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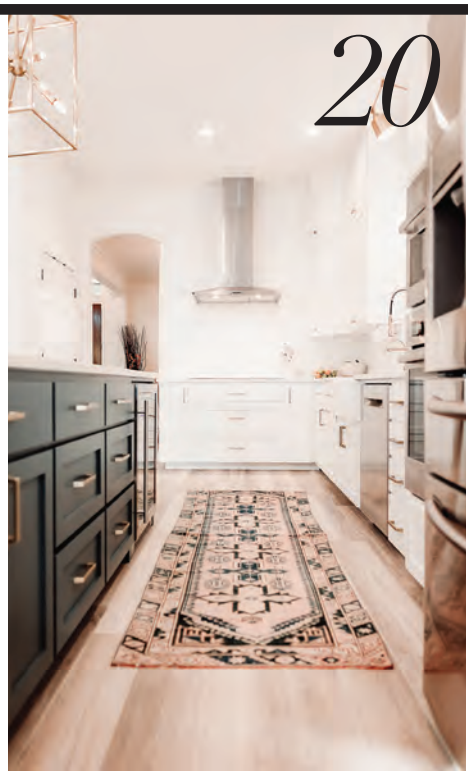


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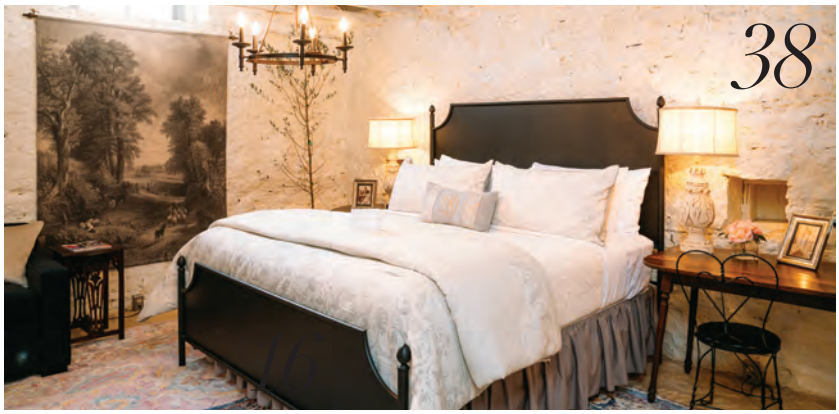
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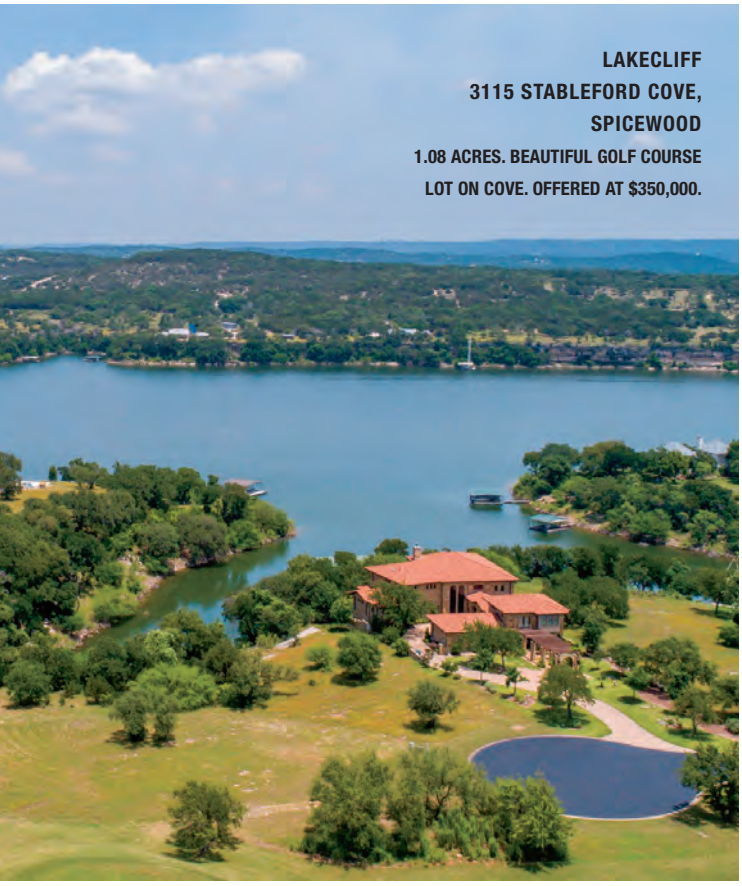




ON THE COVER: Decluttered, functional, and multi-use are three of the buzzwords flying around during this pandemic period when it comes to our homes. Julie Roberts, CEO of Thrive Design, guides you through the decision to make your space work for you or ditch it for new digs. Cover photography by Carrin Lewis Photography. The Homes section begins on page 19.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PHOTOGRAPHY BY DIANA AKHMETIANOVA; CARRIN LEWIS PHOTOGRAPHY; SNAP CHIC PHOTOGRAPHY; COURTESY OF THE KENDALL; PAVLA GUGGENHEIM

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THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

I'm so excited about this HOMES issue — it's my favorite one of the year after the Holiday one.

If you're like me, then you love anything house related. Who doesn't adore touring through model homes just to get decorating ideas, flipping through house and garden magazines, or scouring Pinterest to get inspiration for reinventing their personal comfort zone?

Like many people around the country this past year, I have to admit I got sucked into the COVID craziness of feeling frustrated about my house. While it's always been great for us, I was suddenly living within the same four walls 24/7, and realizing that everything from the paint to the kitchen cabinet pulls had to go ASAP!

I even lapsed into momentary delusions of selling my house and moving, thinking it would solve all of my problems. That was until I regained my sanity realizing moving wouldn't be such a joy and the stress of relocating was probably much worse than dealing with an extra person working out of the house. A nice hot "Calgon take me away" bath brought me back to my senses!

But the myriad thoughts and concerns I had while being homebound became the inspiration for the articles I chose for the HOMES issue. These are all topics I found myself wanting to learn more about — and I hope you do, too.

I have to admit I am so grateful we stayed in our house. I'm thrilled with the edits we made — yes, I did get new cabinet pulls — and I'm thrilled our family has found many new ways to do things, organize clutter, and make our comfort zone so much more comfortable.

We've regained that "Home Sweet Home" sentiment and are definitely here to stay.

All my best,



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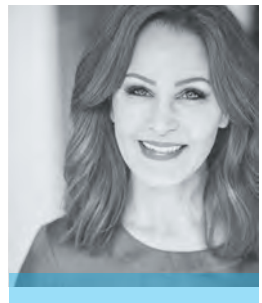
Lisa
JAUREGUI

Austin's own makeup vlogger Lisa Jauregui has amassed more than 12 million views of the tutorials and reviews she's posted to YouTube since 2014. This self-professed makeup addict launched her BK Beauty line of makeup brushes in 2019.



Dutch
SIMMONS

Dutch has been shortlisted for the Texas Observer's Short Fiction Award and the Julia Peterkin Flash Fiction Prize. His short stories have been featured in numerous literary magazines. His debut novel, *Return By* is currently being edited.



Edie
HENRY

Before transitioning into her career as a stylist and image consultant, Edith "Edie" Henry worked as an actress, model, makeup artist and interior designer. She moved to Texas in 2009 and has served as the fashion editor for the digital publication *Texas Lifestyle Magazine*.



Lori
DURAN

With a master's degree that combined Latin American Studies with Master of Business Administration classes from the University of Texas, Lori Duran researches interesting historical stories of social changes. Her current book *Austin's Travis Heights Neighborhood* describes the rich and fascinating history of the original south Austin.



Jane
COLOCCIA

Jane Coloccia has been writing about travel, food, and design for nearly two decades. A former Director of Communications for The Leading Hotels of the World, Jane has traveled the globe telling stories for hotels, travel services, restaurants, and other businesses on nearly every continent.



Cindy
BRZOSTOWSKI

Cindy Brzostowski is a full-time freelance writer who previously worked in book publishing. Her writing has been published in *Time Out Austin* and on Thrillist and CultureMap, among other media outlets. A graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, she enjoys introducing Texans to new adventures in their state.



Shelley
SEALE

A full-time freelance writer and editor, Shelley Seale has been published in *National Geographic*, *The Guardian*, *Austin Woman* and *Texas Monthly*, among others. She has also authored or contributed to several books, including *The Not So Good, Rather Inadequate Circus* and *How to Travel the World for Free (Or Pretty Damn Near It!)*.



