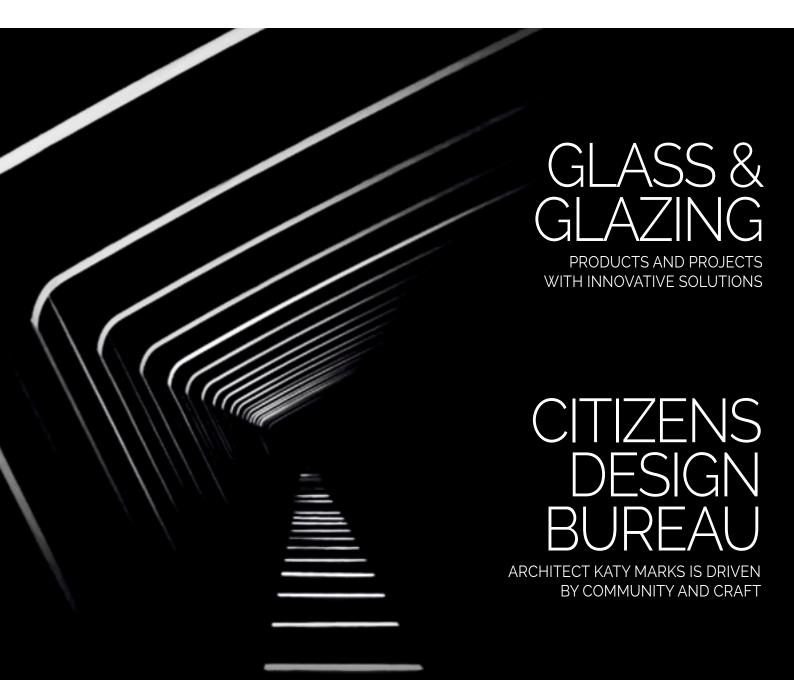
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COLLABORATION IN DESIGN

THE INTERSECTION OF ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN



THE EXCLUSIVE TRADE EVENT FOR ARCHITECTS AND INTERIOR DESIGNERS 22-23 March 2023, The Truman Brewery www.architect-at-work.co.uk







In association with Quiet Mark Create Peaceful Living



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Step inside the private residential property Pemberton Heights in Austin, Texas, and you will be enveloped by the canopies of the heritage live oak trees that are endemic to the region of Shoal Creek.

Struck by the beauty of the surrounding natural environment, Christopher Sanders AIA and his team paid homage to the site through the placement of the home, and through material selections for the interior and exterior of the building. The footprint

of the home and the form of the building were guided, even dictated, by the critical root zones and the canopies of the heritage live oak trees that are endemic to central Texas. The layout of the house required creative design solutions to integrate the living spaces without disturbing the trees. Sanders and his team cantilevered portions of the foundation to avoid critical root zones, and parts of the home were limited in height due to the tree canopies.

The clients requested a home that, without sacrificing privacy, takes advantage of its site, maximizing exterior views and natural light. The resulting 6,000-square-foot house sprouted from the footprint of the original home, which was located mostly between the outer drip lines of the tree canopies. Near the front of the house, a semi-attached, two-storey volume over the two car garage houses the media room and is accessed by an exterior walkway on the lower level and a glazed



bridge above. The home mostly stacks along the northern edge of the property, taking advantage of the footprint of the previous house, and the slope of the land to maximize buildable area to achieve the clients' goals, while minimizing new impervious impact to the site. Views into the landscape are carefully curated and focus primarily toward the creek-slope landscape. Views are controlled on the streetside entry court. The swimming pool, nestled between trees and the new home,

visually anchors the private courtyard on the creekside of the home.

Inside, the team used neutral tones and earthy finishes such as white oak and quartz. With the exception of the media room, common areas of the home are located on the ground floor. Upon entering the front door, the visitor is presented with a view over the pool into the landscape dominated by the broad reach of the Live Oak canopies. The entry creates separation between the Living, Kitchen and Dining

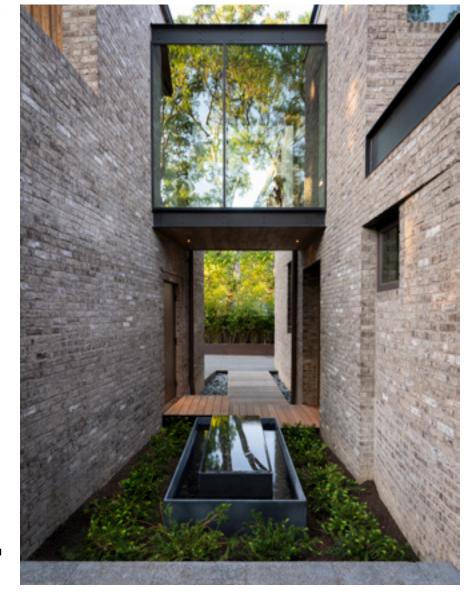
spaces and an office space on the ground floor. Maximizing natural light, a light well cuts through the upstairs dressing room and provides a soft glow of natural light over the kitchen. Expansive glass maximizes views from common areas into the landscape. The primary suite, including a generous exterior patio space, is located on the second floor. Taking advantage of the steeply sloping site, two additional bedrooms are located one-level down from the ground floor.

Project



Exterior finishes are inspired by the textures and the warm gray tones of the tree bark on the heritage Live Oaks and the Cedar Elm trees on the site. The primary exterior materials are a thermally modified ash, installed in an irregularly spaced board and batten pattern, and a textural clay brick. The thermally modified ash siding product was left unfinished to allow it to take on a gray patina over time. The exterior also features concrete and weathering steel, which are meant to visually ground the building on the sloped site.

Because the pool and its courtyard were so critical to the overall design, Sanders and his team seeked a like-minded landscape designer. The outside living areas were developed in tandem with Austin's Garden Design Studio to evoke the feel of a springfed Hill Country swimming hole. The pool's black bottom reflects the trees, while the creek-facing negative edge yields the cooling sound of flowing water. A Lautner edge at the occupied side allows the deck to approach the water organically. As often is the case, the project's challenges led to Sanders and his team's favorite design solutions. Controlled views to the exterior of the house sometimes frame beautiful views to the exterior and other times offer expansive views into the tree canopies. The clients didn't really desire to have a home that literally opens up - they are Central Texas realists - but the home really does strongly connect interior spaces to the landscape.



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