

INSIDE EDITION

LUXE TAPPED TALENTED LOCAL DESIGNERS FOR THEIR THOUGHTS ON ONE OF THE SEASON'S MOST POPULAR CONCEPTS: HYGGE.



"We curate what makes our clients feel hygge. Do they prefer light or dark spaces? Waxed-leather sofas or a silk-velvet chaise? Light pouring through wall-to-wall windows or layers of textural sheers? We interpret their needs and source pieces from local Austin shops like Caffrey's Furniture, Black Sheep Unique and Brian Chilton Design."

—AMANDA STEPHENSON



"Ultimately, your home should be a place of comfort—a retreat from the world. We create places of solace for our clients, such as a secluded reading nook for enjoying a glass of wine and a good book. Kuhl-Linscomb in Houston has everything you need to create a hygge-infused space."

—ELIZABETH DEWITT



"Without question, my signed John Lennon piece titled *Family Tree* represents hygge to me in so many ways. It's a simple one-line drawing created by one of the world's most eccentric, creative beings and symbolizes relationships between people, including several generations of my family."

—JODI HOLT



"Our designs include lush textures, comfortable furniture, throws, snuggle-worthy pillows and natural elements like wood floors and stone walls. But none of these are truly hygge unless shared with loved ones, so we design with gatherings in mind, with pretty places to converse and play games."

—MICHELLE LYNNE



"For hygge, I love embroidered afghans, fluffy throws and blankets my husband, Eric, and I have collected during our travels. They are perfect for snuggling and reading a book. The best part? You can never have too many. For us, blankets represent hygge, with comfort, relaxation and laughter."

—KARA WUELLNER



MATERIAL WORLD

Until recently, Austin builder Jan Sotelo had constructed homes using mostly only traditional materials: concrete, steel, glass and wood. But everything changed when local designer Darwin Harrison asked him to bring to life the drawings he made for his new residence with partner Robert Buckner.

Sited on a coveted 1-acre lot in Shoal Creek, the 4,500-square-foot home is defined by a central 75-foot glass hallway connecting the living areas. "The model for the house is what everyone thinks of when drawing one as a kid: a triangle on top of a square," says Sotelo, who founded Modern Design + Build with his wife, Kelli. "Darwin and Robert were drawn to the classic barn shape, so they wanted to be very much traditional—but get crazy with materials."

That's putting it mildly. For the project, Sotelo worked with sculpted-aluminum wall tiles, polished- and burnished-concrete floors, solid-glass bricks, Douglas-fir trim and millwork, Texas Leuders limestone flooring and exposed-steel accents. The exterior alone shows off items like quarry blocks and a metal panel typically used on commercial buildings. The list of materials spans from the oldest known to man—rammed Earth, used in an office—to one of the newest: paper stone, which appears on countertops and base trim. Another office is outfitted with red Roman brick, while the kitchenette is housed in a glass box.

To meld the disparate elements, Sotelo treated each connection as a separate project. The number used in each room was also limited. "When you look at any spot, you see only two or three materials at one time," he says. "It doesn't feel overwhelming." For the builder, the 11-month project was a lesson in finding harmony in contrasts—which led him to term a new style of home: Darwinism. "It's reflecting of the owner's name," Sotelo muses. "This project is more about how it came to be than about what it is." moderndb.com

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