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# DESIGN 2017

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GOLD  
LIST  
EDITION



ALL  
ABOUT:

# Architecture

Just like the best relationships start out with a solid foundation, so, too, do exceptional homes. Without good bones, there is little an interior designer or a landscape architect can do to transform a house from ordinary to extraordinary. It's up to the architect to balance concrete and steel with the native site or find breathing room in a city brownstone by envisioning floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking a courtyard. Architects are challenged with marrying exteriors and interiors to create a seamless look, anticipating how each space will need to function from the start and incorporating the right features to maximize the potential of every room. The structural details—clean lines, intricate woodworking or even a spiral staircase—are the first things to define the character of a house and some of the last things departing guests forget when they leave. Whatever the style, be it traditional or modern, a well-constructed abode should serve as a steadfast yet visionary beginning for a standout home.

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Architect Jesse Hager, alongside Heather Rowell, undertook a near-total gut renovation of this Houston home, originally designed in the 1970s by well-regarded architect Frank Welch. Massive walls of Texas limestone offer an organizing presence, "breaking things up and providing thresholds and transitions," Hager explains. Landscape architect Kevin Steed used plantings with a more organic vibe to contrast the architecture's rectilinear forms.

PHOTO: NICK JOHNSON





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ESSENTIAL TIPS  
ON ARCHITECTURE

- 1.** Authenticity is paramount: If the exterior is a tribute to Mediterranean style, the genre's ornate columns and archways should be introduced in the interiors. **2.** Create an entrance with a statement-making staircase, with features such as a floating stairwell or risers highlighted in a mosaic tile. **3.** Emphasize natural light by rethinking the home's fenestration using clerestories, skylights and glass French doors. **4.** Building materials should serve as an ode to the area's historical character, such as classic brick in a New York condo. **5.** Don't sacrifice function for style: When building a home from scratch, focus first on how it will facilitate your lifestyle.



In designing this Houston home, architects Russell Windham and William Curtis created a mix of intimate rooms and grand, light-filled spaces. A sinuous spiral staircase graces the entry.



THIS PAGE: WINDHAM/CURTIS PHOTO: NICK JOHNSON. OPPOSITE: FUSCH/LEIDNER PHOTO: STEPHEN KARLISCH. FUSCH HEADSHOT: COURTESY FUSCH ARCHITECTS, INC.



ROBBIE  
FUSCH  
Architect

**Tell us about your inspiration for this home.** This French neoclassical-style residence conveys architectural detailing reminiscent of châteaux in the Loire Valley. That region of France is noteworthy for its quality of architectural heritage, from French Renaissance to classical style.

**How do you approach your projects?** Throughout my career, no two clients or projects have ever been the same. What draws

clients to Fusch Architects is the attention to traditional design and detailing. Relying on my travels for inspiration is always something I find to be valuable within the design process, but we have many clients who request to emulate architecture they have seen personally through their own travels.

**Can you share some tips for achieving authenticity?** When traveling abroad, try to look at the details of the structures and spaces around you. Some of the

most simplistic details and design concepts bring the most value to the design of any structure. It also helps convey the story behind your home and makes the design process more personal.

**Are you seeing any trends?** The residential trend seems to be classic structures with transitional or even modern interiors. Clients want the sophisticated and stately look on the exterior, with clean contemporary lines on the interior.

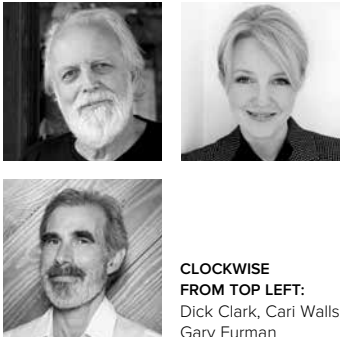
Architect Robbie Fusch designed this French neoclassical dwelling in Dallas, featuring complementary grounds by landscape architect Harold Leidner. With its ornate limestone façade and steeply pitched slate roof, the home resembles a château in the Loire Valley.





THIS PAGE: CLARK HOME PHOTO: SCOTT BENNETT. OPPOSITE: CLARK HEADSHOT: PETER BLACK. WALLS HEADSHOT: BOBIE HELM. FURMAN HEADSHOT: SMILEBOOTH.