Jamie
TWITCHEL

An avid reader, writer and seeker of knowledge, Jamie has three college degrees she rarely needs to use and tons more life experience she uses all the time. Outside of *Waterways*, her work has been featured in *Hill Country View* and *Georgetown View* magazines. When not reading and writing, she can be found building websites.

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The Lash Lowdown

Which lash will make a bigger splash? *By Lisa Jauregui*

One of my favorite tricks to enhance the eyes is to add faux lashes. They used to only be worn for special occasions, but these days, there are so many options to show off full faux lashes that they are becoming a daily accessory for many. I've tried them all, and each has its pros and cons.

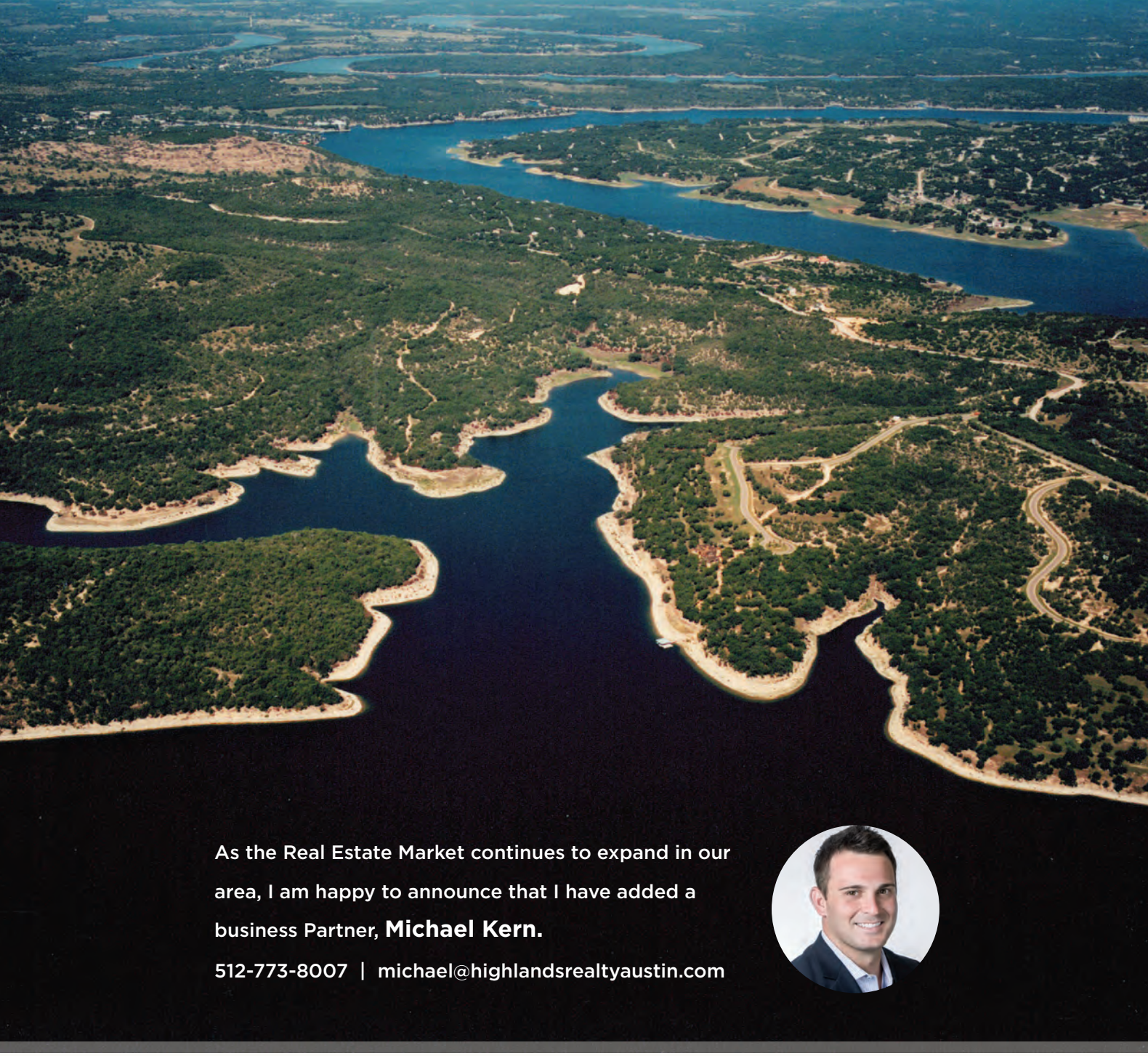
Semi-permanent and customizable, lash extensions have become a widely popular beauty shop offering over the last decade. The extensions are applied to your natural lash with a special adhesive that bonds to the hair for about six weeks. Unfortunately, to maintain your gorgeous new lashes, a refill appointment is required every two to three weeks to maintain fullness. That's because the natural lash growth cycle will cause them to grow out and shed before the extensions' adhesive wears off.

It is important to research your lash stylist, so read some Yelp reviews. This is a skilled service, and a good stylist is worth paying a premium price or waiting to get an appointment. Applied incorrectly, your natural lashes can be damaged, your eyes irritated (from the adhesive) or the look might be far from what you are going for. A skilled stylist should be able to customize the length, fullness and curl you would like, tailored to your eye shape, so that it looks best on you.

There are a few things to consider before scheduling your first appointment. First, are you committed to maintaining the lash extensions with fill appointments every few weeks? If not, reconsider. While they are beautiful, and it's convenient to wake up with gorgeous full lashes, when you do remove them, you will likely notice that your natural lashes are worse off than before you applied the extensions. A good lash serum will get them back to normal after four to six weeks, but until then, you will need to settle for tiny, short, thin lashes. This is why it may not be worth it to apply them for a one-time special occasion like a wedding or vacation. There are better options. However, if you want to look fabulous from sunrise to sundown while cutting your makeup application time in half—and don't mind the time and expense of having extensions added, I say go for it! (Start using a lash serum about a month before you plan to remove them.)

Faux lash strips are the original lash enhancement option as they have been around for decades and continue to evolve in style and ease of application. They are faux lashes on a thin strip that are applied to the eyelid (not the natural lash hair) with an adhesive. These are widely available at supermarkets, pharmacies and department stores, priced from a few dollars to $25. With proper care, they can be reused multiple times. >>

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Semi-permanent and customizable, lash extensions have become a widely popular beauty shop offering over the last decade. The extensions are applied to your natural lash with a special adhesive that bonds to the hair for about six weeks.







These strips are generally safe, but anyone with allergies to latex should use a latex-free lash adhesive. Application takes practice to perfect, but once you do, you'll find they are easy and quick to apply to any look to add a little glam. My favorite is Ardell Demi Wispies, which I affix using Ardell Lashtite Dark Adhesive. Whichever adhesive you use, it should be transparent, but if you are too heavy-handed with white adhesive, it will look odd on the lid. Dark adhesives look more like your eyeliner. I squeeze a small amount on my hand, let it dry for about a minute (just enough time to get sticky) and then I apply a thin layer on the strip using the end of clean tweezers or any small tool.

Magnetic strip lashes are a new twist on faux lash strips. Rather than using an adhesive to apply these, the strip has tiny, evenly distributed magnets. A magnetic eyeliner is generally used to apply these. The magnetic liner comes in liquid form. A good one will resemble your favorite liquid liner while a bad one will resemble a grittier, thicker version of it. Simply apply the liner and allow it to set for a minute. The magnetic lash strip will magnetically attract it and—voila! It really is fascinating, like magic, the first time you apply these. It's an easier option if you struggle with standard adhesive. They offer the same look, but rather than having to master applying a glue strip, you just have to master applying liquid liner. You might find you need to test a few liners to find the perfect formula, though, as some are grittier and stickier than others.

If you decide that your natural lashes just need a little love, you are in luck. There are so many great mascaras that offer a very similar look to faux lashes. To maximize your natural lashes, curl them, apply a lash primer such as the Diorshow Maximizer 3D and finish with a good volumizing and lengthening mascara. Some of my favorites are Chanel Le Volume, BITE Beauty and Lancôme Lash Idôle. The best enhancement product for natural lashes is a good lash growth serum. RevitaLash has worked wonders on my thin, short lashes. With any serum, consistency is key. It will take four to six weeks of daily applications to start to see results, so if instant gratification is your thing, you are out of luck. Just have faith that your thicker, longer lashes are coming.

Regardless of the option you choose, have fun, and try different styles and products!

