

PARKING PALACE

Architect John Grable turned an Alamo Heights carport into many things: a gathering place, an attractive storage space and a nighttime lantern

GARAGE BANNED

Though it's a garage, cars sometimes have to compete for space. "The open-air part of the building is used as a party pavilion, gathering space and gardening work place," says Grable, of John Grable Architects Inc.

CATHEDRAL DUPOLA

Combining American Arts and Crafts and Japanese teahouse aesthetics, Grable made the carport both functional and an ornamental nighttime beacon of light. "It gave it a terminus, like in a cathedral, and facilitated ventilation and emitted light, day and night," he says, adding that a storage unit on one end acts as the end of the terminus.

JAPANESE BEAMS

The look of Japanese char-coaled wood was achieved by applying multiple coats of stain to the Western Red Cedar beams.

UNDERFOOT

The design may be national and international in flavor, but the use of local materials was important. The foundation is crushed black Knippa, a hard basalt rock quarried west of San Antonio and used typically along railroad lines.

DROR BALDINGER