Organic Traditions

Classic forms rendered without ornamentation work with natural materials to gracefully connect past and present in a new Texas home.

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A pared-down coffered ceiling provides textural interest in the great-room and visually lowers the 11-foot-tall ceiling, making the family’s main hangout space feel cozy.
A freestanding sleeve of walnut adds heft and functionality to the kitchen’s quartz-topped island. During the week, it stacks on top of the marble to raise the counter to bar-table height, but come party time, the owners slide the piece out to accommodate buffet traffic.

Exposed wood rafters, a standing-seam metal roof, and a spacious front porch reflect the influence of the renowned late Southern architect A. Hays Town.
The architectural viewpoint of this Dallas home is clear from its exterior: A brick foundation speaks to traditional-inspired roots, but a coat of white paint, straightforward limestone headers, and steel-frame doors and windows put a modern spin on the finish. “This house is classical and contemporary all at the same time,” says architect Mark Hoesterey, who worked on the project with builder Mark Danuser and interior designer Leslie Pemberton. “We wanted the house to be welcomed in its more traditional neighborhood while expressing the family’s need for a contemporary and open layout.”

A C-shape floor plan—which frames most rooms with multiple walls of windows—floods living spaces with light, delivering the easy-breezy vibe the owners desired. Divided-light panes reflect the couple’s Southern heritage and comfort with traditional design, but the slim profile and steel frames of the home’s windows and doors nod to their preference for keeping things simple.

Crisp white walls, notable for their lack of ornate millwork, continue the home’s minimal aesthetic; floors, accent walls, and ceilings covered in natural materials such as Lueders limestone, Pennsylvania bluestone, and unstained tung-oiled wood, add rich dimension. “We wanted clean lines, but we also wanted it to be a comfortable family home,” Hoesterey says. “The natural materials add inviting warmth, and the wood helps make tall spaces feel more intimate.”

The white walls serve another purpose—they highlight the owners’ modern art collection and let the couple play with accent color in a contemporary way. “Every room has a color that just pops and makes the room happier,” Pemberton says.

Lofty ceiling heights lend elegant volume to the interiors, but the home’s footprint is not extravagant. An intimate study allows for conversation, while the spacious great-room opens up via 18-foot-wide retractable doors to a loggia for easy entertaining. The kitchen is generously sized for family gatherings, while a small terrace off the master bedroom adds a spot to sneak away for quiet time. “The owners use every bit of this house,” Pemberton says. “Indoors and out.”

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OPPOSITE: Black steel staircase railings echo window silhouettes. CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT: Walnut base cabinets in the kitchen are finished with tung oil to highlight the grain. A carved limestone mantel in the great-room adds patina but in streamlined form. Stripped of ornamentation, traditional exterior elements, such as porch columns and cut limestone headers, feel contemporary. A custom-stained fir plank wall greets guests in the entry. Low-back sofas allow the eye to travel through the loggia’s seating area to the serene pool view. A niche, right-sized for an antique sideboard, adds dimension to the dining room.
Floor plan
TOTAL SQ. FT: 5,356
BEDROOMS: 4
BATHROOMS: 4 full, 2 half

Floor plan © Stocker Hoesterley Montenegro Architects

Elegant Homes
THIS PHOTO: The lofty pitch of the master bedroom’s ceiling is warmed by dark-stain tongue-and-groove wood planks. OPPOSITE LEFT: Travertine flows over the walls and floors in the master bath for spa-like continuity, but it’s employed in a mix of patterns for interest’s sake. OPPOSITE RIGHT: Dourdan marble surrounds the tub and continues into the shower.