

austin home



Domestic Glee

Inside Actress Becca
Tobin's New Austin
Area Abode

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Making an entrance: Becca Tobin welcomes guests through bold glass-and-steel doors.



SMART MOVES

How actress Becca Tobin found space
and serenity in her new Texas home

By Anna Mazurek



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During the pandemic, *Glee* actress and LadyGang podcaster Becca Tobin and her husband, Zach Martin, swapped their smaller abode in the Los Angeles hills for a newly renovated 4,500-square-foot home in Texas Hill Country. The added space came in handy as Tobin penned essays for her second book, *Lady Secrets*, out this September.

“We have always loved Austin,” she says, adding that Martin lived in the city in 2010. With the recent arrival of the couple’s baby boy, the home also serves as a closer access point for Atlanta family visits and L.A. work trips.

Tobin and Martin found a four-bedroom, five-bath Mediterranean-style home in Bee Cave. Since it was only a few years old when they bought it in December 2020, the four-month renovation mainly focused on updating finishes and the interior decor to match their style. The couple enlisted the help of Aisling Lauren Interior Design Studio.

“Our main goal was to create a space that was beautiful without sacrificing comfort and warmth,” Tobin says. “We are big fans of art, so we needed to incorporate that into the design.” One of the largest pieces, mounted in the living room, is a colorful four-by-eight-foot painting by Amsterdam-based artist Peggy Kuiper. The office includes a full wall gallery with work from a variety of artists, including Greg Mike and Shepard Fairey.

One of the key features of the home interior is an abundance of floor-to-ceiling windows and 12- to 16-foot high ceilings with exposed oak beams. “The main reason we fell in love with the house is because of all the windows and natural light,” says Tobin, who also appreciates the open space and single-story layout of the house. “You can’t beat a Texas sunset.”

Interior designer Aisling Lauren Mittman wanted the living space, her favorite part of the home, to feel inten-



Clockwise from top: The couple’s Mediterranean-style home features tall arched doorways; their record player is plugged into a house-wide smart system; a covered outdoor living area flanks the pool.





Clockwise from top: A painting by Peggy Kuiper adds depth to the living room; in the entryway, a wooden bench provides seating and storage; light fills the primary bath, including a stand-alone tub.



tional yet collected. A custom Texas-size sectional with Crypton-treated linen is the centerpiece of the room. “The TRNK ottoman is probably one of my favorite pieces in the space,” Mittman says. “I also covet the sofa table that Becca and I found ‘together’—as in, she was shopping in Round Top, and I gave directions via text and FaceTime. It is a forever piece that truly completed the space.”

Mittman focused on a neutral color palette to help Tobin and Martin decompress from their busy schedules. “Layering the camels, tans, and creams in different textures and shades gives the muted palette depth,” she says.

The interior includes a mixture of both traditional and modern pieces that work together. Tobin’s favorite spot for hosting dinner is the 10-foot-long walnut dining table custom made by Martin’s father. “We have recently added the dining table in our front courtyard and converted the gas fireplace to wood burning, so that will likely be a new favorite for us,” Tobin says.

An invisible smart home system by Control4 was an integral part of the renovation. Austin-based Macauley Technologies installed the system, which includes remote control lights, music, TV, temperature control, security, surveillance, and motorized window shades that can all be controlled from an app on their phone. Using existing in-ceiling speakers, they were able to fully eliminate clutter from cable boxes and speaker wires.

“I am a big fan of being able to control the lighting in the house with the Control4 remotes and app, along with the smart switches on the walls,” Tobin says. “Zach loves his music, so he enjoys being able to play it in all rooms of the house. ... We were also able to incorporate our record player, which we love.”

The two dogs—Orly, a Havanese poodle mix, and Barbara (Babs), an Australian labradoodle—enjoy the outdoor space of the .9-acre property. The covered backyard porch is another great entertaining space with a gas grill, a Traeger smoker, and an adjustable 65-inch TV visible from both the pool and covered deck.

“We have never had a pool before, which comes in handy for this Texas summer heat, and our backyard area is fully outfitted with Triad satellite speakers and a subwoofer, so we have premium outdoor audio quality,” says Tobin noting the smart system also controls the outdoor lighting, pool system and jacuzzi that’s attached to the pool. “Being able to listen to music or the radio while spending time outdoors has been a game-changer.”

The quiet street and amicable neighbors have made them feel at home, she says. “We love that Austin has its own identity and were drawn to the energy and sense of community in the city.” ▲