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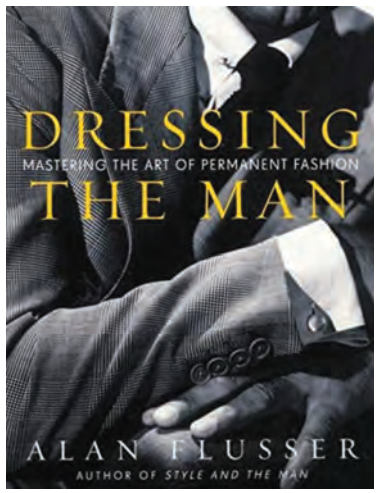
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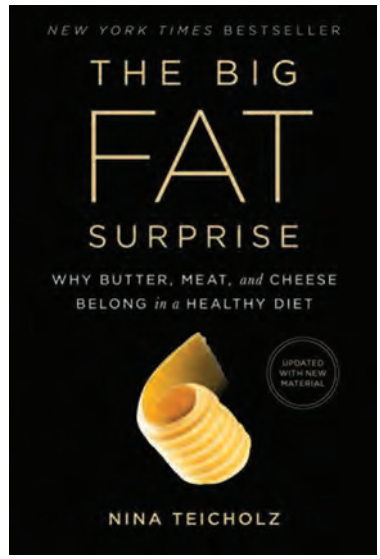
Page-turners to wile away the hours *By Jamie Twitchel*



Chanel: Collections and Creations
by Daniele Bott
Chanel: Collections and Creations reveals Coco Chanel's brilliant designs from the 1920s onward and examines the key items—the suit, camellia, jewelry, fragrances and cosmetics—that have been reinvented by fashion designers following in her footsteps ever since. After admiring page after page of dazzling clothes, intricate accessories, stunning models and timeless designs inside this handsome hardcover book, it isn't difficult to understand Chanel's enduring fame.

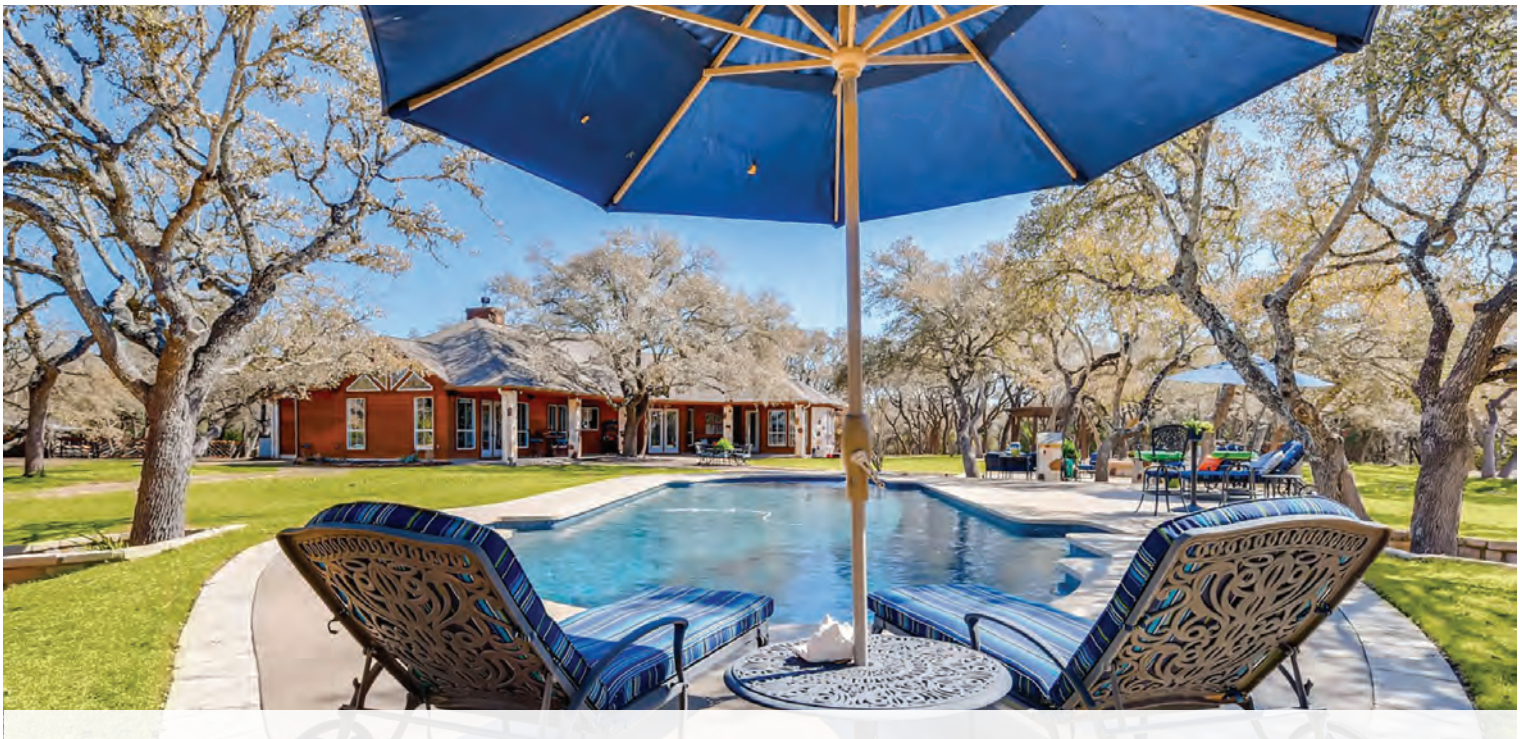


Dressing the Man: Mastering the Art of Permanent Fashion
by Alan Flusser
Dressing the Man is the definitive men's guide to sartorial fulfillment, dressing well and looking stylish. Alan Flusser delves into the foundations of style, from discovering colors that suit one's complexion to finding proportions that flatter, while discussing the evolution of men's fashion over the decades. From neckties to shoes, pocket handkerchiefs to belts, Flusser touches on all of the elements that have defined the elegant, well-dressed man from yesteryear and today.



The Big Fat Surprise: Why Butter, Meat and Cheese Belong in a Healthy Diet
by Nina Teicholz
After a nine-year investigation, Nina Teicholz reveals how overzealous researchers, corporate greed and propaganda allowed dangerous misrepresentations about saturated fats to become dietary dogma. *The Big Fat Surprise* upends conventional wisdom about fats with the groundbreaking claim that more, not less, dietary (including saturated) fat leads to better health and wellness. Science shows, she argues, that we have been needlessly avoiding meat, cheese, whole milk and eggs and that we can now—guilt-free—welcome these delicious foods back into our lives.

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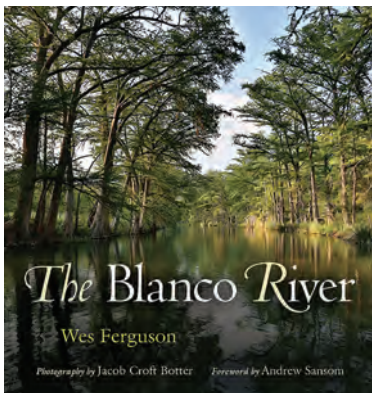
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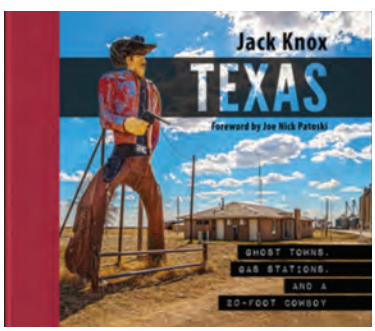
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The Blanco River
by Wes Ferguson
The Blanco River winds through the Texas Hill Country for 87 miles; its water is clear and green and darkened by frequent pools. Wes Ferguson and photographer Jacob Croft Botter traversed the Blanco, exploring its history, people, wildlife and natural beauty, to tell the tale (and showcase images) of this changeable river from end to end and from its past to its future.

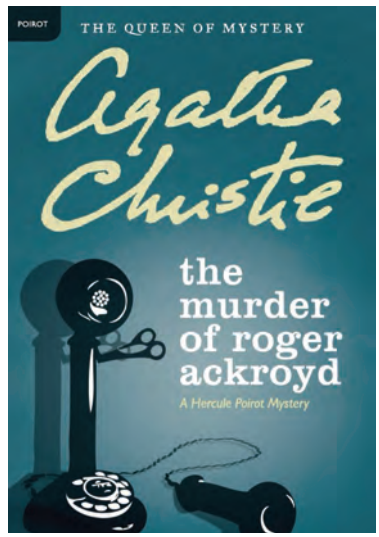


Texas: Ghost Towns, Gas Stations, and a 20-foot Cowboy
by Jack Knox
Featuring antiquated theaters, gas stations, cars, barns, boats, farmhouses and more, Jack Knox's *Texas: Ghost Towns, Gas Stations, and a 20-foot Cowboy* focuses on the enchanting rust and decay that inevitably consumes many of these icons from our Old West past. Knox has preserved them in a vast collection of images that capture the allure of the timeworn buildings and landmarks.

