MADRONE Landscape Architecture

Portfolio, Edition 2 04.2010



Jon Ahrens' Madrone LDC takes its cues from nature. If left alone, what plants would flourish? Which way would the stream flow?

Jon is intuitive and academic in his approach. He draws upon his knowledge of horticulture, history, architecture and art to direct and reveal the hidden attributes of nature's serendipity.

The landscape architect's palette of living materials creates settings for gradual and continual change. To gently guide the design process, it is necessary to balance the rigors of architecture and the ramblings of nature. Geometry is revealed while respecting the demands of the site—with the ground as form, trees as sculpture and vegetation, rock and water as textures and shapes that articulate the natural environment.

It's not enough to simply shape the earth-there must also be a relationship with how we dwell in that landscape, how we discover the spirit of the place. For land gets better under the care and stewardship of those who learn from the earth while reshaping it.

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Examples of color and texture in a courtyard garden.

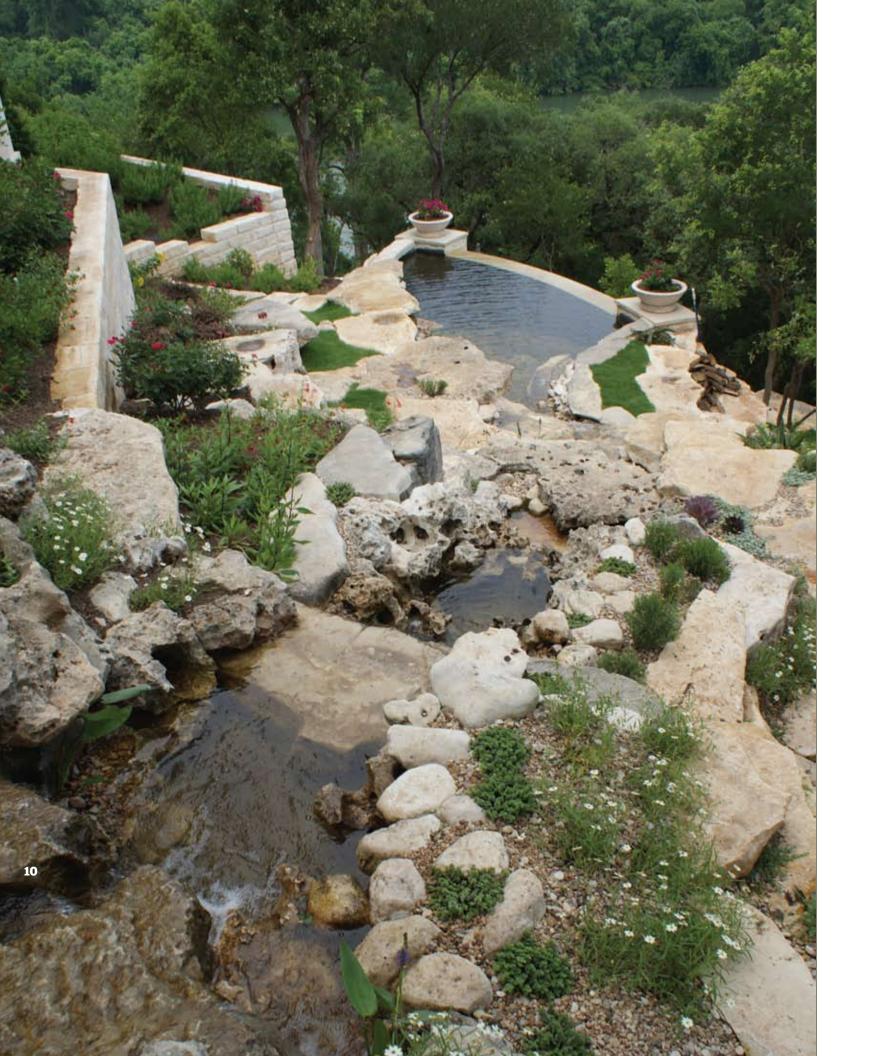


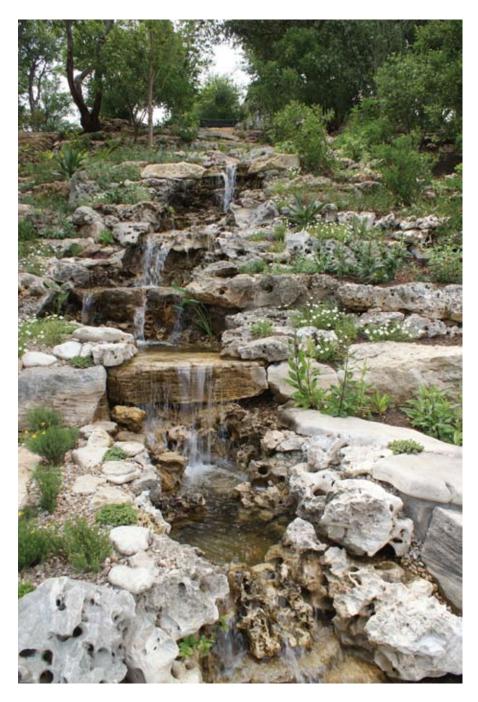


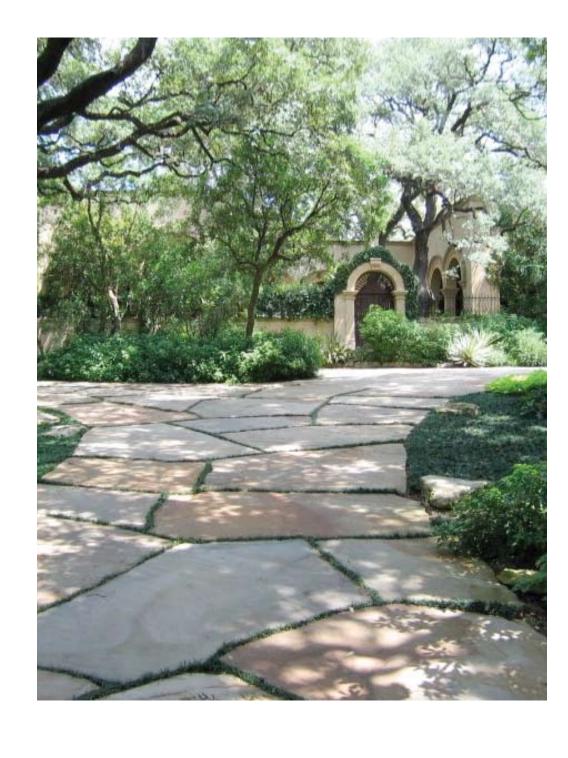




