

MIRÓ RIVERA ARCHITECTS

Deck House

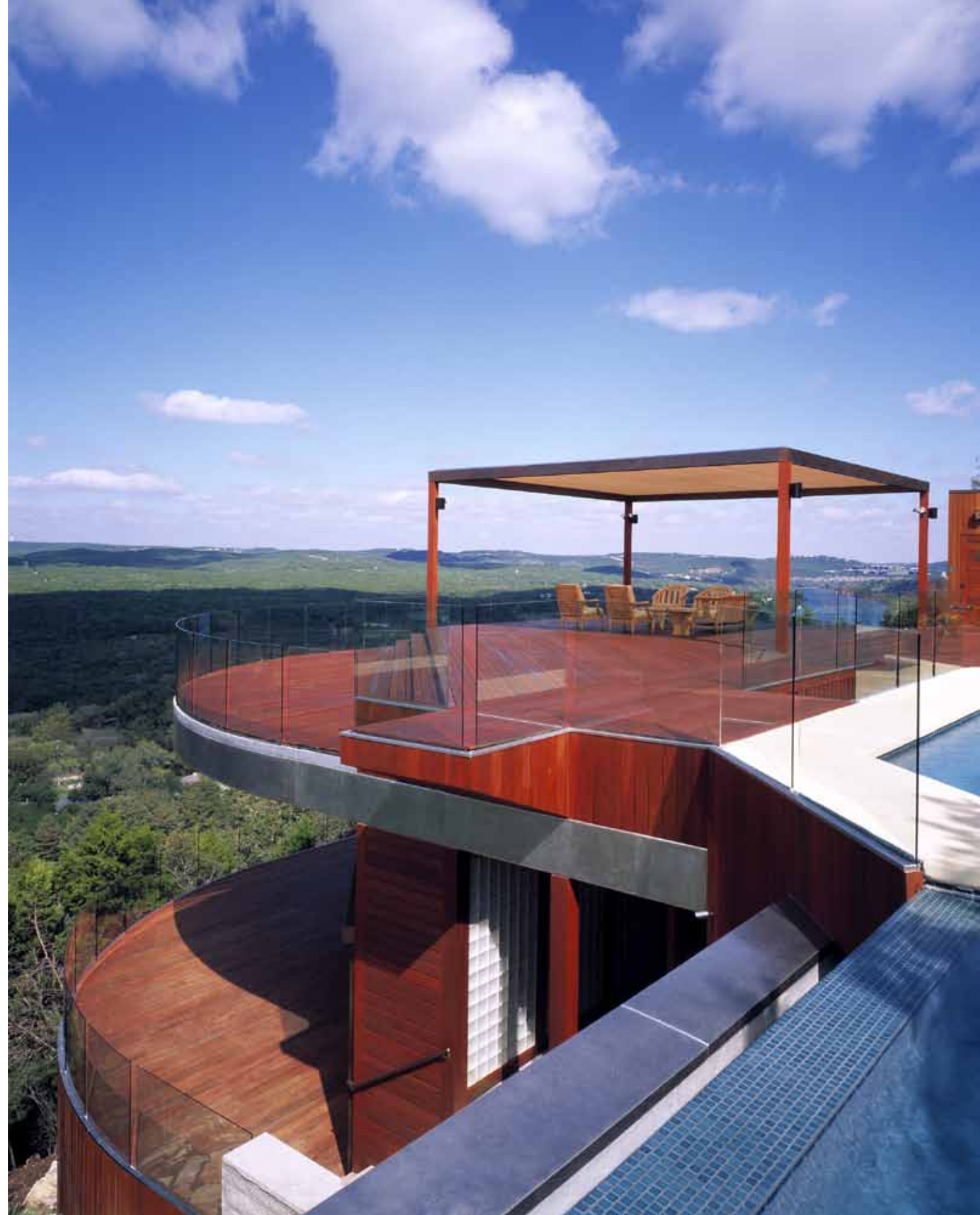
Austin, Texas

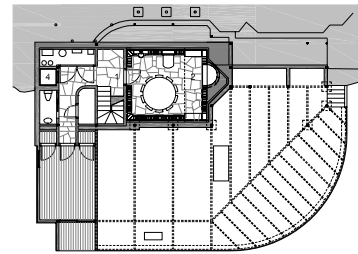
As architect Rosa Rivera recalls, her clients wanted a weekend retreat in their own backyard. The result is the Deck House, which is just a hundred yards away from the main house.

The clients are married professionals with college-aged children who realized that they now had more time. But they are passionate about living in Austin. Rivera, also an Austin resident, understands this completely. “People in Austin refuse to grow old,” she says. Rivera helped to keep them young by designing a flexible, detached addition to their home.

Deck House gives this family the best of two worlds. On weekends they are able to leave the main house but still stay close to the city lights of Austin. In the future, when they retire, they will be able to move without really moving.

Clear glass railings on the deck do not obstruct the panoramic view but are strong enough to prevent slips or falls. The outdoor furniture is stable and comfortable for all ages.

