

# Pozas:

## A Passion for the Modern

Internationally-acclaimed architectural designer brings his iconic style to West Austin, creating sophisticated, contemporary residential spaces.

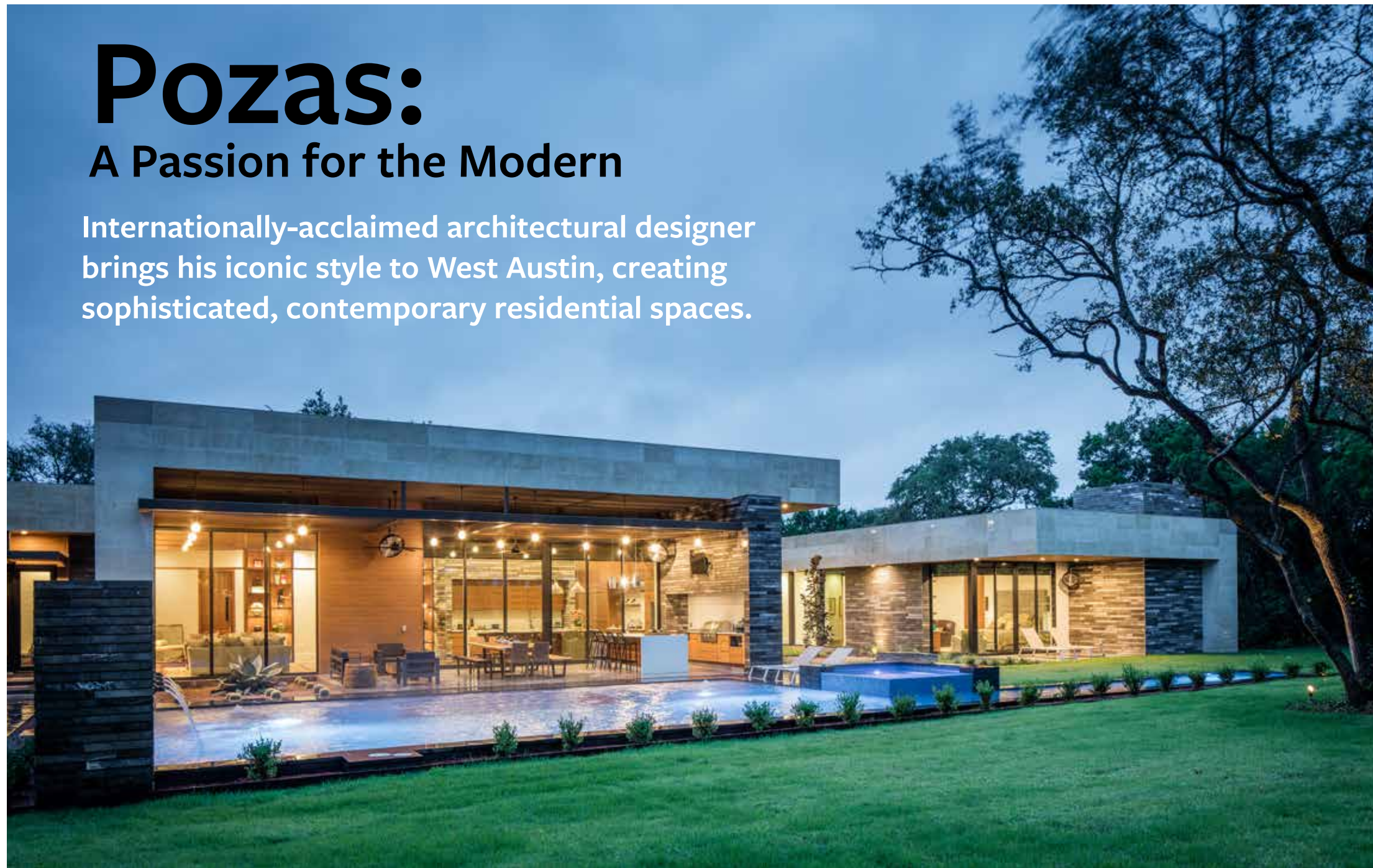


PHOTO BY MIKE KELLEY

You might not yet have heard the name Pozas, but Mexico-born international architect Bernardo Pozas, along with his namesake firm Pozas Arquitectos, is creating a huge splash with his residential designs in Central Texas, including in West Austin.

South of the border, Pozas has been winning awards and accolades for more than a decade for his visionary approach to creating buildings and homes that seamlessly intermingle with their surrounding environments and embody the concept of “humanity of space.”

“The humanity of living space,” Bernardo Pozas commented when he recently came to Austin, “is that in the architecture we produce, there are an ease and a balance, a contrast through color, material selection and proportion that defines the space around and for the inhabitant.”

