

History in the Making

When the owners of a 1950s Terrell Hills house designed by legendary Texas architect Atlee B. Ayres purchased the 7-acre estate, they set about on a yearslong journey to restore the property to its original luster. For the backyard restoration, the homeowners hired San Antonio-based landscape architect **John Troy**, who in turn called in architect **Craig McMahon**, also of San Antonio, to help tackle the pool and pool house, both of which had fallen into an extreme state of disrepair. "At one moment I looked at the owners and said, 'Do you want to continue salvaging this?'" McMahon says. "And they were really adamant about salvaging the history of an Atlee B. Ayres project." Though respecting the property's heritage was highly important to the owners, they also wanted to modernize it. For the pool house, that included adding on an outdoor kitchen, opening up the lanai to make it more suitable for entertaining and transforming one side of the cabana into a guest bedroom and bath. The pool was in dire need of an upgrade too. Through careful excavation, the design team discovered that layers of concrete had been added to the pool's coping in order to contend with years of shifting soils. Once the concrete layers were removed, the team was able to rebuild the coping, preserving the spirit of the original pool structure and completing the masterful modernization of a historical estate. *Craig McMahon Architects, 210.710.3874, cmarchtx.com; John Troy Landscape Architects, 210.222.1355, johnstroylandarch.com*

SWIM TEAM

The renovated pool was designed by landscape architect John Troy and built by Artesian Pools. Melissa Morgan of M Interiors designed the interior of the pool house.

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