

NEIGHBORHOOD
SHOAL CREEK

SQUARE FEET
3,200

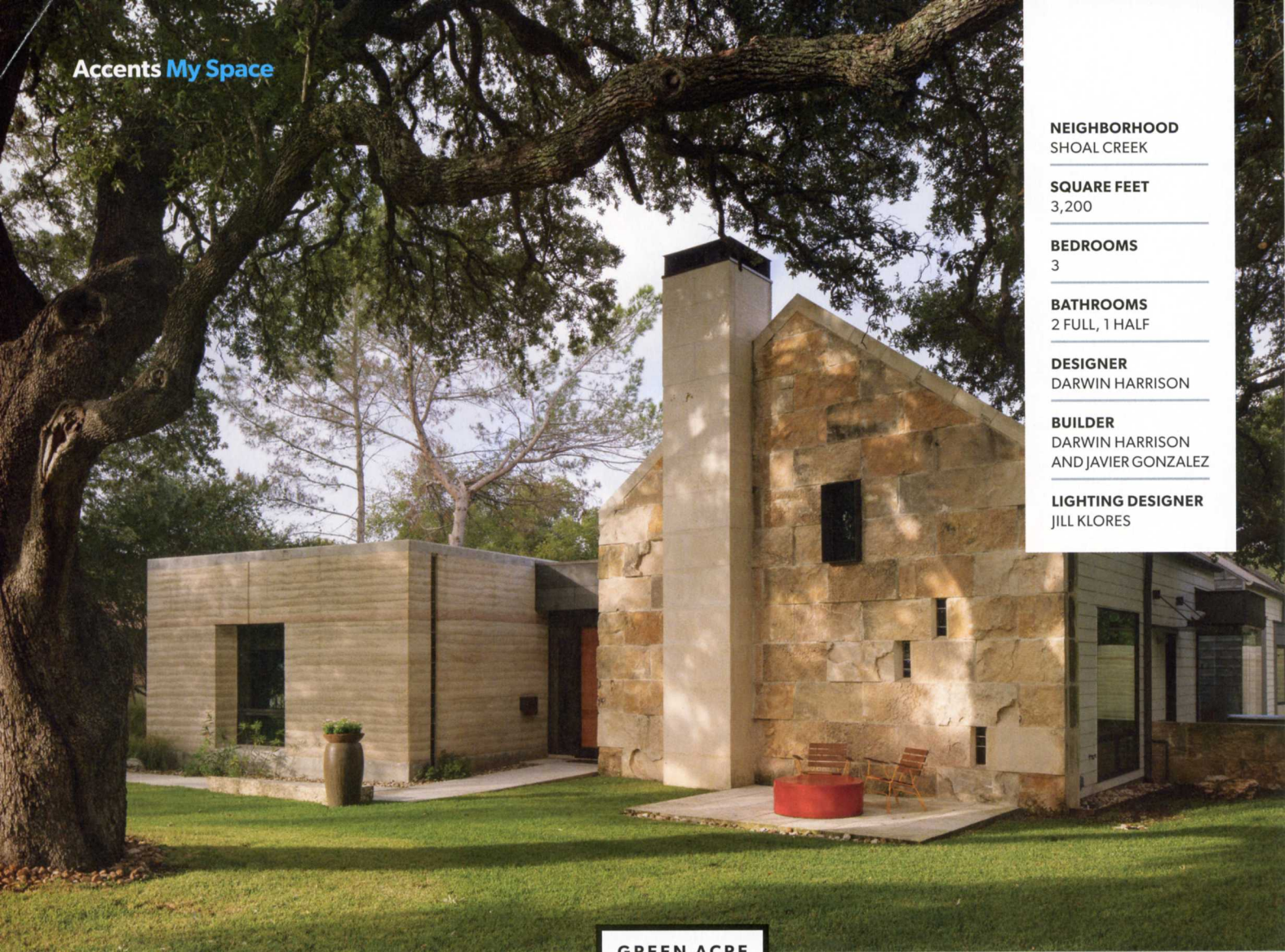
BEDROOMS
3

BATHROOMS
2 FULL, 1 HALF

DESIGNER
DARWIN HARRISON

BUILDER
DARWIN HARRISON
AND JAVIER GONZALEZ

LIGHTING DESIGNER
JILL KLORES



GREEN ACRE

A window-filled Shoal Creek home stands among the trees

By Sarah Thurmond

Darwin Harrison and his partner, Robert Buckner, never thought the day would come when a pristine, tree-filled lot on their street in Shoal Creek would become available. They often admired it as they passed by and wondered if the owner would ever sell it. Then one day, they saw a sign that the land was up for grabs.

“We bought it in like a couple of days. We knew it was quite a find,” Harrison says.

But as easy as it was to get the land, the hard part came when figuring out how to build on it. The 1-acre plot was originally part of a three-lot property. The original owners built a house on two of the lots, then used the third as a side yard.

“From the day that it was plotted, it had never been developed, which was kind of cool,” Buckner says.

However, the patriarch, an amateur botanist, had cultivated trees on the land, and Harrison and Buckner soon learned that many of them were protected and heritage trees. Concern among neighbors was intense. At one point during construction of the couple’s dream home, neighbors notified the city when they thought trees were being cut down. But Harrison, who has a degree in architecture, was careful to work with the city arborist and design a home where ultimately only two small trees, both unprotected, were removed.

When it came to the house’s design, Harrison struggled and eventually gave up on creating something “cutting edge and avant-garde.” Instead, he found inspiration in a basic gable shape, like a child’s drawing of a house, with a linear floor plan. The three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bathroom house has sections that extend off a common axis: a 102-foot hallway.