For Pozas, designing modern homes in Central Texas is a natural extension of the cultural exchange between the U.S. and Mexico that has been evolving for centuries. “There’s an undeniable truth about the intertwining of our cultures, especially in the Southwest,” Pozas commented. “The topography and ecosystem are very similar to Mexico, so I think the way we approach our architecture should also be similar.” In his native Mexico, an artisan and hand-made aesthetic is deeply valued as a necessary ingredient in a home. And it’s that sense of individuality and artistic freedom that Pozas found, and delighted in, when he first visited Austin. With its “Keep Austin Weird” vibrancy and the encouragement –almost directive –to be unique and let the imagination go wild, Austin beckoned. And Pozas answered.

He also admits that he immediately fell in love with Austin’s greenery, geology, flora and fauna. And he admires the commitment to maintaining the city’s green areas. “You can find a beautiful merger between nature and architecture here that’s very distinct.” He added, “I think that’s something that not many cities have. You have the sophistication of downtown Austin and the natural feel, peace, and quiet from the wooded areas only minutes away.”

A tour of one of Pozas’ residential design in Central Texas will quickly introduce you to his bright, modern, and impeccably elegant style. Situated just west of Redbud Isle, is a two-story study in contemporary design, openness and transition. Here, stone, water, light, and air blur the boundaries between the two acres of rolling landscape outside and the cool, clean-lined inner sanctum of the house itself. The design was guided by the surrounding countryside, by the spectacular views of downtown Austin, and by an intimate and keen understanding of the flow of family dynamics in a residence. Glass walls, extensive terraces, a waterfall feature, and multiple indoor and outdoor living spaces make it a masterpiece for living and entertaining. The five-bedroom, five-and-a-half bath is suffused with sunlight and exquisite details in finishes, imported materials, hand-crafted doors and carpentry – elements that warm up the modern aesthetic and make the structure unbelievably comfortable and homey. (See “Pozas Up Close” for open house info.)

One of the great marvels of the design is how perfectly situated the new home is among the mature redbud, pecan, and oak trees on the property. In fact, not a single tree was cut down on the lot during the building process, a fact that speaks to the engineering ingenuity of Austin-based luxury



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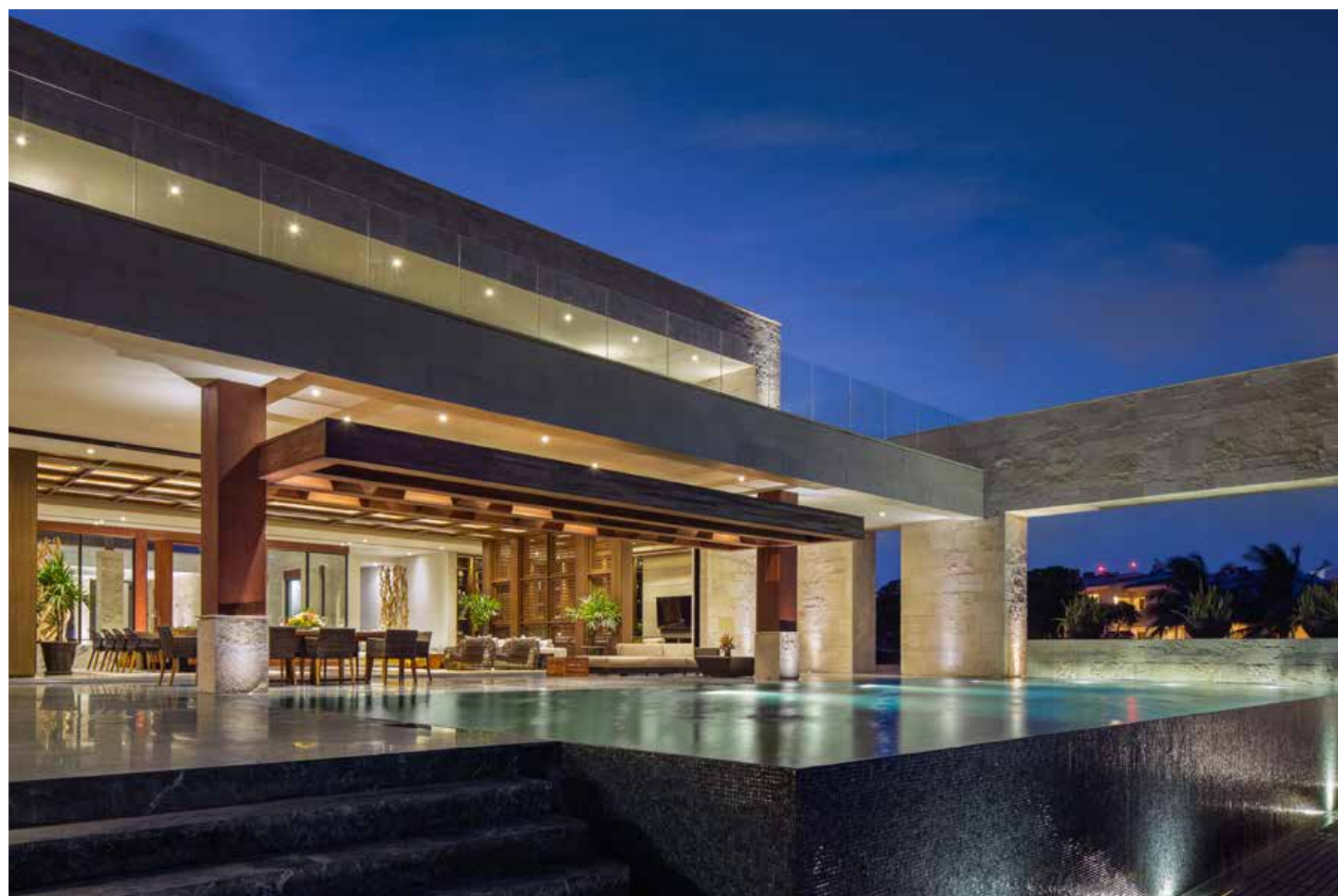


