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When I saw Studio Steinbomer's cover project with a Tesla roof, I felt like I was in a Progressive-Becoming Your Parents ad. My first reaction was, "What will they think of next?" Truthfully, as projects flow across my desk, I am always amazed at the creative and innovative solutions designers and architects envision. The projects in this issue are no exception.

On page 50, Tobin Smith's extraordinary façade on a home in one of San Antonio's oldest neighborhoods addresses lot shape, privacy and context. When designers Melinda and John Thomas James moved to Austin from a formal Houston home, they created intimate spaces appropriate for their lifestyle such as a cocktail lounge instead of a dining room and a table for two mid-kitchen. The team at Bradshaw Designs curated art, furnishings and accessories to complement a home by architect Don B. McDonald and incorporated many universal design elements to enhance accessibility now and into the future. Sara Malek Barney was tasked with designing a home inspired by the bold colors and striking murals in Lenny Kravitz's Brazilian farmhouse, which she successfully translated into a more soothing version for a young family.

I hope you enjoy,

Trisha

Trisha Doucette

ON THE COVER:

After an extensive two-phase renovation designed by Studio Steinbomer, and with Austin's first Tesla solar roof overhead, homeowners can now rest comfortably during frequent power outages. Page 40. Photo by Andrea Calo.



Austin-San Antonio

HOME

DESIGN & DECOR

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MAGNOLIA HILL FOLLY: *A REMNANT OF THE PAST BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE*

BY KIMBERLY A. SUTA | PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF MICHAEL G. IMBER, ARCHITECTS

COMPLETED IN 2013 BY MICHAEL G. IMBER, ARCHITECTS, MAGNOLIA HILL FOLLY IS A STUNNINGLY WHIMSICAL NOD TO A BYGONE ERA AND PART OF AN HISTORIC PROPERTY ORIGINALLY DESIGNED BY JOHN STAUB.

“Whenever we can save history, our story, we must try,” said Michael Imber, founder of Michael G. Imber, Architects.

As folly is not a term bandied around much in the 21st century, an architectural folly (also referred to as an Eye-catcher) is a structure designed purely for the purpose of decorative aesthetics and does not necessarily provide a functional use. Follies go as far back as ancient Rome. One of the most bizarre examples of a folly is a giant pineapple set atop a structure that was built in 1761 and can be found at Dunmore Park in Stirlingshire, Scotland.

Interestingly, folly comes from the French word, folie, meaning foolishness. These extravagant structures were typically costly nonfunctional buildings that merely enhanced a natural landscape, but for those who truly appreciate beauty in all its forms, the folly was a worthwhile endeavor.

“We have been honored and humbled to work on a John Staub house and participate in this design continuum of legacy Texan architecture. We were inspired by the estate’s Italianate influences and the fittingness to express Classicism sensitivity in this context,” shared Andrew Gander, associate at Michael G. Imber, Architects.

John Fanz Staub was a renowned architect whose focus was on residential design. He was lauded for his traditionally-styled homes and mansions, which were primarily built in Houston, Texas during the 1920s to the 1960s.

Staub’s designs are still revered to this day and, in fact, the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art Texas Chapter launched the John Staub Awards in 2011, which honors

projects and architects who are committed to promoting excellence in the classical and vernacular traditions.

“The Institute of Classical Architecture and Art upholds and advances Classical design, equipping designers and fostering public awareness and advocacy. This project represents the ICAA’s mission, highlighting how contemporary practitioners can effectively design and build in the Classical language in a meaningful way,” said Andrew.

The origin of classical architecture also dates back to ancient Rome, as well as Greece, and has some distinguishable characteristics, such as symmetry, columns, rectangular windows and uses classic materials like marble. For eons after, architects have drawn inspiration from these ancient civilizations and implemented their traditional ideals into their design.

According to Andrew, “Classical design is exciting, as it is a continuum evolving and expanding for centuries and millennia. Core fundamentals of Classical design relate to humanity and our relationship with the natural world expressed through beauty. We link ourselves to the past to provide a solid foundation. As we approach each project or design challenge, we consider heritage and context when considering the application and interpretation of Classical or vernacular traditions, in a new way that appeals to our modern sensibility.”

Staub’s folly, which was originally constructed in 1951, is nestled in an old neighborhood in Olmos Park that was established in the 1920s. Not only is it a wonderful expres-



sion of his artistic nature and classical design style, but it is an important remnant of our past that Michael G. Imber, Architects has been able to gracefully carry into the future.

Sadly, in the 1980s, the property was purchased and subdivided, as the villa was largely destroyed, but thankfully, a small portion of the original villa was preserved and turned into a home, even though it was but a shadow of its former glory.

In an effort to re-establish a portion of the former Magnolia Hill estate, an adjacent property was re-acquired and the occupying homes demolished. Although not enough property was available to completely restore the villa to John Staub's original vision, the space allowed for expansion of the grounds to include a new pool terrace.

The expansion encourages luxurious living by the pool and features two party pavilions as well as the folly, a terminating pavilion where the property's denizens can comfortably lunch or sip a tasty cocktail from its marvelous vantage point.

"The folly not only created a terminus for the garden from the house, but a transition to the lower grade. This taller wall and element provided much needed privacy from the adjacent street," explained Andrew. "The pool terrace and the folly were designed as the focal point of the new grounds and garden, and as a petite reflection of Staub's original Palladian design."

Due to the fact that a substantial portion of the original structure had been razed and property subdivided as previously mentioned, the MGI Architects team sought to

reconstitute the spirit of the original tripartite design and organize the plan and massing per the current site context.

Interestingly, during the usual budget discussions that occur for projects of this nature, the folly was slated to be eliminated. However, the team fought for its value since the folly serves a ceremonial or picturesque function, initially popularized in parks and large gardens.

"Its charming, exuberant, referential and high expression in design, the folly becomes a focal point and captures one's imagination. In our context, the folly is a celebratory termination of the primary axis aligned with the center of the main house. It also presents the house to its neighborhood context, reconciling the private visage and public realm. Once built, the folly became a favorite feature of the garden for the client," noted Andrew.

One of Andrew's personal highlights of working on the project was to develop the Composite column capital design based on magnolia motifs, the namesake of the historic estate. These hand-carved limestone capitals are a signature feature of the main house façade and a playful adaptation within the Classical canon.

No doubt, anyone would be hard-pressed to find a better example of a folly, so elegantly represented, in San Antonio, perhaps even Texas. For the MGI Architects team as well, the Magnolia Hill Folly will forever be a feather in their cap and a project to be admired and celebrated. ♦

MICHAEL G. IMBER, ARCHITECTS

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THE 2022 JOHN STAUB AWARDS RECOGNIZE TEXAS PROFESSIONALS
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PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF THE ICAA TEXAS CHAPTER

The Institute of Classical Architecture & Art (ICAA) is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the practice of classical design. Founded in 2002, the national organization has 15 chapters across the country, five of which are in Texas representing Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio. The Texas Chapter is the fastest growing in the country, established in 2006, and is comprised of architects, landscape architects, interior designers, artists, artisans, contractors, vendors and patrons of classical architecture. A broad range of educational programs for both professionals and students support classical architecture and the allied arts.

In 2011, the Texas Chapter initiated the John Staub Awards, named after the residential architect who designed traditionally styled homes from the 1920s to 1960s in Texas. Congratulations to the recently announced statewide award winners for 2022.



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RAISING THE ROOF

A FORMERLY SMALL KITCHEN WITH LOW CEILINGS IS TRANSFORMED BY CREATIVE DESIGN SOLUTIONS BOTH ABOVE AND BELOW.

J.C. Schmeil, founder and principal architect of Merzbau Design Collective, grew up around the world, including Geneva and the Ivory Coast, before landing in Austin to study architecture at UT Austin and eventually opening up his own firm. He's now been in business for almost 20 years.

"I try not to have a personal style because everything is client and project specific, but it tends to be more soft modern. For me, it's about bringing in light, using simple materials in an elegant way and having a space feel right by bringing it into today's world," he explained.

BY KIMBERLY SUTA |

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRIAN MIHEALSICK

Merzbau's recent partial remodel of a 1970s home located in Barton Hills is a wonderful example of how J.C. brought these principles to life for proud homeowners, Alicia and Aaron Barker.

Although the galley-style kitchen was really the primary focus of the remodel, the over-arching theme was really about how to better connect the house with its surroundings. In this regard, J.C. designed a screened porch, which now operates as a second living room for the family when the weather is temperate enough.

J.C. also pushed the main bedroom out halfway over the porch to create a roof deck, finally taking advantage of the home's idyllic location on a lovely corner lot surrounded by trees. "The home now feels like a private oasis," he commented.

However, the kitchen faced the most significant challenges, with low eight-foot ceilings and a small floor plan. According to J.C., the existing kitchen was cramped and dark, and the owners wished to open up the space in both the front of the house and the backyard, which slopes down from the street almost a full story.

"With a project like this I try to do everything I can to take advantage of views and light by considering window placement, for example," said J.C. "Our solution was to vault the ceilings because there wasn't a second story above the kitchen or dining room. This gave us the opportunity



to give the rooms more definition and volume and make it feel like a more dynamic space — more bang for your buck, so to speak,” said J.C.

The angled ceilings in both of the aforementioned rooms were an aesthetic decision because, again, they were working with short ceilings, and this choice was a clever and artful way to create a cohesive look.

“The photo of the cabinet in the kitchen is one of my favorites because the color, contrast and personality in it is really interesting to me,” he shared.

This back wall was previously open and overlooked the game room downstairs, but J.C. smartly put an anchor wall there instead, which includes charming shelves and cabinets.

