

Architectural Analysis of 504 Travertine Lane

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If you are looking for a 1960s modern Ranch Style home with a bold, minimalist aesthetic, you will love the house at 504 Travertine Lane. It is quintessentially Ranch and tastefully renovated to appeal to those who like modern design.

The house stands out from all others on the street like a piece of white sculpture placed in the midst of an expansive green lawn dotted by native Texas trees. The painted white vertical planes of the house recede under the low, almost horizontal line of two gabled roofs.

At the entryway, the eaves of the first gabled roof are supported by a tall, white brick column and a screen of alternating bricks and voids. This screen stands upright out of a low horizontal planter filled, in stark contrast, with brilliant summer greenery and orange flowers, a detail which is repeated at the mailbox near the street. The line of the second gabled roof extends directly over the garage, incorporating it into the body of the house.



The front door leads you into a narrow, cozy entry tiled with pink terrazzo. From this vantage point, the total layout of the house is immediately displayed before you. The den / dining space to the right opens to you transparently through a metal screen with a quatrefoil pattern, or, looking straight ahead, the white open space of the living room opens directly to the back patio and yard, through large, period sliding glass doors, probably by Arcadia. The view is into a large enclosed yard with a fabulous multi-branched tree in the center.



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The interior of the house has the clean, slick feel of a modern art gallery. The metal screen, paneled walls, and built-in bookshelf are painted crisp white, and details such as doorknobs and light fixtures have all been tastefully updated with modern hardware in a contemporary, minimalist style. The dining area can be illuminated by a built-in tray near ceiling height---a modern version of the wall sconce.

In typical Ranch fashion, the more familial spaces of the house, the kitchen and bedrooms, are tucked to either side of the living room and take advantage of the view to the back yard. The kitchen has been completely renovated with dark wood cabinetry, polished metal hardware and a smooth white Corian countertop. Every detail of the renovation, although contemporary, is tasteful and in keeping with the 60s modernist style of the house.



This blending of old with the new is carried through into the hallway, bedrooms and bathroom on the other side of the house. The wood panel doors and folding closet panels are original as well as some of the polished metal hardware. The bathroom has an artful, angled countertop covered in white tile, matching the floor and wainscot, whose countertop shape makes excellent use of the narrow space leading back to the window.

