

Architectural Analysis of 240, Linda Drive

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This sleek 1950 ranch-modern inside the loop in San Antonio epitomizes the post-World War II idealized American home. The expansive tree-shaded yard, the lengthy axis of the house running parallel with the street, and the open, spacious interior rooms speak to the word, ABUNDANCE. After the sacrifices made during World War II, Americans were ready for a taste of the American Dream and desirous of leaving the past behind. New homes expressed American's desire for beautiful materials and luxurious space. The style of the ideal

American home changed pretty dramatically, from the charming small Craftsman Bungalow and the Minimalist Traditional to the open plan and plate glass windows of the modern Ranch Style home.

This architect-designed home is composed of a palette of San Antonio Limestone, cream-color painted wood, and thin steel channel and rod columns. The limestone is cut in long, slim slabs of alternating sizes, whose composition is designed to emphasize the long, earth-hugging, horizontal lines of the house. An opposing axis or visual connection, one perpendicular to the long body of the house, is made through the large, plate-glass windows of the living room; one can see straight thorough the living room into the dining area and then out the floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors of the den. This extension of views through the house into the landscape is a quintessential Ranch Style characteristic. Most likely, the sliding glass doors are by Arcadia, manufactured specifically to provide a direct and transparent view into the outdoor space. The flagstone patio floor has a curving profile, bounded by a low limestone wall; and its cover is upheld by pairs of slim steel columns.



The back of the den exhibits the transformation of a bungalow detail, the fireplace flanked symmetrically by bookshelves or benches. The updated Ranch version is done as a limestone wall, matching the long bands

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of the house's exterior, a low limestone bench extending the width of the room and floor to ceiling wood veneer bookshelves to each side. The cabinetry of the kitchen which opens fluidly into this space is of the same medium brown veneer with an eye-catching glass shelf and cabinet that is suspended over a the kitchen sink by a painted steel column. These light-filled connecting spaces are illuminated by a garden window box, two wood-grid and frosted-glass ceiling fixtures, and numerous skylights. A very special period piece hangs from the dining room ceiling, a bronze and smoke-glass plate chandelier. For more formal occasions, the dining/living area can be curtained off from the den by an accordion wood shutter.



Each bedroom is equipped with lengthy closets with a tall stack of drawers that culminates in a tilted mirror vanity. Each bathroom is a unique early 1950s design. One is has candy pink tile with wine-colored rose buds and a powder pink sink; the other is decorated in a seaside theme, lemon yellow and pale grass green tile with a wave motif on the framing tiles.

