IIIXC. interiors + design



wild thing.

WINDTON BY KIMBERLY OLSON | PROTOCKAPRY BY BOBERT RECK

AS THE NORTHERN EDGE OF SAN ANTONIO CENTLY MELDS INTO TEXAS HILL COUNTRY, ECLLING PRAIRIES DOTTED WITH TOWERING OAKS AND BLANKETS OF CANDY-COLORED WILDFLOWERS INDELIBLY MARK THE LANDSCAPE. So when a couple decided to build a home there, in the community of Leon Springs, they wowed to take full advantage of their environment. They wanted to do more than just admire the area's natural beauty, though—they wanted to help protect it. So they turned to the architects at Lake | Plato, a firm well known for dwellings that pay influte to the landscape and are sustainable to boot.

The homeowners had raised their daughter in a large traditional home filled with equally traditional furnishings. Now empty nesters with an eye toward retirement, they were ready to pure down. "They wanted to simplify their lives," says project manager Jennifer Young, "Clean lines and a connection to the outdoors were high on the wish list."

ARCHITECTURE Ted Flato, FAIA, Kerla Greer, AIA,
and Jennifer Young, LEED AP, Lake|Flato Architects
INTERIOR DESIGN Debble Bacter, ASID, Baster Design Group
HOME BUILDER Glen Duecker, Duecker Construction Company, Inc.
BEDROOMS 3 BATHROOMS 4 SQUARE FEET 3,250











NATURE WALK

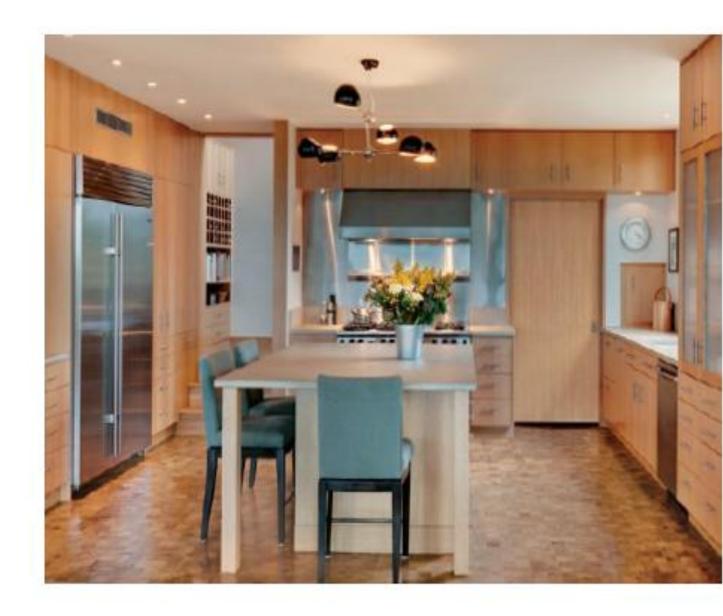
The home is entry area features outdoor easting, thick plantings and Oklahoma flagstone underfect. Grand doors made of slatted custom rift-cover white dak bland nicely with the currounding limestone, quarried from Lueders.

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Young and her colleagues designed a modestly steed home and a separate guesthouse joined by a loggia, creating a campus-like environment. "They didn't want a typical house," says architect and firm pariner Karla Greet of her clients. "They wanted something that engaged more with the land. The buildings create courtyards and exterior spaces, and you get to travel outside to access different parts. In a sense, we've taken a smaller home and pulled it apart, so they can enjoy more of the site."

"One of the most important aspects of hulding a green house is building less," adds architect and firm principal Ted Flato. "The idea was to create just the amount of space that they would use. And the guesthouse is a separate structure, so when no one's visiting, it gets turned off."





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The property features several outdoor living spaces, including a porch off the guesthouse and a sleeping porch off the master bedroom, where the couple slumber when the weather allows, which is most of the year. "Those purches are really special," Young says. "The views are amazing, and the breezes are awesome."

