

San Francisco Opening

## SFA Design Transforms MacArthur Place from Victorian B&B to Luxe Hotel

The historic wine country property received a \$20 million overhaul

By Jen Woo

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A rendering of the Chef's Cottage suite at MacArthur Place.

Photo: Courtesy of MacArthur Place

Built to be the family estate of one of [Sonoma's](#) wealthiest families in 1869, MacArthur Place was a Victorian-style manor that was considered the height of luxury at the time. Since 1997, the manor has operated as a boutique hotel. A new renovation to the property has turned the space into one of Sonoma's chicest new places to stay, changing an old B&B into a stunning 64-key hotel and spa, along with a new restaurant named Layla due to open the first week of May. Still connected to the history of the area and surrounding [wine country](#), the hotel was reimaged by SFA Design, with structural changes by RDC Architecture and experiential branding by Love & War. The remodeled destination is welcoming new guests just in time for its 150th anniversary.

As part of a \$20 million overhaul, nearly every facet of the six-acre property received an upgrade. Rooms and suites, the reception area, and a food and beverage program led by award-winning executive chef Cole Dickinson are all new. The space was redesigned as a country-style retreat with a modern twist. Think hand-painted tiles and distressed and bleached oak wood floors paired with clean lines, iron accents, and contemporary art.



A rendering of the bar at MacArthur Place.

Photo: Courtesy of MacArthur Place

“The property had such a quaint historic feel, and in bringing it to a luxurious new level, we sought to maintain the sense of being in the country while enhancing the vibe to be that of modern and exciting design,” says Kara Smith, president of SFA Design.





A rendering of the hotel's lobby.

Photo: Courtesy of MacArthur Place

In the guest rooms, new doors and windows with leather valances were installed, in addition to fully refinished interiors. SFA Design created a “clean box” aesthetic with linen wallpaper and oversize plaid molding on the ceiling. Bespoke furniture with an over scaled, posh feel dominates; much of it was commissioned from Harbour Outdoor. Pieces include a white oak minibar credenza, inset black granite and faux suede upholstered drawer fronts, portable lighting by Scott Group, illuminated vanity mirrors by Séura, woven benches by JLF, and faux concrete dinette and side tables by Skypad.



A rendering of Layla, the restaurant in the hotel, set to open at the beginning of May.

Photo: Courtesy of MacArthur Place

“We have touched just about every square inch of the property, with a goal of transforming MacArthur Place into a five star-level, luxury property,” says Justin Bain, director of marketing and brand management at IMH Hospitality. “The six-acre property consists of 20



A rendering of the Estate Spa Cottage at the hotel.

Photo: Courtesy of MacArthur Place

MacArthur Place is located at 29 E. MacArthur Street in Sonoma. Bookings are available [online](#).