

## DESTINATION HOME

This Austin, Texas, couple searched for a new home to meet the needs of their growing family, but they ended up where they had started. When they couldn't find a space they loved as much as the one they were already in, they decided to remodel. Luckily, owner Michael Antenora knew a good architect—himself. He and his wife expanded the existing kitchen and dining room and created a seamless blend of interior and exterior courtyard spaces. Now the couple can make and break their bread without bumping elbows, and

THIS AUSTIN, TEXAS, COUPLE SEARCHED FOR A NEW HOME their children, friends, and family have plenty of room in which to visit and play.

The home's design is Southern, but with a Japanese twist. "The house was designed around the courtyards and around the physical and visual interplay of interior spaces and exterior courtyards," notes Michael. "This concept of seeing the destination, but with no direct path to get there, is endemic to traditional Japanese architecture." In many ways, the same concept led them to once again make their house their home.

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-architect and homeowner, Michael Antenora

## Michael Antenora on blending Southern California, Japanese, and Texas style

"I've studied the traditional wooden, clay tile and rice paper Japanese home. I'm also very fond of the Arts and Crafts style, especially in its Southern Californian expression, and discovered that it was influenced by the design of Japanese houses. When we began remodeling, I noticed that the house already had a bungalow scale and proportion. So, I broke the house down into simple shapes put together in a complex way, just as traditional Japanese

homes are based on the proportion of tatami mats. Another element is the deep eaves, found in both Craftsmen and Japanese styles. Because Texas is hot and people spend a lot of time outdoors, the eaves provide shade and look good doing it. Our house is also planned around the idea of seeing a place without having a direct route there-you can sit in the breakfast area and look through galleria into the master bedroom, or sit in dining room and look across breezeway into the soft courtyard. This reflects the Shinto philosophy that the path of life is not direct, but the destination is worthwhile."

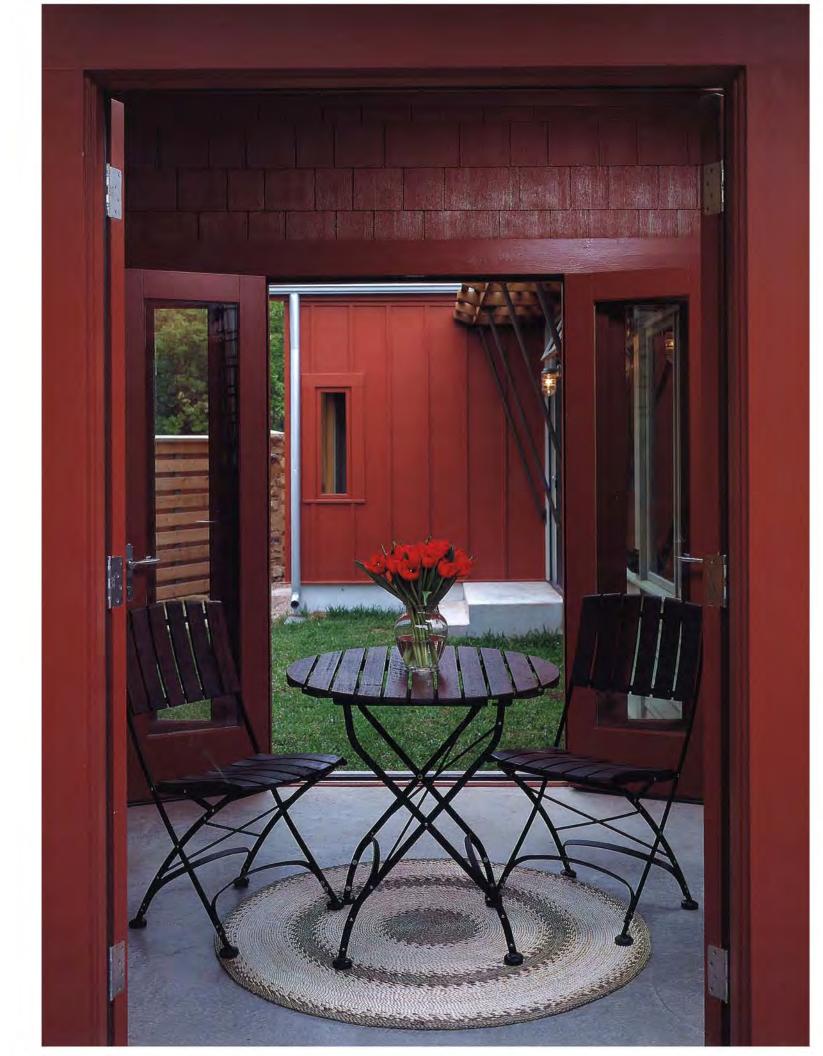
RIGHT: The kitchen is lined with light-colored cabinetry that provides plenty of storage space, including open shelving for assorted pots. Both modern and traditional fixtures have their place, and an open area just beyond leads to the breakfast room.





second go-around to get it right.
This remodeled kitchen features upgraded appliances and copious new storage space.

RIGHT: The family often takes their meals in the adjacent hard courtyard, which affords lovely Austin views.



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