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Austin & The Hill Country

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NEIGHBORHOOD
SPANISH OAKS

BEDROOMS
4

BATHROOMS
4 (FULL), 1 (HALF)

SQUARE FEET
4,600

BUILDER
ENVE BUILDERS

ARCHITECTURE FIRM
GESCHKE GROUP

INTERIOR DESIGN FIRM
LAURA BURTON INTERIORS

ART AND SOUL

A contemporary Spanish Oaks home is the perfect background for local artists' work

By Erin Quinn-Kong

When empty nesters traded California for Texas, they also exchanged their previous traditional aesthetic for a brand new contemporary home. The duo, who retired after long careers in the entertainment and produce businesses, came to the Austin area in 2015 looking for a tranquil yet active lifestyle. And they found it in Spanish Oaks, where they built their house from the ground up on a quiet, secluded enclave right on the golf course.

"My husband and I wanted a home where we could age in place and stay active without worrying about tripping," says the owner. "We worked with the architects to design exactly what we wanted with no thresholds, floor-to-ceiling windows, beautiful views and plenty of light coming in."

The couple hired Kai Geschke and Enve Builders to design and build the four-bedroom, 4,600-square-foot home. While their past houses featured traditional architecture, including brick exteriors and stone fireplaces, the duo wanted their new home to be a white-walled contemporary backdrop for bold art, as well as to be built in a durable, energy-efficient and easy-to-maintain way. The result is a contemporary dream chock-full of energy-efficient appliances and fixtures, LED lighting and mirrors, and a host of automation and smart-home features.



ERIN HOLSONBACK/AN INDOOR LADY (2)



For the interiors, the owner worked closely with designer Laura Burton to create exactly the look she wanted. “With a lot of projects, I drive the vision,” says Burton. “But this owner in particular had such a clear picture of what she wanted: the house to be a backdrop for the art. My role was to be a guide and to create a seamless flow with quality materials.”

Crisp white walls and calm, muted interiors are the perfect backdrop for bold art pieces, including a show-stopping painting of local trumpeter Ephraim Owens by Austin artist Elizabeth Chapin.

“I saw that painting at Wally Workman Gallery and said, ‘Oh my god, that’s fabulous,’” recalls the owner. The couple also prominently display art from local artists Diana Greenberg, Priscilla Robinson and

Caprice Pierucci, as well as two large paintings from New Orleans-based artist Mallory Page, whose work is featured over the fireplace and in the master bedroom.

There are also fun, youthful accents throughout the house, including a dramatic milkweed wallpaper by Phillip Jeffries in the den and plum accents, like custom reupholstered velvet barstools at the indoor bar. There’s also a stuffed Icelandic fur goat named Ute that presides over the great room or the den, depending on the season.

“The owner was the one going bold and having fun with it,” says Burton. “The couple are just bold people; they are so interesting, vibrant and full of stories. They wanted to be able to travel and have a low-maintenance house, and that’s definitely what they accomplished!”

ERIN HOLSOBACK/AN INDOOR LADY (4)