



U-shape wraps around a water element in back



How's this for creating outdoor living space?

New kind of architecture...very creative, very organic and totally spellbinding

Parade-of-Homes model is now for sale. Located close-in NW Austin. The price is \$962,000

A longtime local builder is hitting his creative stride with this new series of homes. It is as if someone is finally building concept homes you can actually buy.

Everything is different in these homes. If you find you have an instant affection when you step inside, it is no doubt due to the careful planning that goes into each one. Wherever practical, interior walls are removed. Harsh lines are replaced with natural shapes. Surfaces, textures, colors and materials are woven into a seamless patina that is richly organic. And the line between indoor and outdoor spaces is almost unobstructed. There is an undercurrent of balance in these designs that connects with people on a deep and gratifying level.

Stone and wood floors that “flow” like a stream

This is the sixth one to be built, and it is now complete. This new home has approximately 4,870 square feet. It is located close-in NW Austin just off City Park Road. The

neighborhood, Greenshores, was the site of the recent Parade of Homes.

You have to take no more than a few steps inside the front door here, and you get a vivid example of how this rethinking of the ordinary is carried out. The entry floors are made from randomly-laid flagstone. As you head into the main living area, the flooring material changes to wood. Every other time you have seen this, the transition between the two materials is always in a straight line...but here the two materials are joined in a wave-shaped seam. Everyone who sees it says it reminds them of water. To be able to use two rigid materials and combine them in a way that is symbolic of a flowing stream is architecture at its best.

There are subtle visual cues all through the home that suggest forms connected to nature. Another calming space is the master bath area—it is like a private spa. It is a mo-

saic of various tiles. This flowing, open space is lipped with a wall of high-placed windows...and this provides beams of filtered light without sacrificing privacy. Typically, the bath, shower and dressing areas are segmented by walls and doors. The same division of space is accomplished here with a curved wall that looks like a piece of freestanding sculpture (see photo on



Room for artwork at the entry

website). This organically-shaped curtain wall does not go all the way to the ceiling which makes the entire space seem more open and invigorating. Take a shower or bath here, and it will make you feel like you are relaxing next to a waterfall. Why hasn't someone thought of

these things before?

Thin wall between indoors and outdoors

It took an extra wide lot to create this next bit of design flair. See the floorplan on page

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two and note the u-shaped footprint. This produces multiple benefits. It adds a long stretch of linear footage in the form of a ribbon wall of glass. The added glass coverage washes natural light through the entire home. The shape also creates a private garden area in the center which is protected by the two wings of the house. The builder has enhanced this space with a water element made from massive boulders that incorporates a freeform waterfall. You normally think of houses as having two distinct segments of “inside” and “outside”, but this builder uses both sight and sound to unify these two spaces. Live here, and you can go to sleep to the sound of a running stream!

More Innovative Ideas

The kitchen includes eat-in dining space. You can prepare...then serve meals right in the kitchen. And don't miss the stained glass insets around the edge of the pot rack—note the colorful raised motif pattern in the shape of a Martini glass.

There are four bedrooms, but one is set up in a private wing of the house. It includes a large bath and kitchenette. Use it for guests, and it is ideal if there is a chance you may need to take care of your parents some day. The two other bedrooms have a surprise for children or teenagers: each has its own loft reached by a wall-mounted ladder.

Another room you will give high marks to is the large combination craft-utility room. It is some of the most inviting workspace in the entire home—beautifully finished, lined with cabinets, counterspace and windows. You can keep holiday items here...photo albums...camera gear, etc.

The home also includes a small, climate-controlled wine room.

Wait until you see the room labeled “Parlor”. Given its slot next to the kitchen it certainly works for a dining room, but the builder has added flexibility to this room with its dramatic finishing details—the entrance is through three sets of “Old World”-



▲ Dining space built into the kitchen. View of family room

looking, heavy, wooden, metal-banded doors and there are stained glass windows inside. The room can be used as a Parlor for wine tasting.

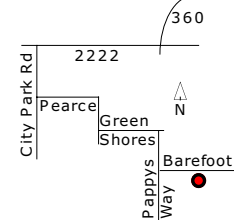
Instead of one large, 3-car garage, the floorplan includes an attached two-car garage, but the third car garage has been spun off, turned sideways and placed on the front side of the house. This adds privacy, and it creates a courtyard feel to the space outside the front door. This freestanding garage has doors on each end. This not only creates a drive-through garage...but it also becomes shaded space where your kids can play on summer days.

If \$962,000 is a comfortable price, do not buy anything else until you see this home in person. This is something new. Unique. You will love it...or you will not make it past

the entry, but definitely worth a trip if you yearn for a home that is not like everyone else's. (The builder has other lots in the area or he can build on your lot).

To see, call your agent. The builder is represented by Stan Barron Properties at 512.345-8585. Use the web to see many additional photos. Go to www.stanbarron.com.

Locator Map



▼ Floorplan, site plan **\$962,000** (4 bedrooms, media, wine room, 4,870 sq. ft.)

