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HOME *grown*

By Lisa Siva, Photography by Bill Sallans

FROM **INTERIOR DESIGNERS** TO **BUILDERS** AND **SHOP OWNERS**,
MEET THE AUSTINITES WHO MAKE DREAM SPACES A REALITY.

Behind every home, restaurant and bar are the many hands that bring it to life. From building custom houses to finding the perfect lamp, interior designers, shopkeepers and builders work together to develop unique spaces from the ground up. Whether they dream it up or sketch it out, build it or furnish it, these Austinites create one-of-a-kind places to call home.



Ashley Menger and Adam Tsianchich of Hatch Works live in their distinctive "Yellow House" with their daughter, Gia George, and dog, Birdie.



THE *builders*

HATCH WORKS | hatchworksaustin.com

A few months after Ashley Menger met her future husband, Adam Talianchich, pictured on the previous page, he began to renovate an old home in East Austin that had fallen into disrepair. She soon joined him, and the charming home they built became the impetus behind Hatch Works, the duo's custom design and build company. "When we survived those early days of our relationship working on this house, fighting over tiles and making up over tiles, we learned to figure out our design decisions together," Menger laughs. The Hatch Works aesthetic is clean and classic, with modern interiors and an unexpected touch or two, like reclaimed material or a vibrant pop of color on a home's exterior. "Our goal is to build a house that is comfortable from the day you move in," Talianchich says. With his building expertise and Menger's understanding of layout and interiors, Hatch Works provides a streamlined process for clients seeking a distinctive home. "It's like we're creating a little baby," Talianchich says. "We raise a home from the very first idea into reality."

PILGRIM BUILDING COMPANY | pilgrimbuilding.com

After building furniture and cabinetry for several years, Branson Fustes became fascinated with building on a larger scale. "I've always had a love for the craft," he says. Today, as president of the award-winning Pilgrim Building Company, Fustes constructs each custom home with immaculate detail and a dedication to sustainability. "We want to build high-performing houses," Fustes remarks. Establishing that superior level of performance can range from sourcing reclaimed materials to using innovative, two-stage insulation techniques, and Pilgrim is deeply involved at every step of the way. "We have a really technical appreciation and love for these projects," Fustes notes. To that effect, he works closely with his



Branson Fustes of Pilgrim Building Company seeks to establish a close team between designer, owner and builder, in order to both create and execute designs efficiently.



With her love of found objects, Mickie Spencer creates spaces that immerse her guests in an eclectic, new world.

sister carpentry company, Enabler, to ensure quality control throughout the project, whether he's finishing a condominium at the W Hotel with Michael Hsu or outfitting an airstream trailer for Stubb's. "We're not just providing a product—we're providing a service," he says. "We want our clients to be thrilled with their new homes, but I also hope they enjoy the building process."


MICKIE SPENCER | eastsideshowroom.com

Mickie Spencer has lived around the world, from Brooklyn to Barcelona, but some of the most memorable places she has visited are the ones she created on Austin's East Side. After studying welding, woodworking and furniture design in New York, Spencer moved to Austin in 2007 and

channeled her love of adventure into two ramshackle buildings on East Sixth Street. "It was always my dream to open something with a turn of the century feel, and the East Side was just ready to explode," Spencer notes. With the help of her mother and twin sister, Spencer took the plunge, knocked down the wall between the two buildings and transformed the space into the enchanting East Side Showroom. Every aspect of the local institution is carefully crafted, including the warm lighting, inviting bar and vintage-inspired décor. This attention to detail infuses each of Spencer's projects, including Hillside Pharmacy and an upcoming New Orleans-style diner. "I hope guests feel like they're in a completely different world," Spencer says. "Once they cross the threshold, they enter into a new experience."



After working in Chicago and New York, Jennifer Hartmann brings a unique approach to design: "The exposure to different ways of doing things has helped me become a better, more well-rounded designer," she observes.



THE *designers*

GREER INTERIOR DESIGN | greerinteriordesign.com

After studying interior design at The School of Visual Arts in New York City and working with the renowned Gary Lee Partners in Chicago, Jennifer Greer Hartmann settled in Austin two years ago with an eye for fresh, clean interiors and a broad design perspective. "Our aesthetic is classic and timeless," Hartmann observes, "but we always want our interiors to be a reflection of our clients." Collaborating closely with the client and architect, Hartmann considers the surrounding architecture, lighting, proportion and scale, as she develops both functional and striking spaces. Among her favorite projects are a bright, modern condominium that she designed for the Austonian as well as a Lake Austin home, which she transformed extensively to highlight the surrounding landscape. "I appreciate all kinds of architecture, from the very old to the very new, from minimalist to more embellished spaces," Hartmann says. "I love helping my clients make their homes a place that they can enjoy."

SARAH STACEY INTERIOR DESIGN | sarahstaceydesign.com

Sarah Stacey's fascination with interior design began in high school, as she watched her home being furnished and decorated. "I loved how the designer made everything cohesive," she recalls. In 2009, she began to design spaces of her own, specializing in elegant salons and children's nurseries. Her clients can choose from a variety of services, including online and color consultations, as well as complete single-room design. "It's a collaboration between the client and me," Stacey says of her design process, which often involves developing mood boards and three-dimensional renderings before executing the client's vision. Whether she's stripping the walls down or adding decorative finishes, Stacey ultimately seeks to create clean spaces with a graphic element. One of her projects, for example, is a stunning nursery, on whose walls she painted a mural of an owl peering through the branches of a tree. "I want my clients to be comfortable and happy in their surroundings," Stacey remarks. "I want them to be able to sit down, look around and love everything they see."

