







# Hill Country *Hideaway*

BROOKE MCGUYER INTERIORS CREATES  
A TRADITIONAL RETREAT WITH EUROPEAN  
FLAIR FOR A TEXAS COUPLE WHO APPRECIATES  
THE AREA'S NATURAL BEAUTY.

TEXT TIFFANY ADAMS | PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL HUNTER









When clients of designer Brooke McGuyer Hutson asked for her help in building a vacation home in Fredericksburg, Texas, they had a couple of priorities. The house needed to be well-suited for entertaining—for both business and pleasure—and also fit its setting in the idyllic Hill Country region known for rolling terrain, exposed stone, and vibrant wildflowers. “They live in Houston, which is about a four-hour drive away, and were really drawn to the Texas Hill Country because of its natural beauty,” says Hutson.

The designer, who is also based in Houston, attended the New York School of Interior Design before starting Brooke McGuyer Interiors in 2010. Shortly after, she worked with this couple on another vacation residence, learning their tastes and preferences. “Their style is very traditional—and I would say my style is a fresh take on traditional—so for this home, in particular, I brought in pieces they wouldn’t have necessarily picked themselves but ended up loving,” she says.

While the new build is located in a community, the lots often span up to 100 acres, giving the illusion that you are miles from civilization. The home needed to have its own identity and presence among the vast landscape. Hutson worked with architect Don B. McDonald, who helped draft a European-inspired residence with lodge-like comforts and features. “Don is so knowledgeable about regional architecture,” says Hutson, noting



Previous pages: The great room of the main house features a mix of comfortable furnishings and rustic details that appear to have evolved over time, although the home was built recently. Above: Limited landscaping and a gravel courtyard are nods to the home’s European design influence. Opposite: Hints of green, which echo the landscape of the Texas Hill Country, start at the front entry and carry throughout the main house, complementing the limestone and exposed wood seen in many rooms.











Buttresses lead the eye from the dining space (which also adjoins the kitchen) into a large gathering space, while Lueders limestone and a pair of chandeliers created from antler sheds add to the European country home feel. The property includes a main house, as well as a master house and guesthouse. This communal living area offers a space for the owners and guests to come together for meals, conversation, and relaxation, no matter where they are staying.

the home's design was inspired by the work of architect Alfred Giles, an integral figure in bringing European-style structures to the area in the late 1800s.

The influence is apparent from the moment you lay eyes on the property, which features a main house with all of the common gathering spaces and workrooms, a guesthouse with two bedrooms and bathrooms, as well as a sitting room, and a master house with a bedroom, bathroom, and sitting room. Each of these "agrarian outbuildings," as they were referenced, is accessible through a gravel courtyard with minimal landscaping that calls to mind the look of an English manor. The extensive use of Texas Lueders limestone is a nod to the local area.

This spirit conveys to the interior of the main house, where the same limestone is exposed on many of the walls, while the dining and great rooms feature stunning buttresses. Here, masculine details, such as the leather cording on the chairs in the great room, blend with comfortable chenille on the sofas and faux ostrich stools, a scene well suited to making guests feel at home. "We really wanted this to be a happy, welcoming house that took its color cues from the local landscape," says Hutson, pointing not only to the brown and tan seen on the walls and flooring, but also to the smattering of sage green that starts on the ceiling in the front entry and carries throughout the rooms.

Some of the design decisions were also influenced by the homeowners' large collection of antique pewter pieces. The material inspired the kitchen range and it is a conversation starter, as numerous pieces are housed in a beautiful wooden buffet *deux corps* in the breakfast room. "It's a fun thing for me as a designer to figure out a way to display the clients' collection so they can enjoy them every day," says Hutson. "When you are designing a vacation house, I feel like people are more open to doing things that are fun and unexpected."

