

Architects

Austin for 30 years, Lake|Flato officially opened an office here in June 2016. 1011-B S. Congress Ave., (210) 227-3335, lakeflato.com

LaRUE ARCHITECTS

Architect Jim LaRue has designed more than 500 custom homes and offices since founding this small firm in 1989. Three of those homes have appeared on the AIA Austin Homes Tour, but the firm's work isn't isolated to Austin. LaRue is currently working on projects as far away as South Carolina and Massachusetts. 500 N. Capital of Texas Hwy., Bldg. 8, Ste. 110, (512) 347-1688, larue-architects.com

MARK ODOM STUDIO

From local landmarks like Torchy's to downtown condos to an ingeniously lifted lake house in Marble Falls, this firm works from the premise that each project "generates its own set of specifics." Led by founder Mark Odom since 1999, the studio actively collaborates with clients, balancing logistics and aesthetics to give people a pleasingly "unexpected representation of themselves." 1009 W. Sixth St., Ste. 50, (512) 469-5950, markodomstudio.com

MCKINNEY YORK ARCHITECTS

From churches and chilling stations to branded work spaces and second homes, McKinney York has earned a reputation for timeless design. Since being established in 1983, the firm has earned a slew of awards, including the Texas Society of Architects 2013 Architecture Firm Award—the highest honor a Texas architecture firm can receive. 1301 E. Seventh St., (512) 476-0201, mckinneyyork.com

MELL LAWRENCE ARCHITECTS

After working for the renowned Charles Moore and a partnership with Paul Lamb, Mell Lawrence went on his own in 1991. The firm quickly became one of Austin's most influential, earning more than 20 national, state and local design awards. In 2007, the AIA honored Lawrence with one of its highest honors, induction to its College of Fellows. 913 West Gibson St. (512) 441-4669, melllawrencearchitects.com

MERZBAU DESIGN COLLECTIVE

Having spent his youth in Geneva, Stockholm, Abidjan and Tokyo, Merzbau principal J.C. Schmeil brings a worldly perspective to the firm's designs. A former trader in copper and precious metals, Schmeil formed Merzbau in 1998, and his work has appeared regularly in architecture publications and even *The New*



Given the name DU-PLX by architect Mark Odom Studio, this duplex in Bouldin Creek features high walls that wind into a bright second floor, offering a privacy that occupants of duplexes don't normally have.

York Times. His own home was featured on the 2013 AIA Austin Homes Tour. 1401 E. Seventh St., (512) 636-5900, merzbau.com

MICHAEL HSU OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE

No Austin architect is as hot today as Michael Hsu. A former pupil of Dick Clark, Hsu has helped reshape the look and culture of the city by designing some of its most important edifices, including Uchi, Sway and La Condesa restaurants. His residential projects are highly sought after pieces of art that combine sustainability, beauty and modernism. 4910 Burnet Road, (512) 706-4303, hsuoffice.com

MIKE BROWN ARCHITECT

An architect sees the big picture, helps you decide on the home you want—then makes sure it will be what you want and function the

way you need it to. Since 1983 Mike Brown has specialized in custom home and small commercial projects, remodels and additions; he's also well-versed in green building and solar design. (512) 346-3851, mikebrownarchitect.com

MINGUELL-MCQUARY ARCHITECTURE

Jose Minguell grew up in Chile and studied music in college. His wife/co-principal/business partner, Laura McQuary, was raised in Houston but spent summers in Luxembourg. And their work reflects their varied upbringings. In the fall of 2014, the sale of a 1,742-square-foot spec home designed by the firm set a record for price per square foot for a home and lot that size in East Austin. 702 San Antonio St., (512) 865-8782, minguell-mcquary.com