The rift-sawn white oak cabinets and flooring offset the white walls to imbue the kitchen with a warm yet bright and airy ambiance. The L-shaped countertop gives the homeowners a place to put necessary appliances like the convection oven, and the island with seating that runs parallel to the outside walls offers views to the backyard. It’s

now a great place to enjoy their morning coffee.

Additionally, J.C. cantilevered the kitchen, meaning that they extended the kitchen floor plan three feet, which left it hovering over the backyard, eight feet in the air. “This allowed us to get that extra square footage for the kitchen without having to pay for any additional foundation,” he added.

Similar to the dramatically-sloped ceiling in the kitchen, the dining room wall essentially mirrors the back wall of the kitchen with a striking dark green wall of shelves and a centralized cabinet.

For this project, the client brought in skilled Austin interior designer, Caroline Mounger of Elevate Interiors, to work with Merzbau Design Collective. “Bringing in an interior designer gives you ideas,” said J.C. “We collaborated really well on this project. I’ve since worked with Caroline on a number of others.”

Although J.C.’s well-rounded background and inquisitive nature make him a superb fit for just about any project, he enjoys the inherent constraints of a remodel. “It forces you to be creative within the bounds of the existing house, but push it a little. It becomes a collaborative process, working with the clients, that’s most rewarding,” he said happily. ♦



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SPECTACULAR SHELFIES

BY ANN KOEHLER

LOCAL DESIGNERS CHIME IN ON HOW TO DISPLAY YOUR MOST BELOVED ACCESSORIES.



MEREDITH OWEN INTERIORS,
PHOTO BY MOLLY CULVER



MEREDITH OWEN INTERIORS,
PHOTO BY MOLLY CULVER



MEREDITH OWEN INTERIORS,
PHOTO BY MOLLY CULVER

As you stand there staring blankly at a wall of equally blank shelves with a pile of books and treasured objects next to you, just remember that this is the perfect opportunity to bring personality to your home by showcasing meaningful accessories and provide a pleasing and interesting focal point in your room. The task may seem daunting but there is a process that designers follow that brings beautiful results no matter what your collection includes.

To begin, edit your collection, whatever it may be. You might love every single piece but including it all might become monotonous. As you go along in the process, consider saving pieces for another area of your home where they might be better highlighted.

Embrace the blank state. This is how Austin designer Meredith Owen begins her process: “The first thing I always do is remove everything from the shelves and start fresh. If you have adjustable shelving, play with different heights to create visual interest.”

Consider tried-and-true approaches like grouping your library of books by color, adding personal touches with family photos, layering objects to accommodate the height and depth of your shelves and adding greenery when needed for color or organic contrast.

Exhibiting collections of like objects always makes for a dynamic display, but mixing and matching a variety of objects can be equally as visually interesting. “We love to mix





BRITT DESIGN GROUP, PHOTO BY MATT BATISTA

in our client's favorite and/or meaningful pieces found while traveling. Plants, books, interesting bookends, sculptural elements, family photos in great frames, small art pieces, mixed metals and stacked boxes all help to create a collected and engaging look," said Gina Roth, principal designer and owner of Abode Interior Design in San Antonio.

Then it's just a matter of arranging your collection one piece at a time. "Place large pieces first to anchor the shelves evenly. Add books for height variation, then add smaller pieces and treasures (think collected objects from travels, family photos, etc.). You can even think about hanging art on the back of the shelf or wall to add some unexpected interest (and height). Lastly fill in with some organic elements to keep the bookshelves from feeling too perfect," advised Meredith. The goal is to create curated scenes or vignettes that focus on groups of objects while the overall design is visually balanced.

And finally, avoid clutter. Perhaps Coco Chanel's advice to remove one accessory from your wardrobe can be applied to all areas of design. Negative space in design is important because it allows specific objects or groupings to be seen more clearly and places emphasis on what you choose as your primary focal points — it tells viewers where they should be looking. The amount of negative space can also help to set or follow a mood within your existing space.

But what if a designer's client is not a homeowner with personal mementoes to incorporate? This challenge was presented to Britt Design Group in Austin. Their task was to transform a dimly lit coffee shop into a show-stopping, two-story sales office for Moreland Properties, and the goal for the office was to evoke the feeling of a luxury residence, matching the aesthetic of the properties the client represents.



ABODE INTERIOR DESIGN, PHOTO BY GLASSLAKE MEDIA

The transformation included a dramatic dual height, back-lit shelving installation as one of the main focal points. “When planning a dual height feature wall of open shelving, one can get intimidated by the number of books you would need to fill them. Books aside, the challenge really lies in how you are to balance the special moments within those shelves — the books are actually secondary,” said Laura Britt, founding principal of Britt Design Group.

The design team collected and disrobed books from local consignment shops, seeking neutral and jewel toned binding. These acted as the props and layers for objects. Vases and sculptural objects were all collected from trade and vintage sources, with many sourced from the popular Texas-based Round Top Antiques Fair.

The goal was to find a few textural statements and odd proportions to catch the eye. Secondary items in contrast were simply formed and saturated for supplementary layers. This method also kept the designers conscious of the budget. “We allocated higher dollars for the ‘impact pieces’ and got a little creative with the others. Turning a large vintage terracotta bowl vertically on a stand was one item that filled some nice space without the dollar signs behind it!” said Terah Kelley, designer at Britt Design Group.

To get this look at home, Laura and Terah advise to first locate your favorite and most striking pieces apart from each other and on different planes. Next, layer in the secondary items and add books for height or color to where the balance feels a bit off kilter.

Ultimately, they agree that your first intuition is always the best place to start but give yourself freedom to explore and get creative! ♦



ABODE INTERIOR DESIGN, PHOTO BY GLASSLAKE MEDIA

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KELLE CONTINE INTERIOR DESIGN



PHOTO BY JAKE HOLT

1ST PLACE COMMERCIAL:

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Designer: Nicki Perez, ASID



PHOTO BY DAVID SPARKS

1ST PLACE COMMERCIAL:

MULTI-FAMILY

Designer: Nicki Perez, ASID



PHOTO BY DAVID SPARKS

1ST PLACE COMMERCIAL:

CUSTOM DESIGNED ELEMENT

Designer: Nicki Perez, ASID



PHOTO BY JAKE HOLT

2ND PLACE RESIDENTIAL:

CONTEMPORARY/MODERN BATHROOM

Designer: Nicki Perez, ASID

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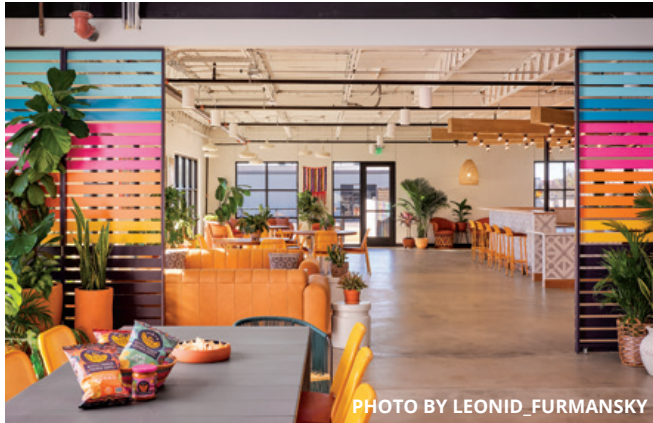


PHOTO BY LEONID_FURMANSKY

1ST PLACE COMMERCIAL:
CORPORATE - LARGE (>15,000 SQUARE FEET)

Designer: Camille Jobe, ASID



PHOTO BY CHASE DANIEL

BEST IN SHOW & 1ST PLACE RESIDENTIAL:
ENTIRE RESIDENCE (< 5,000 SQUARE FEET)

Designer: Camille Jobe, ASID

BRITT DESIGN GROUP



PHOTO BY MATT BATISTA

2ND PLACE COMMERCIAL:
MULTI-FAMILY

Designer: Laura Britt, ASID



PHOTO BY DROR BALDINGER

2ND PLACE RESIDENTIAL:
ENTIRE RESIDENCE (< 5,000 SQUARE FEET)

Designer: Laura Britt, ASID



PHOTO BY MOLLY CULVER

JNID STUDIOS, LLC

1ST PLACE RESIDENTIAL:
**MODEL HOME/
SHOW HOME**

Designer: Jessica Nixon, ASID



PHOTO BY MATTHEW NIEMANN

1ST PLACE RESIDENTIAL:
ENTIRE RESIDENCE (> 5,000 SQUARE FEET)

Designer: Amy Slaughter, ASID

MEREDITH OWEN INTERIORS



PHOTO BY MOLLY CULVER

1ST PLACE RESIDENTIAL: TRADITIONAL/TRANSITIONAL KITCHEN

Designer: Meredith Owen, Allied ASID



PHOTO BY MOLLY CULVER

1ST PLACE RESIDENTIAL: TRADITIONAL/ TRANSITIONAL LIVING SPACE

Designer: Meredith Owen, Allied ASID



PHOTO BY MOLLY CULVER

1ST PLACE RESIDENTIAL: CONTEMPORARY/MODERN BEDROOM

Designer: Meredith Owen, Allied ASID



PHOTO BY MOLLY CULVER

1ST PLACE RESIDENTIAL: CONTEMPORARY/ MODERN LIVING SPACE

Designer: Meredith Owen, Allied ASID



PHOTO BY MOLLY CULVER

2ND PLACE RESIDENTIAL: TRADITIONAL/TRANSITIONAL BEDROOM

Designer: Meredith Owen, Allied ASID



AVERY NICOLE PHOTOGRAPHY

2ND PLACE RESIDENTIAL: ENTIRE RESIDENCE (> 5,000 SQUARE FEET)