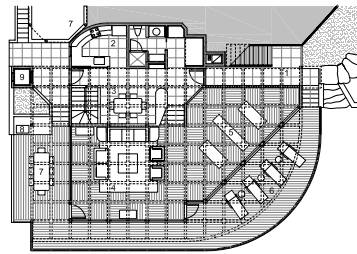




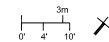
Cellar Level



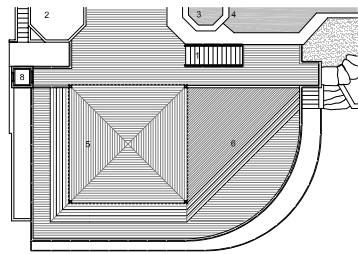
- 1 Foyer to Lower Level
- 2 Wine Cellar
- 3 Bedroom
- 4 Elevator



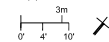
Lower Level Plan



- 1 Entry
- 2 Kitchen
- 3 Dining
- 4 Lounge
- 5 Gym
- 6 West Deck
- 7 Outdoor Dining
- 8 Barbecue
- 9 Elevator



Upper Deck Plan



- 1 Entry to Lower Level
- 2 Overlook
- 3 Existing Spa
- 4 Existing Pool
- 5 Fabric structure above Deck
- 6 Deck below
- 7 Elevator

ABOVE LEFT Deck House is perched at the top of the bluff.

ABOVE RIGHT The entrance threshold has no level change and is wide enough for mobility devices.

OPPOSITE Low pathway lights make it easier to navigate garden steps at night.



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Spicewood Residence

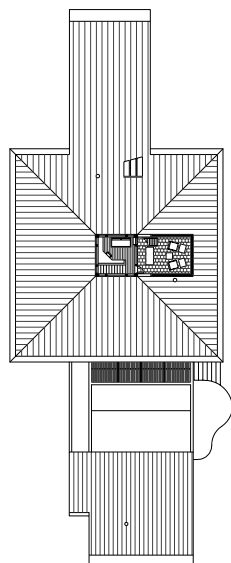
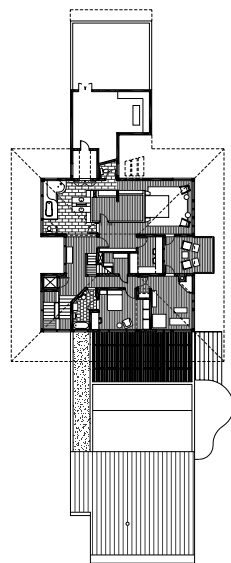
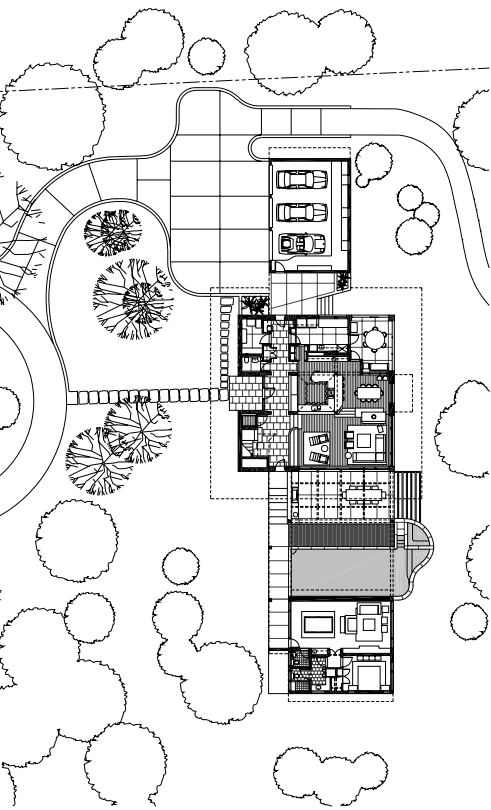
Spicewood, Texas

The client had spent his entire career as a surgeon in Dallas, where he did painstakingly delicate procedures in windowless operating rooms. His wife is an attorney. With one child in college and the other in law school, they decided it was time to retire and spend more time enjoying family and friends, hobbies, and nature.

An avid outdoorsman, the husband retired while he was still energetic enough for life full of camping, boating, and the wilderness. They built Spicewood on a bluff overlooking Lake Travis, in the Hill Country of East Texas. The home is ruggedly suited to the rough terrain on which it stands. Spicewood requires no outside water. It only uses rainwater runoff, which is collected in 20,000-gallon cisterns.

Spicewood may be high on a bluff, but that does not stop the couple who live there from entertaining family and friends. There is a guesthouse on the property, as well as a pool. Though Spicewood is off the grid, there is still room enough for frequent visitors.

Exterior materials—
rough calico limestone
and stucco—reflect
the rugged West Texas
landscape.



ABOVE Deep roof overhangs shade the facade, reducing the heat and glare of the Texas sunlight, while geothermal coils that displace heat into the ground eliminate the need for air conditioning condensing units.

RIGHT A covered walkway connects the main house to the guest house. The pool terrace between the two is a welcome place to catch the prevailing breeze from the lake below.



