



Driving past the farm building with its stacked Mariposa quartzite walls eliminates any doubt that this is an agricultural landscape. The gently rolling hills are patterned with rows of grapevines, windrows, and an orchard. The restrained stone and glass house is perched above the vineyard on a prospect with its back nestled into the woods. At the base of Sonoma Mountain, its glass facade opens to the sea of grapes that flows down into the Valley of the Moon.

Arriving in the motor court, one is aware of the seamless relationship of the architecture and landscape. The space is clearly defined, a minimalist carpet of gravel in response to the powerful monolithic limestone walls that shield the bamboo court from view.

A path of concrete rectangles leads to the corner entrance, a bridge that spans a narrow black-granite reflecting pool along which the essential components of the house are ordered. A windrow of columnar hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigiata') running parallel to the pool reaches out to the north and south. Fry likes to think of it as a "stitch" connecting the house with the surrounding landscape.

The domestic landscape plan is orthogonal to the spine of the house, which runs true north. The spa, swimming pool, and entertaining terraces extend from the kitchen and look toward the vineyard. Since the architects oriented the private wing of the house into the hill, Fry captured the space between the woods and house to create views from the bedrooms. She designed the Moon Garden adjacent to the second-level master bedroom as an intimate space for contemplation and relaxation.

A sophisticated palette of limestone, light-colored gravels, and concrete continues the quiet presence of the limestone and glass facade into the outdoor entertaining areas. A limestone terrace extends on the ground-floor level to encompass the spa and swimming pool while a limestone path fords the reflecting pool, connecting the terraces to the house gallery. Half in and half out of the water, the stones create a graphic pattern of brilliant white and light gray in the field of black water.

As the garden reaches out into the landscape Fry's palette shifts. A concrete ramp with limestone joints descends down the side of the pool to the barbecue and outdoor dining terrace sheltered by a pergola of ipe wood and galvanized poles. Stacked Mariposa quartzite garden walls face the vineyard and stretch out to the wooded hillside. Darker and warmer in color, the stone is closer to the color of the soil, establishing a strong connection between the designed landscape and the vernacular.

Fry says she developed the domestic landscapes as "interventions" in the greater agricultural and wooded environment. When viewed from the vineyards, the house and its garden spaces appear to emerge from a sea of swirling green, "a modern villa framed in an agrarian setting."

**Sonoma Vineyard**  
**Marta Fry**  
**Marta Fry Landscape**  
**Associates**  
**Kenwood, California**



Preceding pages: A window of hornbeams that runs along the black-granite reflecting pool casts a rhythmic pattern of shadows on the limestone walls of the house.

Opposite: In the motor court there is a symbiotic play of architecture and landscape. A two-story bridge spans the reflecting pool. Feathery foliage in the bamboo court is just visible above the motor court wall.

Right: The entry path runs between the monolithic motor court wall and the bamboo court to the entry bridge.





Opposite: The agricultural palette of Meriposa quartzite walls and the pergola's lpe wood and galvanized poles intersects with the domestic palette of glass and limestone at the end of the Infinity swimming pool.

Right: Limestone steppingstones traverse the reflecting pool, connecting the terrace and pool area with the private wing of the house. Partially submerged, the stones become two-toned, mimicking the colors of the limestone wall and its reflection.



**Architect**  
Aidin Darling Design

**Photographs**  
John Sutton, courtesy of  
Aidin Darling Design (24, 25, 26,  
28 top, 29); Marta Fry Landscape  
Associates (22, 27, 28 bottom)

**Climate**  
SUNSET Western Garden Zone  
15-14

**Existing conditions**  
Free draining loam; full sun and  
shade environment.



Left: A concrete ramp with limestone joints passes between the windrow of hornbeams and a carefully shaped row of equisetum as it leads up to the house from the barbecue and outdoor dining area at the end of the pool.

Below: From the house the view through the hornbeam windrow captures the patterns of the distinct shadows of the pergola's poles cast upon the dining terrace at the end of the pool.

Opposite: With its back to Sonoma Mountain, the residence overlooks the agricultural landscape. Mariposa quartzite stone entry walls blend naturally with the colors of the soil and rocky terrain.

