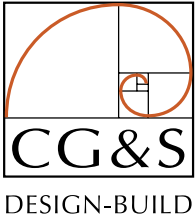


# Additional NEWS

Summer Quarterly 2006

Photography by Greg Hursley.



## Refresh your Outdoor Summer Space!

At CG&S Design-Build a critical part of our mission is to help our clients improve their quality of life by solving problems they may have with their homes. And, as Austin gets blazing hot this summer we naturally think about porches and outdoor rooms as useful solutions for those who love being outside despite the heat, but need a structure to provide an area of transition from the sunny outdoors to the cool refuge of an air conditioned home.

In this example, we added a screened porch to the back of Jill Rossi and Kerry Kimbrough's home, accessed by a wall of sliding glass doors. With the fan and high ceiling, Jill says "the porch feels like it is open, additional space, a nice continuation of the house."



As you go about what you love doing best out of doors this summer, think about what CG&S might do for you in re-designing that aspect of your home that will help you enjoy those long, hot summer days!

*drift naturally to the outside*

"People need an ambiguous in-between realm –a porch, or a veranda, which they naturally pass onto often, as part of their ordinary life within the house, so that they can drift naturally to the outside."

-Christopher Alexander, from A Pattern Language

Photography by Greg Hursley.



(Left to Right) Picture 1: Open on three sides, a rustic porch offers good airflow and sweeping views of the countryside. Picture 2: A long, cool porch opens off of a well-used family room as well as a playroom and dining room; patio doors connect inside and outside.

In this same spirit of summer contemplation of porches, we asked our principal architect, Stewart Davis, what basic rules of porch design he has found to be helpful in the interest of aiding those who are considering a porch project.



**Q** What is the most important factor to consider when designing an outdoor space?

**A** “Well, correct orientation is certainly fundamentally important. Here in Austin, an east-facing outdoor area is best for shade in the afternoon, and it is helpful for the porch to be open to the south so that cooling summer breezes can pass through the area to provide ventilation.”

**Q** Is there a different design approach to rural versus urban settings?

**A** “Yes, there is, actually. Neighborhoods, especially older neighborhoods, tend to be very dense with mature trees, fences, and built up structure, resulting in restricted airflow, which usually mandates ceiling fans. The density also contributes, unfortunately, to the proliferation of annoying insects like mosquitos, so many porches need to be screened. On the good side, a dense neighborhood has an abundance of shade and there is more versatility for the placement of the porch.”



Photography (Left to Right - First Picture) by Tina Weitz, (Second, Third and Fourth Picture) by Greg Hursley.

(Left to Right) Picture 1: A covered porch is finished with travertine flooring and lpe hardwood ceilings; the outdoor kitchen features a slate countertop and wall. Picture 2: A porch arbor creates shade and supports a fan and twinkle lights while terraces step down to the pool and garden.

**Q** How should the porch relate to the interior layout of the house?

**A** “The most successful outdoor living spaces are those that are adjacent to a room that is commonly used and easily accessible like a family room or breakfast area. It’s even better if there are two entrances off of this space so that there can be a variety in the way that you interact with what goes on outside. Generous windows and patio doors also help establish this relationship to the outside. If the house is high off the ground, terraces can gracefully connect the porch to the earth level.”

**Q** What are the best flooring materials to use for an outdoor space?

**A** Regular woods like cedar or pine are commonly used for porch floors but very hard to maintain in outdoor situations due to decay; South American hardwoods by contrast are extremely dense and durable and are known for their beauty. Environmentally friendly solutions include tile, concrete, and stone, all of which are extremely durable and require little maintenance.

**Q** How long would a project of this nature take?

**A** “I would say 2-3 months for design, and the same for construction. There is quite a bit involved, even though it seems simple. We would have to consider anything from tying the roof in, to landscaping, materials, drainage, lighting, foundation work, engineering for the foundation, obtaining permits, impervious cover rules, and of course perform all of these things to a very high standard of design and construction so that the porch would be long lasting and ultimately increase the value of the home.”

**If these ideas have inspired you to reexamine your existing porch, or if you are lacking one altogether, give us a call so we can help you enjoy your time outdoors in comfort and style.**

# Community Service

Look for the CG&S logo in the Swim Safe for Austin Kids ads, running weekly in the Austin American-Statesman. We are pleased to be a business sponsor for this program that offers free swim lessons for at-risk kids ages 5-12. For more information, go to [www.statesman.com/swimsafe](http://www.statesman.com/swimsafe) or call 416-5700, category 7946 for a faxed donation form.



We are also a business sponsor for Celebration, the annual fundraiser and reception recognizing the accomplishments of the clients, volunteers and staff of the Disability Assistance of Central Texas.

DACT . . . promoting and supporting community inclusion for people with disabilities. For more information go to [www.dact.org](http://www.dact.org) or call 834-1827.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Austin NARI 4th Annual Tour of Homes

Saturday, October 21 &  
Sunday, October 22

Come see a CG&S Design-Build project!

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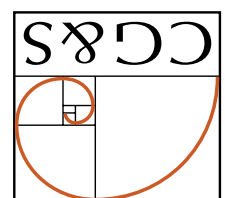
Comments, suggestions and ideas for future articles can be forwarded to [info@cgsdb.com](mailto:info@cgsdb.com). If you would like to receive further newsletters by e-mail, send us your e-mail address.

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