

## **Project: The Texas Cantilever**

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Project Location: Austin, Texas

Client: Knut Graf and Honoria Starbuck (2 Persons)

Conditioned Space: 2400 square feet (267 sq. m.)

Additional Spaces:

- 500 square feet (56 sq. m.) of covered outdoor living space on the ground floor.
- 400 square foot (45 sq. m.) two car carport.
- 100 square feet (12 sq. m.) sculptural element called “The Iron Turtle”.
- 360 square feet each (2 x 40 sq. m. each) of a north and a south facing roof deck.
- 100 square feet (12 sq. m.) street facing master bedroom porch.

Planning Period: 2007 - 2009

Building Period: 2010

Building Costs: \$140/square foot (103.5 Euro as of 2.6.2013).

Size of Plot: Owner had a 15,000 square foot (1,667 sq. m.) lot which we subdivided into a second lot with utility access via a “flag” lot configuration. New lot size is 6,021 square feet (669 sq. m.). We retained the existing structure on the corner lot.

Photos: Patrick Wong (Atelier Wong)

## **Documents Available in Upload to FTP:**

- Files (eps and pdf):

Site Plan, First Floor Plan, Second Floor Plans, and Building Section

- Photographs (tiff at 300 dpi)

- [Imagery](#)

- [Additional Imagery](#)

- [The Texas Cantilever: Press Packet](#)

- details major building materials and major subcontractors.

- [The Texas Cantilever: Technical Write-Up](#)

- discusses the digital technologies involved in the project.

## **Abstract (290 words):**

The Texas Cantilever is a cost-efficient, formally singular and green home by the design build firm [universaljoint.nu](http://universaljoint.nu). The project is located in Austin, Texas and began with our subdivision of the clients large lot, through the city’s land development process, into into two single family lots. This allowed us to create a new address for the new construction while retaining the existing structure on the corner lot. The siting and planning resulted in a gentle addition to the neighborhood with street friendly massing allowing for views through the lot to adjacent streets and homes.



In addition to a compact 2400 square feet (267 sq. m.) of conditioned interior space there is 500 square feet (56 sq. m.) of covered outdoor living space on the ground floor, a 400 square foot two car carport and 100 square feet (12 sq. m.) in the sculptural element we call “The Iron Turtle”. On the second floor we have a north and a south facing roof deck of 360 square feet each (2 x 40 sq. m. each) and 100 square feet (12 sq. m.) in the street facing covered master bedroom porch on the second floor. This compactly organized set of conditioned spaces resulted in a large “bang for the buck” as well as an outstanding feeling of being either in the sky or in nature when inside the home.

The project also incorporated digital technologies which were leveraged to efficiently cut, fabricate and erect the primary structural steel. It also allowed us to design, document the Iron Turtle over the course of two days while we were under construction with the main building. The 3-dimensional Iron Turtle structure serves as a sculptural counterpoint to an otherwise minimalist aesthetic.

Please feel free to access documentation via our website or to contact us directly regarding this project.

**Contact Information:**

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