Designer: Raquel Skrobarczyk, Allied ASID

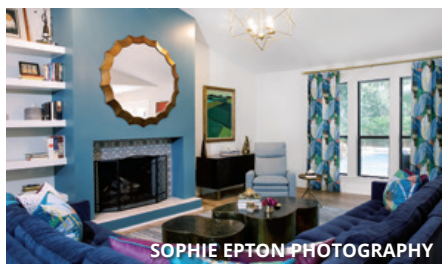
3 FOLD DESIGN STUDIO

NOT PICTURED:

1ST PLACE RESIDENTIAL:
CONTEMPORARY/MODERN KITCHEN

2ND PLACE RESIDENTIAL:
INDIVIDUAL/UNIQUE SPACE
Designer: Page Gandy, ASID

MIMI WITTSTRUCK DESIGN



SOPHIE EPTON PHOTOGRAPHY

2ND PLACE RESIDENTIAL: CONTEMPORARY/MODERN LIVING SPACE

Designer: Mimi Wittstruck, ASID

MARION INTERIOR DESIGN



PHOTO BY PISTON DESIGNS

1ST PLACE RESIDENTIAL: CHILD/YOUTH BEDROOM

Designer: Susie Marion, Associate ASID

NOT PICTURED:

2ND PLACE RESIDENTIAL:
TRADITIONAL/TRANSITIONAL KITCHEN

2ND PLACE RESIDENTIAL:
CONTEMPORARY/MODERN KITCHEN

2ND PLACE RESIDENTIAL:
TRADITIONAL/TRANSITIONAL LIVING SPACE

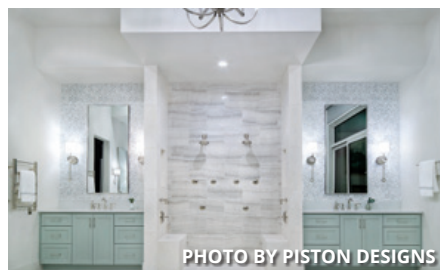


PHOTO BY PISTON DESIGNS

1ST PLACE RESIDENTIAL: TRADITIONAL/ TRANSITIONAL BATHROOM

Designer: Susie Marion, Associate ASID



PHOTO BY PISTON DESIGNS

1ST PLACE RESIDENTIAL: INDIVIDUAL/UNIQUE SPACE

Designer: Susie Marion, Associate ASID

ETCH DESIGN GROUP



1ST PLACE RESIDENTIAL: TRADITIONAL/ TRANSITIONAL DINING ROOM

Designers: Stephanie Lindsey, ASID &
Jessica Nelson, Allied ASID



1ST PLACE RESIDENTIAL: TRADITIONAL/ TRANSITIONAL BEDROOM

Designers: Stephanie Lindsey, ASID &
Jessica Nelson, Allied ASID



2ND PLACE RESIDENTIAL: OUTDOOR LIVING

Designers: Stephanie Lindsey, ASID &
Jessica Nelson, Allied ASID



2ND PLACE RESIDENTIAL: TRADITIONAL/ TRANSITIONAL DINING ROOM

Designers: Stephanie Lindsey, ASID &
Jessica Nelson, Allied ASID

ALLISON JAFFE INTERIOR DESIGN LLC



1ST PLACE RESIDENTIAL: CONTEMPORARY/ MODERN DINING ROOM

Designer: Allison Jaffe, ASID



1ST PLACE RESIDENTIAL: CONTEMPORARY/MODERN BATHROOM

Designer: Allison Jaffe, ASID

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN



1ST PLACE STUDENT DESIGN: COMMERCIAL

Designers: Elvira Lathrop, Student ASID &
Paulina Gallegos, Student ASID

NOT PICTURED: 2ND PLACE STUDENT DESIGN: COMMERCIAL

Designer: Ashley Chen, Student ASID

PARSONS I.D.



1ST PLACE RESIDENTIAL: OUTDOOR LIVING

Designer: Laura Parsons, Associate ASID



1ST PLACE RESIDENTIAL: PRODUCT DESIGN/SPECIAL DETAIL

Designer: Allison Jaffe, ASID

LAUREN ALLYN INTERIORS



2ND PLACE RESIDENTIAL: TRADITIONAL/ TRANSITIONAL BATHROOM

Designer: Lauren Jerden, Allied ASID

HONORING DIANA KENNEDY

BY CLAUDIA ALARCÓN



COURTESY OF MATT WEISSLER

DIANA KENNEDY, THE FOREMOST AUTHORITY ON TRADITIONAL MEXICAN CUISINE AND FOODWAYS PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH, PASSED AWAY ON JULY 24, 2022, AT THE AGE OF 99, JUST A FEW MONTHS SHY OF HER HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY. AT THE TIME OF HER PASSING, HER FIRST COOKBOOK, *THE CUISINES OF MEXICO*, HAD JUST CELEBRATED ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY. TO DATE, THE BOOK HAS SOLD OVER 100,000 COPIES AND IT'S WIDELY CREDITED WITH BRINGING TRADITIONAL MEXICAN COOKING TO A WORLDWIDE AUDIENCE.

Born Diana Southwood in southern England, she moved to Mexico in 1957 with her husband Paul Kennedy, a correspondent for *The New York Times*. She became fascinated with the local cuisine, and after her husband's passing, made it her life's work to learn and document it. Well into her 80s, she fearlessly traveled on her own, from the seaside to the sierras in her old pick-up truck, collecting and preserving recipes and ingredients from indigenous cooks and small villages.

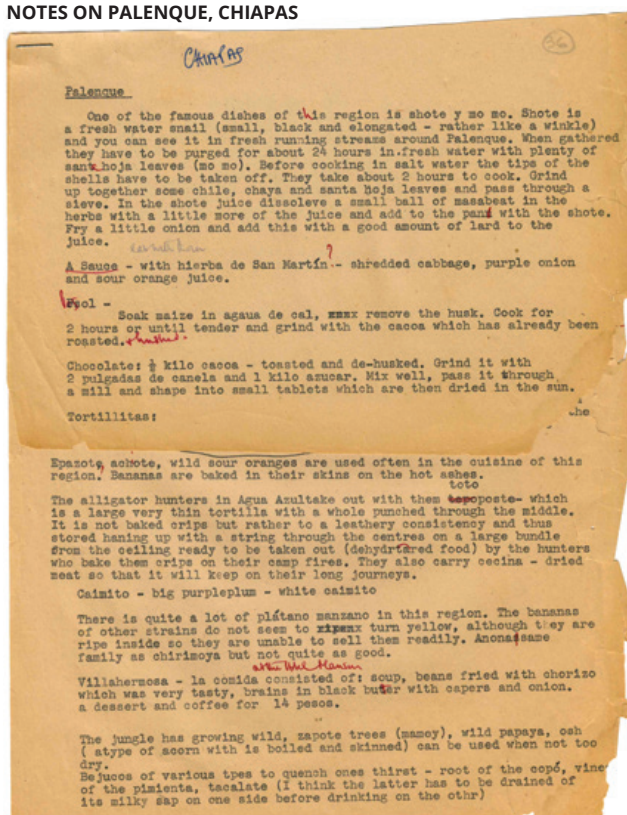
Throughout her life, she published nine cookbooks compiling recipes from all 32 Mexican states, carefully sourced from traditional cooks and markets. A fierce environmentalist, she tirelessly detailed endemic edible plants, their flavors and culinary uses, documenting endangered ingredients that otherwise would have been lost forever. For her work, she received the Order of the British Empire and the Order of the Aztec Eagle, the highest honor awarded by the Mexican government to foreign nationals.

In the late '70s, Kennedy began a lifelong relationship with Texas when she agreed to help Tom Gilliland and the late Miguel Ravago craft the menu for their pioneering interior Mexican restaurant, Austin's legendary Fonda San Miguel. Kennedy returned often, co-hosting special dinners



