

HOMES & ENTERTAINMENT

WRITTEN BY KATRINA KATSARELIS

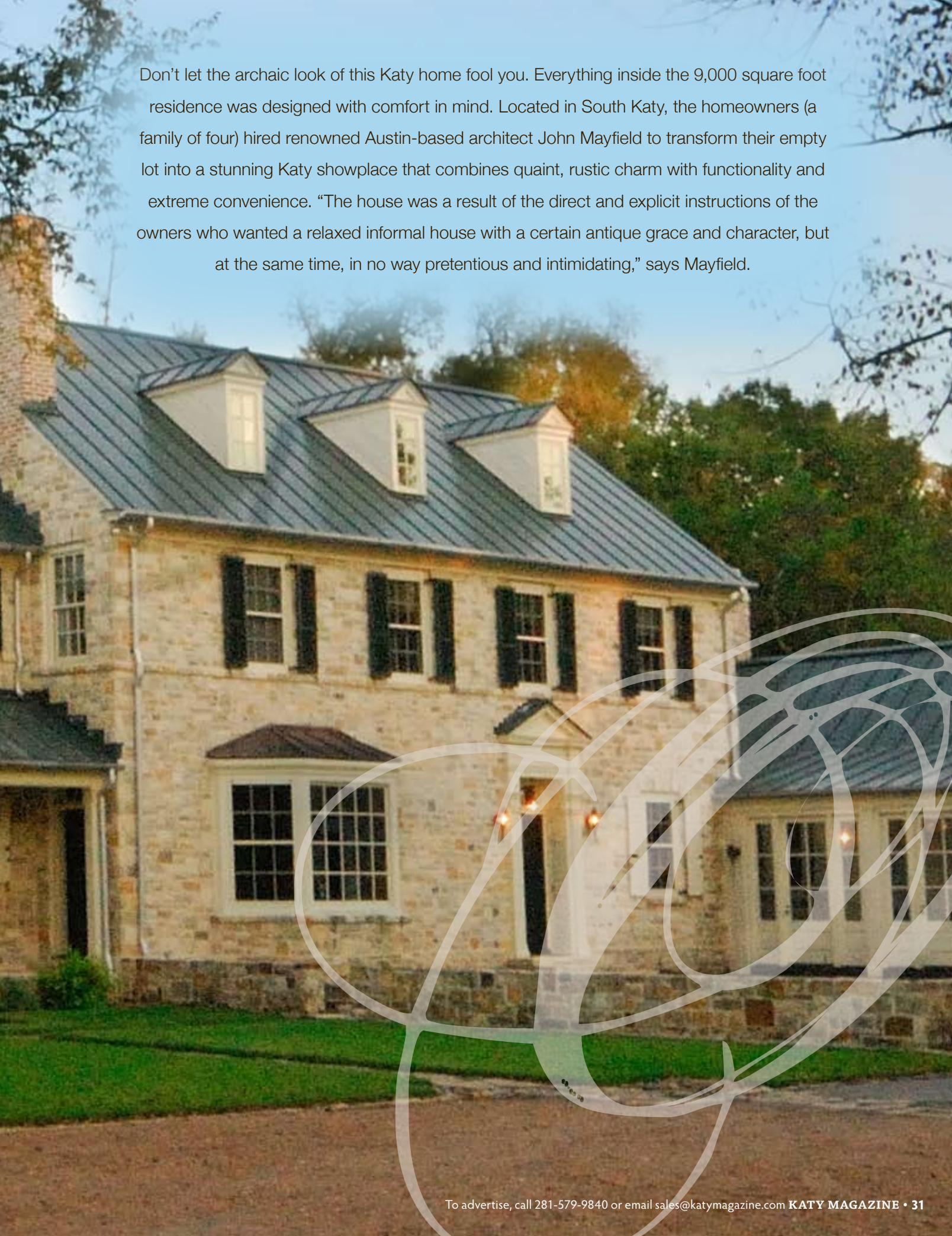
Old World

MEETS

MODERN DAY
KATY

LOCAL HOME DESIGNED FOR
ULTIMATE COMFORT AND ENJOYMENT

Don't let the archaic look of this Katy home fool you. Everything inside the 9,000 square foot residence was designed with comfort in mind. Located in South Katy, the homeowners (a family of four) hired renowned Austin-based architect John Mayfield to transform their empty lot into a stunning Katy showplace that combines quaint, rustic charm with functionality and extreme convenience. "The house was a result of the direct and explicit instructions of the owners who wanted a relaxed informal house with a certain antique grace and character, but at the same time, in no way pretentious and intimidating," says Mayfield.



