

The Concept

Along with the inspiration of historic Courtyard homes of 19th Century New Orleans, Savannah and Charleston, the concepts for architectural design style were developed. The major characteristics of the home are:

Elegance

Simplicity

Timelessness

Elegance

Finish and detail complete the holistic composition – all elements complimenting and reinforcing the conceptual goals of the home.

- Durable, comfortable, high quality materials
- Highest quality fixtures and fittings
- Neutral palette of materials and colors with an emphasis on texture, simple rectilinear pattern and tone to enhance a wide range of styles in furnishings, art and accessories.

Simplicity

These goals lead to the planning and layout criteria:

- Privacy from the neighborhood but open within
- Strong Indoor / outdoor connection
- The landscape is integral and part of the home's design
- Open floor plan with few barriers
- Daylight harvesting and solar heat gain considerations
- View orientation
- Separation of public, semi-public and private areas within the home
- Efficient circulation with spacious rooms

Timelessness

The architectural form was driven by the inspiration and planning criteria and is described as follows:

- Modern, International Style influences
- Rectilinear massing with sliding planar overlays
- Intentionally composed – alignments of all elements based on a 1x2 proportioned grid in both plan and vertical elevation
- Style, quality and character that will improve with time

The two-story home is proudly positioned in the Museum District / Rice area of Houston, Texas.

It is placed among a quaint neighborhood transitioning from post 1940's ranch style homes to newer 2 to 2 ½ story homes. The two story China White stucco surfaced rectilinear composition of this home stands out as a home of the present and future, moving away from the past. The landscape featuring a terraced retaining wall and white steppingstone pathway visually draws the home closer to the street without compromising the generous street set back which makes the neighborhood so welcoming. The "L" Shaped footprint of the home shares its street façade with the face of the courtyard garden, opening the property and enhancing the entire streetscape. Five Alley Elm trees placed in pattern, will grow majestically tall to shade and provide sightline privacy for the home they stand watch over. The crisp, bold rectilinear form is made translucent by the overlay of perforated planes which slide over the face of the structure. The white-on-white composition and textural layering create a fanciful play on light and shadow both day and night and give the home its unique but subtle melody. The front gate aperture intentionally narrows the transition from front garden to inner garden, setting up the moment of surprise when the gate is opened and the first glimpse of the beautiful garden and living space opens beyond. The private courtyard is the heart of the property, connecting outside to inside, an unexpected oasis in the middle of this urban location. Light from north-facing full height sliding glass walls fill the living space just off the courtyard. When the walls are slid open, the living room and courtyard become one.