The homeowners take full advantage of nature's air conditioning, as well as Mother Barth's other gifts, from sun to rain. "The home has solar panels, geothermal pumps and a ratiowater collection system," says builder Glen Dueder. "The house is planned to work with the contours of the land, and it teels very peaceful and serone," Greet adds. "The land has been minimally disturbed to let the structure just lightly fit onto it."

SIMPLE RECIPE

White ask cabinets and haved Luedens Imedone countartops crisate an aura of religied almplicity in the kitchen. The mobile-ctyle light fixture above the Island is by David Weeks Studio; the boretools are by A. Rudin. Eco-emart appliances are from Basch and Sub-Zero.







LIMITED EXPOSURE

In a corner of the maxter badroom, an R. Jones armchair and ottomore, found at 10 Collection, encourages window-side lounging. The homeowners cleep in the rooms adjacent screened porch when weather allows.

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"We're time-turning the energy usage, and, hopefully, this home will eventually become completely independent of the local supply," Young says. "The rainwater collected here provides 100 percent of the dients' potable indoor water. Last year, it even got them through a record drought. Every time it rained, I'd think about the water filling up their cisterns."

The team also used green materials, many locally sourced. The home's stone weneer is limestone from Lueders, for example, and much of the flooring is mesquite, which long ago powed the streets of San Antonio. "No one thinks of mesquite as a building material, because it's just a granty,



SMOOTH SAILING

Sun raits expended over the podicide deck wave rhythroically in gentle breazes. The ewimming pool, built by Keith Zars Pools, was designed to bland examined by With the currounding stone. Windows by Kolbe Windows & Doors.

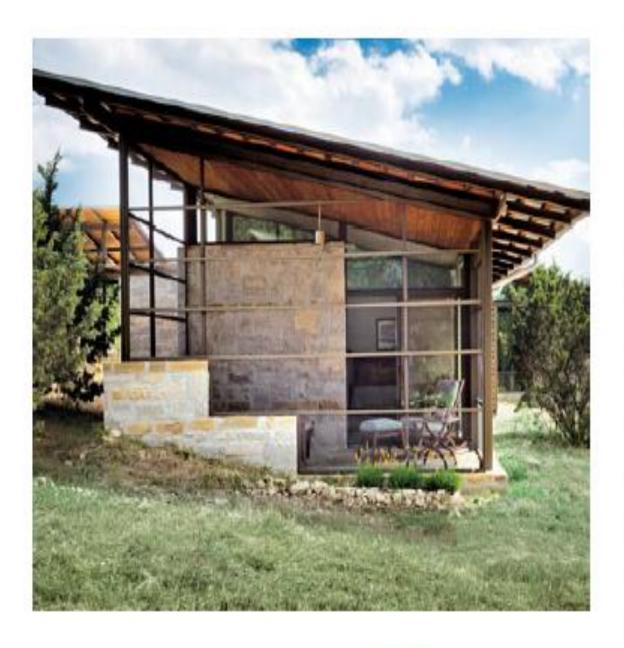
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tough little tree," Plato says. "But when you cut it into slices, you get these great blocks." These efforts and others ultimately earned the home its LHHD Platinum certification, the highest rating for sustainable building.

And while the house may be half the size of the couple's former residence, they don't notice, thanks to the open living spaces and lotty ordings. To finish out the interiors, they called on designer Debbie Baxter, who created earthy, scaled-back spaces. "They wanted the interior to be a response to the architecture, which is my goal in everything I do," Baxter says. "I chose the palette from the vistas outside those big windows, so there would be an integration of nature and what was inside the house."







DOWN HOME

Exposed steel and limestone are right at home amid the area's rugged natural beauty. The skillion roof has overhangs that provide shading from the bright Texas sun. The house follows the site's clope, allowing gravity to help feed rainwater to collection distance below.

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Civing a nod to Texas Hill Country, Baster chose furnishings such as a leather cowhide chair and a coffee table made of limestone, which is common to the area. The couple often spend time with family, so another priority was comfort and warmth. "All of the building materials are hard surfaces, so I made sure there was plushness and comfort in the seating, without it being overly done," Baster says.