COURTESY OF UTSA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

COURTESY OF UTSA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS —
NOTES ON PALENQUE, CHIAPAS

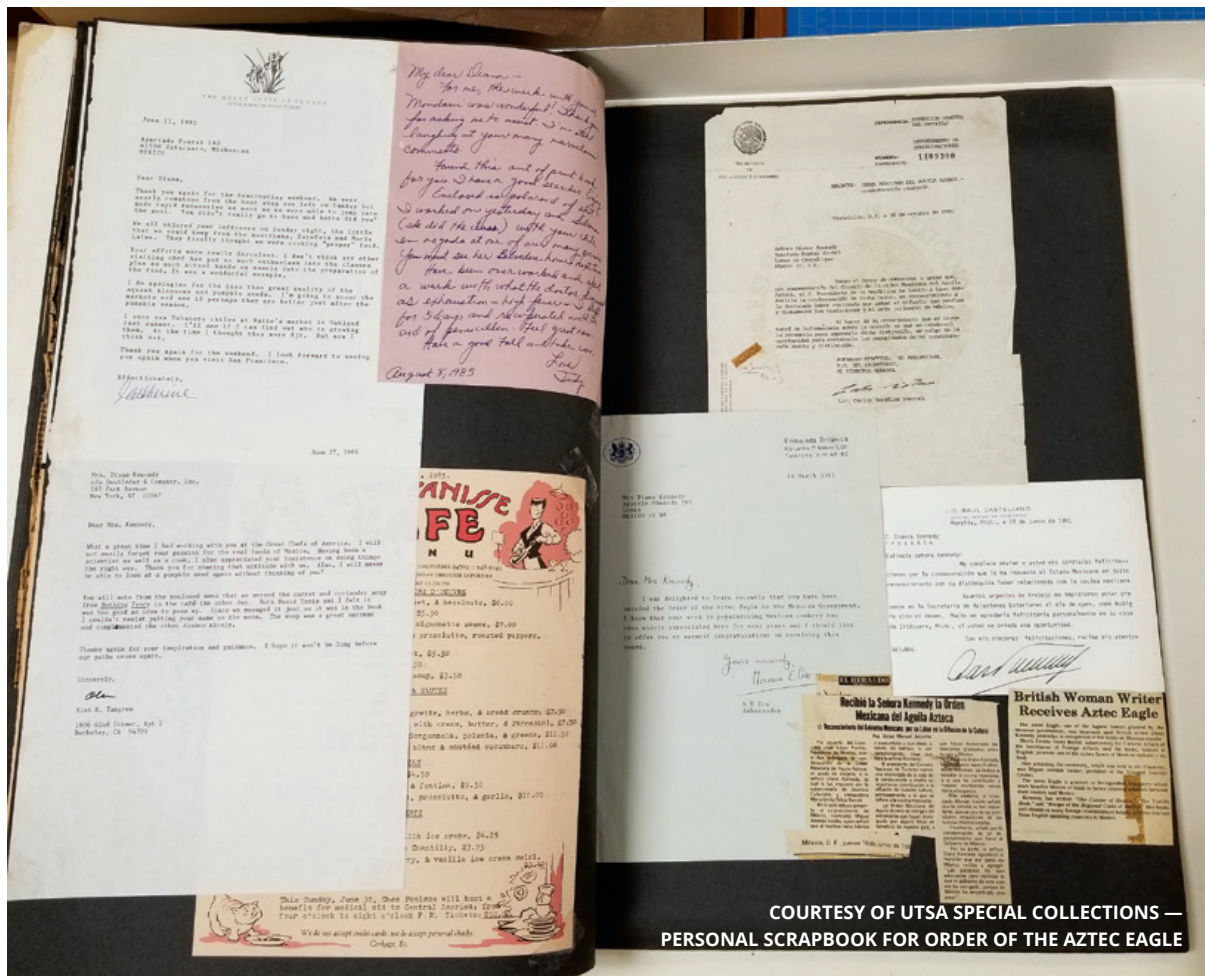


with chef Ravago based on recipes from her books, and consulted with her friends when they planted an organic kitchen garden on the restaurant's premises. In 2019 she returned to Texas, this time to donate her unique collection of cookbooks, personal notes and correspondence to the University of Texas at San Antonio.

When she decided her library needed a permanent home, she reached out to her close friend Clayton Kirking, the former Curator of the Art and Architecture Collection at the New York Public Library, to help her locate an appropriate new location for her invaluable archives.

"I started a bibliography of Diana's culinary library, approximately 700 volumes, in 2012, which I did in long hand, as the Wi-Fi was so bad in her house in Zitácuaro, Michoacán," said Kirking. "That led to her asking me to place her archive for her, which ultimately was accepted by UTSA, which has a very important Mexican cookbook collection, perhaps the largest in the country."

"Through Clayton, Diana learned of our extensive Mexican cookbook collection and wanted to know more about it, how we take care of the collection and how it is used by students and the public," said Amy Rushing, Assistant Dean and Head of Special Collection at UTSA.

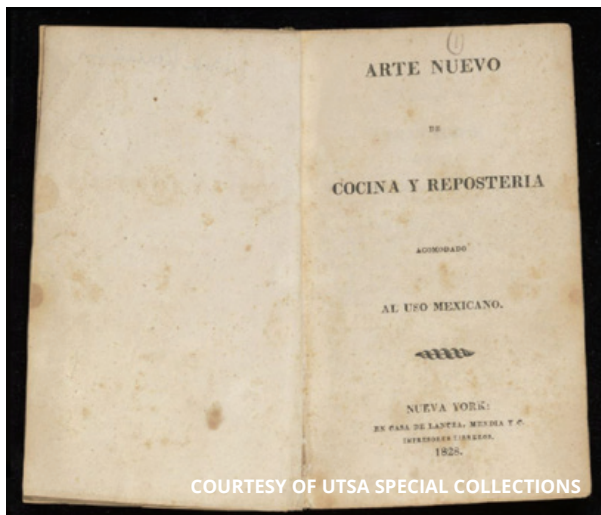


COURTESY OF UTSA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS —
PERSONAL SCRAPBOOK FOR ORDER OF THE AZTEC EAGLE

Kirking adds that the initial agreement included the sale of several very important and rare 19th century Mexican cookbooks to UTSA, including one that is held by no other library in the Americas. At that point, she promised to bequeath her entire culinary library to UTSA as a gift upon her death.

"It was about a year and a half of discussions," said Rushing. "Once she visited us and got to know us, she decided this would be the perfect home for her papers, her 19th century Mexican cookbooks and her reference library of over 700 cookbooks. She also felt that it made sense for them to be in San Antonio, given our close connection to Mexico."

In classic Diana Kennedy fashion, she drove all the way to San Antonio from her home in Mexico to hand-deliver the priceless collection. The Diana Kennedy Culinary Archive and Mexican Cookbook Collection at UTSA contains eleven 19th century Mexican cookbooks, including a copy of the 1828 *Arte Nuevo De Cocina y Reposteria*



COURTESY OF UTSA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Acomodado al Uso Mexicano, possibly the only extant copy. The archive also houses eight linear feet of personal papers documenting her life's work, as well as her working library and research papers.

"She became a bit emotional when she handed over the 19th century cookbooks, as they were very special to her," said Rushing. "Ultimately, she knew they would be taken care of and in a much better place with environmental controls like regulated temperature and

humidity, something that she did not have at her house in Zitácuaro."

To commemorate what would have been Kennedy's 100th birthday on March 3, Gilliland is hosting a party at Fonda San Miguel in Austin on Sunday, March 5, 4-6:30pm. Some of the books from the UTSA collection will be on display, and Fonda's chefs Blanca Zesati and Carlos Monroy will prepare bites from some of Kennedy's cookbooks. For more details about the event visit FondaSanMiguel.com. ♦

HARDWOOD FLOORS ADD WARMTH AND LUXURY



WELLS MASON
BUILDERS FIRSTSOURCE

Every residential remodel project has to take into account style and budget. But, more importantly, every remodel project has to take into account the personal preferences of those who live there. And perhaps no ingredient brings more warmth and luxury to a remodeled home than carefully selected, beautifully installed hardwood floors.

ENRICH YOUR INVESTMENT — Whether you're building a new home or remodeling an existing one, your choice of flooring can have a big impact on the dollar value of your investment. Amber Brock with Artisan Hardwood, a member of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry in Austin, said, "Hardwood flooring can dramatically increase the monetary and livability value of your home. On average, you can increase your value by 5-10% with the right hardwoods for your space."

WHAT'S TRENDING? — With so many hardwood flooring choices, from different wood species to varying flooring widths to a range of textures and finishes, there's something

for everyone. When asked about what's trending, Brock stated, "As always, White Oak is the most asked-for floor. But we are seeing a bit more variety lately. Mesquite and Vertical Grain Pine are on the rise. People are looking for hardwood with more visual interest and distinctive grain patterns." And she added that, especially with regard to remodel projects, "Custom and traditional parquets, like herringbones and basket weaves, are also prominent."

A FLOOR TO REMEMBER — It's clear that hardwood floors are luxurious, but can they also be breathtaking? We asked Brock to name the most unusual hardwood floor project they've ever done, and she recalled, "We have done a lot of floors over the years. The most unusual is probably at a high-end clothing store on South Congress Avenue. We installed 3"x3" end grain blocks of Mesquite throughout the whole store. It was awesome!" ♦

For more information about the National Association of the Remodeling Industry in Austin or San Antonio, please visit AustinNari.org or RemodelSanAntonio.org.



This column is sponsored by Bes Builder, a professional remodeler and longtime NARI member in Austin, Texas. This column is courtesy of Wells Mason, Business Development Manager for Builders FirstSource in Central Texas. Builders FirstSource is proud to be a NARI member in Austin and San Antonio.



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TRENDS & INFLUENCES IX

COURTESY OF FERGUSON BATH, KITCHEN & LIGHTING GALLERY

FERGUSON BATH, KITCHEN & LIGHTING GALLERY IS ALWAYS AT THE FOREFRONT OF LUXURY, DESIGN AND INTELLIGENCE, AND THEIR ANNUAL TRENDS & INFLUENCES GUIDE SHOWCASES PRODUCTS THAT ALIGN WITH THE CHANGING NEEDS OF TODAY'S HOUSEHOLDS.

Now in its ninth year, Ferguson has once again tapped product experts, influencers and style icons and analyzed leading market research to compile a lookbook of 10 trends featuring innovations in plumbing, lighting and appliances. From connections with nature and sustainable practices to dramatic design and timeless style, the best offerings in the industry are presented to inspire homeowners and improve the planet.



COURTESY OF HOUSE OF ROHL
AT FERGUSON BATH, KITCHEN & LIGHTING GALLERY

BIOPHILIC INTENTION

Humans are innately connected to nature, desiring elements from the natural world be integrated into built environments to create a harmonious flow. This includes dimmable light fixtures to mimic natural lighting and regulate circadian rhythms, air flow that responds accurately to atmospheric and seasonal variations and water for therapy and rejuvenation.



COURTESY OF ELECTROLUX
AT FERGUSON BATH, KITCHEN & LIGHTING GALLERY

ECO-MIDFULNESS

Environmental awareness has moved homeowners to consider products made from renewable resources such as bamboo and cork flooring, smart plumbing fixtures and appliances that use less energy, recycled and chemical-free products and an overall awareness of what is entering our landfills and water supply.



COURTESY OF KALLISTA
AT FERGUSON BATH, KITCHEN & LIGHTING GALLERY

EBB & FLOW: WETROOM BATHROOMS

A popular design in Europe, these open-concept, waterproof bath spaces with floor-to-ceiling tile can include a frameless, zero-entry shower, freestanding tub and even a floating vanity. The wetroom trend also provides ADA-accessible design.