PHOTO BY MIKE KELLEY

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## Pozas Up Close

Bernardo Pozas is originally from Monterrey, Mexico, where he lives with his wife, their two children, and their dog. After studying at Monterrey Tech, he founded his interior design and architecture firm in 2000 and now employs 96 architects.

An outdoor enthusiast, he joined family in 2014 on the 160-mile Camino de Santiago hike in Galicia, Spain, walking the popular medieval pilgrimage route and swearing to never try it again. But it has become an annual spiritual retreat, and every year Bernardo takes a week to hike up to 400 miles across Europe and rediscover, in his words, that “pain is unavoidable, suffering is optional.”

See more of Bernardo Pozas’ international work at [www.pozas.mx](http://www.pozas.mx). See more on Contempo Unique Homes at [www.contempoaustin.com](http://www.contempoaustin.com).

You can get up close to a Pozas design when the Redbud home is open for tours this month. Wilson & Goldrick Realtors welcomes visitors to 119 Redbud on Sunday, November 11, from 12pm to 3pm. For more information, visit [www.119Redbud.com](http://www.119Redbud.com).



PHOTO BY PETER HURLEY

home builder Contempo Unique Homes as well as Pozas’ precise and painstaking vision for his creation in that exact site.

“I knew of Bernardo’s work from Mexico and invited him to Austin to design my personal home,” said Rafael Acuna of Contempo Unique Homes. “Bernardo came to my lot and spent hours exploring, going up a ladder, coming down to move it a foot over, going up again. Using drones to get a bird’s eye view of the land.” The architect’s workings drew the awed attention of neighbors from the very beginning. They watched as the home took shape and was built. Even after its completion, strangers would wander up to the front door and ask if they could take a look around.

“I knew immediately Austin was hungry for newer contemporary architectural design,” said Acuna. “What I think is so special about the work Pozas is doing here is that he brings this fresh, modern style in architecture that blends so effortlessly with what the city already has to offer. And he is putting Austin on the map for internationally-acclaimed design.”

Contempo Unique Homes and Pozas also joined artistic forces as a part of the restoration of the historic Art Deco Bohn House, which Contempo was already refurbishing with architect Dick Clark and Associates. Pozas brought his unique touch to the property’s wine cellar and pool area. The Bohn House was featured last month on the AIA Austin Homes Tour.

Since then, Pozas has designed some half dozen custom luxury homes locally, working with Contempo to utilize innovative construction processes and materials to bring each unique design to life.

His firm, Pozas Arquitectos, has completed a number highly-acclaimed commercial and residential projects across Mexico, in Playa del Carmen, Cancun, Jalisco, Saltillo, and Monterrey – where they are constructing what will be the tallest skyscraper in the country. While prolific, he continues to stay true to his unique architectural vision. His career has been inspired by the work of luminaries such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies van der Rohe, Jim Olson, Marcio Kogan of Brazil, and fellow Mexican, Humberto Artigas.

“The real work of an architect is to have empathy with a client, to bring their soul and their daily life into the plan so that the house adapts to them, instead of them having to adapt to the house,” Pozas says. “My favorite part of being an architect is enjoying that process, the way that a construction naturally transforms and becomes a home. That is just amazing to experience.”