This Austin home's two-story combined living-dining area teeming with natural light is an ideal setting for entertaining. To create the space, architect Dick Clark placed the butterfly-shaped roof above a band of clerestory windows that—for all of the limestone's substantiality—gives the architecture a sense of weightlessness.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Dick Clark, Cari Walls, Gary Furman

# THE ART OF ARCHITECTURE

Architecture is critical on many levels, the most obvious being it determines the physical environment in which we live. While there are many architectural styles—from modern to traditional—the best designs seem to consider not only the homeowners but also the surrounding environment. We asked a few renowned Texas pros to divulge some of the influences behind their work.

**Dick Clark:** Every house I design—whether it's in Austin or California—is affected by its surroundings. Before I start a project, I spend time on the property. My houses are site-specific; in the case of this residence (left), it has amazing views of Austin's 360 Bridge and of incredible sunsets, which change every night. While the home capitalizes on those views, it also has overhangs that protect the interiors from the intense Texas sun.

**Cari Walls:** My partners, Lionel Morrison and Mark Dilworth, and I think in terms of building blocks of space—proportion, light, volume, repetition, surface, mass and rhythm. Instead of conventional, restrictive floor plans imposing particular patterns of use, Lionel concentrates on fluidity, allowing

everyday activities to happen seamlessly, spontaneously and beautifully. These flexible “hubs” also occur throughout Mark's work at NorthPark Center, where the introduction of light and volume at key intersections creates truly powerful moments.

**Gary Furman:** As our interactions with our environment become increasingly more virtual, our buildings can offer us a fundamental connection to the world around us. My partner, Philip Keil, and I have always delighted in designing structures that resonate with the forces of nature. Cool breezes through open windows, the play of light filtered through trees, the discovery of vistas upon entry—these are moments that connect us to the physical world.



This Austin residence takes advantage of its dramatic hillside vista overlooking the trees and a creek below. Residential designer Matt Garcia envisioned the home as a modern box clad in a rustic material, which Garcia describes as “a juxtaposition of sorts.” The cedar cladding adds to the home’s contemporary treehouse feel.



THIS PAGE: GARCIA PHOTO: CASEY DUNN. OPPOSITE: MIRÓ/RIVERA PHOTO: PAUL BARDAGA. STOCKER PHOTO: JAMES SCHRODER PHOTOGRAPHY. STOCKER STYLING: JENNY O'CONNOR AND HALE WOSEN.



**Above:** Architects Juan Miró and Miguel Rivera prioritized preserving the stately old oak trees on this Austin site by placing the house in between them. The architects also created two rooflines—one convex and one concave. The former, toward the front of the house, helps conceal the structure’s size. The upward curves of the latter, meanwhile, create ample window space to fully take in the view of the trees and the cityscape.

**Right:** Architect David Stocker’s contemporary take on classic Georgian architecture for this Dallas home includes a colonnade composed of columns with pared-down capitals and a façade in white-painted brick. “A great home in balance needs four elements: architecture, interior design, landscape and good art,” Stocker says.







Near the entrance of this Austin home, architects Eric Barth and Ryan Burke conceived a modern trellis, fabricated by Steel House MFG, designed to not interfere with an existing tree. For a strong connection between inside and outside, they also varied the home's ceiling heights to accommodate mature oak trees on the site, allowing views of the old-growth branches through windows.



**Left:** When the homeowners decided to build this LEED Platinum-certified home in Texas Hill Country, they turned to LakelFlato Architects, a firm well known for dwellings that pay tribute to the landscape and are sustainable to boot. "The idea was to create just the amount of space they would use," architect Ted Flato explains.

**Below:** The windows and views were driving factors in the design of this Austin home by architect James LaRue, alongside project manager Emily Marks. They arranged the most-used spaces—the screened-in porch, living room, dining room and master suite—closest to the lake and pool and the lesser-visited rooms closer to the road.



THIS PAGE: FLATO PHOTO: ROBERT RECK. LARUE/ MARKS PHOTO: DOR BALDINGER. OPPOSITE: BARTH/BURKE PHOTO: PAUL FINNEL