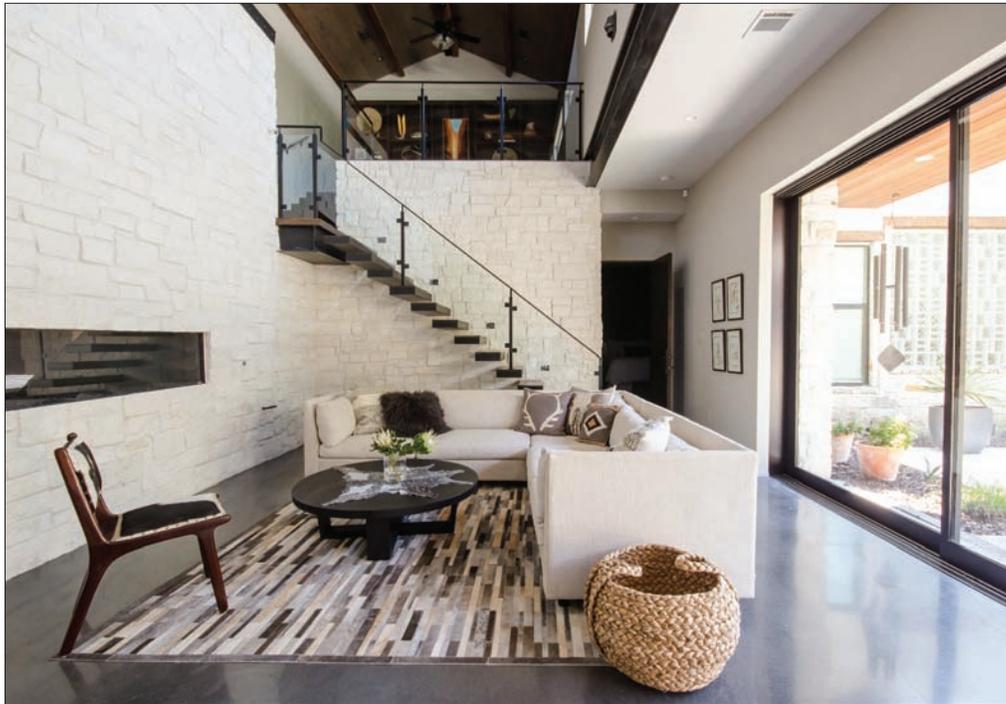


# Contemporary Abode with a Rustic Hill Country Vibe



*Texture, custom details and indoor/outdoor fusion create free-flowing home*



In 2011, this homeowner had a specific vision to build a home in the Houston Heights, and she knew exactly what she wanted: a traditional design with a rustic Western-style decor. She assembled the team of GAD Designs, Pablo Pereira of Unika Homes, Neal LeBouef of L Design Group (LDG) and Maggie Grant of Cabinets and Designs to help her achieve her goals.

“When she contacted my firm to build her first home,” said LeBouef, “I knew we would work closely together and collaborate to ensure that her concept and my design recommendation not only met her expectations but surpassed them.”

The initial project was a success, but after living in the home for a few years, this single mom realized

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Text by Cheryl Alexander | Photography by Becki Griffen, Curious Details | Construction by Pablo Pereira, Unika Home  
Architecture by GAD Designs | Interiors by Neal LeBouef, L Design Group (LDG) | Kitchen Design by Maggie Grant, Cabinets and Designs



**THESE PAGES:** The open concept living room is outfitted with a large sectional from Mitchell Gold+Bob Williams and a contemporary cowhide rug. Large Fleetwood retractable sliding glass doors allow an inviting view into the courtyard. | A three-car garage with wooden doors beneath an upstairs deck; a metal gate with cedar, mahogany and iron accents; and an environmentally-friendly driveway make for an attractive facade on any street. | A cozy reading loft with a custom barn door overlooks the gourmet kitchen equipped with Sub-Zero /Wolf appliances and Wood-Mode cabinets.



This rustic, contemporary kitchen sits along a massive wall of white Austin limestone. Wood-Mode cabinets by Cabinet and Designs, Inc.; custom steel banding and wall sconces by L Design Group, fabricated by Peck & Company; kitchen pendants by Hubbardton Forge; leather and metal bar stools by Cantoni Leather. | Austin limestone defines the kitchen backsplash and encloses the vent hood above the range.

