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FROM THE GROUND UP

Landmark Builders and Red Leaf Developments join forces to create distinctive custom homes set within thoughtfully crafted environments.



It started with a two-acre lot and a vision. As the clients walked the property with Paul Straus and John Caulfield, they talked about how they imagined their family living there. Time spent outdoors was of paramount importance, as was space planning for current and future passions.

"That's the beauty of custom homebuilding," says Caulfield, owner and president of Landmark Builders, an established local builder with nearly 25 years of experience. "You're doing things specifically for that family to address their needs, wants, and wishes."

When building the homes his clients envision, Caulfield often collaborates with Straus, CEO of Red Leaf Developments, a design-build firm known for luxurious, elegant landscapes and sustainable practices. By merging talents to harmonize interior and exterior spaces, Caulfield and Straus create breathtaking homes that are



more than the sum of their parts.

"Typically, there's a disconnect between building and designing," Straus says. "Not with us. We work as one."

FROM THE TOP: A fragrant crop of lavender leads the way to the hilltop farmhouse. A wine room provides ample space for display and storage.



LINES OF SIGHT

At the site—soon to be called Loomis Farmhouse—the Red Leaf Developments team began by hauling out tons of dirt, with the goal of creating ample outdoor entertainment spaces and maximizing the sweeping Sacramento Valley views. Even before the concrete was poured, Straus established perfect sight lines from different vantage points. "The goal was to ensure that all views from inside the home relate to the yard," he says. "Creating the focal point from a few places throughout brings in some drama."

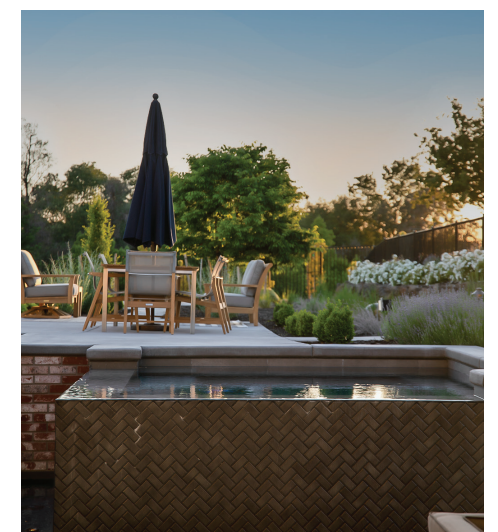
Inside the home, Caulfield created a flow among unique but related spaces. At the center is a glass-enclosed wine cellar composed of transparent racking systems. Visible throughout most of the first floor, it connects the family and dining rooms with a pub room, where a large serving window opens to an outdoor bar and living area. "The wine cellar is a focal point that speaks to spaces around it. This arrangement complements the way the client likes to entertain by offering transitions out to

TOP LEFT: A drone shot of the property captures the home's magnitude. **ABOVE:** A custom pool built for laps as well as recreational swimming offers something for the whole family. **RIGHT:** Outdoor living spaces feature both architectural and natural beauty.

the pool," says Caulfield, referencing the 65-foot lap pool with a wall specially made for jumping.

As the farmhouse rose from the ground, Straus's team built up the bare land around it. "Our challenge was to make a huge space in front complement the presence of the home without making it look too busy," Straus says. The solution was farmhouse-themed: a single crop of lavender laid out in a grid. Closer to the house, rows of the flowering herb were planted to enhance the more formal entrance, which is flanked by brick walls that echo the materials used in the wine cellar and fireplace. Ensconcing the property are 45 new trees; once mature, they'll provide a canopy of privacy.

With the house and yard completed simultaneously, the clients were able to enjoy their entire home upon moving in. "We want perfection for our clients," Straus



says. "Because John and I collaborate so effectively, we're able to create a better product and client experience."

"Our focus at Landmark is doing cool projects for cool people," Caulfield adds. "By working with Paul, we can navigate parameters like views, sun, and land to collaborate and build something truly unique and dramatic."