



2017

Wine Country Awards

MENDING WALL
ASQUARED STUDIOS

BEST NEWCOMER
OVERALL



A VIEW OF THE CASUALLY COOL TASTING COMMUNITY AREA AT MENDING WALL.

INSPIRED BY A LINE IN THE Robert Frost poem “Mending Wall”—“good fences make good neighbors”—Jessie Whitesides of Asquared Studios designed a state-of-the-art winery in St. Helena with earth tones that blend in naturally with the hillside while minimizing visibility from nearby homes. While the poem is about two neighbors who question the need for a stone-wall barrier, Mending Wall partners Frank and Kathy Dotzler were inspired to play off the idea of exploring boundaries.

Whitesides worked closely with Kathy Dotzler on the design of the tasting room by exploring the merger of a contemporary meets rural aesthetic to create a warm, upscale but unpretentious guest experience. The finished look brings forth a weathered agrarian energy created by a multitone wood ceiling and walls, stained concrete floors, and a blackened

steel bar. An off-the-shelf plumbing pipe gives a nod to the industrial era but in a refined way, as part of the shelving system and door hardware. The pipe detail also plays a stylish role as both foot and purse rails below the bar.

Dotzler enlisted Napa artist Richard Von Saal to create custom furnishings using recycled objects including table tops made from old wine barrels and bases made of old gasoline drums styled as stone or lattice fences. Vonsaal split reclaimed propane tanks to craft the caged and mirrored sconces that soften the room with a warm glow and give a look that’s edgy and elegant at the same time.

The indoors and outdoors are finished with large, weathered antiques that add to the communal feeling at Mending Wall, where neighbors are drawn to come together. —Annette Hanami