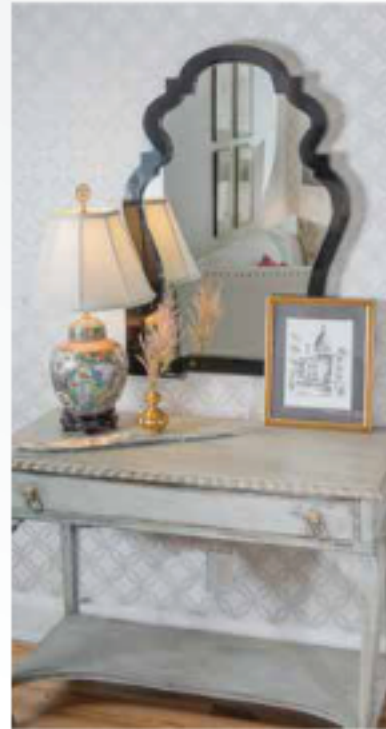
As a parting gift to her clients, Sarah Stacey often leaves a painting or mural to brighten their newly designed nurseries.

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Using the room's existing sofa and wallpaper, Andrea Caldwell brought in traditional elements with a playful touch—custom pillows, reupholstered slipper chairs—to suit her client's personality and style.



PHOTOS BY JAMES BRUCE PHOTOGRAPHY

ANDREA LEIGH INTERIORS | andreasleighinteriors.com

Even as a young girl, Andrea Caldwell was drawn to design, a passion evident in the clothes she wore and the room she grew up in, which she painted annually. "It was always in my system," she laughs. Though licensed to practice law since 2008, Caldwell returned to her love for design and launched Andrea Leigh Interiors, creating spaces that bring together classic and contemporary elements. Central to each of her projects is the relationship Caldwell builds with the client, who is her foremost consideration. "I want to help people build a room they're happy with," she says. To that effect, Caldwell balances textures, colors and objects in her designs, drawing inspiration from cues as diverse as a client's favorite lamp or a stained glass window in Paris. Leaving no aspect untouched, from lighting to window treatments to upholstery, Caldwell hopes to offer her clients a comfortable and inviting space: "I want someone to come home every day and enjoy being in the room we've created for them," she remarks.





Andrea Caldwell describes her aesthetic as a combination of traditional pieces and contemporary lines. "I'm drawn to things that are clean simple," she says.



THE *shopkeepers*



From pillows for West Elm to an upcoming line of woven accessories for A Small Collection, Alyson Fox's creations offer a dynamic pop of color.

ALYSON FOX'S WEST ELM COLLECTION | alysonfox.com

Artist Alyson Fox knows no limitations when it comes to medium. After working as a visual director for Anthropologie, she began to create her own, fantastical illustrations, which earned her the attention of Design Sponge and the *New York Times*. She soon began expanding into dinnerware, photography, textiles and jewelry, developing a distinctive, feminine aesthetic with a masculine edge. "I found myself really excited about products and wanted to explore that side of design," Fox says. "Taking my drawings from paper to objects seemed like a fun next step." In 2008, she launched A Small Collection, a website that showcases her perpetually evolving body of work. This holiday season, Fox looks forward to the debut of her collaboration with West Elm, featuring patterns inspired by the sunset viewed from her Spicewood home. The collection will feature pillows, rugs, a chair and canvas pendant light, each bursting with beautiful, geometric shapes. "I like making products that have an interesting story behind them," Fox says. "It's inspiring to take something two-dimensional and see it come to life."

MOCKINGBIRD DOMESTICS | mockingbirddomestics.com

Jeff and Laura Daly, the husband-and-wife team behind Mockingbird Domestic, have developed a love of craftsmanship ever since they met in high school, when Jeff bought and rebuilt a 66 Mustang, while Laura worked on the interior. "We've been building and renovating together ever since," Laura says. With their combined experience in furniture building and interior design, the Dalys decided to create a space to showcase their love of artisan craftsmanship. "It's a much bigger concept than just a store selling items," Jeff notes. "There's a story behind every piece." Featuring the work of over 50 craftsmen, Mockingbird Domestic offers Austinites a range of elegant and timeless pieces for the home, from an approachable, plywood collection by Andrew Danziger to a luxury, walnut wood table by Michael Yates. In addition to its array of furniture, lighting fixtures, vintage pieces and more, the store serves as a forum for artisans to connect with the customer and with each other. "Mockingbird Domestic is about representing these craftsmen and the passion for what they do," Jeff says. "And that's our passion."



For Alyson Fox, the allure of art is irresistible: "I love making things," she says, "and I love sharing it with people."

FINE CRAFTED MADE LOCAL MOCKINGBIRD GUILD



Jeff and Laura Daly have been building together since high school. Today, they share their love for craftsmanship at Mockingbird Domestic.

Amber Abramson strives to create spaces that are "bright, artistic and comfortable," and with Busy-Being's beautiful and eclectic collection of goods, she helps Austinites do just that.

BUSY-BEING | busy-being.com

A native of Los Angeles, Amber Abramson had curated art galleries along the West Coast for over a decade before moving to Austin, where she transformed her online shop, Busy-Being, into a brick-and-mortar haven for unforgettable artwork. Turning her curator's eye for engaging pieces toward her East Austin store, Abramson thinks of Busy-Being as her own "living art installation," which she stocks with handcrafted work by artists she has come to know over the years. "It's filled with things I love by people I love," she says. In addition to clothing, books and accessories, Busy-Being offers an eclectic home décor collection, including whimsical wall hangings, rugs and hand-dyed quilts. "I don't stick to any rules," Abramson observes. "I pull from everything and everywhere." Busy-Being has recently expanded to include a workshop series that will introduce guests to the crafts of indigo dyeing, organic skincare and everything in between. "I hope that people feel like they've stepped into a little part of my world," Abramson says.

