



McClain Wiesand PXE table base with smoked grey glass top; Pagani chandeliers, Allan Knight & Associates; lounge chairs from Bright Group, 8 in. rift-cut white oak flooring.

AWESOME KINGDOM

A couple's beautifully designed lakefront retreat embraces natural beauty.

BY ELAINE RAFFEL

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN SMITH

Possum Kingdom is known for its wildlife, cliffs, natural terrain, and breathtaking sunsets. But for one Dallas couple, it became so much more: the ideal locale for their utopian lake house; a home that would showcase the natural environs of the region, with panoramic windows and expansive spaces for art. After finding the perfect lot—a vast, four-acre property with miles of unobstructed views, plus a 60-foot drop to the water—they started planning. “Unlike the rustic vibe of most homes in the area, we wanted something that would read more contemporary,” say the homeowners.

The next step was finding an architect who understood their vision and could make it come to life. After several unsuccessful encounters, they met Aspen-based Travis Terry, known for his innovative approach to fresh mountain contemporary style. “Other architects had been trying to force them into a box with something that had already been done,” he says. “As soon as we started talking, I got a crystal-clear image of what they were looking for. Something

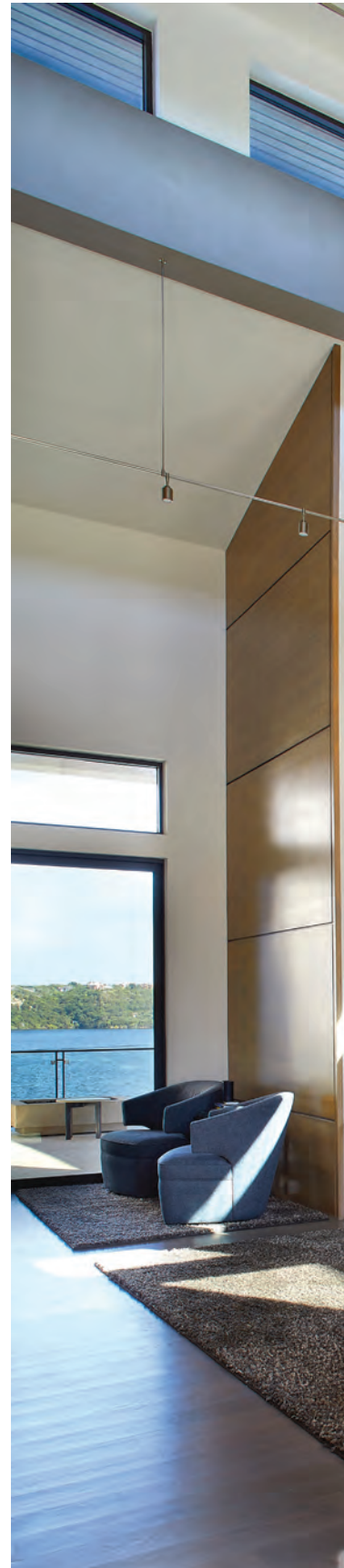
wonderful and grand, but not imposing; a home with great spaces and views that took the beauty of the surroundings and pulled it right on in.”

It took just 72 hours for Terry to return with plans his client called absolute perfection—unique and honest, but also timeless and very chic. “It was a magical experience working so closely with the homeowners and seeing something morph and grow with strokes of a pencil. You don’t have many opportunities like that,” he says.

With construction underway, the owners commissioned Emily Summers to do the home’s massive interiors. Again, the process was highly collaborative. “Our goal was to combine comfort and practicality with a high level of sophistication,” says the acclaimed Dallas designer. The house is filled with noteworthy furnishings at every turn: Ralph Pucci International sculptural chairs, bronze Donghia side tables, and a Stark rug in the great room; Mattaliano custom lounge chairs in the master bedroom; and Holly Hunt sofa



A panoramic view of the waterfront home on Possum Kingdom Lake.



Pagani chandelier; Interior Crafts sofa upholstered in Lee Jofa fabric; custom-bleached mahogany-and-bronze coffee tables by ESDA; Donghia side tables; Clate Grunden table lamps, Rune NYC. Picasso ceramics dot the home.



The bar area features rift-cut cerused white oak walls, Donghia Lana club chairs upholstered in Chivasso Giant, 8 in. rift-cut white oak flooring.

in the lakeside seating area. The home has soaring 36-foot-high ceilings, and Summers skillfully selected pieces perfectly scaled for each space. In the bar, she extended fabric up the wall behind a rolled-back custom sofa; in the main living area, a tall marble fireplace, exposed beams, and series of rectangular Pagani lighting fixtures work together to achieve visual balance.