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added on to.” The gallery connecting the master suite with the rest of the house is an example of this; even though it was all built at the same time, it was designed to look as if a previously open porch had been closed in to make interior space. The exposed stone walls of the house further convey this ‘added-on’ effect.

Colonial North Meets New Katy South

The husband’s memories of his grandfather’s home in Pennsylvania; these houses often a series of simple gable roofed forms strung together and are built of local rubble

Influenced by Childhood Memories

The home’s unique exterior incorporates elements from both the husband and wife’s memories of homes they loved as children. The wife spent many summers in the Hill Country of Texas and loved the thick stoned walls of the German houses in that part of Texas. “The homes she knew and grew up in along the Guadalupe River often had been added on to over the years and grew organically as the needs and fortunes of the inhabitants evolved,” explains Mayfield. “The homeowners wanted a house that felt

stone. “We searched for a combination of native Texas rubble stone that melded the color of Texas stone with a certain impression of the stone of Pennsylvania as used by the original Dutch settlers of that early colony,” says Mayfield. To complement the stone, a painted standing seam metal roof was chosen for the house. Period colonial details appear throughout the house, namely true Dutch doors, half gable dormer windows and operable shutters which are painted as in Pennsylvania white on the first floor and are paneled for protection, and on the second floor are louvered for ventilation and are painted green.

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Customized Features for Everyone in the Family

The architect spent time listening to the family and incorporating many customized elements specially suited to each one of them. The home has an additional washer and dryer in the master suite as well as a suitcase packing station to accommodate the family's 'on the go' lifestyle. An elevator was included to assist their aging parents who are frequent guests in the home. A butler's kitchen features dishwashers complete with warming drawers that works well for entertaining—the family frequently hosts large scale charity events. A convenient present wrapping station keeps things neat and orderly through the holidays. Even the family's


two dogs were taken into consideration; a special dog washing shower pan is set up for them in the laundry room.

Secret Study



A cozy retreat away from the rest of the busy household, the study is adjacent to a private office and accessible through a secret door in a bookcase that holds actual books. The room is paneled in knotty pine and stained a dark cherry walnut to add a degree of richness. A television cabinet is hidden in one of the built in corner cabinets.

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Family Room with Early Influences

Reflecting an Early American Colonial “Keeping Room”, the family room features traditional salt box houses of the northeastern United States. “Often a large, almost walk-in, fireplace served as a source of heat and a place for household cooking,” explains Mayfield. “This house has a four foot tall fireplace with a forged hook for holding cooking pots.”

The beamed ceilings throughout the house are comprised of salvaged antique long leaf pine beams, and boards that were collected from Texas houses and buildings of the 19Th Century when old growth pine was commonly used as building materials. The old growth long leaf pine is rough cut and not sanded or stained.



A Welcoming Entry

In the entry hall, long leaf wall paneling welcomes visitors and warms the room. Because the entry way is more formal, the long leaf wood was sanded to highlight the antique pine’s natural red color. Floors throughout the house are also made from the re-milled antique long leaf pine. “To give a rustic effect and character, the pine selected included knots and retains the spike holes left from when the wood was used as beams in the wood’s previous installation.”

In the entry hall, wall paneling was made from the same long leaf pine, but in that more formal location the pine was planed

The advertisement features three images: a building with 'LOFT ANN TAYLOR' and 'LaCenterra' signs, a daytime view of the building, and a woman in a light green jacket carrying shopping bags. The text reads: 'LaCenterra is more than the area's premier shopping destination ... It's a lifestyle, an attitude, a relaxed way of living the good life. Our place at your pace.' The LaCenterra logo, featuring a horse head, is also present.

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18th Century Colors

Period colors, which may appear bright to today's taste, are used on the trim in conjunction with off white plaster walls to off set the dark color of the antique wood and to imply an 18th Century interior.

The large family kitchen also has an old fashioned country look in that the custom cabinets are barn red and the center island, more of a table in this case, is green. The owners' wishes were that the cabinets were to look like various pieces of furniture rather than slick new all the same cabinetry. Other special features are a custom copper hood at the range and all the floors in the kitchen laid with antique bricks from Virginia and Missouri. ★

Special thanks to John Mayfield for participating in this story.

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