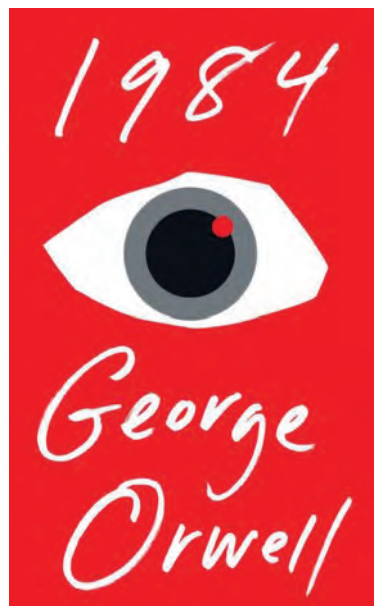


Magnolia Table, Volume 2: A Collection of Recipes for Gathering
by Joanna Gaines
Following the release of her best-selling cookbook, *Magnolia Table*, Joanna Gaines upped her game. Inspired to get back in the kitchen and out of her comfort zone, Gaines created new recipes—such as mushroom-gruyere quiche, pumpkin cream cheese bread and stuffed pork loin—for her family (and yours) to relish. Whether for breakfast, lunch or dinner, this cookbook gives readers a cornucopia of reasons to gather and indulge.

1984
by George Orwell
George Orwell's classic 1949 novel depicting a dystopian society in which the government controls the narrative at any cost resonates more with each passing year, making it increasingly seem more like nonfiction than fiction. Winston Smith spends his days literally rewriting history to satisfy the demands of the Ministry of Truth. With each lie, his hate grows for the party that seeks power for its own sake and persecutes those who dare to commit 'thoughtcrimes.' Yet even as he begins to think for himself, he can't escape the fact that 'Big Brother' is always watching.



The Murder of Roger Ackroyd: A Hercule Poirot Mystery
by Agatha Christie
Ranked 'Best Crime Novel of All Time' by the British Crime Writers' Association, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* sees super-sleuth Hercule Poirot come out of retirement to track down his friend's killer. As Poirot works to untangle the mystery surrounding the murder, he discovers that everyone close to the victim had a secret worth killing for, and it will take all of his 'little grey cells' to uncover which one actually did it.



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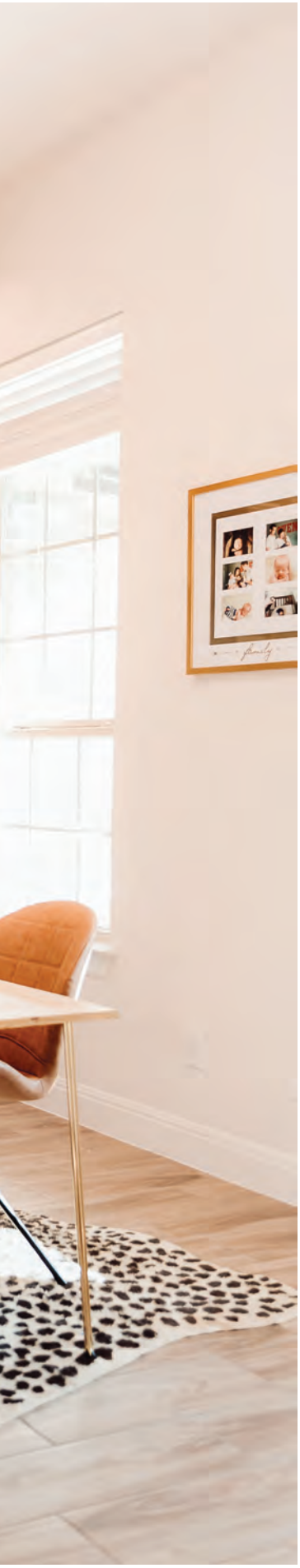
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CARRIN LEWIS PHOTOGRAPHY











Reinventing HOME SWEET HOME

Move or Renovate—Which Is the Better Option?

by JANE COLOCCIA photography by CARRIN LEWIS PHOTOGRAPHY

You don't have to go far to notice one of the many unexpected impacts of COVID on our daily lives. It's right where you live. Almost overnight, the role of our homes shifted from a place to lay our heads after a day of work, school, or other activities to our safe cocoon from which we rarely ventured. >>





As we began to spend nearly every waking moment inside the walls of our houses, it made many of us realize that we didn't have enough room or the right spaces to accommodate the way we now lived. Julie Roberts, Principal and CEO of Thrive Design, offered *Waterways* readers some insights and practical suggestions for those of us who are unsure about whether to move or renovate to solve this problem.

The housing market may drive your decision

Ever since the pandemic hit, the housing market has been on fire. As a result, in addition to very limited availability in Austin, the price per square foot has increased dramatically. In many cases, the market is driving decisions to just stay where you are and renovate because there are simply no other options available.

"I like to ask people if they are happy with their location overall," says Roberts. "Because if the answer is yes, we can fix the house and make it exactly what they want. However, if they are dissatisfied with the neighborhood, school district, or location, then selling and moving to a place that better meets their needs is definitely the better option."

Our homes now need to multi-task

The lifestyle changes brought on by the pandemic have caused most of us to use our homes in different ways. Suddenly, we need a lot more functionality—spaces for adults to work from home and other spaces that are useful for distance learning for our children. We are cooking more and discovering our kitchens are too small or not as functional as we would like. And people are now working out at home, making spaces for home gyms a priority as well. Peloton bicycle sales surged 172 percent last year, for example, causing the company to post its first-ever profit, but it's also dealing with supply-chain issues because people can't get their hands on home gym equipment fast enough.

"Pools and [space for] Pelotons are the two biggest asks we are seeing these days," notes Roberts. "Everyone is getting a pool installed, and indoor-outdoor spaces are also high on the wish list. One of the biggest challenges homeowners are dealing with is the ability to identify separate areas to accommodate two working parents and remote learning so that everyone can function without hearing someone else nearby."

Roberts added that if people have a list of 'wants' in mind while understanding that certain rooms might need to serve multiple needs, spaces can be designed to do double or even triple duty.

"If you have a yoga practice, we can create an open space in your living room where all you need to do is push the coffee table back and set out your yoga mat. We can also set up workstations for the kids in a guestroom away from their bedrooms, which have lots of toys and other distractions, to enable a greater focus on learning during school hours."

Kitchens are once again the heart of the house

When the pandemic hit, suddenly everyone was rediscovering cooking because restaurants were closed. Baking, bread-making and more elaborate types of cooking began rising in popularity, causing people to take a closer look at

the functionality of their kitchens and recognizing that they no longer met their needs.

"I've had a lot of requests for more bar seating so the family can sit around and do interactive cooking together," says Roberts. "People also want to upgrade appliances, so they're upgrading to 30-inch cooktops and adding larger refrigerators and freezers to stock up on food."

A shift to practical design

"Our primary request lately is to make things kid-friendly," Roberts notes. "People want comfortable, functional, larger, decluttered entertainment spaces and fabrics and rugs that can withstand more use." Drawing on a background in hotel interior design, she's been able to recommend commercial hospitality finishes for the home that are both functional and durable.

A huge part of practical design is including enclosed storage. "Less visual clutter equates to less anxiety and stress," Roberts observes. "When people have a spot for stuff to be put away, they feel much better about everything."



Incorporating biophilic design

Biophilic design plays off the hypothesis that most humans have an innate love of nature, and integrating natural elements into the interior design creates greater harmony and relaxation.

Roberts notes that bringing the outside in and working with color temperatures and light bulbs that correct for the time of day have a significant impact on our well-being. "Plants and greenery tend to make things feel brighter and happier," says Roberts. "Another way we are achieving this subconscious effect of elevating happiness is through less sterile environments, like adding color to all-white kitchens. There is a trending move toward natural colors and elements."

She also advises her clients to include spaces that promote mental wellness, whether that means a small meditation room or a retreat space. "You can turn a closet into your own private retreat or even settle for a comfortable chair that is yours alone where you can sit and tune the world out—a relax zone."

DIY TIPS TO REIMAGINE YOUR SPACES

For those lacking the budget to hire professionals to remodel their homes, Roberts offers some helpful tips.

