

## **Architectural Analysis of 427 W. King's Highway**

*By: Architectural Historian  
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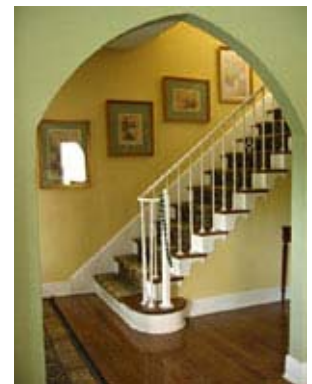


This charming, brick house on West King's Highway was designed in the English Tudor Revival style, a residential style that was very popular in the neighborhoods near downtown San Antonio in the 1930s. The style is evoked by the stately, curved brick entrance portico which extends out towards the visitor, and the prominent cross gable, ornamented with triangular knee braces, that intersects the house's low-pitched four-point roof. Often the Tudor style would also include features such as faux half-timbering; but the beauty of this design is in its elegant simplicity. The owner has improved upon this elegance by adding a turn-around drive in front, landscaping, and the bright red entry door whose color sparkles in the cut-glass insert of its body.



The interior spaces are light-filled and spacious for a house of this period. Upon entering the house you are greeted with a staircase filled with light from a window above. The staircase is ornamented with unique cut-wood side panels that dramatize the cadence of the stairs and match in character the wood cut-outs above the kitchen sink in the room beyond.

The living and dining rooms, in fact all rooms of the house, are outlined with wood ceiling moldings, baseboards, door and window moldings of a style unique to this house. The simple vertical lines and intersections of the moldings remind me of details on Art Deco buildings of the 1930s. In fact, there are several original cut-glass door knobs in the house that are connected to the door with metal v-shaped plates which look very reminiscent of Art Deco wall sconces (or an upside-down view of the Chrysler Building's tower in New York).

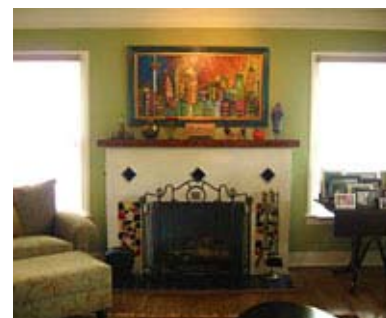


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The fireplace in the living room and the downstairs guest bath are ornamented with brightly colored Mexican tiles, thanks to the previous owner before last. Although their design does not historically complement the house, I think they enhance the cheerful, overall bright demeanor of the house. This owner also added the alternating milky green-blue-white glass tile in the kitchen whose color scheme has Art Deco overtones. The kitchen itself is spacious and has the original cabinetry in excellent condition.



Other historical features worth seeing are the pink and white hexagonal tile in the upstairs bath, true vintage 1930s, as well as the wood-carved telephone niches on both floors of the house. The upstairs hallway is lined ceiling to floor with an oak bookcase commissioned by the present owner. The owner is a music lover and had another built-in cabinet designed to hold his extensive vinyl record and CD collection, which could be re-utilized for these purposes or simply used as another wall-length bookcase. This gorgeous 2-storey, 3 bedroom house has been well-loved by its owners, as you will soon see!

