

CITY BY DESIGN

an architectural perspective of the greater san francisco bay area



Nickel & Nickel Winery

Taylor Lombardo Architects

Originally settled as a farmstead in Oakville during the 1880s, Nickel & Nickel Winery represents a modern campus that acknowledges its agricultural history in the famed Napa Valley. The designers drew upon the local vernacular to create a uniquely functional winery in which the newly constructed buildings are architecturally compatible with the site's existing historic structures. The complex consists of the original Sullenger farmhouse, completely restored and remodeled; the Gleason barn, which houses the administrative offices and winery laboratory; two fermentation barns outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment suitable for single-vineyard winemaking; and a 30,000-square-foot barrel-aging cellar.

FACING PAGE: The Gleason Barn, originally built circa 1770 in New Hampshire, was restored to include a new cupola, windows, doors and weathered-wood siding. Project Design Team: Tom Taylor, Maurice Lombardo, Beth Bernhardt, Pam Lao and Matt Hollis. Photograph by Rick Bolen





Taylor Lombardo Architects' role in this project was to design two fermentation barns and a barrel-aging cellar, and to adapt a historic barn for reuse in a 21st-century winery facility. The 3,000-square-foot Gleason barn was originally built circa 1770 in Meriden, New Hampshire. For this project, the timber structure of the barn was transported cross-country, meticulously restored, and reassembled on-site in Oakville. Taylor Lombardo proposed adding barn-red, weathered cedar siding to the exterior, and also strategically located new doors, windows and a cupola to flood the building with natural light. For the barn's interior, the hand-hewn, wood-pegged timber structure was left exposed to create continuity between interior spaces. Haylofts and animal stalls have been replaced with offices and a glass-walled laboratory. Other interior materials include exposed steel, stone and concrete elements, engendering a structure true to its era yet enhanced with modern technology.

This juxtaposition of old and new is carried into the two 5,000-square-foot fermentation barns, new structures which utilize reclaimed structural timber frames. The post-and-beam frames are held together by mortise-and-tenon joints and hand-driven wood pegs. Within the buildings, enormous stainless steel fermentation tanks sit on concrete tank pads. Careful coordination has allowed the concealment of all pipes and utilities connecting the tanks to the barrel-aging cellar below. Custom scalloped aluminum catwalks appear as floating aisles, providing access to computer-operated and temperature-controlled tanks. The buildings' mechanical system consists simply of night-flow air and automated louvers that maintain proper temperature for fermentation. On the exterior, painted board-and-batten wood siding sits on a rustic stone stem wall, and the corrugated metal roof and custom barn doors accentuate the agricultural style of the complex.

