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## 6. LATHER OF LUXURY

Formed by Herzog & de Meuron alums Victor Lefebvre and Mei-Lan Tan, the new Oakland-based **Umé Studio** ([ume-studio.com](http://ume-studio.com)) designs functional home goods that double as objets d'art. For their tactile Erode soaps, they teamed with Tonic Naturals to reimagine the sink-side staple as one-of-a-kind sculptural objects, poured and cast by hand into luscious slopes and ridges.



## 7. HORSING AROUND

As an alternative to busy public barns and extravagant show stables, longtime riders Michele George and Julie Dowling founded the **Nicasio Riding Club** ([nicasioringclub.com](http://nicasioringclub.com)), a modern equestrian facility and clubhouse that welcomes fellow horse lovers to ride, train and socialize on a serene 38-acre property in West Marin. Dowling, a San Francisco architect whose firm designed interiors for Calistoga's Solage resort, stripped an existing 4,000-square-foot barn down to its structural components, painted the exterior black and converted a storage space into a lounge-like clubhouse where riders gather for wine and cheese.

## 8. COMMON GROUND

Ever since the Headlands Center for the Arts ([headlands.org](http://headlands.org)) moved into two former Army barracks at historic Fort Barry in 1984, the organization has invited artists to reimagine its space. Last month, the center unveiled three permanent artworks as part of the Commons, a new plaza and amphitheater designed by CMG Landscape Architecture, the Bay Area firm that designed SFMOMA's rooftop sculpture garden. "Welcome Terrace East & West" by Ball-Nogues Studio repurposes a broken concrete driveway as a terrazzo-enhanced promenade. "Wall Space" by Rotterdam designer Chris Kabel uses a building exterior as a screen for commissioned texts and imagery. And "Doubledrink" by S.F. artist Nathan Lynch pairs unwitting couples at a ceramic drinking fountain designed for two.



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