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ULTIMATELY, Roy Seiders says, "life is about having a good time doing what you love."

For Roy, a guy who's so wild about fishing that he joined with his brother to invent Yeti—a cooler strong enough to stand on while casting a line—outdoorsy endeavors dominate his list of loves. But tarpon and whitetails share time with another activity near and dear to his heart: hanging out with family and friends. That devotion is evident in his and wife Kathi's new house in Austin.

"The thing that was most important to us was having a welcoming home," Kathi says. "We wanted a place that's accommodating for our family and for company—we're always having people over."

Serendipitously, family includes the couple's sister-in-law, Emily Seiders of Austin's Studio Seiders design firm, just the person to pull together their interiors.

"Roy joked that, like his business, the decorating project had to have core values," Emily says. "We laughed about it, but really, the things he talked about—everything being timeless, comfortable, durable, and functional—did guide my design. They need a house that's beautiful but also very livable, warm, and inviting."

For this family, nothing is more inviting than nature. So, Emily pulled natural elements inside to create a calm, comforting, tactile environment. "I wanted rooms to feel good rather than have them

Gathering zone A smart floor plan lets gatherings easily flow from the kitchen to the dining nook and family room, then out to the patio. **Entry** Designer Emily Seiders and architect Ryan Street envisioned the look for the paneled doors, which they had custom-made by Maverick Doors in San Antonio. **Preceding pages** Metal-and-glass doors by Rehme Steel Windows & Doors of Spicewood, Texas, blur the lines between the living room and courtyards.



hit you with color or pattern," she says. Emily and architect Ryan Street, a childhood friend of Roy's and lead architect at Ryan Street & Associates, blended hard and soft, shiny and matte, rustic and refined to weave a textural delight. Steel windows balance plaster walls; reclaimed oak juxtaposes fine linens.

"We set the tone for the house at the entry," Emily says. Handcrafted wood doors open to a free-form driftwood console crowned by abstract art. "It's organic and relaxed, with contemporary elements mixed in."

That vibe continues in the living room, where oak ceiling beams and a carved wood cabinet play yin to the yang of massive steel-and-glass door units that usher in sweeping views. A pair of big, plush sofas welcome family and friends to cozy up in front of a crackling fire. "We didn't put a TV in this room on purpose," Kathi says. "It's set up for conversation—Roy and I love that."

The rectangular sofas, ottoman, and concrete fireplace are softened by arched doorways, a round Saarinen table, and the curves of a 56-inch-wide chandelier that suits the scale of 14-foot ceilings. "Getting a balance of shapes was important to me," Emily says. "It was all about shapes and textures. I wanted to absolutely layer the room in textures."

Color plays a supporting role here and throughout the house, with charcoal-tinged navy tones complementing earthy rust hues. Potted trees add a pop of green that echoes outdoor views.

Flowing from the living room, the kitchen furthers the feast of textures. Smooth Calacatta marble tops white cabinetry, while

Kitchen The casual kitchen handles everything dished out by this young, active family: Roy and Kathi Seiders, plus kids (from left) Violet, 10; Reese, 12; Jane, 4; baby Mango; and Hays, 8. The custom hood over the Wolf range is by Handcrafted Metal of Austin. **Study** A Julian Chichester desk wrapped in sophisticated black vellum serves as Roy's command central. Visitors can grab a seat in Oly Studio lounge chairs. A handmade wool rug infuses subtle pattern.



“THEY WANT EVERYONE TO FEEL WELCOME... FAMILY, FRIENDS, OR A DELIVERY GUY WHO SHOWS UP AT LUNCHTIME.”
—designer Emily Seiders



durable Virginia Mist granite, a soapstone look-alike, caps the stained-wood island. A zinc range hood injects subtle glimmer. Small appliances tuck away in the adjacent pantry. "I like to keep clutter out of the kitchen," Kathi says. "It feels better to me."

It also ensures a clean view from the dining table, located a few steps from the island and in front of another wall of steel-clad glass doors that open to the patio and courtyard beyond.

The eating area, with its concrete-topped table and modern cowhide chairs, boasts the warm, intimate feel of a breakfast nook. It handles both family meals and gatherings, which can easily spill out to the patio.

"Roy and Kathi aren't formal, so there was no need for a formal dining room," Emily says. "They just want everyone to feel welcome, whether you're family, friends, or a delivery guy who just happens to show up at lunchtime."

When the kids aren't perched at the island or playing in the courtyard, you can find them in the family room off the kitchen, outfitted with a TV and comfy furniture. A dark-stained barn door closes off the space when adults want their peace and quiet.

Roy cherishes quiet time in his study just down the hall. It's lined with oak paneling that stops short of the beamed ceiling. "Allowing a band of white plaster to show through keeps the room from feeling too dark," says Emily, who also gave Roy a striking steel shelf unit to display a few of his favorite things. Other treasures—his prized trophy mounts—line the fireplace wall. "I had to rein him in a little," his designer sister-in-law says with a

Patio Alfresco gatherings are almost always in season at the Seiders home, where everyone's welcome to grab a drink from the outdoor refrigerator, cozy up to the fireplace, and cheer on the home team. *Exterior* Thoughtful architectural details imbue the new house with timeless character. The courtyard was designed with kids in mind. There's plenty of room to run, or to get together a friendly game of bocce.





laugh. "If you leave those Seiders boys to their own devices, you'd have a room full of trophies. But we compromised and came up with a space that's masculine, yet tailored and beautiful."

Just as Roy has his haven, Kathi has hers—in the serene master suite. A custom Julie Neill chandelier and puddled draperies in the bedroom speak to femininity; a 19th-century English antique bench lends a bit of age and elegance. "It's luscious," Kathi says. "It's simple and peaceful, a place to relax. And the bath is simply dreamy—so calming and serene."

A graceful arched nook embraces the bathing area, which doesn't house a traditional tub. "It's all plastered, kind of like a miniature pool," Emily says. As in other rooms, walls are also clad in smooth-coat plaster that softens light from the curvaceous sconces and Italian chandelier. An expansive window overlooks a private courtyard tucked away from the main yard's rollicking after-school play sessions and gregarious family gatherings.

"Roy and his siblings grew up in Driftwood, in the country outside Austin," Emily says. "You could say they were free-range—they had freedom to go explore. He and Kathi wanted that for their kids. The yard and sports court lets them run, and it lets the whole extended family get together and enjoy each other's company."

Because, for Roy and Kathi, that's what's truly important. "You see houses that are really pretty," Kathi says, "but what is that really worth if you don't share it with others?" ■

Architect: Ryan Street **Interior designer:** Emily Seiders

For more information, see sources on page 130

Master bedroom: A luxe bed by Verellen with an upholstered headboard, flowing draperies in Kravet linen, and lounge chairs slipcovered in a rich fabric layer softens into Roy and Kathi's retreat. **Master bathroom:** Svelte curves in the tub and shower niches, an antique chandelier, and John Saladino sconces bring femininity to the bath. Custom white-oak-and-steel vanity cabinets are topped with honed limestone, which also covers the floor.