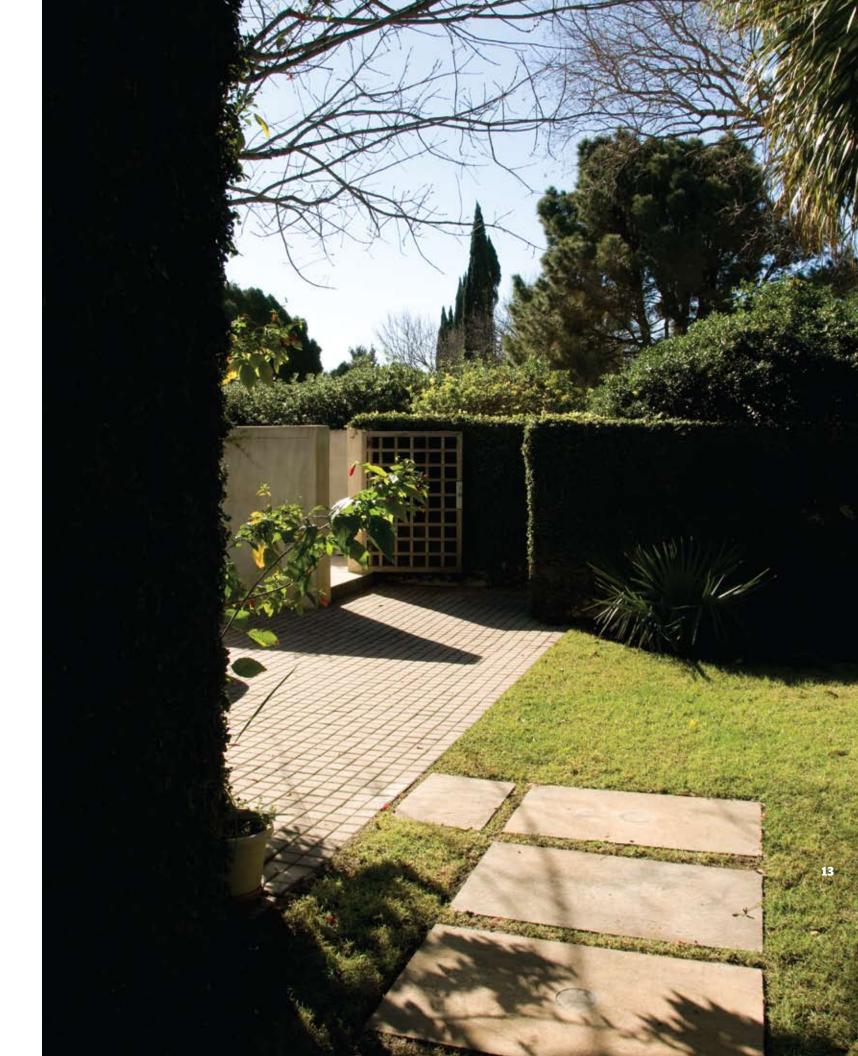








Examples of working a path and driveway into the lawn. Plants used to soften the way.











Before—View from the middle of the future park - an asphalt parking lot for the Tobin candy factory built in the 1920s.

After—Same view from the now Chris Park towards the renovated CAMPstreet Building. Giant Timber Bamboo groves shade the locally quarried limestone gathering spaces and benches. Beneath the stone terrace is a manifold of pipes allowing the terrace itself to act as one large drain for the fountains.





PACE ROOF GARDEN

View from roof top of the CAMPstreet Building that overlooks Chris Park.







