

HOME&DESIGN DC • MD • VA  
**TOP CUSTOM  
BUILDERS**

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**HOME&DESIGN**

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# AV Architects + Builders

“Design has always been part of my life,” says Francisca Villarroel Alonso, who grew up in a family of architects, first in Santiago, Chile, and later in Marbella, Spain. With a world-travel perspective, she and husband Antonio Alonso have honed what she describes as a “compassionate understanding of people’s needs and the innovative design solutions that improve their lives at home.” Their designs employ state-of-the-art technology and construction methods to satisfy each client’s unique lifestyle.

Founding principals of AV Architects + Builders, Francisca and Antonio are architect/builders whose unique, integrated delivery process and single-point of accountability give clients peace of mind. “We control cost during design and protect the design during construction,” says Alonso. “We understand topography, sun orientation, vegetation and views before we design on the selected site.” The result: beautiful, luxurious custom homes in which the interiors flow effortlessly outdoors.

**How We Work:** “As a husband-and-wife team, we relate to so many of our clients who are couples too. We recommend a ‘his and her wish list’ and then we prioritize and identify the common goals to move the project forward. Sometimes we are mediators, sometimes architects—and at the end, we are custom home builders taking care of our clients by creating their dream home.”

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A sprawling custom home in McLean (above) opens up to the backyard with oversized, custom sliding doors leading to a grotto, a courtyard and outdoor covered patios. The stone grotto (left) hosts after-dinner gatherings with travertine floors, cedar ceilings and wrought-iron railings. Countertops of Baltic Blue and Red Dragon granite are paired with countertops of edge-grain jatoba wood in a kitchen (opposite, bottom) designed for wine-tasting events and effortless entertaining. Hand-sawn, rustic-maple floors, distressed beams and river pebbles adorn a media room (opposite, top).