- **Declutter first: Keep the things you love and feel good about, and sell, donate, recycle, or dispose of everything else.**
- **Incorporate living elements: Plant a living wall with a do-it-yourself kit to bring the outside in.**
- **Stick with a monochromatic palette: Find a color you love and keep with it throughout the home.**
- **Check out Pinterest: Surf the Pinterest boards and mimic a style that you like, but start small.**

Overall, Roberts believes that optimum functionality is the way of the future. "You have to make your space work for you versus being a slave to what you own. There is no point living in a space if you don't love it."



GRACEFUL SPACES



An Organized Home is a Happy Home
Expert Tips from Graceful Spaces Organizing

by CINDY BRZOSTOWSKI photography by PAVLA GUGGENHEIM

Given that we're all spending far more time at home, we've had plenty of opportunities to really experience our living spaces—and determine whether they're working for our needs. Some people have found themselves in a 'decluttering' frenzy. Others have realized that their space needs whipping into shape but don't know where to start.

Whichever side you fall on, Graceful Spaces Organizing, a boutique home-organizing company based in Austin, offers expert guidance and hands-on help. We talked with founding co-owners Christina Lee and Rebecka Jodeit to understand their approach to clean, clutter-free living and get tips for long-term organizational success.

Cleaning House

While creating beautiful spaces is certainly part of their passion, Lee and Jodeit go beyond aesthetics by helping their clients find solutions that support who they are and how they want to live in their homes.

"Our heart as a company is to inspire simplicity and see families' lives transformed through organization," says Lee. "Being organized enables our clients to enjoy order, simplicity and peace in their homes."

From transforming crammed closets to reorganizing sprawling ranch homes, Lee and Jodeit have worked on more than 950 spaces since they launched their business in 2017.

"We've learned that the same effective organization methods that create clean, clutter-free homes apply to any and all homes—leading to less stress and enabling our clients to take control of their time rather than react to the demands of life," Jodeit explains.

It all revolves around Graceful Spaces' signature CEO (Categorize, Edit, Organize) method. Following this proven approach, their clients can quickly determine what's in their space, what items are needed and used, and what items they bid farewell. Once that's done, the Graceful Spaces team creates a customized plan to figure out where everything that's left belongs and then puts things into place using organizational products tailored to the space's measurements, client's budget and home's style.

Get Organized for Good

While you may be tempted to focus on quick fixes when tidying up your home, Lee and Jodeit believe that looking at the bigger picture is the best path to success.

"Sorting, labeling and moving things around might make your space look great today," Lee says, "but if you don't take the time to thoughtfully create a system and a solution that's unique to your family's goals and priorities then the mess will all come back." If you're new to home organizing, Lee and Jodeit offer up a few tips for getting started:

Make it easier to move on from things: "Put a 'donate' bin in key areas of the home that tend to collect unwanted items, such as the laundry room, kids' closets and garage. Create a weekly or monthly calendar alert to take donations to your local charity drop-off location."

Set a goal: "Start in a smaller space, and make it a goal to complete that space before moving on to a new project. Don't forget to write down your goal. The act of journaling is proven to extend your mental capacity and will help you communicate your goals to others."

Make memories (on top shelves): "Create a memory bin for every member of the household. The contents of these bins should only be the things that truly tug at the heartstrings. Take photos, and let go of the rest." >>









"Being organized enables our clients to enjoy order, simplicity and peace in their homes."



If you've done some organizing before, Lee and Jodeit have some advice to keep you on the right track:

Categorize before you buy: "Before making an investment in baskets and bins, we suggest categorizing what you have. Remove what is not needed from the space (trash, donate, or items that belong in a new home), and then take inventory of what is going to stay in the space. From there, get out that measuring tape and thoughtfully purchase organizational products that fit and will work for the items that are staying in the space."

Organizing is not a one-time activity: "Ask yourself what routines will be helpful in maintaining organization in the space so the maintenance is easy and stress-free. Share this list with family members, and ask them to participate in the success."

Labeling is key to success: "When everyone knows where items go, they are empowered to participate in the upkeep of a space."

Gracefully Organized

In need of some additional support during your organizational journey? Graceful Spaces is available for in-person services, consultations and staff training in Austin and surrounding areas. The company also has step-by-step virtual courses available on their website tailored to different areas of the home.

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Keen On Green

FOUR EASY WAYS TO CREATE A GREENER HOME

By Shelley Seale



Creating a healthful lifestyle and home is important to all of us, and living more sustainably has become mainstream. Today's average consumer is much more aware of—and concerned about—potentially harmful food, skin/body products, cleaning items and home goods. People are also more committed to wasting less and re-using and recycling more.

Thankfully, it doesn't have to be that hard or time-consuming to adopt a few easy habits that go a long way towards creating a healthier and more eco-friendly home. And while some of these changes can cost you a bit more (such as organic foods), most actually save money while helping to save the planet. >>

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Here are a few steps you can take right now to create a healthier and greener household.

The myth of recycling

Don't get me wrong—recycling isn't a bad thing. I recycle everything I can; we all should. But it can create a trap we fall into: we think that just because something can be recycled, it's okay to buy it. We use more plastics, more cardboard, more glass, more aluminum—and feel guilt-free when we toss them all into the recycling bin.

The post-World War II era saw a new affluence in America along with a lot of new conveniences. Many of these were huge time and work savers, such as dishwashers and prepared meals. A lot of them, however, resulted in a disposable throwaway economy in which single-use items like plastic wrap, sandwich bags, straws and the like were taken to our landfills by the millions each day until they became mountains of garbage.

One of the simplest steps you can take that will reduce your footprint is to bring reusable products into your home to replace discarded items, such as beeswax-coated cloth wraps for leftover food and food-storage zipper bags that can be washed and used over and over. Ditto with glass or metal water bottles, stainless-steel straws and other simple everyday products that make it easy to go reusable rather than throw things away. Use microfiber multiuse cloths instead of paper towels whenever possible. Many of these products come in really pretty and fun patterns and colors—and while they cost a bit more upfront, in the long run, you'll save money compared to constantly buying disposable products.

Remember the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Don't let the ease of recycling lull you into a false sense of complacency so that instead of first reducing your consumption and then reusing everything you can, you just buy more stuff as long as you can recycle it.

Buy natural cleaning products or make your own

The air inside the average American home is five to ten times more toxic than the air outside. Indoor air is typically contaminated by 20 to 150 different pollutants, most of which come from petroleum-based cleaning products. >>

CLOCKWISE: PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAIGA ELLABY; BLUEWATER GLOBE; GRAY MANDALA



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Aaronica Cole, aka The Crunchy Mommy, says that some of the most common cleaners lurking inside our homes, such as laundry detergent pods and bleach, can contain toxic ingredients.

"My favorite natural laundry detergents are Molly's Suds and Nellie's Laundry Soda," Cole says, adding that there are also many laundry detergent DIYs that use compounds such as Borax that work wonders. One go-to of hers is a recipe from Mrs Happy Homemaker. And a Crunchy Mommy tip that Cole shares is to add to each load of laundry in the washing machine a cup of white distilled vinegar, which acts as an effective natural fabric softener.

"As for house cleaners, Mrs. Meyer's, Aquavert and Seventh Generation are favorites of mine," says Cole. "If you're into DIY-ing, mixing water, vinegar, and some tea tree or lemon essential oils can normally knock everything out! And I use baking soda to shine my sink."

DIY skin and beauty products

This is one of my favorite things to do because it not only enables me to use very pure products with only a few whole ingredients, but it also saves a ton of money and is super-fun. I make my own face cleanser, toner, moisturizer, eye cream and bath salts. There are many blogs out there with terrific recipes for doing this—two of my favorites are Jenni Raincloud and Homemade for Elle.

Not everyone is into this or has time for it, however, and you probably can't make everything (I've yet to find a DIY mascara). Fortunately, here in the Austin area, we have some great stores that offer all-natural beauty products. Try W3LL PEOPLE, dedicated to making makeup and beauty products that are free from artificial preservatives, parabens, chemicals, dyes and fragrances, or Inventive Organics, which sells products developed in the 1990s by skin-care specialist Marisa Hernandez, now co-owned by three Austin women.

Shift your habit

One of the main resources I've used on my path to an eco-home is *Shift Your Habit*, a book by Elizabeth Rogers. It's filled with tips and recipes for things like cleaning and beauty products and focuses heavily on the tie between living more sustainably and less expensively. In the book, Rogers identifies what she calls the Super Shifts: the 15 changes that have the most impact and save the most money. It's the easiest way I know of to create a greener lifestyle!