COURTESY OF CAFE
AT FERGUSON BATH, KITCHEN & LIGHTING GALLERY

GOTHIC GLAM

Luxurious, edgy and bold, statement features like wrought iron chandeliers, bronze fixtures, jewel tones and black accents pair with contemporary woodwork applications and glamorous wallpaper designs for dramatic style.



COURTESY OF SAMSUNG
AT FERGUSON BATH, KITCHEN & LIGHTING GALLERY

MODERNIZED MID-CENTURY

Successive generations have embraced mid-century modern's timeless design, and today's options for streamlined appliances, cutting technology, bold colors and updated accessories complete the twist on this classic style.



COURTESY OF KOHLER
AT FERGUSON BATH, KITCHEN & LIGHTING GALLERY

MOODY JAPANDI

The blending of Scandinavian and Japanese minimalist styles continues with darker shades of wood, contemporary lighting and fixtures, gold tones and hints of purple to create well-balanced and peaceful spaces.



COURTESY OF JACUZZI
AT FERGUSON BATH KITCHEN & LIGHTING GALLERY

MULTI-SENSORY DESIGN

To activate the five senses, consider incorporating tactile materials like fabric, wood and stone surfaces that invite touch, warmth and brightness through lighting and water elements that can be felt, seen and heard.



COURTESY OF AGA
AT FERGUSON BATH, KITCHEN & LIGHTING GALLERY

OLD WORLD ESTATE

Influenced by European aesthetics of French Country, Tuscan, Spanish and Mediterranean, opulent and romantic decorations from marble counters and rich woods to glamorous lighting and textural fabrics define this lavish and timeless style.



COURTESY OF THOMPSON TRADERS
AT FERGUSON BATH, KITCHEN & LIGHTING GALLERY

ROYAL ASPIRATIONS

Royalcore design incorporates all that is magnificent and romantic about castle life with crystal chandeliers, ornate vanities, candelabras, sconce lighting and gilded accents for a Regency meets Victorian style.



COURTESY OF BIG ALL FANS
AT FERGUSON BATH, KITCHEN & LIGHTING GALLERY

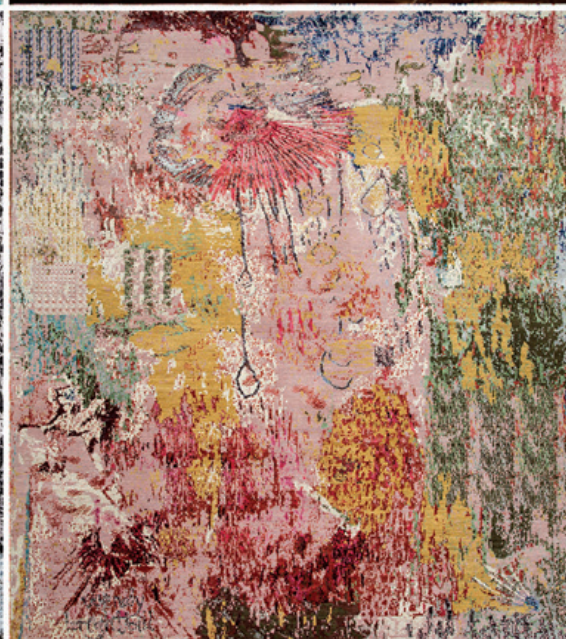
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Smart devices support a modern, convenient lifestyle with WiFi-enabled appliances, voice-activated lighting systems and programmable thermostats that save money and energy and can all be operated from a central location. ♦

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DESIGN

OFF THE GRID, WHEN NECESSARY

BY CLAUDIA ALARCÓN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREA CALO



AUSTIN HOMEOWNERS, BOTH NATIVES OF CANADA AND VERY CONSCIOUS OF SUSTAINABILITY AND GREEN PRACTICES IN DAILY LIFE, WANTED TO CREATE A HOME REMINISCENT OF THE ONES IN WHICH THEY GREW UP — HOMEY AND COMFORTABLE, WITH PLENTY OF ROOM FOR GATHERING BUT ALLOWING FOR INDIVIDUAL PRIVATE SPACES. THEIR HOME IS ALSO THE FIRST IN AUSTIN TO HAVE A TESLA ROOF.





TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR VISION OF THE IDEAL HOME, the owners tasked architects Jed E. Duhon and Jennifer Vrazel, principals at Studio Steinbomer. “Jed and Jennifer did a fantastic job of taking our vision for what a home should be and how our home needs to work and turning it into a great set of plans,” said homeowner Nicola Davies. “And our builder, Mulligan Construction, took the plans and turned our vision into reality.”

Homeowner Nicola Davies consulted with her cousin Susan Slat, a kitchen designer, who suggested the custom split cabinet design. When it came to handles and pulls, Nicola opted for large half-rings on the kitchen drawers paired with smaller rings for the cabinets, both from Atlas Home-ware. She used long chrome appliance pulls from Schaub and Company for the fridge, freezer and dishwashers, as well as on the top drawers, which double as towel bars.



A lovely opus white quartzite stone tops the kitchen island, the wall behind the range and features in the bar and the coffee bar in the living and dining rooms. Melt pendants in chrome by Tom Dixon hang above the kitchen island.

To solve the need for storage for the large number of dishes, glasses, flatware and table linens, Jennifer Vrazel proposed the China cabinet around the window in the dining room. The cabinet incorporates a window seat that matches the one in the living room adjacent to the built-in bookshelf.



Their traditional 1954 ranch house was a three bedroom, three-and-a-half bath home at approximately 3,700 square feet. A two-phased renovation began by relocating the stair and the front entry, addressing flooding issues on the lower walkout floor and replacing the leaking pool as a first step to a future, more extensive remodel. Nearly a decade later in early 2020, they added a new second floor, fully gutted the existing house and added a fourth bedroom with ample space



The interior color palette of blues and greens reflects the homeowner's personal style. Her teen daughter pointed out that the prevalent colors in her wardrobe were warm whites, navy/blues and dusty pinks, which became the palette she ultimately chose throughout the home.

Nicola designed the custom-made stair railing, which runs from the basement to the decks and balconies upstairs. The light fixture from ET2 Lighting matches the railing's geometrical design.







In the master bedroom, cut tall pendants in chrome by Tom Dixon hang low above the bedside tables to simulate the look of lamps. They give a lovely soft light in the evenings and look fantastic in the daytime, set against a simple chandelier in the center of the room from a big box store.

The different pieces in the master bathroom feel unexpected, but they work together to make the space feel luxurious. A vintage chandelier, purchased and rewired for a previous home, juxtaposes the modern

design of the custom tub from Baths in Wood of Maine. The walnut look carries over from the tub to the cabinet pulls from Forge Hardware Studio and Manzoni, and mushroom knobs on drawers were custom made by Wilbur Davis in Massachusetts. The bench under the window is the Tilikum Walnut Bench from Autonomous Furniture in British Columbia.

Bedrooms and bathrooms were customized to the taste and preference of each occupant, often starting with a single piece and focusing on a theme that ties everything together.





for long-term guests, an exercise room and another deck for outdoor entertaining. The family now enjoys a 6,200-square-foot home with five bedrooms and six-and-a-half baths.

Studio Steinbomer were the architects for both additions and renovations. “It was all planned out as part of the first phase/renovation, and refined/finessed during the second phase,” said Jennifer. “Design decisions that were made in the first phase were carefully made so we didn’t have to ‘undo’ work during the second phase.”

Despite its size, the home is not imposing. At street level it appears as a one-story brick and stucco home with attic dormers, while in the backyard, it rises two stories above the pool and decks and is secluded from neighbors, creating an oasis in the middle of the city that accommodates outdoor family dinners as comfortably as larger parties and events.

But repeated mysterious and lengthy power outages spurred the homeowners to investigate solar options,

The outdoor space, set under the shade of massive oak trees, includes three lpe decks and a custom circular fire pit with two curved benches. The homeowner repurposed metal screening panels from Wayfair into decorative elements along the lower deck, and used the same panels to flank the stairs from the upper to the middle deck to keep people from falling into the cabana area. From the two decks on the upper floor, the family enjoys a fantastic view of Downtown Austin.

ultimately deciding to invest in the innovative technology. “The grid is a little unstable in our area and we like to know that we can manage off the grid, without a noisy gas generator,” said Nicola of their decision to install a Tesla roof.

“The Tesla roof is comprised of solar shingles,” added Jennifer. “It’s not a system of solar panels on a roof — the roof itself is solar capacitors. It charges batteries within the home to power the home, and then goes to the power grid. The Tesla shingles are light weight, so no additional roof reinforcing is necessary.”

The six batteries that power the roof were calibrated to meet the family’s needs, and many functions of the house can be controlled remotely through apps. In addition, the family’s Tesla car chargers allow the roof to charge the car and, in case of emergency, the car to charge the house. In a major event, the house can be powered for up to two weeks with the system adjusting the battery load, and turning off lights and moving energy around to ensure the battery power is used optimally. “We don’t even notice when the power goes out most times,” said Nicola.

The homeowners chose not to work with a designer, preferring to make the selections themselves. Being very sustainability-

conscious, they avoided items that would end up in landfills and tried to use recycled materials wherever possible. Built-in bookshelves were a priority, as were reading nooks.

“We worked hard to select items, finishes and colors that felt comfortable to us rather than things that felt trendy or popular. We selected from a wide range of designers and stores, from high-end and custom pieces to low-end items from Ikea, Home Depot and Lowes,” shared Nicola. “I looked for pieces that fit well in the space, felt like home and were well reviewed, without regard to the perceived prestige of the designer/manufacturer/retailer. I like to mix items from different styles and time periods, and I love textures and subtle white-on-white patterns.”

