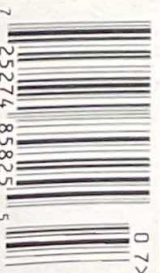


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IN Outside

Text by Laura Mohammad

The original intent of indoor-outdoor living may not have been conducive to Texas living, but Texans have embraced it and made it their own.

Indoor-outdoor living has its roots in California, says David Webber of Austin's Webber Studio. But the California concept doesn't necessarily translate well to the bug-ridden, hot, dry temperatures that bless our great state. "In California, they don't put screens; the temperature is always perfect. But the rest of the country has become captivated by that indoor-outdoor design," he says.

In Texan-built homes that co-mingle with the out-of-doors, more screened-in areas and a heavy use of shading are incorporated. You will also see full advantage of the state's natural beauties, whether it's views of native grasses or the shade protection that live-oak trees offer.

"Almost every project we do is about reintroducing people to the land that they own," says Webber. "Sometimes it involves taking older houses and redesigning to give a more indoor-outdoor feel. I'm a strong believer that we need to build on smaller lots and use our land more wisely. Our whole goal is to have our clients use their space more."

"If you go into a lot of houses, especially old houses, there might be a little door, then you meander through the house to the kitchen, then there's another little door—there are so many barriers to go from the inside of the house to the outdoors. It gives you the feel of more space if it's easier to get there," he says.

A challenge becomes an advantage as Texas architects wrap and mold homes into the spaces that made the owners first fall in love with the land. Whether working with a client's plans to reintroduce native grasses on 1,800 acres outside of Georgetown, or clients' love for their properties' live-oak stands, three Central Texas architectural firms have created homes that seem to possess the expansiveness of their views. Come inside and enjoy the view ...





Texas Zen

In a snug Tarrytown, near downtown Austin, there sits a home with the most unlikely of influences—its roots are in Balinese design.

The Texas Zen House, by Webber Studio, is refreshingly angular, born of the necessity to work around an existing pool and mature trees, says studio owner and principal David Webber.

“The house is broken into three different pavilions,” says Webber. The living area floats out into the front yard. An undulating roof ties it all together.”

The clients wanted casual living with a feel that reminded them of a “vacation in a faraway resort.”

With custom rift-sawn white oak cabinets designed by the architect; a tub deck of mahogany and Prandina light fixtures, the home speaks its own language. Local influences were incorporated with features like Leuders limestone tile, intermingled with the exotic, such as interior floors of Brazilian Ipe wood.

Architecture by Webber Studio
Photography by Thomas McConnell





The locations of the lot's pool and trees required an L-shaped master bath. By placing large corner windows opposite double pocket doors that lead from the master bedroom to the bath, the architect encompassed an expansive view of the yard and garden spaces and took advantage of natural light.

"We wanted a house that's very casual with an indoor-outdoor feel. We wanted the Balinese feel, capturing some of that great connection" to the outdoors, says Webber. "Balinese architecture is very Southeast Asian."

The stone used in Balinese architecture reminded Webber of Texas limestone, so he incorporated that material, as well.

With a massive pivot front door and almost floor-to-ceiling slider windows, Webber's team worked to take advantage of the property's picturesque setting.

"In that zone, you can't really tell where the indoors and outdoors start and stop," he says.