

# SUPER NATURALS

BY CLAUDIA ALARCÓN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHASE DANIEL

STUNNING VIEWS BEYOND THE STEEP  
HILLSIDE DIRECTED THE DESIGN TO FOCUS  
ON THE HOME'S SURROUNDINGS,  
WITH A SEAMLESS CONNECTION BETWEEN  
THE INDOORS AND OUTDOORS.







DESIGNED BY BRITT DESIGN GROUP AND Cornerstone Architects, this 4,575-square-foot, four-bedroom, four-and-a-half bath home in West Lake Hills sits atop a lush hillside with 360-degree canyon vistas, providing a remote environment just six miles from downtown Austin. The homeowners, an Austin tech executive couple, love to entertain and envisioned a home with a variety of large spaces to hold gatherings of all sizes.

First, they had to select the right architect. Since the home was built on a slope, certain key considerations had to be addressed during construction. “Sequencing of construction was very important,” said Adam Steiner with Cornerstone Architects. “There was minimal room on either side of the house to maneuver, and it was extremely steep. Bonterra Build | Design managed the construction in a way that is not typically done, for instance, the septic tank and field were installed before anything else started.”

Steiner filled the home with sustainable features such as energy efficient appliances and HVAC systems, tankless wa-

The island counter anchors the kitchen and serves as a work surface and dining space. The design was influenced by the homeowners’ desire for an Asian contemporary style — a 2-3/4” thick quartz countertop placed on top of a 1-1/4” quartzite countertop is a unique detail that creates the illusion of a “built-up” countertop edge. The high-end appliance package includes a cooktop, ovens, microwave and coffee maker by Miele®, refrigerator/freezer columns by Gaggenau and a wine fridge by Sub-Zero®. Cabinetry in dark wood tones follow the same clean aesthetic seen throughout the home. The Sonneman light fixture, sourced through Ferguson, is perfectly scaled over the island.



ter heaters, large overhangs to block direct solar heat gain, drop down solar shades, spray foam insulation with higher R-values than typical fiberglass insulation, a tightly sealed thermal envelope, Energy Star® rated windows and doors, energy efficient LED lighting, smart thermostats and xeriscape landscaping for minimal water use.

When it came to design, the homeowners desired a look and feel of calm respite, enhanced with custom touches derived from their travels and personal experiences. They are from different parts of the world, and with help from designer Laura Britt, they were able to blend their individual aesthetics into a shared vision for their home. Britt and her team used “super naturals” — a variety of neutral color tones and textures from wood, stone and metal as the backdrop for intentional bursts of color.

To enhance the surrounding views of nature, every room throughout the house boasts floor to ceiling windows. “We didn’t want to compete with any of the views, so we kept the design clean, modern and open,” said Britt. “The biggest factor in the design of this house was about connecting the interior design to the views. The home is comfortable and inviting — everything centers around outdoor living.



We brought in colors from the surrounding landscape to achieve this — earthy greens, vibrant blues, dark browns. To create impact in the kitchen, we used contrasting colors, bright whites and dark rich browns with a large picture window taking center stage.”

A variety of flooring was used throughout the home, from porcelain tile inspired by the feel and shades of natural wood to neutral ceramics. And statement lighting in nearly every room provides a center of interest.





As you enter the home, the Bocci multi-pendant lighting in the stairwell is a stunning focal point as is the homeowners' heirloom piano in the foyer. The built-in walnut shelves behind the piano are inlaid with a Philip Jeffries arrowroot grasscloth wallcovering sourced through David Sutherland, which provides the look of raw silk using natural grass, and enhances rather than overshadows the piano.

The kitchen cabinets were designed to offer a clean aesthetic, with appliances carefully aligned in a similar fashion. The Sonneman® statement light fixture overhead offers interest as well as soft but sufficient lighting. The massive kitchen island counter provides a substantial workspace and room to seat six. The surrounding chairs by Caffrey & Co. follow suit with geometric simplicity.

Another stunning light fixture anchors the dining room. By Seth Parks Designs, the hand-blown glass floating fixture represents the natural movement of water and air. The dining chairs are made by Theodore Alexander and sourced through Cocoon. "We also created a custom hair-on-hide rug for the dining room in partnership with Kyle Bunting," said Britt.

In the living room, furnishings by Caffrey & Co. include chairs, tables and sofa. The Persian woven wool and silk rug, in an abstract blue and gold colorway, was sourced through Black Sheep Unique. The fireplace is covered in white honed limestone, and the hearth is constructed from Silestone® in the Calypso finish with special attention given to the pencil round edge detail and mitered corners. Both upstairs and downstairs, the connected outdoor living spaces act as additional living rooms. "Whether out on the patio or in the indoor living room, we wanted it to feel like one complete space, not two separate areas," said Britt.

In the primary suite, the stunning hillside is framed by bespoke ripple fold drapery in a natural and aqua embroidered linen blend fabric by Fabricut. A Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams silver shag rug is soft underfoot. The homeowners' existing chair was reupholstered in a neutral woven fabric from Kravet and overhead, a sculptural chandelier of yellow and orange blown glass is by Bellacor®.

The focal point of the bath is an MTI tub with Luxart® hardware in a coal black finish. But the focal point from the luxurious soaking tub and the ceiling height shower with a glass surround and tile from Stone Solutions is the panoramic view outside the expansive windows.







The upper patio lounge chairs are by Verellen from Belgium, also sourced through Caffrey & Co. The ensemble is completed with a couch from Outback Patio and a rug from Jaipur. Directly below, the chairs on the lower patio are from Outdoor Living and unique, circular poolside loungers are by Dedon. The infinity pool was designed by Austintatious Pools in coordination with Cornerstone Architects.

Despite the unique challenges of building in such a location, a skilled team of architects, builders and designers managed to create a stunning home that takes advantage of its natural surroundings and provides the homeowners a place for rest or entertaining. ♦

**BRITT DESIGN GROUP**

512-458-8963 | [BrittDesignGroup.com](http://BrittDesignGroup.com)

**CORNERSTONE ARCHITECTS**

512-329-0007 | [CornerstoneArchitectsLLP.com](http://CornerstoneArchitectsLLP.com)

**BONTERRA BUILD | DESIGN**

512-382-1234 | [BonterraBD.com](http://BonterraBD.com)



The infinity pool, designed by Austintatious Pools, is centered between two wings: on one side are public spaces, with private spaces on the other. The lower floor contains secondary bedrooms throughout. One upper balcony extends from the living room, while the other is off the primary suite. Throughout, railings are designed to provide unobstructed views. Landscaping was designed by D. Crane.