An abundance of wall space throughout the house provides ample options for showcasing the homeowners' diverse, multi-faceted art collection. Among the standout pieces: *Redactor*, a Ryan Wallace multimedia, and stylized abstracts from Frank Stella and Nancy Lorenz (all purchased at the Dallas Art Fair). Also on display, a porcelain and 22k gold-leaf branch by local artist Lucrecia Waggoner from Laura Rathe Fine Art. The unifying factor? "I wanted all the art to have a serene, calming effect," says the homeowner.

Another key objective was to optimize the swoon-worthy, majestic lake views, available from every room. Sliding glass doors open up to spacious patios throughout the house, allowing natural light to accentuate the scale and proportion of each area. A veranda off the main dining is a favorite spot for pre- and post-



Ryan Wallace, *Redactor 2014 XXVI*, 2014, enamel, acrylic, vinyl, aluminum, rubber, canvas, tape, paper, automotive tint on canvas, 72 x 60 in.; Holly Hunt Hadley Hall sofa upholstered in Great Plains Estate Linen fabric; custom designed ottomans by ESDA upholstered in Classic Cloth Feldspar fabric with Joan Cecil custom embroidery base.

Fresno framed sconce, Visual Comfort; Gregory Wayne Miller ceramic installation; Pryor console, Caste Design; Lucrecia Waggoner porcelain installation.





Clockwise from top left: BassamFellows CB-50 lounge chairs upholstered in Holly Hunt leather, custom sofa by ESDA upholstered in Colefax & Fowler fabric; assorted paintings and collectables line the shelves; Tuell & Reynolds bronze chandelier with natural agate stones; Studio Roeper Divided Lands table with zinc top and smoke elm finish surrounds; Molteni & C Who chair, Smink; 8 in.rift-cut white oak floors; suite of six framed works by Kim Myong Nam; Mattaliano Carte lounge chair and ottoman upholstered in Perennials Nit Witty fabric; Lolah outdoor lounge chair, JANUS et Cie; Tibetan rug, Truett Fine Carpets and Rugs.



Mabel Hutchinson 1968 vintage wood doors purchased at Los Angeles Modern Auctions (LAMA); Thayer Coggin Cool Clip sofa and ottoman; Lario swivel chairs by Pierantonio Bonacina, Scott + Cooner; Steven Hall for Horm pool table light, plywood ceiling fixture with laser incisions, Scott + Cooner; hair-on-hide rug, Truett Fine Carpets and Rugs; Shetland grey limestone flooring.



Frank Stella, *A Squeeze of the Hand*, silkscreen, lithography and linoleum block with hand-coloring and collage, 73 x 54.50 in.

dinner cocktails and conversation. Inside, it's common for guests to congregate at the Studio Roeper Divided Lands etched metallic zinc table and Molteni & C dark oak chairs. Directly adjacent, the soothing, neutral-palette library is a quiet respite for reading, relaxing or, in the case of the homeowner, contemplating her next creative project. Art- and ceramic-filled shelves feature a Gabriel Godard abstract (acquired at Heritage Auctions), Pablo Picasso, Matthew Solomon, and Hermès ceramics.

Leading down the stairs, a ceramic installation by the late Dallas-based artist Gregory Wayne Miller provides a visual liaison between the upper and lower levels. Directly underneath, a walnut Caste console makes a handsome anchor. In addition to four guest suites, the downstairs living area sports a game room and theater connected by a pair of Mabel Hutchinson 1968 vintage, ingrained mosaic sculptural wood doors sourced at Los Angeles Modern Auctions (originally on display at the Pasadena Museum of California Art). Other highlights include a bespoke Hamilton billiards table, a Thayer Coggin circular sofa, and a Kuele hammered-crystal light fixture.

A private sand beach provides easy access to the lake; the property also features an outdoor pool, spa, and cabana. Landscaping honors the area's natural terrain—an effusive mix of cacti, yuccas, and native grasses. The homeowners credit the hands-on synergy of the team for ultimately creating their idyllic waterfront retreat. “Being out here instantly transports you back to a time of absolute quiet. You never get tired of the majestic views or the sound of the water lapping against the shore.” **P**

An infinity pool offers panoramic views.



The home boasts a private beach with landscape that honors the area's natural terrain—an effusive mix of cacti, yuccas, and native grasses.