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DIANA AKHMETIANOVA; TOA HEFTIBA



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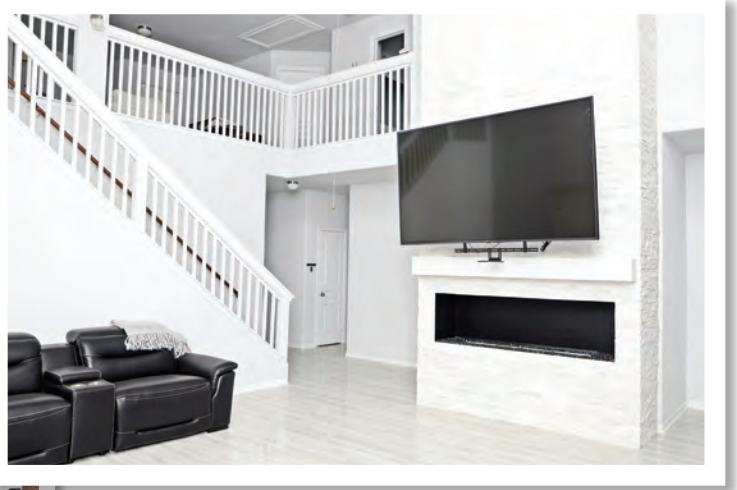
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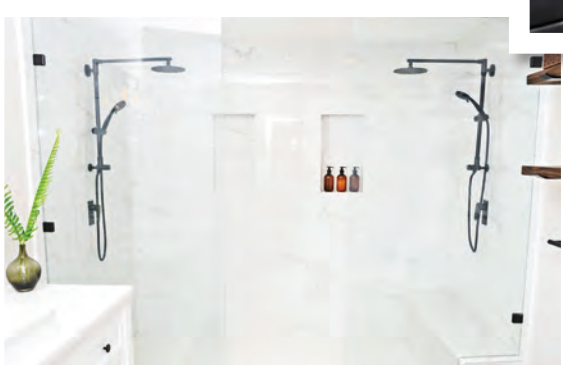
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Now You See Me

Transitioning From Covid Casual to Business Casual in the Workplace *By Edith Henry*

As COVID-19 rolled on into 2021, we all wondered how it would continue to affect the workforce and our jobs. A less momentous question also rattled around in the minds of some of us: How might it affect our wardrobe in the workplace?

So many of us have become comfortable, both literally and mentally, wearing WFH (work from home) attire—ranging from (yes) pajamas to loungewear and leggings. And why not be comfortable when you might go for hours without anyone seeing you? Oh, except during Zoom meetings, when you must only take into consideration your upper-body attire.

According to Upwork, only 41.8 percent of the American workforce will continue to work remotely once the pandemic fades away, which means that most of us will be returning to our offices and other workplaces.

How will this affect our apparel choices? Is what we've been wearing for most of 2020 appropriate for those of us who will be going back to working outside the home? Not so much. But there are exceptions.

For women returning to an office environment, is there any way to transition some of the WFH attire so that it's workplace-appropriate? Because let's face it, some of it is really comfortable. And if we can, what pieces qualify, and how can you pull it off?

Pajamas

In *most* cases, pajamas won't transition well. But in some cases, they just might! Pajama sets were actually quite a fashion statement a couple of years back. And although they were pieces only made to look like PJ's (usually using a different fabric), you could make a case for wearing actual PJ's to work. Try pairing a pajama top with a pair of jeans and pumps, and finish it with a blazer. Or, opt for the bottoms with a lightweight sweater, a leather jacket, and loafers. It really is dependent on the company's dress >>

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code and the fabric, weight, and print of the piece. Check your favorite fashion websites for inspiration.

Warmups

The same types of businesses that might accommodate pajamas may also accept your wearing warmups (aka track suits). Check your company dress code if there is one. The key to making such choices work is to pair them with a piece or two that is workplace-appropriate. For instance, a lightweight cashmere sweater or a crisp white blouse finished off with accessories and a pair of mules might sufficiently elevate the look of your warmups to be suitable at some workplaces. Or, just opt for wearing the track-suit jacket with a pair of cropped trousers and a blouse, completed with a fun patterned flat. Throw a cross-body bag on, and hardly anyone will notice the casual outfit underneath.

Loungewear

Loungewear can also be selectively integrated into workwear in some workplaces. It really depends on the written or unwritten dress code. But if casual attire is allowed, there are ways to pair loungewear with more mainstream pieces and rock them at work. Consider a pair of cozy joggers with a T-shirt, blazer, and booties. Or, pair a comfy loungewear jacket over a dress paired with sneakers or boots. Always remember accessories, as that addition alone will add some polish, and peruse the web for ideas from fashionistas.

Leggings

Leggings are by far the easiest item to cross over from WFH to the workplace. They have been in the workplace for years now. It is best and classiest, though, when wearing leggings to cover up and not look like you are going to the gym. Tunic tops with a blazer, a long sweater, or even an oversized shirt topped with a bomber jacket all complement leggings nicely in the workplace. As for footwear, the more workplace-appropriate the footwear is, the better the WFH piece will work. For instance, pairing any of the aforementioned ensembles with a pump, bootie, or loafer will make your overall look feel more appropriate than a running shoe.

Bottom line: Even if you are transitioning from WFH back to the workplace, you can don some comfy pieces and maintain a professional polished edge. It's rarely about a piece itself and more about how you style it. With some of these styling suggestions, you can be ready for an in-person *or* internet meeting!



For women returning to an office environment, is there any way to transition some of the WFH attire so that it's workplace-appropriate? Because let's face it, some of it is really comfortable.



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Greetings from Boerne

Your Next Day-Trip Destination Awaits *By Cindy Brzostowski*

For anyone looking to slow down and enjoy some true Texas Hill Country charm, Boerne (pronounced 'burn-ee,' like Bernie) is a great spot to add to your day-trip bucket list. Situated between Kerrville and San Antonio, the city is about a 90-minute drive from Austin and welcomes visitors with its mix of rich history, picturesque landscapes and inviting attractions.

EXPERIENCE NATURAL WONDERS

Fun fact: Boerne is home to two of the most impressive caves in the state—and they're open for visitors. The cheekily-named **Cave Without a Name** is a limestone cave with jaw-dropping formations. It's been a 'show cave' open for public tours since 1939 and is recognized as a National Natural Landmark. If possible, your visit will dovetail with one of the one-of-a-kind concerts held inside the cave—a memorable combination of amazing acoustics and natural beauty.

Another show cave in town is **Cascade Caverns**, Boerne's oldest tourist attraction. In addition to daily 'downunder' tours, it offers special flashlight tours and adventure spelunking tours for thrill-seekers. While exploring, see if you can catch sight of a rare Cascade Cavern salamander.

For nature excursions above the surface, **Cibolo Nature Center** offers miles of trails across 100 acres, leaving plenty of room to roam, bird-watch, picnic or just plain relax. The center is known for its educational programming for both kids and adults, so check the online calendar to see what events are coming up.

Boerne City Lake Park is another gem in the town of 10,000, affording visitors a scenic place to go fishing, boating and swimming. Along with other amenities, including a butterfly garden, a swimming pool, walking paths and a disc golf course, there's fun to be had for the whole family.

TREAT YOURSELF

For a little retail therapy, head over to Boerne's quaint Main Street, known as **The Hill Country Mile**. Dozens of locally-owned shops are found along this stretch. Two worth noting are **Carousel Antiques & Fickle Pickles** and **The Dienger Trading Co.** The former is a quirky little store where you can pick up delectable handmade pickles, world-famous for their sweet, crunchy, spicy taste. Located in an 1884 building that got its start as a grocery store, the latter is a bistro and boutique with wearables, furnishings and other treasures for sale. >>

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Situated between Kerrville and San Antonio, the city is about a 90-minute drive from Austin and welcomes visitors with its mix of rich history, picturesque landscapes and inviting attractions.

If you're in the mood for some pampering, pay a visit to **Puresólspa.** Experience the therapeutic effects of its signature salt cave, made with 20 tons of salt and inspired by the 13th-century Wieliczka Salt Mine in Poland. Other relaxing treatments, such as facials and massages, are also available.

GET SOME GRUB

Eating local and eating well are easy in Boerne. **Bear Moon Bakery and Cafe** is a popular choice for breakfast with options like the Breakfast Sandwich (made with scrambled egg, ham, tomato, jalapeño jam, greens and sharp cheddar on ciabatta) and the Cran-Walnut Teacakes.