Spicewood sits on an isolated, rugged bluff, but the owners never intended to leave family and friends behind. The house may be off the grid, but it provides comfortable spaces for family gatherings and other social events.

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Stonehedge Residence

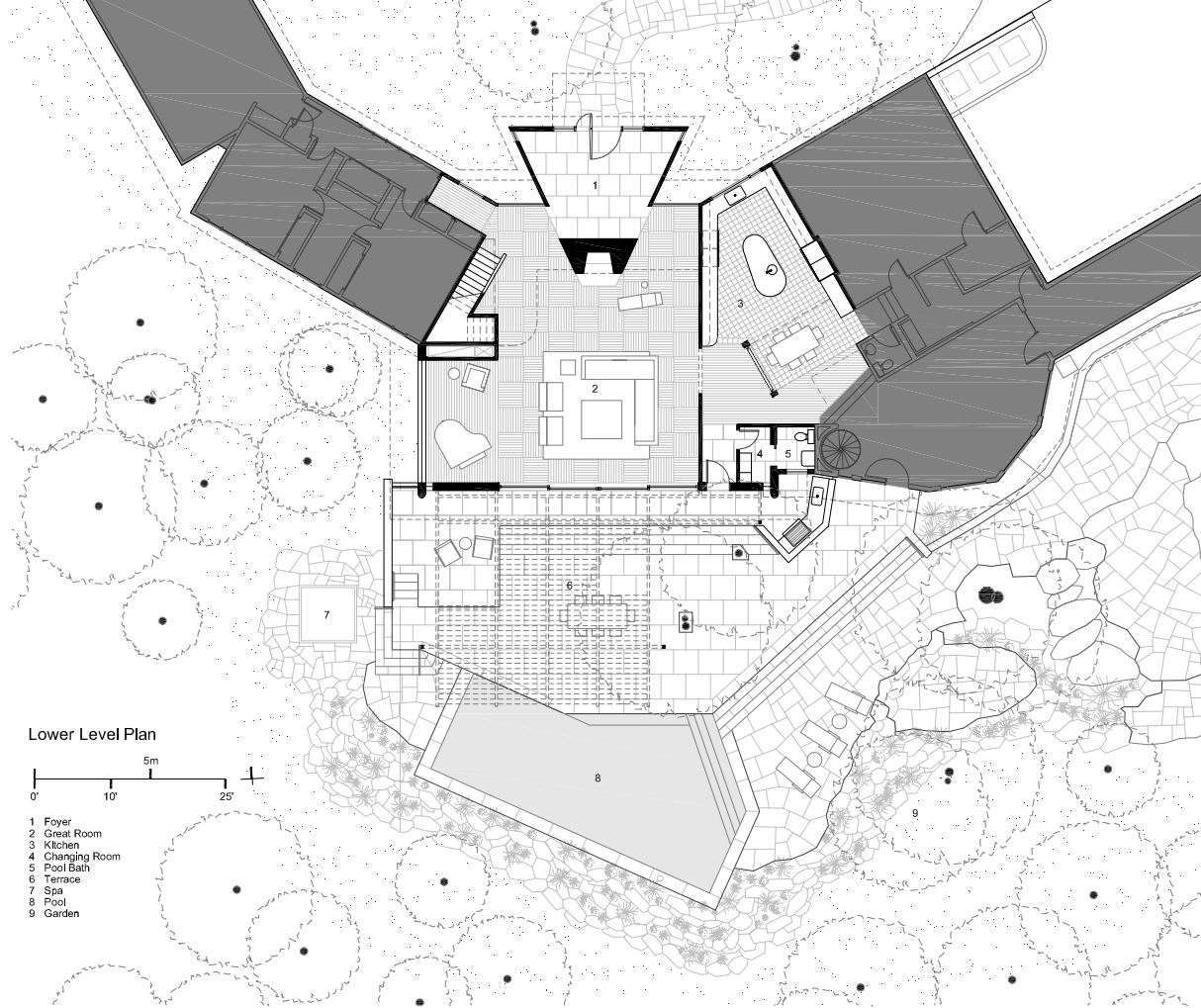
West Lake Hills, Texas

With a daughter in college, this couple needed to rethink the meaning of “home” as they moved into later life. The couple enjoyed their privacy, but they wanted to become more involved with their friends and do more fundraising for favorite charities and causes.

Like many boomers, they decided to retrofit their existing home rather than move. The couple created a great room by renovating an existing room, eliminating the second floor above to create a double-height space. The great room is anchored on one side by a nineteen-foot-tall copper-clad fireplace. On the opposite side, the room flows into a spacious terrace through a glazed wall full of large sliding doors.

To create a clear hierarchy of space in the house, the great room was expanded to a double-height volume.





OPPOSITE
A monumental copper-clad pivot door welcomes guests to the house.

RIGHT The travertine terrace links the house with the garden and pool below. An aluminum trellis, designed to accommodate two existing trees, covers the space.

OVERLEAF The great room and terrace create a generous entertaining space for fund-raising events for the causes the owners support as well as for private piano recitals. Broad steps can serve as seating areas for large gatherings.



