

## Architectural Analysis of 7062, McCullough Avenue

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As you pull into the drive in front of 7062 McCullough, dark green bushes and hot pink Crapemyrtle spring out of triangular brick-lined slots that guide you to a parking space. The soft, grey-brown brick contemporary house is sheltered from the hot Texas sun by a profusion of greenery. The entry gate to the house opens onto a winding path through a setting worthy of a botanical garden. The exposed-aggregate concrete path, lined with soft brown bricks, winds through the rampant greenery of the garden with its bright accents of white, golden-orange and purple. The garden and house are organized along a longitudinal axis, extending deeply from the street.



The zen-like calmness of the garden is extended into the house itself, and perhaps is a reflection of the original designer's persona. This designer, the mother of the present owner, designed the property as a retirement home capable of hosting large parties. Her love of gardening and architecture can be seen clearly in the present house built in 1981; in its simple, modern palette of architectural forms and materials.

The house is a Garden Home, a detached version of the Patio Home, a category that came into existence in



the 1970s. Patio homes are usually one-story and share at least one side wall with the neighboring home. They have a back patio, but not necessarily a backyard. Patio homes are usually built in a cluster of 2 to 4 homes, not a long row of homes as seen with a townhouse complex. Garden real estate is a niche market in San Antonio, which has appeal for those seeking a home with an established garden.

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This Garden Home is a unique design that extends the definition of living space to the exterior garden. The exterior, with its various shaded seating areas and wisteria arbor, is shaped into outdoor rooms that are enclosed and private, like an architectural interior. Despite the home's location on a fairly busy street, the house's interior and the garden are utterly quiet and tranquil. This is due to a key feature of the home's design; the closets and bathrooms are placed on the street side of the house, acting as a buffer for the interior. It also does not share exterior walls with the

neighboring homes.



Garden spaces are also woven into the fabric of the house. The entry into the house leads directly on axis to an atrium filled with light; this atrium, filled with exuberant greenery, illuminates the dining area, whose entrance is marked by columns painted with ivy. Large windows, patio doors and corner windows peek from every room in the house into the exterior garden.



Natural materials and garden imagery cover the walls of the bathrooms and kitchen. A den with broad glass opens to the garden beyond.