Brunch lovers will want to indulge at **Little Gretel**, a restaurant that focuses on culinary delights from Central Europe. Their Eggs Benedict, homemade Hill Country pancakes and Czech kolaches are some favorites sure to hit the spot.

Did you bring your dog as your day-trip companion? If so, **Dog & Pony Grill** says come on by! Named after two high school mascots in Boerne, this laid-back spot boasts a large, family-friendly environment with a playscape and dog park for paying patrons.

To round out your day with some fine dining, reserve a table for dinner at **Peggy's on the Green**. Located in the historic inn **The Kendal**l, this restaurant offers Southern-inspired dishes including Andouille Shrimp and Grits and a Cast Iron Double Pork Chop in a refined, attractive setting.

QUENCH YOUR THIRST

There's nothing like a pit stop for a cold pint during a day of exploring. The family-owned and operated **Cibolo Creek Brewing Co.** changes its brews with the seasons, though some favorites like the Boerne Blonde and Creekside IPA are always on tap. If the weather is nice, choose your brew and grab a table on the patio.

For something more random, check out **Random Beer Garden**, a fun outdoor destination with 80-plus craft beers and ciders on tap. If the drinks aren't enough to lure you in, this family- and pet-friendly spot has food trucks onsite and often hosts live music.

BONUS: If one day in Boerne isn't enough, book a night at **The Kendall**. Located in the heart of the downtown historic district, this boutique hotel is a Texas and National Landmark with a history dating back to 1859. With its luxuriously elegant interiors, The Kendall serves as the perfect place to rest your head and recharge for another day of exploring.


The Dienger Trading Co.


The Kendall



Cibolo Creek Brewing Co.

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Austin's Flower Hill

Remembering the Smoot Family's Glorious Homestead

By Lori Duran

I have lived in Austin since 1984 and visited the city even before then. Whenever I drove west on 6th Street to get to MoPac Expressway, I would watch for the large old home on the north side that looked like a perfect example of a different era. I was always curious about that grand columned house where nearby businesses have sprung up in what was clearly once a residential area. The house was large, with an expansive lawn enclosed with elegant iron fencing.

The winding driveway that led from 6th Street to the side entrance of the house had me spellbound. Who used to live there, and who lives there now? It seemed kept up, but I never saw anyone. Little did I know at the time that this was the house of Jane Smoot, one of my fellow Daughters of the American Revolution. Over several years, I had regularly talked to Jane as it was my job to remind members of upcoming meetings. I always looked forward to calling her because she had an encyclopedic knowledge of Austin that she generously shared. After her passing, I finally learned that this striking residence was her family home.

Jane's grandfather was the first Smoot to discover Austin. In 1874, Reverend Richmond Kelley Smoot, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green, Kentucky, came to help establish a Southern Presbyterian Church here. Within a year, he concluded his work and returned to Bowling Green while holding onto fond memories of Austin. Two years later, he packed up and moved back to Austin with his wife Sarah and their >>



Dining Room



Jane Smoot

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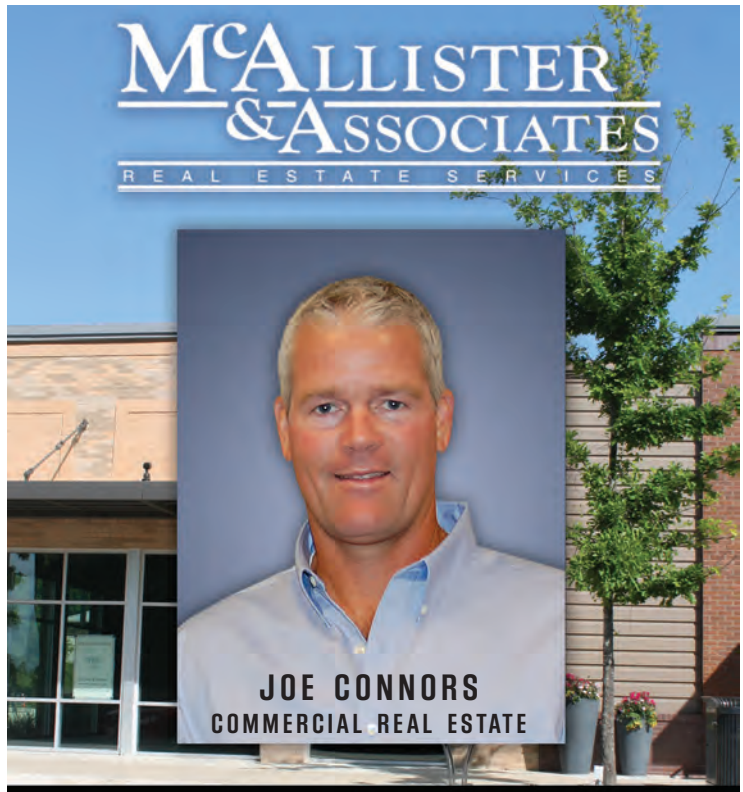
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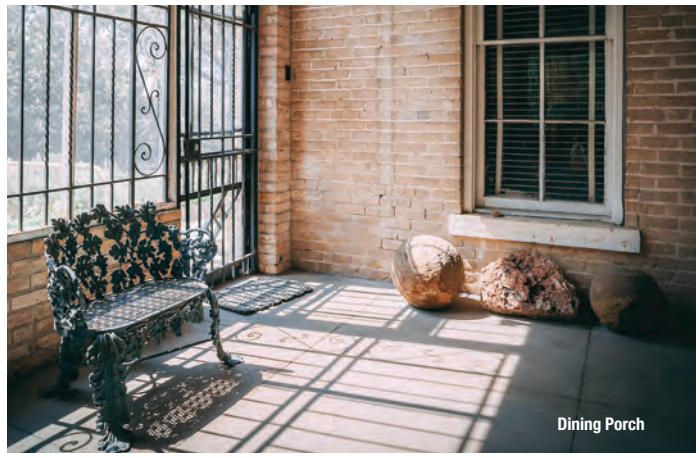


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Dining Porch

two boys, Lawrence and Asher. Rev. Smoot purchased five rolling acres west of the city but just one-and-a-half miles from the Capitol building.

Rev. Smoot financed building a house by selling off the northern and eastern sections of the property. In July 1877, the Butler Brick Company began transporting dusty rose-colored bricks from Barton Springs and Zilker Park to the West Austin property. The house was built so quickly that the bricks were slightly soft when laid; handprints are still visible all over the face of the house today.

Originally, the house consisted of four rooms and a sweeping staircase. Rev. Smoot was enthralled by the Texas wildflower season, so the home was named Flower Hill. Over the years, the Smoot family homestead expanded to become a 14-room estate with four halls and four porches. It housed as many as a dozen immediate and extended family members.

In the home's library, Rev. Smoot formed the Austin School of Theology, which grew into the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Interestingly, the acclaimed short story writer William Sydney Porter (aka O. Henry) was a family friend of the Smoots. In 1887, the writer married his bride in the Flower Hill parlor.

The first generation of family members raised in the house were the pastor's two sons, Lawrence and Asher, and both became prominent citizens. Lawrence attended the University of Texas Law School and served as the Texas Supreme Court reporter for 66 years, still the record as the longest-serving Texas civil servant. Lawrence's writings and the expansive Texas law library inside the home have attracted the interest of professors and law students for decades. Asher worked as a journalist for the *Austin Evening Statesman* and later cofounded and worked as general manager of the rival morning paper, the *Austin American*, beginning in 1914. (The two papers eventually merged in 1973 to become the *Austin American-Statesman*.)

Jane Smoot, born to Lawrence and Julia Smoot in 1919, was an only child and the last of the three generations of the Smoots to live at Flower Hill. She grew up drawing on the finger-dimpled bricks from Barton Springs, raising chickens and playing in the grounds' wild gardens and springs. Jane was an educator in the Austin public school system for 40 years, and she preserved her family homestead and its memories.

Flower Hill is more than a rare vintage home in the heart of Austin. It is a genuine snapshot of the past. It's also a Certified Texas Wildscape, with dozens of native flora species and an American Indian signal tree on the 1.38-acre grounds, along with six historic outbuildings—a lumber room, chicken coop, carriage garage, barn, rose arbor and stables. The lectures, letters, articles, sermons, curriculum plans and diaries of the Smoots remain well preserved at the Flower Hill Urban Homestead Museum, which operates on the family estate at 1316 W. 6th Street in Austin. Tours are available by appointment on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 10 a.m.

