

exposed | **Tom Hatch**

architect, hatch partnership architects

photo by erin sanders

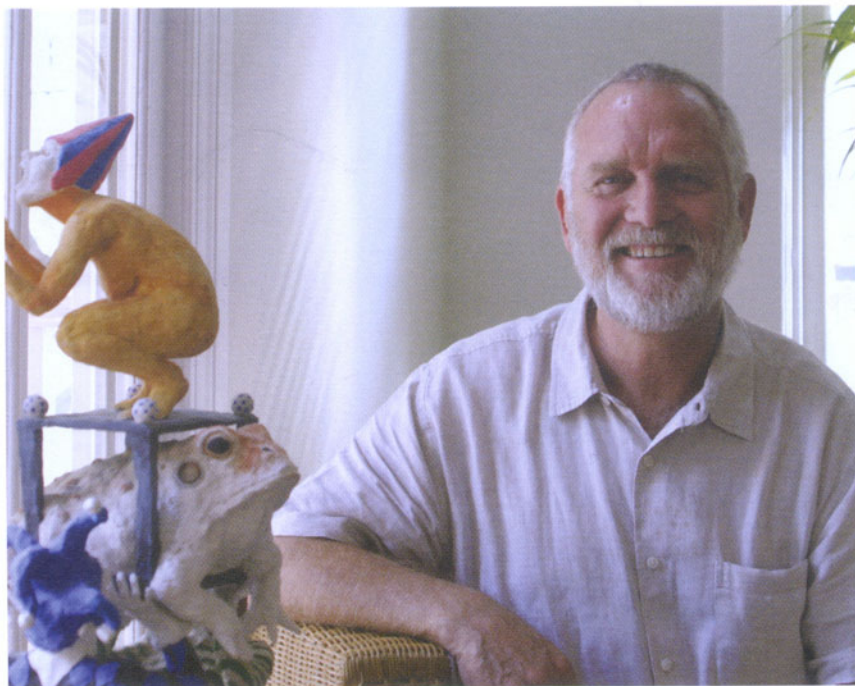
Tom Hatch is a passionate man. An architect with relationships with companies including Whole Foods and Threadgill's that have lasted over two decades, he is passionate about creating homes for everyone. He believes, "Everyone should have a decent place to live. Affordable housing should not be devoid of intelligent design and technology." As a child he loved to draw and was enamored by beautiful architectural renderings. Hatch studied at Texas Tech in Lubbock, which he looks back on as a wonderful place for the imagination to wander. An active supporter of Planned Parenthood of the Texas Capital Region, Hatch designed the newest clinic in South Austin. Upcoming projects include the Twin Oakes Library on South Congress, a mixed-use project on South Congress, and affordable multifamily housing on Guadalupe and East Eighth Street. Like the range of projects Hatch works on, he urges people to consider the benefits of diversity. "People need to give more thought to the value of the richness of multicultural mixed income neighborhoods, the value to them, to kids, and to the city as a whole."

What's for dinner tonight?

Ask Jody! Typically we sit down to incredibly tasty multi-course meals that are actually good for us. If one of her thoughtful meals is not an option, I'll go for tacos.

What's the most memorable compliment you've received?

Jody saying "yes" when I asked her to marry me. Granted her defenses were down on a



wonderful trip to Mexico.

What's the most memorable insult you've received?

The disgusted looks I got when I was a budding 27-year-old soccer novice on the same field with some very talented, temperamental, and unsympathetic international soccer stars. Even though they had many very colorful words for me and my limited skills, the "looks" hurt more. My game improved thanks in large part to the advice of these same people.

Who/what inspires your style?

I try very hard to have simplicity guide my design efforts. I am most often inspired by those people I work with, both co-workers and clients. I really get charged up by pieces of the built environment: the really tragic, such as the deplorable conditions in which too many live, and the magical, such as Ronchamps Chapel and our state's capitol.

What is one thing people don't generally know about you?

Many people think that I am a relaxed human... I am not.

What is your theme song?

I don't have one but I love "Bohemian Rhapsody," Elton John's "Your Song," "Evita," and all of our son's piano music.

What book has inspired you in your life/work?

Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*. My father built big industrial projects all over the country and, until I read *Atlas Shrugged*, I wasn't sure why he loved his work so much. It was all about overcoming all forms of obstacles.

Which fictional character would you want to trade lives with?

Atticus Finch...what a man.

Where do you go in Austin to get away?

My truck.