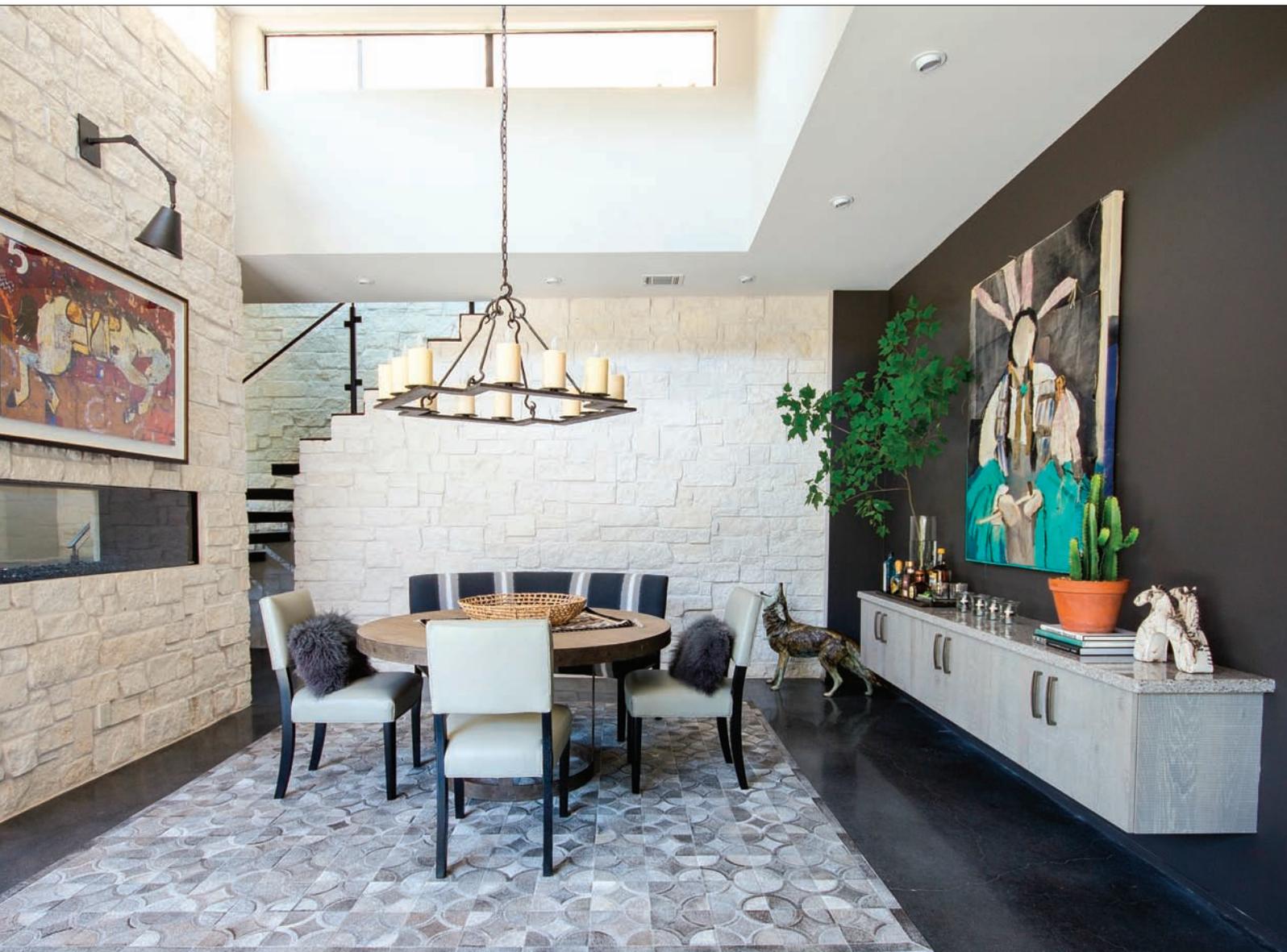


that she wanted a change.

“I actually enjoyed the building process,” she said, “and I decided I wanted a more modern dwelling. I envisioned a contemporary, inner-city home with a Hill Country vibe.”

One block away from her former residence, the homeowner set her sights on a 1960s vintage metal building in the Heights that was formerly a hat factory. Once again, she turned to the team she had worked with on the previous project.

“This was my second project with the builder, architect and designer, and my third project with my kitchen designer,” said the owner. “I knew going in how fantastic they are, especially at collaborating, and that they would bring great ideas to the table.”



A double-sided fireplace with floating serving cabinet by Wood Mode frame the Lillian August dining table. Chairs and bench seating by Vanguard Furniture; custom sconce by L Design Group.

In addition to the modern style, the owner had a tailored checklist for her team. She wanted to start completely fresh with this new construction, which meant they tore down the old warehouse, sold everything from the former home and replaced it with elements that would match the updated aesthetic. She also wanted more living space – her former home was 3,200 square feet; this one is 4,200 – and a design conducive to entertaining. As well, she wanted a three-car garage, lots of texture with very little sheetrock and a design that would fuse the interior of the home with the outdoor space. Finally, because she wants to grow old in this home, she desired a downstairs master suite.

Working side by side, the owner and her

team broke ground on the project in Spring 2014. In order to use as little sheetrock as possible, they opted for natural materials – metal, wood and stone (the home is 80 percent stone). Austin limestone is installed on many of the walls, along with forged steel. On the floors, concrete is juxtaposed with hand-rubbed European white oak floors. Custom-designed steel lighting and matte black finishes flow from room to room and bring cohesion. Three working fireplaces enhance the rustic vibe.

As well as within the home's architectural elements, texture defines the design elements. In her travels over the years the homeowner has amassed a collection of art, including baskets and textiles that reflect a Southwest/Navajo theme. Because



of their textures and colors, the designer used the pieces of the collection throughout the home to tie the spaces together and add depth. The living room is filled with various textures including linen sofas, faux fur pillows, contemporary cowhide rugs and Navajo textiles.

