

A DESIGN THAT ELEVATES FUNCTION

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A STAIRCASE CAN DO SO MUCH MORE THAN TAKE YOU FROM POINT A TO POINT B, EVEN BECOMING A CENTRAL GATHERING HUB OF THE HOME.

“Creating more square footage is only one part of building an addition; it’s also necessary to look for ways to improve the overall look, feel and function of the existing home,” said Royce Flournoy, president of Texas Construction Company.

Royce’s general contracting business works alongside some of the best architects in Austin, Texas, to build design-driven projects that stand out in aesthetics and function. “This most recent project was a breakthrough idea for the neighborhood,” explained Royce. “The family wanted a contemporary feel but lived in a traditional-looking community. With the second story addition, we could create something tucked away from the street view. Now, they have that modern feel in the back and interior while still honoring the streetscape.”

The 950-square-foot addition bridges the gap between

the original home and the previously detached garage, creating an open-concept feel along with an additional downstairs family room, powder room and upstairs office. “We created this new downstairs living plan and upstairs office in what was essentially just a patch of grass,” added Royce.

Texas Construction Company worked with architect Matt Fajkus and the client to bring the vision to life while styling aligned with budget and craftsmanship. They added cool features, like window seats in the treehouse-like office and a secret paneled door from the family room to the garage. However, the staircase, illuminated by skylights and a captivating glass bulb chandelier, takes the spotlight.

The floating steel and rift-sawn oak construction take on a sculptural look, dissenting off a central pillar and onto a

A sleek paneled column opens to reveal a hidden powder room that serves the downstairs family room addition. Similarly, a secret paneled door in the stair landing opens to much-needed additional storage for the busy family.

Skylights above the stairwell not only illuminate the path up to the office but bounce light off the white walls to flood the interior of the home.

substantial landing. While this pillar and landing initially look like aesthetic choices, they come with plenty of function, housing the powder bath and banquette seating.

“The stairs sit off the kitchen,” explained Royce. “So, creating a banquette in the landing expands the usable space.” The banquette seating is finished in the same oak wood and features a black marble table top mounted on a steel support anchored to the paneled pillar. A retractable bench can be pulled out for more seating or tucked away when not in use, creating a clear path to the new back family room. On the other side of the paneled central pillar lies a concealed door to the new powder room. Above, the oak continues on the ceiling to accentuate the skylights and provide a solid mount for the substantial chandelier.

“The idea of the design was to position the stairs as their own mass,” said Royce. “All of the elements are finished in the same wood tone and surrounded by white walls, creating the feeling of more space and light.”

The choice for this unique design was clear and well-intentioned. “Rather than blocking everything off with walls, housing these elements in the stairs themselves allows for more sightlines and avenues for light to flood the house, creating a larger and more open feel,” said Royce. “Building this addition not only added extra living space, but it completely changed the footprint and light balance of the existing structure.”

It’s safe to say that the homeowner’s commute to the office has been elevated a few steps above the rest. After enjoying a cup of coffee in the banquette, they can ascend to new heights as they work amongst the treetops. ♦

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The second-floor addition bridges the gap between the original home and the previously detached garage while providing the contemporary edge the young family desired.