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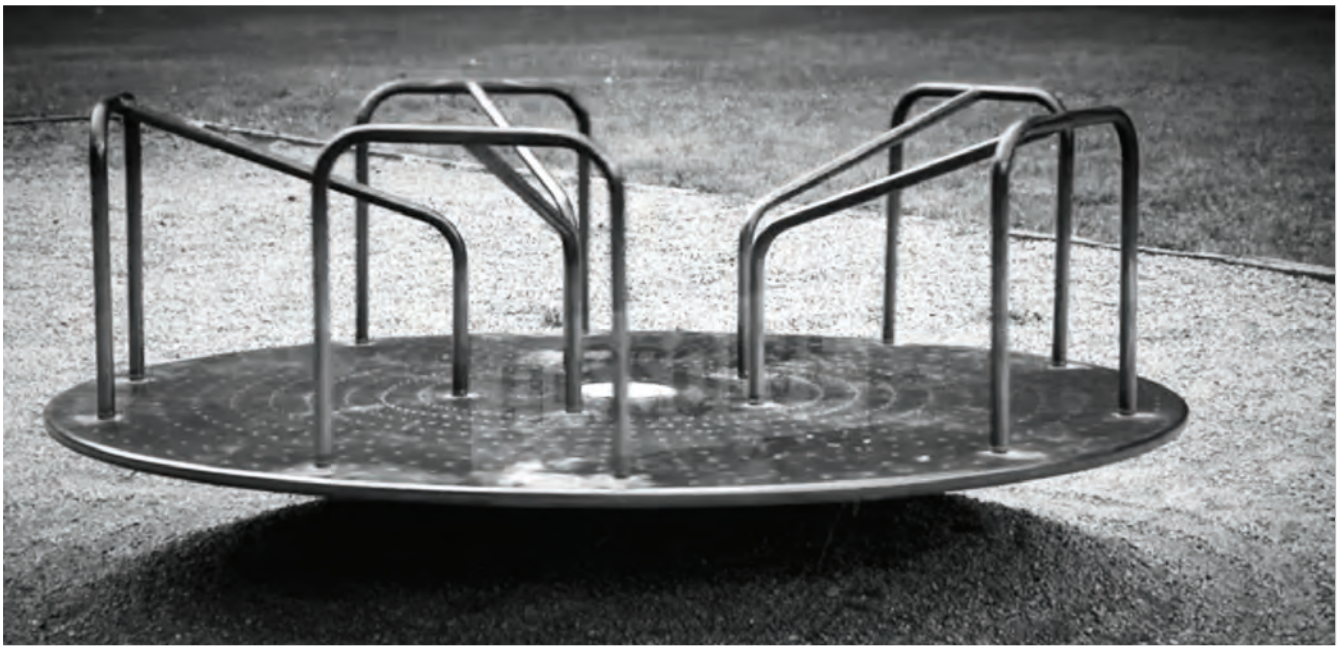
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The Merry-Go-Round of Springwood Park

By Dutch Simmons

Peter looked anxiously at his watch. The school bus was running late again. Depending on traffic, the parking lot at Springwood Park's playground could be full by the time he and Max got there after Max's day at school. It was a crap-shoot every week, especially in the early spring. Everyone with a hint of cabin fever was eager to get outside and shed a few layers of clothes.

He knew Max preferred Zilker Park. It was tough to argue with a six-year-old; the park did have everything. Trying to keep him from riding the Zilker Zephyr was a challenge in itself. But the one thing Zilker didn't have was "her."

Peter had no idea who "her," the young raven-haired mom, was. He had seen her on his last several trips to the park. Friendly smiles of acknowledgment were exchanged. The late-afternoon Texas sun framing her head reminded him of religious frescoes he studied as an undergrad.

Her daughter was roughly the same age as Max. He watched them playing on the playground merry-go-round together but never long enough to spark a conversation between the parents. How much of a monster was he to hope that Max would push the merry-go-round too hard and knock her off? He would rush over, profusely apologetic. His son was more of a gentleman than he was.

This is what life had become. Hoping his child acts like a sociopath in order to foster an introduction. Well adjusted adults simply made small talk about how nicely the kids got along, school, or the weather. That is what outgoing, socially adaptable people did.

Peter was far from outgoing. Introverted to a fault, he would never have met his former wife had serendipity not intervened and paired them as writing partners during graduate school. The trips to the park were her domain. It wasn't because she insisted on doing it; it was due to his crippling social anxiety. He gladly handled all domestic chores in the house in order to limit interactions with the outside world.

He was human nonetheless; he had needs, though they were kept firmly locked down in the deepest recesses of his mind. It wasn't so much that he suffered from wanton biological urges. He was lonely. The comfort of daily routines was missing. Small talk about the mundane of any given day gave way to shopping lists and half-hearted battles over what to watch on Netflix. It was about the routine and the regular, and he was out of sync without it.

He had long made peace with the angry demons that tormented him. The days of cursing doctors in their white coats with their hushed tones explaining hospice care while holding his wife's hand among a tangle of squid-like wires had long passed. >>

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Mourning had no timeframe, but an internal clock reminded him of the need for some level of companionship. The opportunity seemingly presented itself once a week when they saw each other in the park.

Peter noticed she didn't wear a wedding ring. It really didn't signify anything, but at least he felt he could approach safely without appearing crass or inappropriate.

Even if he did approach, he had no idea what to say. "Lovely day, isn't it" or "They grow up so fast" didn't seem pithy, just painfully clichéd.

These were the thoughts that crippled him on the way to the park. Each week was going to be "the day," but the courage was never mustered and the opportunity repeatedly squandered.

Today would be different. It was a solemn vow, although there was no one to hold him accountable.

The yellow bus's hulking presence shuddered to a halt, and Max scrambled off eagerly into Peter's waiting arms. They were both enthusiastic about going to the park. Max chattered away about the highly important second-grade details of the day. His excitement was contagious, giving Peter's courage a further spike.

Pulling into the parking lot, Peter craned his head scanning the parked cars, trying to determine which was "hers."

Max made an immediate beeline to the merry-go-round. Peter issued an obligatory "Be careful" tinged with a hint of dejection. Searching the park, his raven-haired vision was nowhere to be seen.

After ten minutes, he let out an audible sigh. It appeared that he had missed her this week. Perhaps he might never see her again. His mind dissolved into a series of "what ifs" as the click, click, click of the merry-go-round mocked him in the background.

Lost in his thoughts, he looked up in a panic, having lost track of Max. A father's greatest fear realized as he was selfishly playing house in the long-dormant recesses of his mind.

Peter soon caught a glimpse of Max by a patch of wildflowers at a trailhead sign. Max brightened as Peter rushed over, his face red and ready to reprimand him for wandering off.

"Here, Daddy."

Max handed Peter a miniature bouquet of wildflowers. It deflated the whirlwind of parental anger and anguish that had gripped him. Peter's face softened; Max scrunched up his own.

"Not for you. For her!"

Max motioned towards the mysterious mom who was exiting the hiking trail and entering the park with her miniature raven-haired replica in tow.

Before Peter could say anything, Max blurted out, "My daddy got you flowers!"

Sheepishly, Peter approached, the crimson in his cheeks matching the red hurricane lilies he clutched with a vise-like grip. After clearing his throat, Peter croaked out his introduction.

"I see our kids know each other."

Her radiant smile defrosted the coating of ice that blanketed his heart.

"I'm Maria. The flowers are beautiful."

Max giggled and raced off, hand in hand with Maria's daughter, to the merry-go-round.

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"Marquesa"

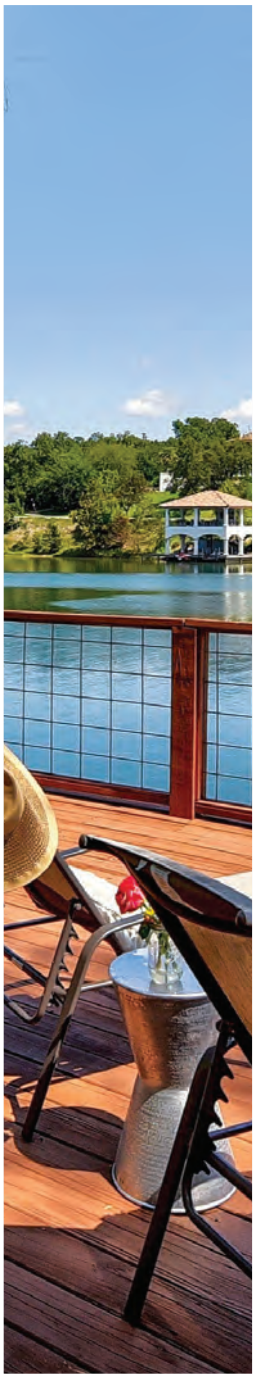
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