



In Texas, Main Stay by Fajkus Architecture

Description

Main Stay by Austin-based Matt Fajkus Architecture is all about the walls.

They separate. They consolidate. And they liberate one space from another.

“The main driver is trying to develop a series of thresholds in masonry that separate the public and common and private realms of the house,” says Matt Fajkus, founder of the firm.

Main Stay is composed of a series of two planes – one public and street-oriented, and the other a two story stair volume that’s the anchor of the design.

“It’s clad in brick and sets up a divide between the public and common realms and provides access up and down,” he says. “And the stairs – by consolidating most of the auxiliary spaces along two different axes – opens up to the outside.”

The stair volume consolidates the mass to one side to create a T – and then intersects to allow the master suite to establish its own relationship with the back yard. “The stair volume is a blinder to mask the master suite and open it up to the outside, and the common area opens up to the outside also,” he says. “It’s about [Kahn](#)’s idea of served and serving spaces.”

The 3,200 square-foot home is sited on a 50-by-150 -foot lot. It’s positioned to work around a 75-year-old live oak, and organize its three zones thoughtfully.

Automobile access is engaged through an alley and garage at the rear of the lot – a rarity in the neighborhood. “We could spread out the front yard, so the long building runs east-west, with sun exposure to the south and north,” he says. “In the winter it gets some direct sun but in the summer, by having an overhang on the south, there’s no solar gain. Even when you get it, it’s baffled by the tree canopy.”

This home's meant to be a backdrop for light – a portal that, as it consolidates the forms, creates a stage set for life, light and experience. "It's a very specific collection of walls, curated in a certain way," he says.

Strategic might be the best word to describe it.

For more, go [here](#).

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