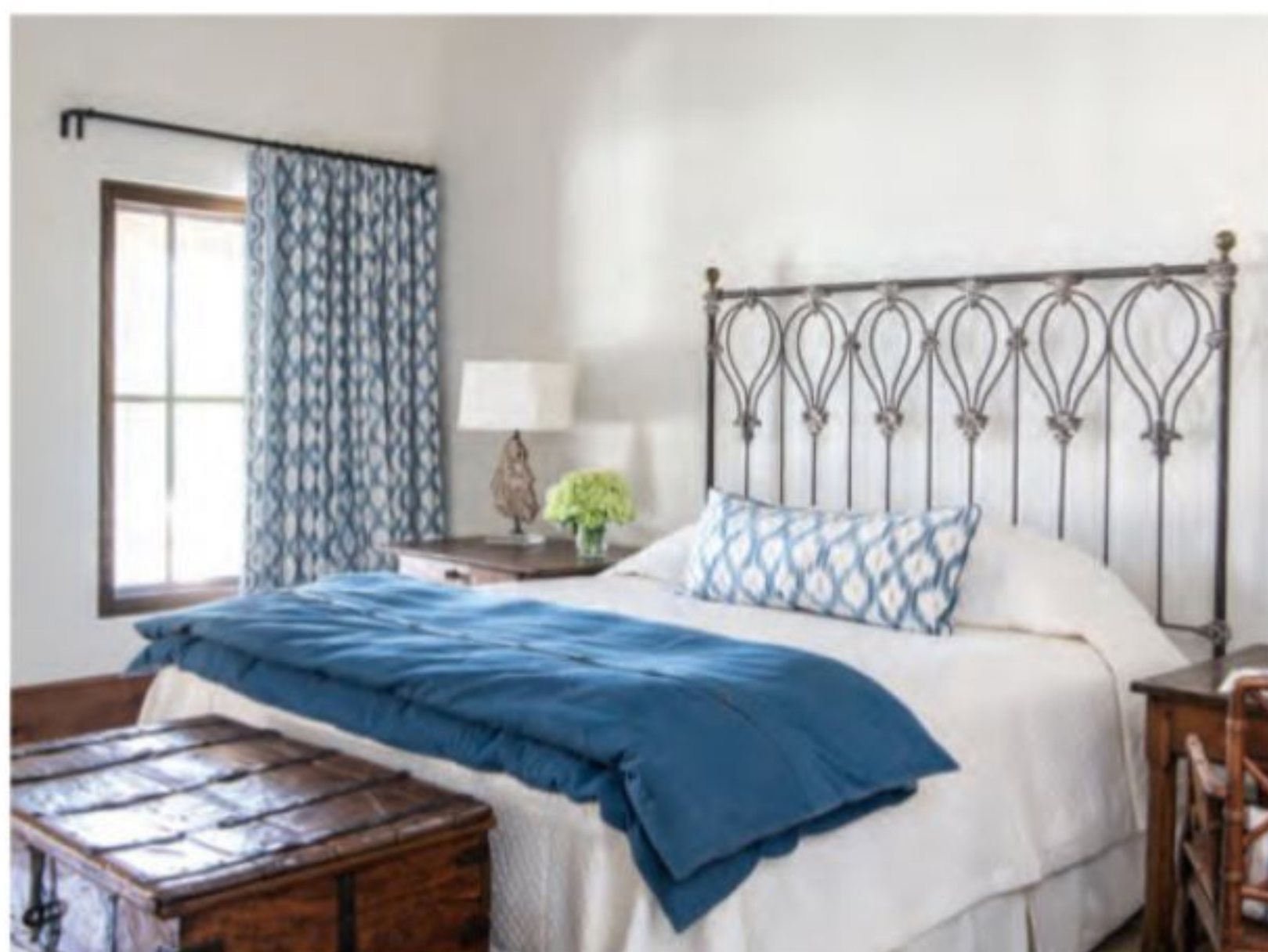








Both the main house and guesthouse offer comfortable lodging for friends and family. The outdoor terrace, which features a putting green, has sweeping views of the countryside. Opposite: The owners' pewter collection influenced the design in the kitchen and breakfast room, where the range hood echoes the material and individual pieces are seen on display.







A side door leads into a sitting room in the owners' master house. A neutral palette offers a restful retreat in the cottage that features a bedroom and bath as well as the sitting area. "The trick to neutrals is bringing in visual interest with lots of texture," Hutson notes, pointing to the beaded damask drapery fabric. The same limestone and wood details carry over to this space, giving the property a cohesive feel.