This family of five spends significant time at home, with two kids in online school and home offices for both parents, so it was important that there be enough privacy for everyone to work from home simultaneously, with other recreational and activity spaces to offer a change of scenery. In the end, Studio Steinbomer delivered a stunning remodel, providing a functional yet comfortable space for everyone in this active family. ♦

STUDIO STEINBOMER

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A HOUSE OF SHIELDS

BY KIMBERLY A. SUTA | PHOTOGRAPHY BY DROR BALDINGER

NOT ALL HOMES ARE CREATED EQUAL,
AS MADE EXTRAORDINARILY EVIDENT WITH
CASA ESCUDA, A NEW OLMOS PARK HOME
BY TOBIN SMITH, FOUNDER AND PRINCIPAL
ARCHITECT OF TOBIN SMITH ARCHITECT.





FROM THE OUTSIDE, THE UNIQUE HOUSE LOOKS more museum than home with its ultra-modern design, yet it is eloquently livable on the inside with four bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen with pantry, study, family den, game room and bar. Tobin calls it “occupiable sculpture.”

Situated on a triangular lot that abuts a city-owned nature preserve on one side and a busy neighborhood street on the other, Casa Escuda provided a rare challenge for Tobin. “The decision was made to create a shield and focus the view and experience on nature. It was a very unique opportunity. Inside the house, you don’t see or feel any of the typical bustle of a mature neighborhood. The focus is on the green, wild realm,” explained Tobin.

Escuda is Spanish for shield and that truly is the theme of this house, in a myriad of ways. “It’s a series of shields, really. The stone wall acts as a shield and then the series of fins on the back of the house act as solar shields to block the west sun. Even the roof is a triangular silver blade — another shield of sorts. The house is designed to provide a comfortable sheltered experience,” Tobin elaborated.

Keeping in line with the materiality of the neighborhood with homes largely made out of stone and stucco, Tobin used a gray-toned Lueders limestone, which is a dense limestone quarried in Texas. “It’s a reinterpretation of the stone and stucco house — obviously very different in form and finish, but that’s a common exterior material palette for Olmos Park,” he said.

According to Tobin, the homeowners, who have two children, were wonderfully open to design options. “I think they approached it as, ‘we’re hiring you because we’ve seen your work and appreciate your brand of architecture, so we’re excited to see how you would approach this site,’” recalled Tobin.

Tobin, who was born in San Antonio but grew up on the east coast in Washington D.C. and Virginia moved back in 2002. He started his San Antonio-based boutique design-focused practice in 2007 and tends to take a more conceptual modern approach to projects, including a mix of residential and small commercial and ranch projects in the surrounding rural areas.

“We explore spatial ideas not driven by stylistic notions, not driven by notions of what a project is sup-



Previous page: A stout stone wall addresses the street and fenestrations modulated by the varying courses of limestone reveal a precise resolution of material, composition and interior experience.

An oxidized steel-clad half pipe marks the entry and water from the roof cascades down this element and into a round cistern below before flowing through a runnel at the base of the stone façade, after which it is distributed into the landscape.

On the back exterior facing the nature preserve, the giant glass panes and individual rooms are divided by white fins. From left to right is the living room, dining room and then the gallery space, which takes you down to the main bedroom.





The dark brown walnut wet bar anchors the living room space and features a soapstone countertop that functions as a buffet for the adjacent dining room when needed. The chrome and leather Paulistano Armchairs were designed by Paulo Mendes da Rocha, a Brazilian architect Tobin admires.

At the end of the gallery is an original sculpture by Miki, a Mexico City-based artist who happens to be a friend of the owners. The incredible piece of artwork on the living room wall is a traditional folding Asian screen that Tobin helped mount, thus transforming it into a piece of art.

The kitchen is cleverly divided into a show kitchen and a prep kitchen. The presentation side features an aircraft carrier-scaled island made out of a MetroQuartz Calacatta Vagli, a white marble-like material with grey veins as well as a sequence of metallic gold organically-shaped drop lights designed by Tom Dixon, that are reflective during the day and glow wonderfully at night.





posed to look like,” he shared. “There’s an inventiveness and creativity to what we do.” Casa Escuda is a prime example of Tobin’s methodology if ever there was one. A massive oxidized vertical half pipe, which hides or “shields” the front door from cars and passersby on the street is a sculptural masterpiece, but also serves as a functional cistern that helps carry and distribute water towards the landscaping in the back of the house. “A house doesn’t need to be a shoebox with a gable on it. With this project, we had a very challenging triangular-shaped property with interesting site forces, which allowed us to discover and maximize the potential of the place. We have to be open to finding new forms and architectural language,” Tobin noted.

Not only did he design the architecture but was responsible for the interior as well. For Casa Escuda, Tobin used a mix of the client’s pre-owned objects as well as selected new furniture and art, including custom-made pieces, such as the built-in walnut wood bed in the main bedroom.



Although Tobin’s process is difficult to pin down, being that so much of his inspiration is drawn from “the last 43 years of my life” and his tendency towards observation, the process typically starts with loose sketches, trace paper and thick black pens and evolves into developing three-dimensional presentations, of course taking into account client directives.

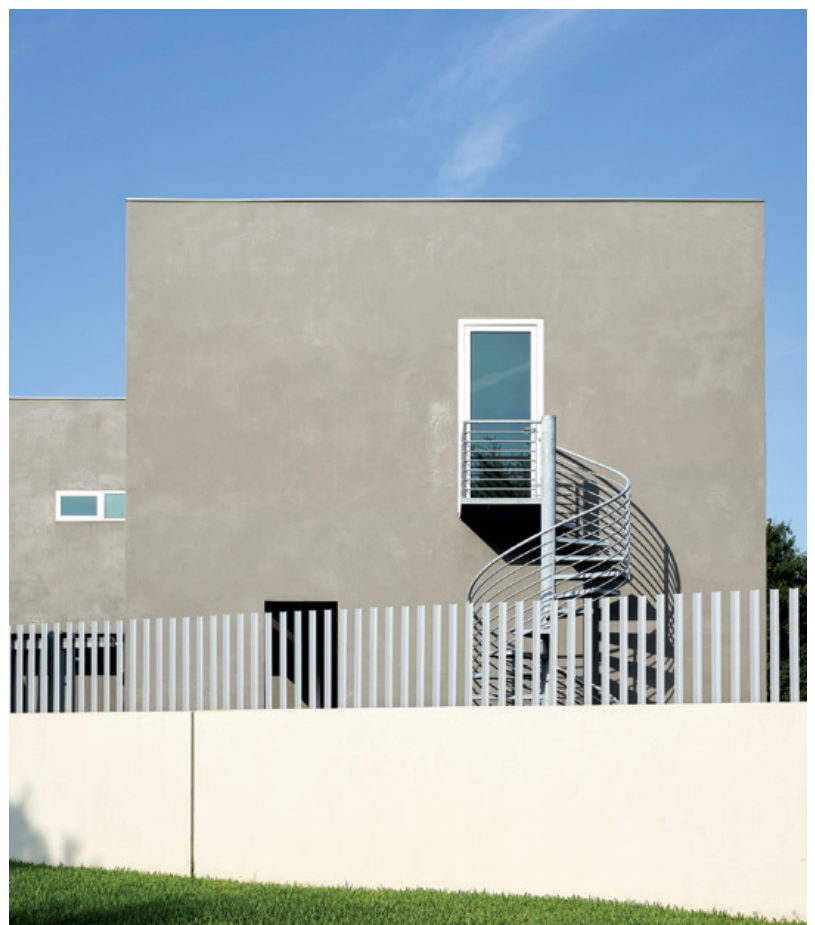
“For me, when we start one of these projects, to do it successfully, it takes every bit of my architectural experience as well as comprehensive observation of the world around us and then I try to add to it in a meaningful way,” he said. ♦

TOBIN SMITH ARCHITECT

210-817-4744 | TobinSmithArchitect.com

The homeowners’ view from the main bedroom eliminates all sense of the surrounding neighborhood, leaving them with simply a gorgeous greenscape and sky — just wilderness and wonder.

This stylish main bath was designed with a walk-in shower and modern soaking tub. The custom diamond-shaped Carrara marble tile was meticulously installed and is illuminated by the skylight above.





HOME STORY

BY DREW HENRY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL HUNTER



AUSTIN INTERIOR DESIGN COUPLE MELINDA AND JOHN THOMAS JAMES BELIEVE A HOME TELLS A STORY ABOUT THE RESIDENTS INSIDE. AS DESIGNERS, IT'S THEIR JOB TO BRING THAT STORY TO LIFE FOR THEIR CLIENTS — AND EVEN THEMSELVES.



MELINDA AND JOHN THOMAS JAMES SHARE A LOVE of curated, storied design that led them to become partners in life and business. As owners of M. James Design Group, the couple works together to create beautiful spaces that reflect the lives and tales of their clients in Texas and across the country.

"I like to walk through a home and make up a little story in my mind as I go along," explained Melinda. "How will the client use this space? What inspiration will come to them? What memories will be made? I love small, individual

spaces because they make the home feel more intimate, and there's so much more room for expression. Each room has a mood and purpose."