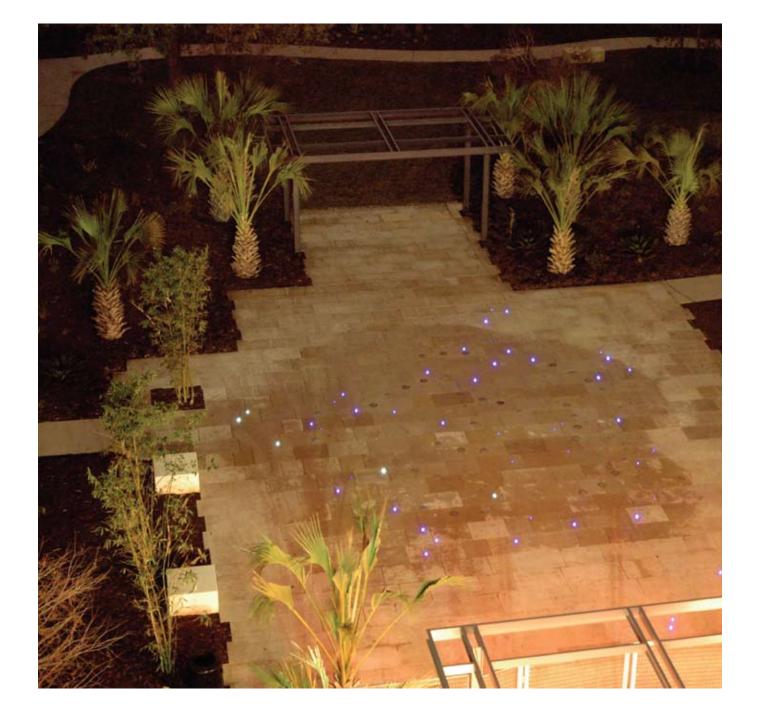


CHRIS PARK

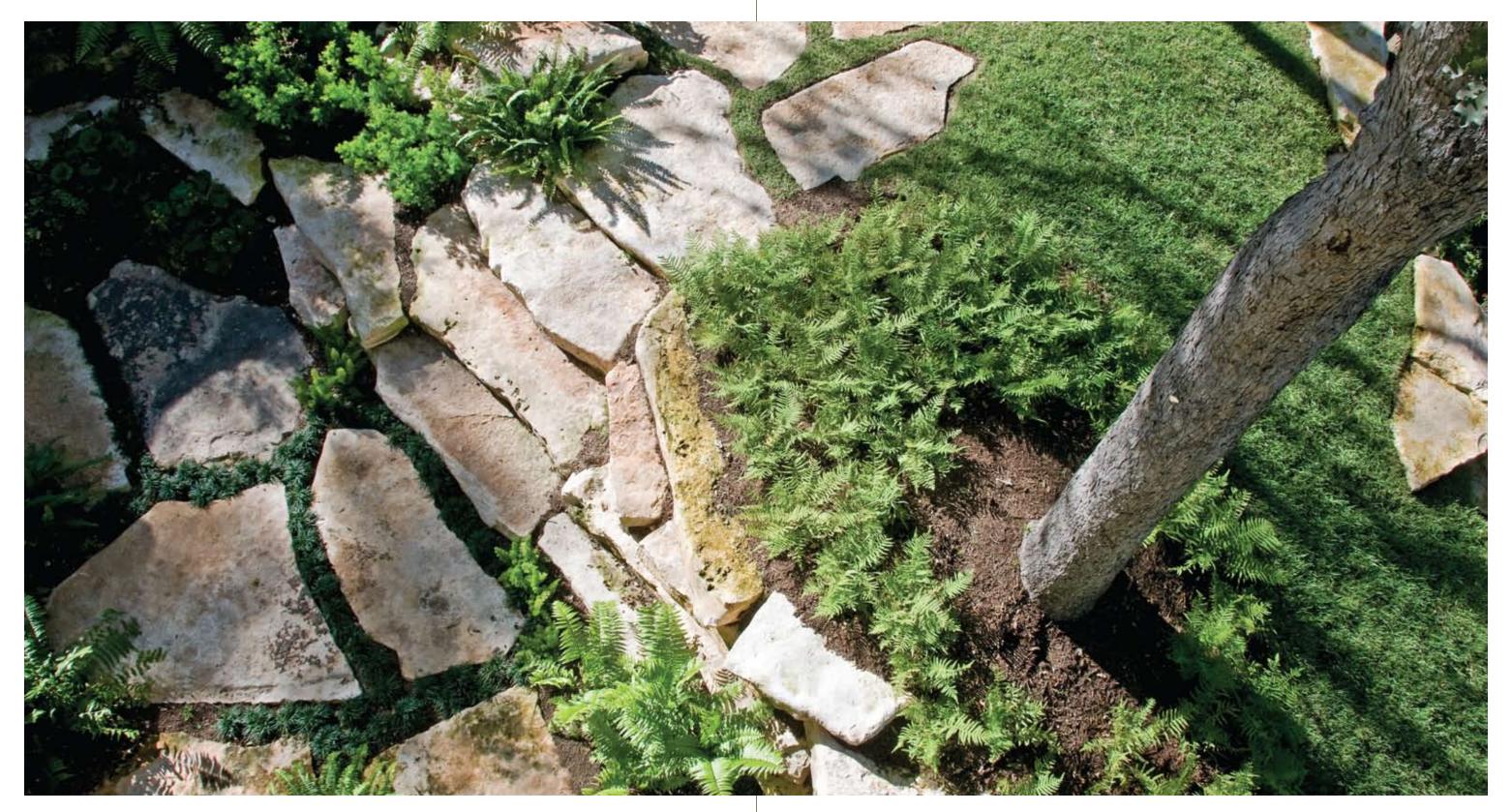
Palm Hill—Under the foliage of indigenous South Texas plants, a hill covers the cistern that supplies water to the fountains.

