life took root in Andrew's soul. "Someday I'm going to make enough money, and I'm going to buy a farm," he promised.

Andrew grew up to be a man of his word.

A longtime custom home builder in Newport Beach, California, Andrew—like his grandpa—still loves the idea of getting away, escaping to nature.

"One weekend, my family and I camped in Santa Barbara County," Andrew says. "It was so beautiful that, on a whim, I looked to see what property was available here. I saw this 20-acre parcel overlooking a valley and made a lowball offer. When it was accepted, I started freaking out. I was really going to buy that farm."

Before Andrew could build his dream home, though, a few details needed attending to: building a road, getting water and power on the site, and constructing a septic system without disturbing ancient tree roots. "I had to drill a 150-foot-deep hole and send the septic into a tank the size of a VW bus. It

comes out as safe treated water," Andrew says. "Everything was a struggle. The amount of stuff I didn't know when I went into this was staggering. But at the same time, it was worth it."

Andrew, wife Shannon, and daughters Reese, Paige, and Brynn spent every other weekend on the site, camping in an Airstream trailer, with a bonfire every night. "It was some of the best family moments of my life," Andrew says.

When the home, designed by Chris Brandon of Brandon Architects, finally started going up, Andrew even got in his version of therapy—manual labor—working alongside his Patterson Custom Homes team.

Great room A cedar-plank ceiling and stone fireplace nod to natural elements outside panoramic pocket doors. Open walls, designer Rachel Azzolina says, called for low-slung furnishings—a pair of L-shape sectionals—and strong symmetry. **Previous pages** Homeowners Shannon and Andrew Patterson take in views from rockers that offer the best seats in the house. A runner draws the eye—and traffic—from the entry to living areas. **Opposite, clockwise from top left** Architect Chris Brandon used a metal roof to lessen danger from wildfires. Dog Maggie loves the place—she's even made friends with the neighbor goat. The Patterson girls—Reese, Paige, and Brynn—have become outdoor adventurers. The rear of the home flows out to a pool. The property serves as the family's playground and embraces its past—including an old oak tree that Andrew named for his grandfather Fred. A gambrel roof gives the garage-bunkhouse the look of a barn, fitting for a property called The Farm.





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THAN THIS.” —architect Chris Brandon



Dining area A sleek pendant starts an engaging design conversation with an antique buffet, clean-lined pedestal table, and woven chairs. “It’s clean and contemporary with a little bit of rustic charm,” Azzolina says.





The house rose on a site Andrew and Brandon picked to preserve the property's venerable oak trees, particularly one special tree that branches out majestically from the highest ridge.

"We wanted the house on the ridge near the oak tree. To abide by Santa Barbara County rules, we had to cut down the building site 10 feet so the house wouldn't be higher than the mountaintop," Andrew says. "I was willing to do it, though, to save that tree. That oak makes me think of my grandfather and how his spirit lives on. I see it in that beautiful old tree."

The architecture of the Pattersons' new home also nods to Grandpa Fred's dreams. "Andrew wanted something that looks like it's been here a long time," Brandon says. The architect shaped a home and barnlike garage—topped by a bunkhouse—that speak the vernacular of the earthy setting while including updated elements.

A mix of clear and knotty cedar, rustic stone, and stucco forms the exterior and threads into the interiors, where clean-lined architecture keeps the focus on the beauty outside ample doors and windows.

Pocket doors on three sides of the vaulted great room vanish into the walls, opening the living space to panoramic views of the surrounding mountains. "I love designs that emphasize

indoor-outdoor living," Brandon says. "And it doesn't get any better than this."

He situated bedrooms down a hall from the gathering space to give each family member a quiet private retreat. A glass walkway—one of the home's contemporary elements—links the main house to the guest quarters over the garage.

Each space echoes the home's relaxed, carefree attitude. "Furnishings are made to be lived in," Andrew says. "Everything is durable and comfortable. We have couches that swallow you up."

The interior design by Wendy Blackband and Rachel Azzolina of Blackband Home & Design amicably slips into the architecture and views. "Nothing hits you over the head," Blackband says. "The interiors are at peace with everything going on around you."

Rather than call on bold color or pattern, the design team drew on texture—wood, ceramic, mixed metals, stone, linen,

Kitchen Brandon used riftsawn oak for cabinetry to contrast cedar-plank ceilings. Quartzite countertops complement the home's rough-hewn stone. A splash of pattern comes from a Moroccan tile backsplash in the butler's pantry. "Against all the clean lines, it's special," designer Wendy Blackband says. Caramel hues on kid-friendly leather barstools juxtapose mixed metal finishes and shimmery tile.





Hallway Before Andrew bought the property, he already had dreams of The Farm, evident in an agrarian painting that now hangs in the hall to the bedrooms. **Den** Roles are reversed in this gathering spot near the bedrooms. Black takes the place of white on walls, and light beams accent a painted ceiling. “The heaviness of this space balances the rest of the light, airy house,” Blackband says. A green sofa injects a color pop while a smooshy beanbag and buckles on leather chairs are just plain fun. “It’s playful,” Azzolina says, “a great family hangout.”



IT'S THE PLAY
OF MATERIALS THAT
MAKES THIS HOUSE
FEEL SPECIAL.”

—designer Wendy Blackband



Guest bedroom A pivot door invites guests into a space with incredible views, organic wood tones, layers of texture, and soft color from a salmon-hue throw.







leather, and rattan—to subtly yet compellingly layer each space with interest.

“Nothing is one-dimensional,” Blackband says. “It’s the play of materials that makes this house feel special. It’s rustic—a comfortable, organic farmhouse—but it’s also sophisticated.”

Custom pendants, some in sleek black metal and others in chunky weaves, work with art and antiques to finish rooms with character that speaks to the Patterson family’s soul.

“When the house was done, it was the most magical thing,” Andrew says. “It’s incredible to spend time here as a family. We open the doors, and the kids play hide and seek in the valley. We go for a family walk every evening and just stroll by the cows out there grazing. This really is a little piece of heaven.”

Architect: Chris Brandon

Interior designers: Wendy Blackband and Rachel Azzolina

For more information, see sources on page 94

Master bedroom A dark woven pendant contrasts the airy canopy bed while muted green linens echo the hues of the leaves outside.

Master bath The zenlike bath fuses an array of textures: a plaster finish on the vanity wall, a concrete tub, a marble counter, woven pendants, and limestone floors. **Pool** Old oak trees cast shade on the new pool, which includes a built-in spa. It’s one of the many amenities of the property that draw the Patterson girls outside to play.

