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## A Texas Custom Home That Mimics Local Agricultural Outbuildings



SINGLE FAMILY HOMES

*This Texas home references local agricultural buildings in texture, shape, and form*

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*Photo: Patrick Wong*

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Architect Heather McKinney believes nothing is more traditional than stone. For this single-story house, the founding principal of Austin, Texas-based **McKinney York Architects** clad the three pitched-roof pavilions in Texas limestone. The pavilions mimic agricultural outbuildings with long, wide connecting forms similar to Texas breezeways.

Sitting at the end of a cul-de-sac and backing up to protected green space, the house was the first built in a new planned community. However, McKinney was also the first to face the strict housing association. Most of the design passed easily, but the committee said no to the standing-seam metal roof the clients wanted. Despite metal roofs being common on traditional houses—especially farmhouses—the committee couldn't be convinced. The team used a weathered composite shingle instead.





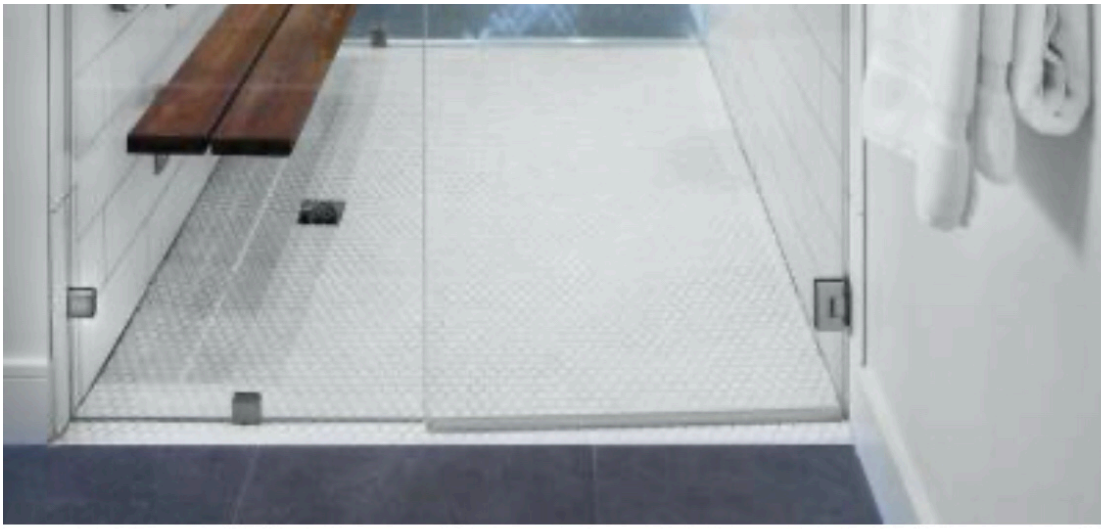


Photo: Patrick Wong

“These historic forms dot the [Texas landscape](#) and fit well within most housing association guidelines,” McKinney says. “The simple shapes also worked well for generating completely accessible spaces—an important detail for [empty-nester clients](#) who were downsizing into their forever house.”

Exterior detailing brings both traditional and modern elements into play for a balanced finish. Smooth concrete plaster, for example, is a traditional material, but linear joints add a touch of contemporary finesse. Carriage lanterns flank oversized glass entry doors, while oil-rubbed- bronze handles remain simple for a minimalist look.

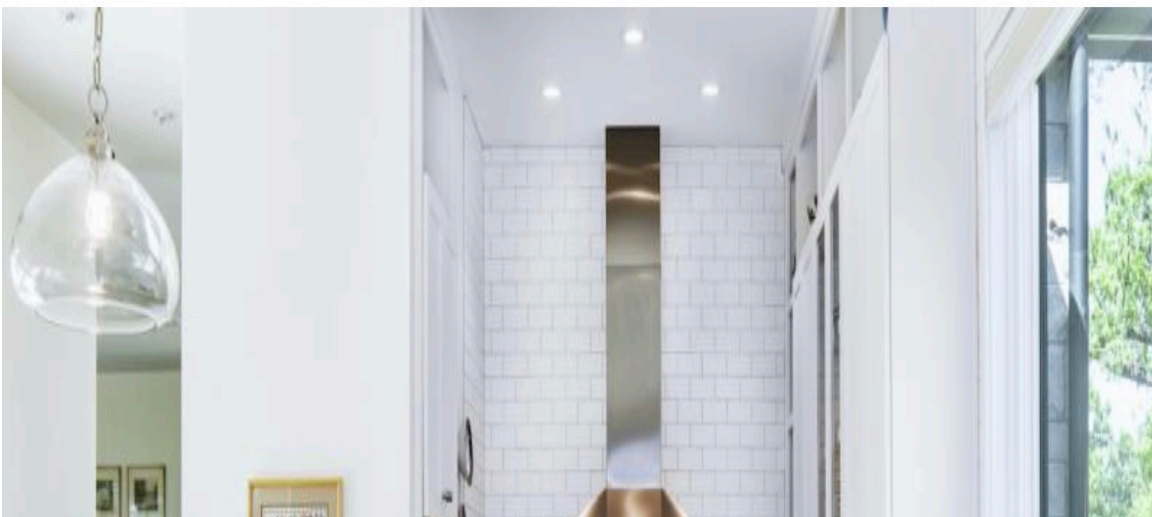




*Photo: Patrick Wong*

“The windows are wood but quite large scale, which adds drama,” McKinney explains. “European oak floors add character and warmth to flowing rooms, while a wide plank updates the look. Even the ½-inch round gutters are not only traditional, but also serve to make the eaves appear slimmer, which is a modern detail.”

Forms fitting the agricultural vernacular along with finishes in natural materials give an overall appearance of an old structure. McKinney’s orderly detailing and taught proportions subtly reveal a more modern refinement. The architect admits the same house could easily feel very traditional with different detailing.



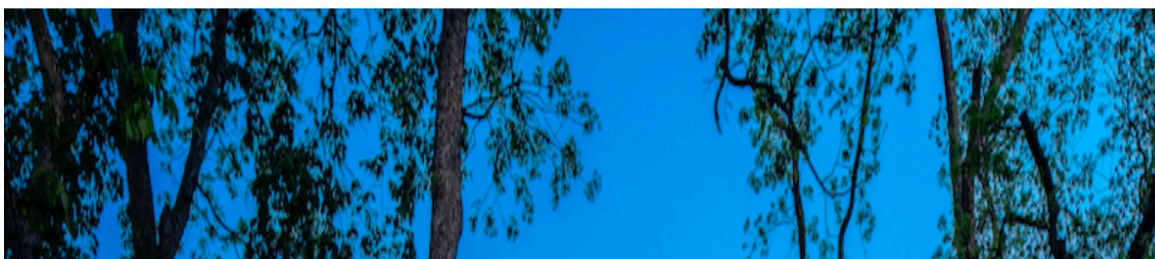




*Photo: Patrick Wong*

Inside the house, the clients needed to display a lifetime of collectibles, from antique furniture to travel mementos, needed displaying without making the rooms feeling cluttered. Extra- wide galleries stand in for typical hallways to link generously sized public spaces. One wall in each gallery is mostly glass. These window walls, combined with 10-foot-tall ceilings, allow the connectors to still feel gracious when filled with the homeowners' varied objects.

“We created axial **views from one space into another with a window** or piece of art or something to draw attention,” McKinneys adds. This strategy also generates clean sightlines, making the mixed styles or furniture and art seem more tailored.







*Photo: Patrick Wong*







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