

By Tara Mastrelli  
Photography by Paul Bardagjy and George Brainard

*Right:* The pool at the Crossings Wellness Spa.  
*Below:* From the patio, guests can enjoy views of the preserve.  
*Opposite page:* One corridor of the spa is decorated with water-colored Venetian plaster and concrete troughs with water fountains.



# tex-zen style

**Texan and Balinese accents mingle in a green spa**



**With its lakeside views** and wooded surroundings, it's no surprise that environment played a large role in the design process of the Crossings Wellness Spa. Located on 34 of the 210 acres of the Balcones Canyonland Preserve in Austin, Texas, green design principles, local art, and Balinese accents, combine to create a crossroads of cultures.

"The project has been very 'green' from the beginning," says local designer Sybil Case, of Studiovert, who along with designer Janet McCalister formed a joint venture—Studio2Design—solely for this project. "[The owners Ken and Joyce Beck] wanted this to be decidedly Texas, but also incorporate different faiths and belief systems," says Case, noting a phrase coined early in the process to describe the design strategy: TexZen.

To play up the local landscape, Case and McCalister displayed artwork by University of Texas students, as well as photography of local landmarks like Barton Springs, a natural springs pool that is surrounded by Texas' state tree, the hickory pecan. (Hickory pecan wood is also used in floors and ceilings throughout the spa.)





Having the Texas part down, the design duo found the Yin to their Yang (or in this case, the Zen to their Tex) in Charles Orchard. Originally looking to the Bali-based designer to purchase reclaimed teak, Orchard shortly became more than their wood supplier. "He became the catalyst for other wonderful things that happened," explains McCalister. "Once he came to Austin, he became invested in the project, and became our eyes and ears in Bali."

Concrete floors, bamboo, native stone, quarry tile, and reclaimed teak furniture set a simple landscape for the Balinese accents that can be found throughout the spa's design. Thanks to Orchard, highlights include Balinese puppets, six-foot-tall hallowed out palm tree trunks, rustic benches made out of hallowed logs, stone statues, masks, or as McCalister puts it, just "a lot of primitive and interesting things that really started to make the statement." **h**





Left: A treatment room.  
 Below: Mosaic-tiled drums function as steam rooms.  
 Opposite page, top: Uplit fountains line a pathway.  
 Opposite page, bottom: The watsu pool.



**Crossings Wellness**  
 Austin, Texas

**Owner** Kim and Joyce Beck

**Architecture Firm** Hutch Part  
 Austin, Texas

**Architecture Project Team** T  
 Craig Grund, Randal Owens,  
 Constantine

**Interior Design Firm** Studio11  
 Austin, Texas

**Interior Design Project Team**  
 Sybil Case, Studover and J  
 McCalister, McCalister Desig

**Contractor** Bill Dorman Const

**Purchasing Firm** Purchasing  
 Management International

**Art Consultant** Sandra Grop

**Engineers** Architectural Engi  
 Collaborative and Tom Green  
 Engineers

**Graphics** Mikshak Media

**POOL**

**Umbrella and Chaise** Brown

**Teak Furniture** Everwood Teak

**SPA TREATMENT ROOM**

**Sink and Faucet** Kohler

**Woven Woods** B&W Manufac

**SPA VESTIBULE**

**Teak Benches** Iral

**Pendant Lights** Arroyo Crafts

**Venetian Plaster Walls** Sloan  
 Montgomery