

San Francisco



Fernandez at Cade, the new PlumpJack Gold-LEED-certified winery he designed, which is located on the ridge just above the Livingston house. The winery and the house share many views of the valley below, and they were built simultaneously by the same contractor.

IN RETROSPECT, IT

seems inevitable that Juan Carlos Fernandez's newest project would include a dramatic blue stucco wall. The 40-year-old architect grew up in Guadalajara admiring modernist Luis Barragán, who made structures of shocking pink, indigo, yellow, and orange—all beloved, essential hues in Mexico's design vocabulary. Barragán's blocks of color signified joy and vibrant life, and they changed his country's built landscape forever.

With its superbly delineated lines and a freestanding wall the color of a summer sky, it stands high on a ridge overlooking the Napa Valley. Along with PlumpJack's Cade winery, which Fernandez also designed on Howell Mountain, Casa Cielo Azul heralds a rigorous new talent on the California architecture scene.