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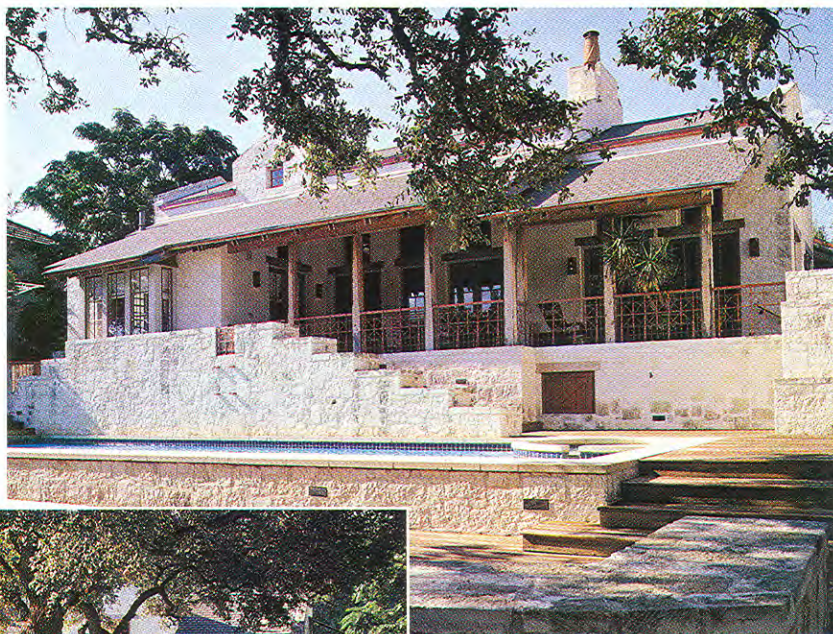
SMOOTH TRANSITIONS

NEW HOME

For this new house in Texas, architect Sinclair Black unites native materials with a lush, sloping site.

Wide expanses of rolling hills are visible through the bedroom window, and a boat dock punctuates the lot's rear boundary. These things suggest an isolated, rustic locale, when the reality is an address in the heart of Austin. Jeanne and Bob May have built a home that gets its signature from nature and resonates in the spirit of this distinctive Southwest region.

Austin architect Sinclair Black designed the home, gracefully following Mother Nature's path. It cascades down the sloped lot in a terraced effect, as house and landscape become one. "The



PHOTOGRAPHS: SYLVIA MARTIN



The house marries the land. The site tells you what to do with the structure.

Sinclair Black

house marries the land. The site tells you what to do with the structure," says Sinclair. The rhythm of movement is seen from the top of the driveway and winds through the house with the deck continuing the descent to the backyard.

Main level rooms are designed so that each integrates with the next. Interior

and exterior spaces seamlessly coexist in the floor plan, creating rooms that are multipurpose and transitional. "I wanted our home to be the same on the outside as it is on the inside," says Jeanne. Sinclair's design of the interior follows the characteristics of the exterior right down to the wall sconces, which can be seen

ABOVE: Sitting on the back porch is just as relaxing as sitting in the living room, even in the intense Texas sun. The architect designed the porch so it follows the sun, providing the greatest shade in the hottest part of the year. The steps rotate around the porch and pool, leading down to the banks of Lake Austin.

LEFT: The architect successfully uses the exterior elements of the house throughout the interiors—limestone, contrasting colors, Texas cedar and mesquite wood, and subtle courtyards.

RIGHT: The Mays wanted casual and relaxed. Even in the dining room all formality is forgotten. The open floor plan helps create flexibility, so chairs and conversation easily move from one room to the next.



RIGHT: Sinclair made good use of otherwise wasted wallspace by lining this hallway with shelves for display and open storage. The stairs lead from the garage, illustrating how the house ripples down the site.

BELOW: Lines of sight flowing to the outside are one of Bob May's favorite design features. From the living room, the side courtyard is visible—or not—with the use of a series of pocket doors. The balcony railing offers another hint of the exterior, echoing the deck railing.



on the porch and lining the walls of the living room.

The combination of light and landscape is seen at every opportunity. "Natural light is one of our most available building materials," says Sinclair. He controls it not only for illumination, but also to provide shelter against the penetrating Texas sun. Shading devices are evident from the deep recess of the front door to the long back porch, which was carefully designed to follow the sun.

Color is another characteristic without bounds. "I think and respond visually, maybe because I'm an artist," says Jeanne. The cream-colored limestone walls provide a familiar texture that serves as an aged, authentic palette, contrasting with assorted wooden furnishings and dark, mesquite hardwood floors. Other contrasts are green and red tones—Jeanne's favorites—echoed in the tomato red of the iron railings and window and door trim.

Spaces are intended to remain open in a floor plan designed with wide, doorless

We love the way this house lives with us.

Bob May

pathways. The private rooms, however, can be shut off from the others when necessary. "Public and private blend the way inside and outside do," says Sinclair. And when Bob and Jeanne's grandchildren visit (they have 14 under age 5), the boundaries, or lack thereof, are important for their flexibility.

Through all the challenges Sinclair met when designing this house, he always kept in mind that the result should speak of its owners. "We love the way this house lives with us," says Bob.