Recently, John and Melinda embarked on designing a home for a new chapter of their lives as they moved from their formal Houston abode to a more casual Austin retreat. "It's a lot harder being your own client," said John. "You have a higher level of freedom, and with that comes a more critical eye. Melinda and I have very different approaches. I love blueprints and she is a little more



The open-concept living room and kitchen spaces are truly connected, simultaneously spilling into each other while retaining their own presence. The living space is grounded with layered white and gray Italian rugs from Stile BK and Carol Piper Rugs. On one side, a black leather sofa is framed against a white wall artfully adorned with the couple's muted art collection. The opposite wall features a custom black and white built-in bookcase. This cozy corner is outfitted with a white oversized reading chair and daybed paired with a modern acrylic ottoman and Kelly Wearstler floor lamp for Visual Comfort. The couple's massive book collection joyfully overflows into the kitchen, blending the two spaces. The kitchen area features French Restoration-style armchairs in antique toile from Balsac Antiques New Orleans and a sleek black woodgrain table that can serve as a casual dining spot or a place to enjoy cocktails amid lively conversation in the living room.



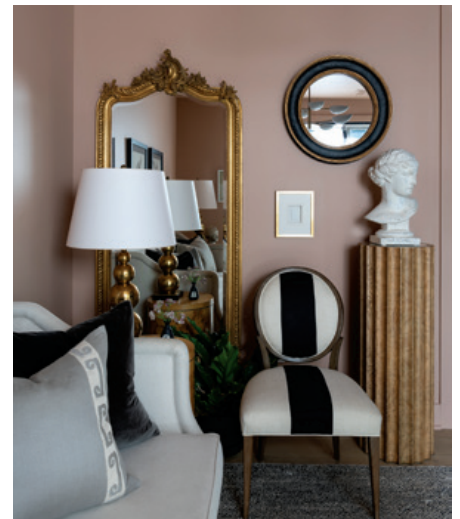




free-form.” Melinda added, “We each bring something different to the table. After all, you need different perspectives to tell an interesting story.”

The couple’s home features a trove of art, books and antiques beautifully arranged into dramatic vignettes throughout every room — from perfectly balanced gallery walls to playfully overflowing bookshelves. “Home is a story,” exclaimed Melinda. “We live storied and collected lives, which we should celebrate in our homes. Our collections are real and a part of our history together. We use the books on display daily.”

Their new Austin home presented design challenges for the couple. “We had a very dressy place in Houston,” said Melinda. “And we wanted to pare it down to reflect that more casual and organic Austin spirit. But, of course, we didn’t want to part with some of our



The couple converted one of the home’s bedrooms into a formal dining room with the spirit of an elevated cocktail lounge. The room is wrapped in Midnight in the Garden wallpaper by Fine and Dandy Co., a dark scenic print that brings a modern edge to a traditional motif. Rather than a stuffy dining table, the space features a sleek cocktail table with a settee and oversized slipper chairs upholstered in charcoal fabric. A large antique gilded mirror accents the room and provides romantic cameo views around the table.

more formal antiques. So, we created this more lived-in look by layering in organic textures and adding contrasting modern elements.” John explained that “juxtaposition makes things more interesting and balanced — it’s the unexpected vs. the expected.”

Taking a page from their own design book, this contrasting yet balanced couple has created a space to live, work and start the next chapter of their story together in perfect style. ♦

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LIVING IN PLACE

BY CLAUDIA ALARCÓN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY RYANN FORD



WHEN A COUPLE OF EMPTY NESTERS SOUGHT TO CREATE AND REDEFINE A “FOREVER HOME,” THEY LOOKED TO BRADSHAW DESIGNS IN SAN ANTONIO TO HELP THEM ACHIEVE THEIR VISION OF A STYLISH HOME WHERE THEY COULD AGE IN PLACE COMFORTABLY WITHOUT SACRIFICING THEIR ACTIVE LIFESTYLE.



THE HUSBAND'S EXPERIENCE AS THE OWNER OF A construction company was key in guiding the home's structural direction, and it gave the couple a pre-established understanding of the interior design process. In collaboration with architect Don B. McDonald, the homeowners came up with a symmetrical, refined space with the right balance of industrial elements and warm touches.

McDonald utilized massive concrete posts and lintels throughout the home, balanced with walls of steel-framed windows. The combination brings a contemporary and almost commercial element to the design. Natural stone blocks at each of the interior thresholds visually mirror the overhead lintels but maintain a flush, smooth transition with natural white oak floors. Overhead, warm Douglas fir ceilings are finished with a matte clear coat.



Rehme Steel Windows & Doors provided the glass wall and doors in the entry and throughout the home. The full wall sliding glass doors between the kitchen and a grassy outdoor courtyard by Cantera Doors create a true indoor-outdoor flow.

While the homeowners' collection of indigenous arrowheads was not initially intended to be an artistic piece, it was creatively displayed on a living room wall.

Beyond this glass wall is a screened-in patio with fireplace, one of the homeowners' favorite spaces to relax and enjoy the fresh breezes minus the mosquitos. Although it faces the street, a carefully considered landscape plan by Matt Stevens Landscape Architect provides privacy.





The home, at approximately 4,500 square feet, has three bedrooms, one primary bath, two guest baths and two powder rooms. To make the space accessible for everyone, the floor plan has a particular flow. The entry hall opens into the family room and dining room, which are connected by a striking fireplace designed by McDonald. At one end of the entry hall is a formal powder room, and at the other is a screened-in patio housing another fireplace. “The floorplan is unique in that it is open, yet at the same time private,” said principal designer Julie Bradshaw, who worked alongside designer Crystal Romero. “It has a spacious feeling, but it’s warm and comfortable. The family room, dining room, kitchen and screened-in patio invite one to sit and visit awhile, perfect for the couple’s social life with family and friends.”

Most notably, the team employed universal design features throughout. “Thoughtfully planned universal design elements that are felt, but not necessarily known, include wide doorways and spacious walkways,” said

Julie. Other universal design details include lever-style door handles for easier grip, and slip resistant floor tile in the bathrooms and showers. Common areas and baths also feature dedicated spaces for future handrail installation. There’s abundant lighting at different levels, including surface-mounted track lights on the exposed wood ceilings, onyx and bronze wall sconces for atmosphere in the family room, and task lighting and under-cabinet lights throughout.

Hosting family and friends was also at the forefront of the design objectives. In the kitchen, Bradshaw Designs collaborated with kitchen designer Christi Palmer of Palmer Todd, whom the homeowner had worked with on previous kitchen projects. Ample storage was provided in the primary kitchen with a hidden prep area in the back that keeps things tidy when entertaining and prevents the kitchen from feeling crowded and overshadowing the architectural features. Christi explained, “Many homes today have a main kitchen and what I consider a prep kitchen-



Palmer Todd designed the kitchen, bar and laundry cabinets, as well as the vent hood and island front panel made of black waxed steel. Built by Downsview Kitchens, cabinet materials include high gloss lacquer, textured melamine and metallic bronze lacquer. The countertops are a combination of Sapien Stone porcelain and a custom walnut serving area.

en — what used to be called a butler’s pantry. The butler’s pantry origination came from the need to store formal dining ware and act as a serving station. Lifestyles have changed and the need for formal dining has been replaced by family and friends gathering, cooking and eating in the kitchen. The prep kitchen serves as a space for overflow including additional appliances.” In this instance, the prep kitchen holds smaller appliances like an icemaker, coffee maker, toaster, blender and microwave.

Beyond the kitchen is the laundry room, cleverly designed with two entry points so homeowners can gain access from public areas as well as the convenience of their primary suite. The laundry room was a very important area for the homeowners, designed to accommodate

not only laundry and cleaning supplies, but a wrapping area with an extra deep countertop and rollout drawers for storage.

“Our goal for the decor was to subtly enhance the home by using soft, organic shapes, colors and refined details. The soft neutral fabrics and rugs, along with custom designed furnishings, a mix of metal and wood seating and precision crafted lighting create a warm, welcoming atmosphere,” said Julie. To that end, the family room has multiple conversation areas where family and friends can relax on an oversized custom sofa, multiple lounge chairs and even the extended fireplace hearth that appears to hover above the ground. Bespoke accent tables are intentionally placed within seating arrangements. The dining room features a modern, clean-lined table and curved, comfortable chairs, which keep the views open without overpowering the space.

When designing the bathrooms, Bradshaw implemented a variety of colors, textures and materials, making each



space unique while maintaining a cohesiveness throughout the home. She explained, “We focused on natural and authentic materials to enhance the architectural elements of the home: the concrete header beams, the steel doors and windows, the wood tongue and groove ceiling and the Lueders stone at the transition thresholds.” Floating cabinets were constructed by Michael Edwards Cabinets, with fine-tuned details like sleek hardware and mitered countertops by Delta Granite and Marble. The vein alignment and slab layout were crucial on the mitered countertops, with the designers ensuring that the veining in each stone slab flowed from the backsplash to the countertop and around the edges. They also chose wall-mounted fixtures to shorten the depth of the cabinets, creating an ideal proportion while also lessening the weight of the wall-mounted cabinets.

The extensive private art collection, carefully curated by Bradshaw and the homeowners with the assistance of Laura Rathe Fine Art, adds an element of personality to the home. When approaching the glass-walled entry, a dynamic multi-colored painting by Hunt Slonem provides a cheerful greeting and a hint at what other treasures await inside. Rounding the corner to the right is a multi-media rice paper piece by Zhuang Hong Yi.

The dining room showcases an impressive art installation by artist Lucrecia Waggoner. Surface-mounted directional track lights replace the traditional overhead chandelier to show off the grouping of custom porcelain

vessels without distraction, and supplements the natural light spilling through two full-length windows on each end of the room.

While the home does not entirely align with all principles of universal design, selective features can be integrated seamlessly and elegantly. “Overall, the project demonstrates that style does not need to be sacrificed when creating spaces for clients who intend to age in place,” said Julie. ♦

BRADSHAW DESIGNS

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PALMER TODD

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In every bathroom, a singular statement piece was selected and supported by secondary elements. For example, the signature element in the formal powder bath is the alabaster sconces, which are complemented by the grass cloth walls, brass details on warm honey oak cabinets and golden veins in the natural stone. Lighting by Visual Comfort.

