

AUSTIN MONTHLY



ON THE WATERFRONT

BILL AND STEPHANIE BREEDLOVE TAKE A CELEBRITY COUPLE'S FORMER LAKE AUSTIN PARADISE AND MAKE IT THEIR OWN

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The game room in Bill and Stephanie Breedlove's 7,000-square-foot home along Lake Austin isn't used for "games" much anymore.

The couple's two sons are both in their 20s and moved out long ago, so the room's pool table goes largely unused. And Bill and Stephanie, two outdoor enthusiasts, would rather spend their time running and paddleboarding than cooped up inside.

But the room, like much of the rest of their paradise just below Mount Bonnell, has a spectacular view of Lake Austin. And it still has

a use for the Breedloves, who, in 1992, founded [Breedlove & Associates](#), which would become the largest comprehensive household payroll, tax and compliance service in the country before they sold it to Care.com in 2012. Recently, over six months, Stephanie sequestered herself in the room with some giant paper storyboards and extra tables. Recharged by the nature and wildlife outside, she buckled down and wrote a book, *All In: How Women Entrepreneurs Can Think Bigger, Build Sustainable Businesses, and Change the World*, to be released in February. "It was very inspirational," Stephanie says of writing in the game room. "You just let your mind

wander to the lake, and the stress comes off and the creativity comes back.”

Indeed, the Breedloves’ newly renovated and majestic residence is the epitome of lakeside luxury. “There’s just an energy of living on the lake, and the scenery is always changing,” Bill says. “It keeps it interesting.”



Photo by Coles Hairston

The home is a showplace, and it’s one that people on passing watercrafts on Lake Austin have enjoyed gliding by slowly for more reasons than one. Prior to the Breedloves buying the home five years ago, it was owned by 2003 U.S. Open tennis champion Andy Roddick and his wife, former *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit model and actress Brooklyn Decker. “Still today, we see boats come by real slowly when we are out in our pool, and [the passengers] are looking, and then they suddenly speed off,” Bill says with a laugh.

Even without the A-list celebrity factor, the five-bedroom home gives gawkers plenty to see. The interior decor was inspired by the homeowners' love for Santa Barbara and a trip they took to the California hot spot in 2012. They shot more than 700 photos of homes, encaustic tiles, gardens, quatrefoil fountains, chandeliers and anything "minimal and monochromatic that speaks to this 20th-century design," Stephanie says.

To execute their vision, they hired interior designer Jennifer Garner of [Refined Interiors](#). She collaborated with many local and international sources to bring stylish elements into the home, including a red Murano glass chandelier just inside the front door and a large-scale oil painting by local artist Roi James. Custom handmade rugs from Austin's [Black Sheep Unique](#) help ground the bold work of art, while red accent colors are found in the encaustic tiles throughout the house and outdoor areas.



Photo by Coles Hairston

A long, barrel-vaulted hallway, with tiles positioned in a herringbone pattern and Venetian plaster walls, leads people to all major rooms on the ground floor. Twenty-two custom iron sconces softly light the way. “With this redesign, we turned the most detrimental feature of the house—a dark, long hallway—into something interesting and unique,” Garner says.

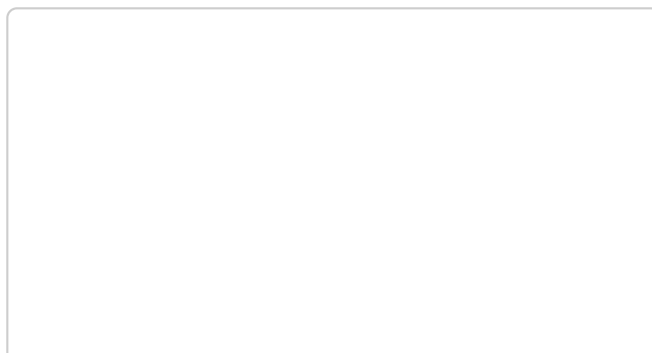
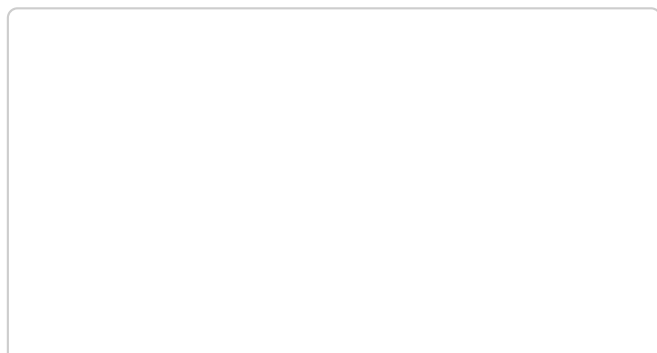
Plenty of nooks and crannies reveal style and ingenuity. A dramatic turret staircase leads visitors to the second floor, featuring guest bedrooms and the aforementioned game room. A breezeway near the pool boasts a long console featuring stone from another part of the home that Garner repurposed to top off the stately piece. Leaded glass in the archways of bedroom doors help bring in light while giving the look of a Spanish mission.

But what differentiates this home are the outdoor areas. An exterior kitchen makes the Breedloves’ decision to cook inside or out a difficult one, and in the winter, ceiling heaters warm up the patio so the couple can make use of the space on cold nights.

A sculptural pool, with its [Absolute Black Granite](#) tile and infinity edges, seems to merge seamlessly with Lake Austin. “This pool is one of my favorite aspects of the house,” Bill says. “It’s just so amazing out there.”

Indeed, the Breedloves have written the book on lakeside living.

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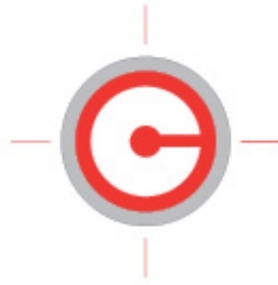
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8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Divorce Workshop	▼
8:30 AM - 8:30 PM	Flywheel Sports Domain is Open	▼
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	25 Years/25 Treasures: A Celebration of UT Austin's Briscoe Center for American History	▼
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Cedar Park Farmers' Market	▼
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