Tumble Hill—One of two small hills in the park created for spatial separation, the Tumble Hill provides ample opportunity for play.

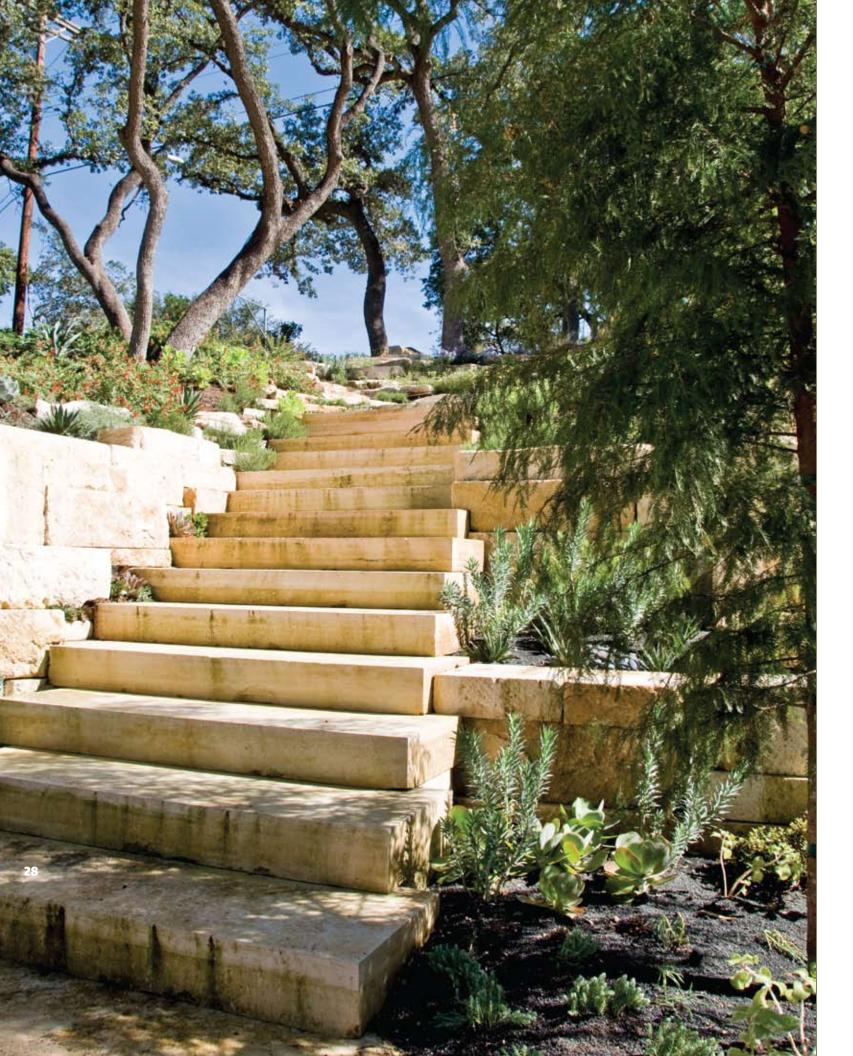


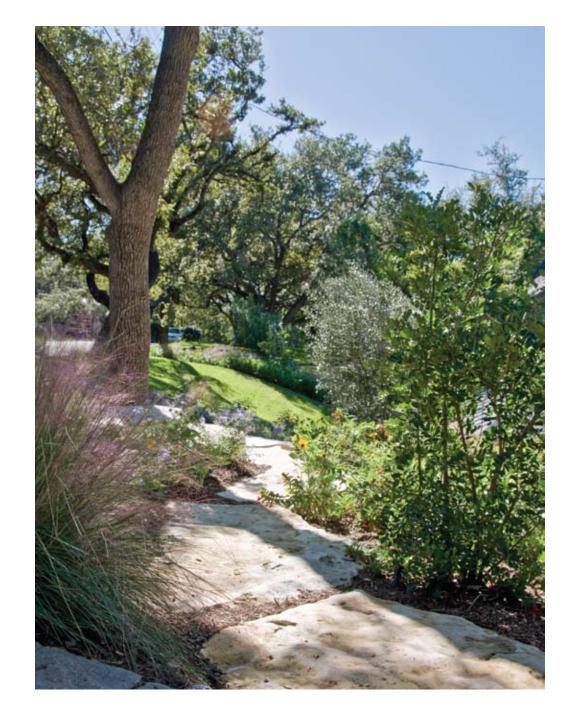


Diversity—San Antonio is the hub of a variety of regional land types; Prairies meet the arid Plains, and the Balcones escarpment creating the Texas Hill Country. Chris Park's gardens were created to show the diversity of plants available from those regions.

