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# Camp Lawson

OPPOSITE PAGE: Industrial touches like aluminum light fixtures and exposed plumbing give this master bathroom a vintage vibe. THIS PAGE: Stretched canvas covers the ceiling in the home of Charlotte and Kyle Lawson, but iron chandeliers lend a romantic feeling.

CHARLOTTE AND KYLE LAWSON'S BEDROOM and bath were designed in a Hill Country summer camp style, with rock walls, concrete floors, ample windows and even canvas stretched across the ceiling. Of course, summer camp never looked so good.

Works Progress Administration buildings from the 1930s inspired the original homeowners and architect Mell Lawrence to create the bedroom and bathroom of the West Austin home in that style. Those lodge-like structures were built with local materials including rocks, wood and concrete. "We were trying to get the textures and materials of that time," Lawrence says, using a piece of corrugated metal, for example, as a sliding door leading to the bedroom-bathroom wing.



**ABOVE:** The master suite was built as an addition in 2001, connected to the rest of the house by a long hallway. That created a courtyard that can be viewed from this chaise lounge in the bedroom. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** "I think the bathroom is everybody's favorite," says homeowner Charlotte Lawson, with interesting details like a concrete tub and towering windows made from French doors.

"We're not fancy people," Charlotte Lawson says. "We *live* in our house. It's a kid-friendly, kid-proof house. We feel like they built it just for us. It's the first house I've owned where I didn't want to change anything."

The bedroom and bathroom were constructed for the previous owner as an addition. Lawrence connected these rooms to the rest of the house with a hallway lined on one side with awning windows stacked as closely as possible and on the other with bookshelves. The space is furnished with a daybed.

The addition makes a U-shape with the rest of the home, forming a central courtyard filled with grass, ferns, trees and a rock walkway. The bedroom windows look out onto the courtyard. "For us, it feels like a retreat," Charlotte says. "When our friends and family come to stay, they say it feels like a vacation."

The floors throughout are unstained, waxed concrete, and the tub and showers were cast from concrete, with sides formed with boards to get an interesting texture. "I think the bathroom is everybody's favorite," Charlotte says. The retro-style sinks with

exposed plumbing add a vintage feel. A lovely hutch Lawson found at Gardens serves as shelving.

The shower isn't separated from the rest of the bathroom by a door. "You just walk in and out of the space," Charlotte says. There is one door, but it leads outside to the outdoor shower that Lawson says she loves to use. The spacious bathtub has accommodated as many as three children at once for bubble baths, she adds. Above the shower are gigantic windows made from French doors that open for another fresh-air experience.

In the bedroom, canvas was attached to the ceiling with cleats and grommets to mimic a tent. "It's breathtaking," says Charlotte. "I love the effect of the lighting. How they came up with that idea, I don't know."

Charlotte uses simple furnishings, including attractive but kid-friendly slipcovers that can be washed as needed. "The house is so amazing, it doesn't really matter what I do," she says. And with six siblings and 13 nieces and nephews, practicality is important. "Summertime here is a camp," she says. "Camp Lawson."

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