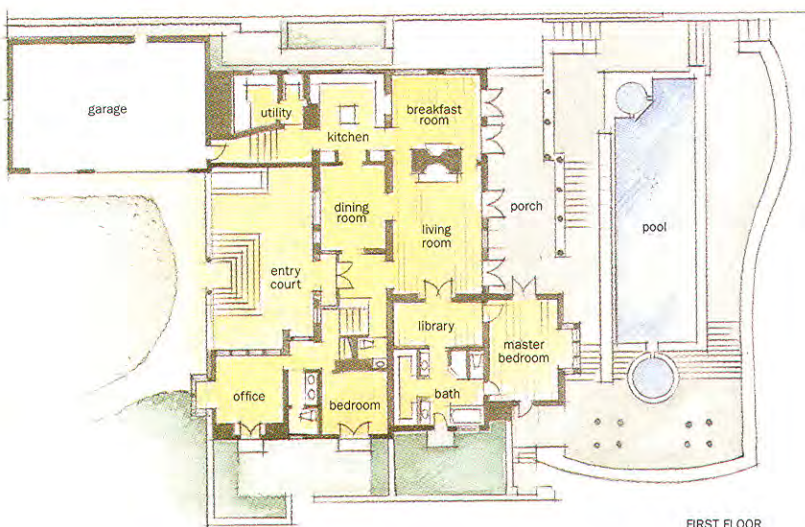
Sarah Jernigan

(For more on this house turn to pages 108 and 112.)

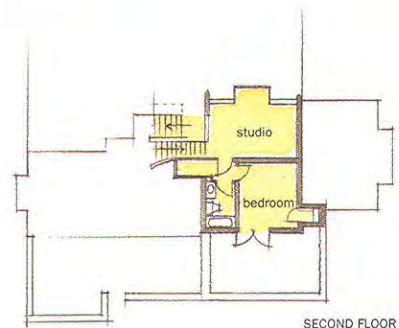


ABOVE: Native materials, such as cedar lintels and ceiling decks and limestone veneer, create an atmosphere dedicated to the feel of the Southwest.

RIGHT: The porch can be just another hallway leading from the master bedroom to the breakfast room and kitchen.



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

Architects: Sinclair Black, FAIA • Sinclair Black & Andrew Vernooy, AIA • assisted by Mell Lawrence • Austin
Builder: David Dalglish • Dalglish Construction Company • Austin
Landscape Design: Jill Nokes • Jill Nokes and Associates Landscape Design • Austin

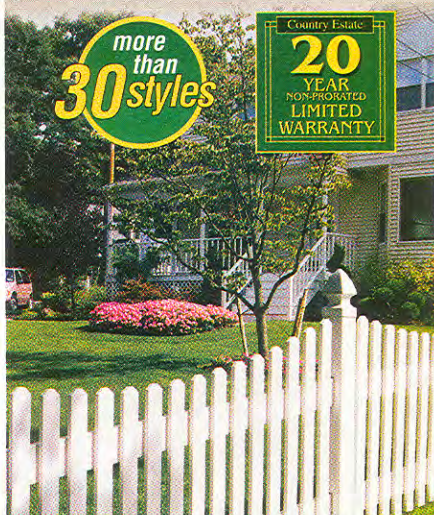


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The materials used for the house might have been found in the backyard. Local artisans created details such as the iron railing and copper sconces.

Made in Texas

There are many benefits to building a new home. Selecting specific construction materials is one of the most important, and, in this case, the most interesting because of their relationship to the region. Working closely as a three-part team, architect Sinclair Black, builder David Dalglish, and homeowners Jeanne and Bob May chose materials native to Texas. As a result, this Southern Home Awards winner reflects not only the region, but also the sturdy character and hand-hewn aesthetics that embody it.

Cedar ceilings, cypress decking, and mesquite flooring combine to create the Western flavor found throughout the house. Walls of limestone flow seamlessly from the exterior to the interior. The builder and his team were careful to keep the integrity of the ma-

terial and its characteristics intact. Each hand-chiseled face and squared-off edge shows the level of craftsmanship by the masonry team. "You typically don't see this much detail in stone construction," says Bob. "David's team spent months carefully sculpting each stone before it was installed."

The lengthy construction time, more than 12 months, is testament to the team's exhaustive patience and precision. "There are details used that are worth the extra effort," says David. One example is found where floor meets wall. Notches were cut into the stone at the floor joint so the boards fit snugly along the wall. "Baseboards would not have felt right with the stone," he says.

Local horticulturist and landscape designer Jill Nokes appropriately used the existing landscape for inspiration.



PHOTOGRAPHS: SYLVIA MARTIN

Rustic in feel, cedar lintels frame windows and divide tall doorways. Mesquite was milled and cut in short strips for the floors. A custom sconce made from copper accents the doorway.



Native materials come together in the front door courtyard—a mesquite door, cedar lintels, limestone walls, and native plants.

She worked with native plants and added new materials to existing ones so the finished landscape has the same regionality evident in the home's design and construction. "We retained cedar trees on the lot just as we used them inside for lintels," says Bob. "It's all a part of this area of Texas."

Sarah Jernigan

(For more on this house turn to page 82.)

A COMMUNITY OF CRAFTSPEOPLE

Austin is known to be a city focused on community artistry. Original designs from several local artisans are found in the Mays' home, further emphasizing their commitment to a home that reflects their region.

Lighting—Sconces in six different styles illuminate various rooms and exterior spaces. Created by Two Hills Studio, Inc., each is handcrafted from aged copper.

Front doors—Louis Frye created the doors, crafting them from native mesquite. Hand-forged hardware completes their rustic Southwest appeal.

Iron railing—Crafted and installed by Gary Evensen, the vivid tomato-red railing designed by the architect contrasts with the limestone walls of the house.



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