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BUILT TO FIT

SMALL HOUSES DESIGNED TO LIVE BIG

A Hatch Works house is like a custom-tailored suit of clothes—unique, well-crafted and full of charm.

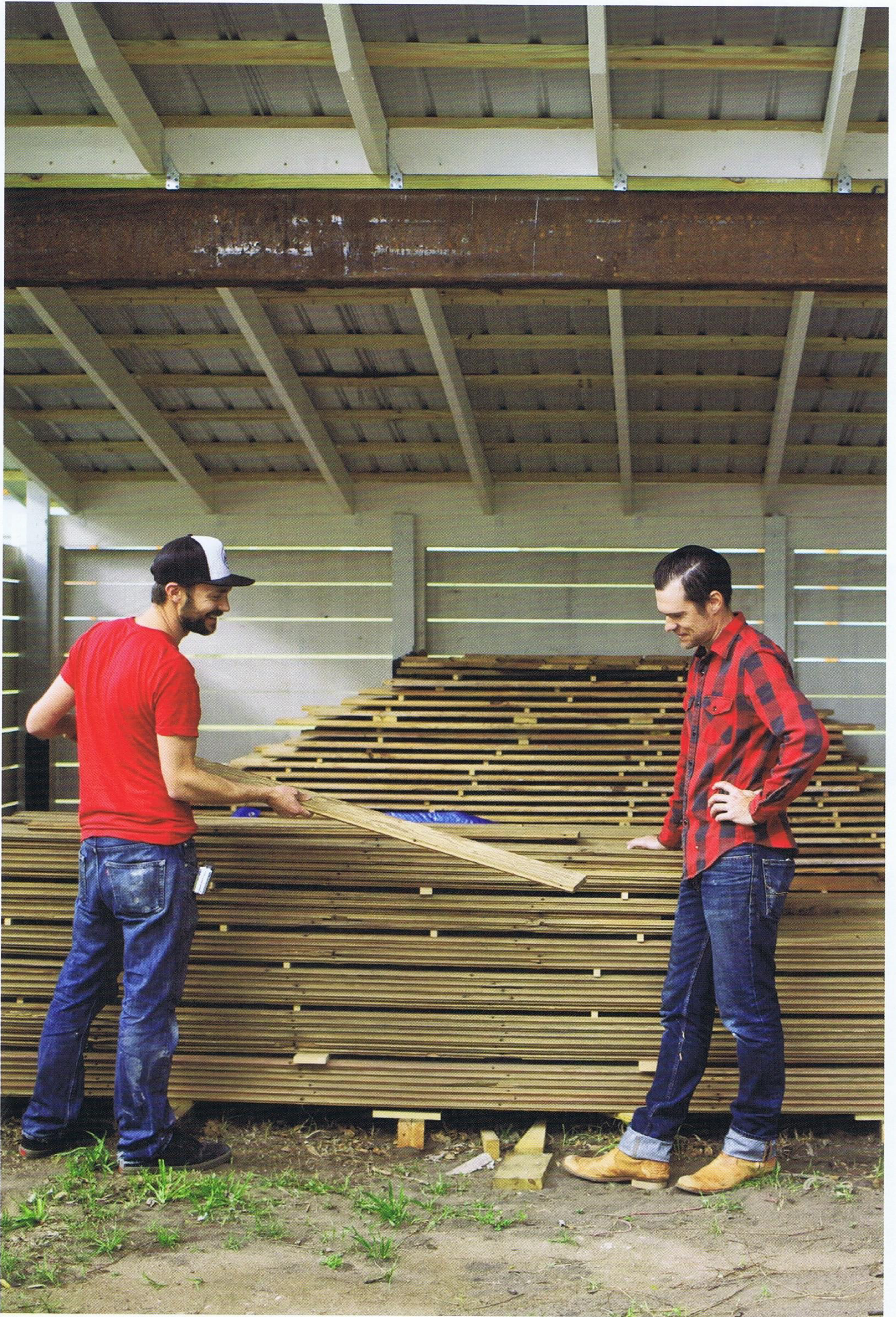
Adam Talianchich and Ashley Menger prize quality over quantity. In 2009, they launched Hatch Works largely in response to the proliferation of cheap, high-volume development eating away at the character of East Austin. “The development is all construction, with little to no design,” he says. Every bland house or generic apartment building is a lost opportunity to create something beautiful or meaningful. In response, he says, he and Menger build homes that “attract the kind of residents that will keep that spirit alive.”

A Hatch Works house doesn’t follow any prescribed architectural style. The pair has built bungalows, Victorians and modernistic amalgamations. Talianchich, a former environmental scientist who learned to build houses as a teenager while working for his father, oversees design and construction; Menger, an industrial designer, edits the plans, a crucial role that keeps their creations simple and fresh. Most important, the couple says, is understanding how clients will really live in a home, from where they toss their wallet and phone after running errands to how they like to socialize at home.

Small spaces feel bigger when you add walls and furniture. A large open space, where you can see every inch while standing in one spot, feels smaller. —ADAM TALIANCHICH

The design-build partners are especially adept at enlivening small spaces with built-ins, bursts of color and other creative touches. They seem to have found a sweet spot between comfortable traditionalism and clean-lined gorgeousness. Their houses are honest, practical and packed with surprises, like the 6-foot spool of industrial paper mounted atop a wall to hide a Murphy bed in their daughter’s playroom. Tear off the latest crayon mural, fold down the bed and the space becomes a guest room.

“We love all those little details that give a house personality,” Talianchich says.







Building Character

When it comes to designing charming details and making small spaces live big, the folks at Hatch Works have many arrows in their quiver.

- Deep arches with cubbies
- Mud rooms
- Doggie door porticos
- Dumbwaiters
- Winder stairs
- Lofts
- Rolling ladders
- Transom windows
- Handmade doors
- Architectural salvage
- White windows, black trim
- Living rooms without TVs 🚫

Good design is about starting with the kernel of an idea and letting it flower.

—ADAM TALIANCHICH