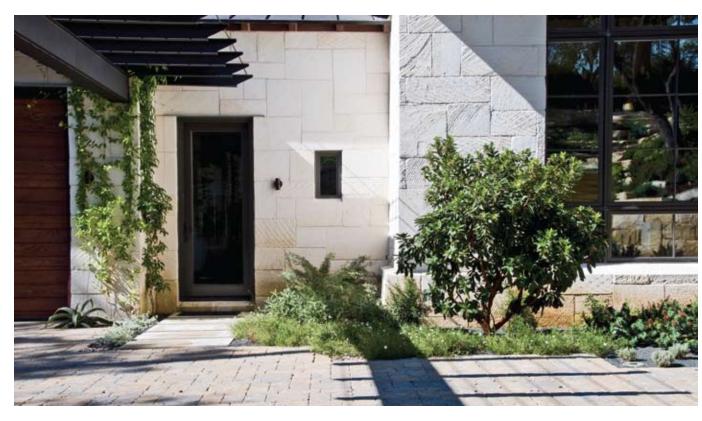


26 SCENIC DRIVE RESIDENCE 27

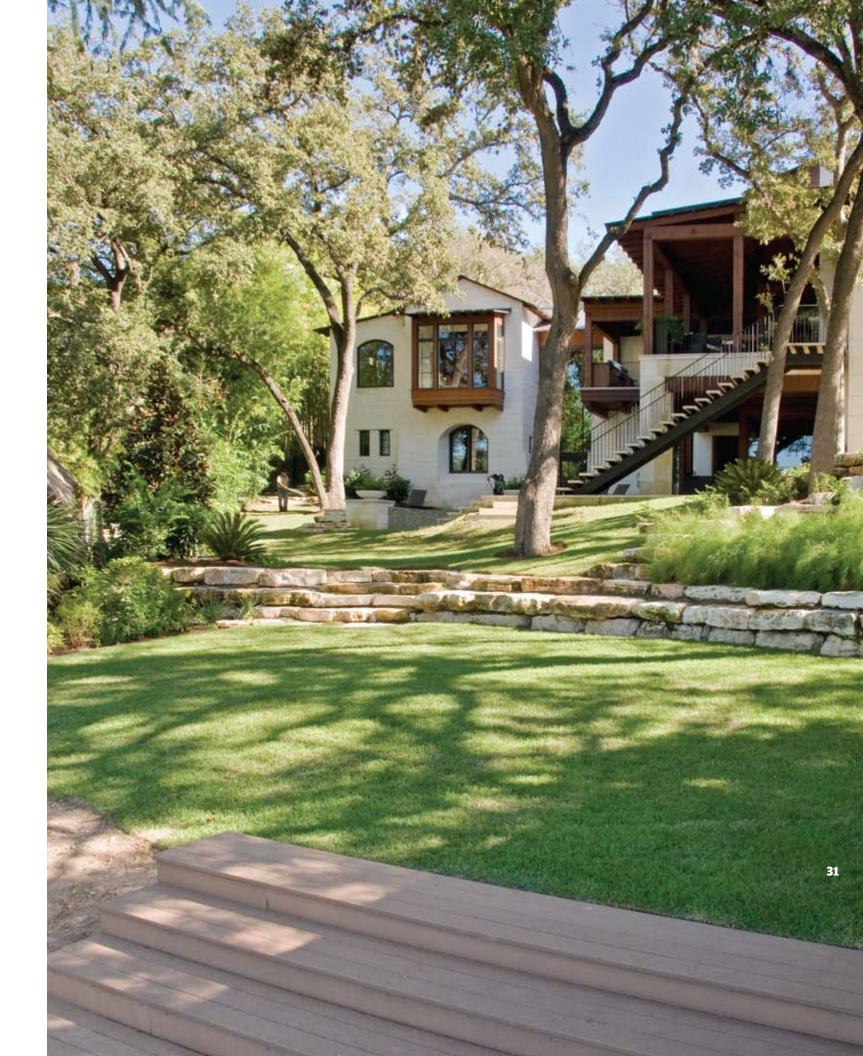


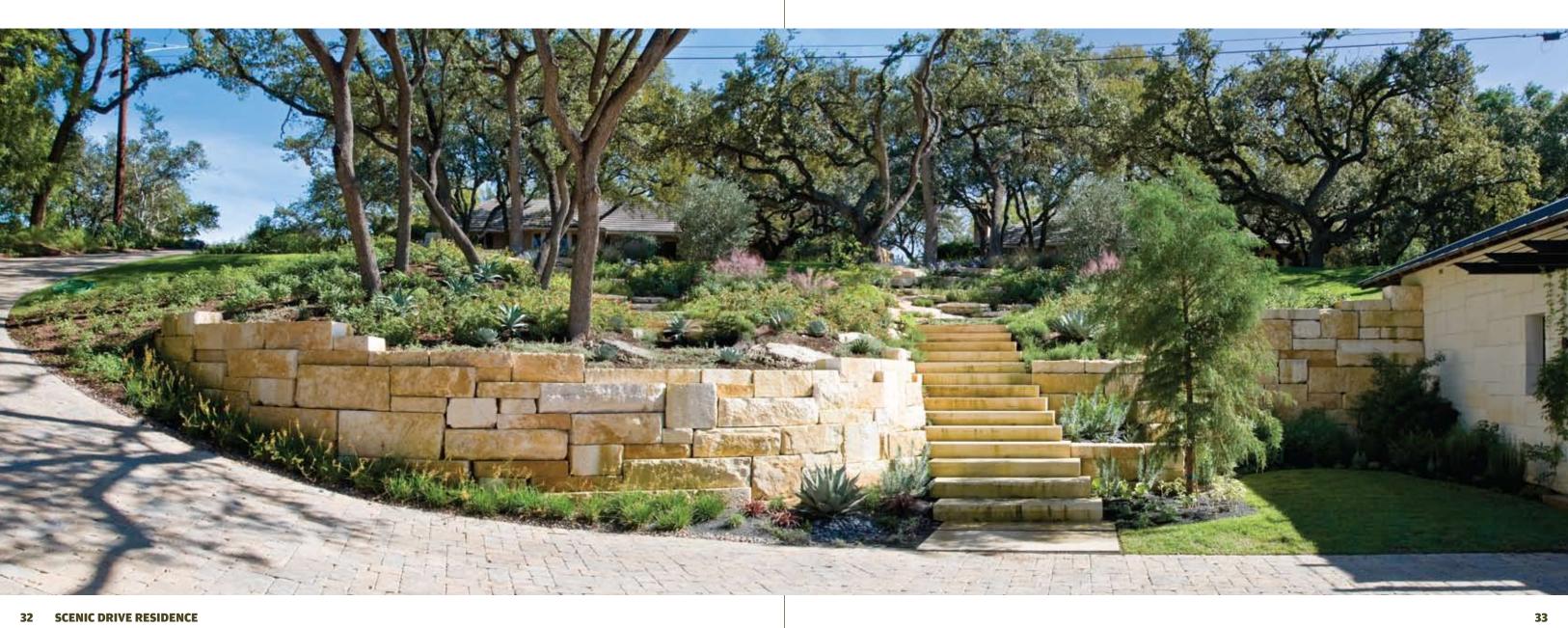


SCENIC DRIVE RESIDENCE

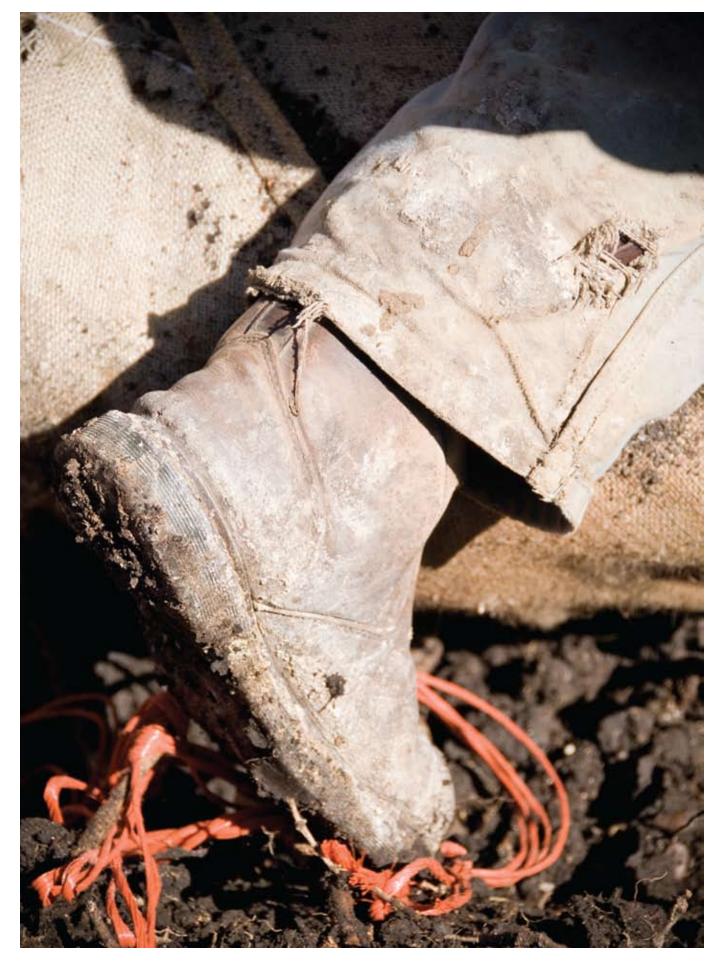








32 SCENIC DRIVE RESIDENCE





Jon Ahrens—landscape architect and founder of Madrone—has practiced landscape design for more than 15 years.

Rather than forcing or sculpting a design into the landscape, Jon's philosophy is to replicate the serendipity of nature, often through the use of indigenous stone work, water features, and native plantings. Over the years, Jon has brought his expertise to many regional, national, and international residential and commercial landscape projects.

Prior to founding Madrone, Jon served as principal of Kings Creek Landscape Management with noted landscape architect Rosa Finsley in Austin. He also worked at MESA Design Group in Dallas and Land Design Studio in Austin on projects throughout the Texas Hill Country, San Antonio, and Colorado. His work has been published in the books Texas Home Landscaping, Outside the Not So Big House: Creating the Landscape of Home, and has been featured in such magazines as Architectural Digest, Texas Architect, and Lone Star Living.

As principal of Madrone, Jon is personally involved in every project from concept to completion, from site walk-through to drafting and design. Jon earned his Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from Texas Tech University and is a Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

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