



MODERN MODESTY

By SHARLA BELL
Photography by THOMAS MCCONNELL

When David Webber of Webber + Studio, Architects began the design process for a cottage in South Austin, he understood the potential for the project. Located conveniently close to the downtown area, and in a neighborhood on the cusp of urban renewal, Webber saw an opportunity to build sustainably while maintaining the quaint look and feel of the neighborhood. The homeowners also wanted to explore contemporary design, and the resulting home is all of this — green, charming and modern — and completely unique.



Before



“Fitting all of the sustainable designs into a budget may be difficult, but ultimately are well worth the expense, not just because of practical factors such as the added energy efficiency, but also the intrinsic value of living responsibly.”

David Wilkes, David Wilkes Builders



And sometimes being green can be simple. To maximize the energy efficiency of an air conditioning unit, a well-insulated roof and walls are essential. Webber says that “something as easy as putting the insulation above the AC equipment, inside the cool envelope of the house, can make a huge impact on the overall efficiency of that equipment.” Wilkes adds that a house must be “tight”—no leaking of air at doors and windows—to ensure that energy isn’t wasted.

While a touchstone for green building practices, Webber believes this house seems to have a broader influence as well. “Even though we always loved the simple modern modesty of this design, I have been pleasantly surprised that this house has appealed to so many different people for so many different reasons. ❖

RESOURCES

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