The home's color palette is warm and neutral in order to allow the finishes, architectural details and art to stand out.

"We decided on a palette of neutral grays and white chopped Austin limestone," said Le Bouef, "which is repeated throughout the home, in each space except the daughter's suite. There, we used similar colors with a more chic, Parisian feel."

Because the goal was to fuse interior and exterior living spaces, the team used the same Austin limestone for both and installed a set of Fleetwood retractable sliding glass doors, giving the home a truly open concept and allowing the two spaces to instantly become one. A misting system that emits a natural repellent can be utilized to eliminate mos-

quitoes and bugs. The outdoor space is equipped with artificial grass and embellished with fire pits and water fountains that incorporate cedar and stone.

"Our intention," said LeBouef, "was to entice all the senses when entertaining outdoors."

"This space, especially with the wall of windows is probably my favorite design element of the whole house," said the homeowner.

In the kitchen, Maggie Grant and LDG installed Wood-Mode cabinets to create a contemporary space that is functional, sleek and perfect for entertaining. LDG worked closely with Peck & Company of Houston to design custom, hand-forged steel wall sconces and a custom eight-inch riveted band of steel that runs the entire length of the kitchen and living room, tying the two spaces together.

The home includes two full master suites. The owner's master suite is located downstairs and incorporates white stone walls, a charcoal gray leather upholstered headboard wall and a working fireplace. Two unique hanging pen-

This chic girl's room includes a custom, pink velvet headboard with rhinestone tufting and crystal chandeliers from Restoration Hardware. Bedside tables by Hooker Furniture; bedding/accessories by Restoration Hardware and High Fashion Home. | The secondary bath features a shower surround in Austin limestone, gray split-faced porcelain tile, crystal chandeliers from Restoration Hardware and custom ebony-finished cabinets.



The master retreat boasts a variety of textures including Austin limestone and a leather headboard wall by L Design Group and Diaz Upholstery. Hand-forged pendants by Hubbardton Forge hang above the floating nightstands. | Retractable glass doors by Fleetwood allow the living room and outdoor space to become one.



dants over each floating night stand give this space a warm, cozy lodge feel.

A custom barn door leading into the master bathroom is made of white oak and stained in a rich ebony tone. The bath's custom vanity is designed for two and uses the same Austin limestone found throughout the rest of the home, this time paired with split-faced charcoal gray porcelain tile and glass brick windows with a random pattern, and accented with matte black finishes.

The upstairs master suite, which belongs to the owner's daughter, can be accessed by one of two floating staircases. This space includes a pink crushed velvet headboard with rhinestone tufting, four crystal chandeliers and gray-washed furniture, inspired by the young girl's trip to Paris the previous year.

"Though I decided not to incorporate a designated guest room," said the owner, "the

The home's color palette is warm and neutral in order to allow the finishes, architectural details and art to stand out.



home's layout includes some bonus areas to allow for configuring a guest room should I ever choose to sell."

When asked what she loves best about her new home, she quickly replied, "I love it all! Everything about my home is unique!"

She pointed out that everything is custom or customized to reflect her "must haves" and one-of-a-kind specifications.

It really is a complete bespoke design – from the steel banding to the custom-designed wall sconces and floating staircases. Even the white oak doors were built onsite. She loves the garage because it's wide enough that the car doors don't get dinged, and overnight guests can park inside. She loves that her home is solar-powered and LEED-certified. And she loves that almost everything, both inside and out, was designed and created by local manufacturers.

"It's really a great feeling," said the owner, "that the finished product is even more perfect than anything I could have imagined." ●

The master bathroom vanity has double sinks, a large full mirror with matte black finishes. Sherwin-Williams' Dorian Gray and white Austin limestone are on the walls. The master shower, designed with spaciousness in mind, includes split-faced, charcoal gray porcelain tile, a pebble floor and matte black plumbing finishes.



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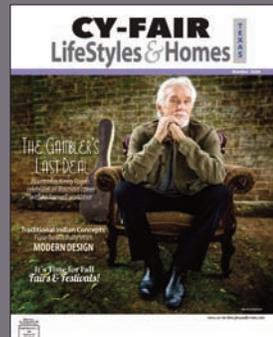
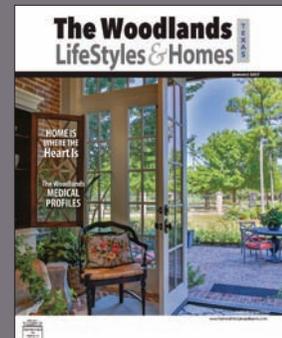
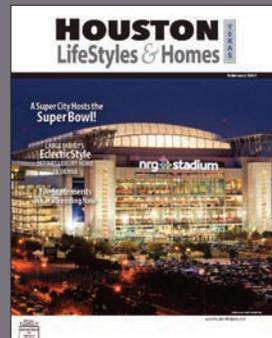
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