In the wine nook, glassware is artistically displayed on a wall, while a bespoke bench provides a splash of color to contrast with the abstract wall sculpture commissioned from Cynthia Saunders through AnArte Gallery. The piece is composed of plaster over dimensional saw-cut wood shapes as well as collected drift and scrap wood found by the artist. The decorative ceiling treatment is a pierced concrete slab that actually functions as a return air vent.





SOFTENING THE EDGE

BY KIMBERLY SUTA | PHOTOGRAPHY BY MOLLY CULVER



BANDD/DESIGN IS A FULL-SERVICE INTERIOR DESIGN FIRM,
BASED IN AUSTIN, THAT BELIEVES THAT EVERYONE
DESERVES TO LIVE, WORK AND EXPERIENCE LIFE IN AN
AESTHETICALLY-PLEASING ENVIRONMENT.

To subtly imbue the dining room with the essence of Lenny Kravitz's Brazilian farm compound, Austin artist, Hillary Cumberworth, painted a mural of whimsical smoke as the backdrop for this impressive custom raw edge dining table by Design Within Reach, along with dining chairs by Woody Armchair.





FOUNDER AND PRINCIPAL DESIGNER,

Sara Malek Barney, is the creative mastermind that has led BANDD/DESIGN since its inception in 2017, designing for new builds and renovations in Austin and beyond. They recently completed an interior design project for a family relocating from San Francisco.

“They are a young family investing in their space for the first time so it was super exciting,” remarked Sara. “They brought nothing with them and wanted us to take care of everything, down to the forks and plates in the house, so we worked on every element.”

To initiate a new project, Sara likes to spend a lot of time getting to know the homeowners and their family’s likes and dislikes. “We want them to feel like it’s their home, not ours, so we embark on a pretty detailed discovery phase that includes things like their favorite TV shows, favorite drinks — all the things about them that aren’t just about design,” she explained.

In this instance, the homeowners wanted a space that was designed for entertaining with inspiration drawn from the Brazilian farm compound owned by celebrity musician Lenny Kravitz.

With bold images of wild murals and black leather float-

ing in her head, Sara’s first response was, ‘are you kidding me,’ but after taking some time to reflect and brainstorm, she found a way to incorporate this inspiration into her design.

“One thing that stood out was the big mural on the wall in Kravitz’s bedroom and the giant dining room table that seats 20 people under a massive chandelier,” she noted.

Sara, who enjoys working and supporting local artists who make everything from murals to custom furniture, hired artist Hillary Cumberworth to paint a fluid yet sophisticated mural on the wall in the dining room. The mural, which climbs up the wall onto the ceiling, represents smoke or the wispieness of smoke. “It’s pretty

These light bamboo custom-made chairs with room for two are the star of the kitchen, giving it that California beach motif Sara intended. The concrete dome pendant lights by Shades of Light are the ideal accent to keep the look classic.

Although the fulcrum of the room is the unusual mosaic round table by Bernhardt, the fireplace, with its custom grey plaster and wood mantle, truly pulls the room together. It’s also worth noting that they installed built-in seating to accentuate a custom feel here.





tempered, but it's a nice way to be edgy without being over-the-top," said Sara.

To complement this showpiece and continue to extrapolate from Kravitz's ranch home for inspiration, she added built-in seating in the dining room, along with sconces, to bring some thrilling pops of unexpected elements to the room yet keep it suburban-friendly and, more importantly, cozy for the whole family and their future guests.

To really hone in on a concept, Sara and her team dive in by sharing inspiration photos back-and-forth with their clients. Sara elaborated that they really like using tools like Pinterest and Houzz. "Do you like stripes or paisley, for example? I might say I like modern but that can mean two totally different things, so we use these helpful tools to make sure we're understanding each other," noted Sara.

On the wall behind the luxurious Caffrey & Co. king-sized bed swathed in Crypton Laguna Cloud fabric, Sara implemented a geometric-patterned design using wood planking to add a one-of-a-kind textural element to the primary bedroom, painted in Sherwin Williams' Dignity Blue. This growing trend is an imaginative alternative to the more common accent wall.

To complete the homeowner's intention for the office, Sara painted the walls in a dark blue called Cascades by Sherwin Williams®. However, the office wouldn't be complete without its outstanding custom raw edge desk.





In this case, the homeowners only gave nominal direction, so in an effort to ensure they were speaking the same language and that Sara's concepts were on the right track, BANDD created photo realistic renderings of the dining room and kitchen.

The primary bedroom is another example of how Sara created a space that authentically reflected the style and sensibility of the client. "It's dark for a reason. They wanted a room that felt cozy and warm, like a little cave, so the dark walls give it a moodier vibe. It's a sanctuary," shared Sara.

Another fundamental design aspect of the primary bedroom is the back wall behind the bed that was achieved organically through the design process. While some clients might be intimidated by adding such a diverse element, these homeowners embraced it. Instead of painting an accent wall or using wallpaper, Sara wanted to give the room an interesting textural element by using wood planking to create a design that's both unique and subtle. "That's our design in a nutshell," she said, confidently. "Our designs aren't super loud or aggressive, but I like to add these textural elements that have a subtle touch."

The office, too, was meant to have a more somber moody vibe, achieved with dark blue walls and a comfy brown leather chair, along with a standing desk made with a custom wood slab. The wood and style of the desk are similar



to what was used in the dining room, in order to seamlessly marry the spaces together.

In the kitchen, Sara changed out the backsplash and added complementary lighting, along with custom tile around the base of the island. To lend an even more authentic look, they had custom chairs made in the Philippines out of bamboo that allows the family to cozy up together. The color palette was a nod to the homeowners' California roots for a lighter, beachy feel.

"I think the colors on the walls between the primary bedroom and the office help create a cohesive look," said Sara. "We also incorporated a lot of their family photos and things from their travels to bring all the spaces together."

When all is said and done, it's these personal touches that make a house a home and few do as ingeniously as Sara and BANDD/DESIGN. ♦

BANDD/DESIGN

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A spare room ultimately serves as the kids' playroom and homework area.

The powder bathroom gets rave reviews from the homeowners' guests when entertaining thanks to its stunning wallpaper, Queen of Spain, by Schumacher and the lovely silver vanity mirror by Uttermost.

DESIGN SPOTLIGHT

McKinney York Architects Celebrates 25 Years With Principal Will Wood



Will Wood, AIA, RID, joined the firm in 1997, became a partner in 2014 and principal in 2022. Formally trained in both architecture and engineering, Will brings a unique design perspective to the distinct and complex projects for which the firm is well known. He has led design on many high-profile, award-winning projects, most notably the McGarrah Jesse Building in downtown Austin, recipient of an *Architect Magazine* Annual Design Review Award and a Texas Society of Architects Design Award. Will's most recently completed residential project, the Ridge Oak Residence, was featured on the AIA Austin Homes Tour. These accolades contribute to McKinney York Architects' extensive resume over the company's 40 years. McKinneyYork.com

Prominent Austin Design Firm, Mark Ashby Design, recently announced new name: Ashby Collective

The successful design group, led by industry veterans and company principals Mark Ashby, Anne Grandinetti, Michele Lorenz and Christina Simon, is widely known for its high-end luxury residential design. Featured in *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Architectural Digest*, *Elle Decor* and more, the design collective has built an integrated firm collaborating as a team for more than 20 years. The name change signifies the team's success and future growth as the four principles continue the firm's long-standing reputation. "Ashby Collective is not only a collective of people, but a collective of expertise earned over time," said the Ashby Collective principals. AshbyCollective.com



Interior Stylist Leah Ashley's New "Home to Homestead" Show

Leah Ashley gained national attention for her role on the ABC Daytime talk show, "Fablife," as well as her popular online series, "Vintage Style / Modern Life," currently airing on The Design Network. After leaving her TV career in LA for the slower pace of the Texas Hill Country, the home she and her husband moved into quickly became too small. So, they bought seven acres and dreamt up a family home that would house three generations. Her latest venture finds her starring with her dad, Builder Gary, in a new The Design Network show, "Home to Homestead," which follows the Finn family building a new home in Dripping Springs. LivingWithLeah.com



DESIGN SPOTLIGHT

2022 Austin NARI CotY Awards Recognize Excellence in Remodeling

Every year, the Austin chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) Contractor of the Year (CotY) Awards recognize contractors from five counties in Central Texas whose remodeling projects stand out in the industry. Professional Achievements and Marketing are also acknowledged. Judging is based on problem solving, functionality, aesthetics, craftsmanship, innovation, degree of difficulty and entry presentation. Congratulations to the winners in 2022. For a complete list of winners, visit AustinNARI.org.

Residential Bath \$25-50K: Bes Builder **Residential Bath over \$100K:**

Realty Restoration, LLC &
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Residential Kitchen Under \$30K:

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Residential Kitchen \$100-150K:

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Residential Interior Under \$100K:

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Residential Interior \$100-250K:

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Residential Interior \$250-500K:

Build 512, LLC &
Dawn Hearn Interior Designs

Residential Interior Over \$500K:

Skelly Build

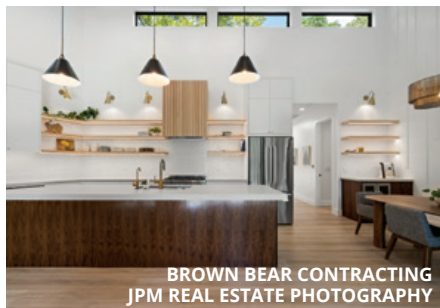
Residential Addition Over \$250K:

Brown Bear Contracting

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Residential Interior Element \$30K & Over: ET's Home Repair



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