

## FEATURED PROJECT #1 - Great Hills Remodel



Kitchen - BEFORE Renovation



Our clients purchased an inefficiently planned 2,332 square foot 4-bedroom house because they loved the location and the price was right. It had the tacky windows, doors, hardware, millwork, and other features that scream “low-end builder home”. With a growing family, they really needed a larger kitchen, laundry area, and master bath; as well as better flow and storage space. We were hired to solve the functional issues and transform the look of the house to better suit their lifestyle.

The renovation included a tiny addition at the kitchen (23 s.f.), as well as a 280 s.f. two-story addition that allowed us to double the size of the master bathroom and add a large walk-in closet on the upper floor, while creating a better laundry and small multi-purpose space with Murphy bed on the lower floor. All of the windows, doors, and hardware were replaced. An outdoor cooking area was added and the existing deck was reconfigured to accommodate the new kitchen addition.

The original kitchen / breakfast / family area was very poorly laid out and broken up by divider walls – one housing a cheesy built-in bookcase. By scaling back the width of one wall and replacing the other with see-through bar millwork, the spaces have been visually combined. The small kitchen addition – essentially capturing a single corner – allowed for a greatly improved layout for cabinets and appliances, as well as for a much larger and more useful island. Shaker style cherry cabinetry, a granite countertop and stainless steel appliances replaced the existing oak cabinets, plastic laminate counter tops and old appliances. On the far wall of the family room we designed a custom entertainment center which houses a large screen TV (concealed from view thanks to retractable doors) and the books, etc., that were displaced when the old built-ins were removed.

*In the “before & after” photos at the top of the page you can see how the tiny 23 s.f. addition (on the Left where the white ovens were) found enough room to accommodate a larger island, as well as additional counter space and kitchen cabinetry. On the right side of the “after” photo, you can see the new built-in entertainment center wall.*

## FEATURED PROJECT # 2 - Renaissance Women's Group



This 25,000 sq. ft. office was designed to appeal to women of all ages, and young children, who often accompany their mothers. The clients an OB/GYN group of 6 women) wanted the facility to communicate the progressive, caring attitude they bring to the practice of medicine. They asked that the interior space be "inviting, fresh and non-institutional, with lots of daylight and touches of whimsy." They also wanted their 2nd floor offices to be "compatible, but not identical" with the 50,000 sq. ft. hospital (interior design by Laurie Smith) located in the same Medical Office Building.

Simple architectural forms, color, lighting, furnishings and art were used to create an upbeat, hospitable environment on a tight budget. Bright colors are used on to facilitate wayfinding. A rotunda with a curved stair leads to the clinic floor where individual doctors' areas are identified by portals. (Each doctor chose a portal design and color from a series developed by the designer). Signature colors are repeated on curved walls in the long corridors. Wood floors and soft lighting are used as welcoming touches. Original artworks by local women artists are featured throughout the space \$46 / sq. ft.

*The OB/GYN office received a design excellence award from the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID / Austin) and the project was published in TEXAS ARCHITECT and INTERIORS & SOURCES magazine. Laurie Smith Design Associates was involved in the space planning of the space (including systems furniture layout), handled millwork, lighting design, & developed interior architectural details as well as selecting interior architectural finishes, furnishings and artwork.*



This money management firm wanted to create a sophisticated new image in a multi-tenant floor of the Norwood Tower, a quirky, historic 1930's downtown office building with low ceilings, dark corridors and poor lighting. They also needed to squeeze their staff, reception, conference needs and a large file / copy / storage area into a 4,000 sq. ft. space. As part of the design solution the elevator lobby was transformed into a reception area by incorporating a custom-designed desk with a roll-down security gate (above) into the corridor wall opposite elevator doors. The "Zolatone" painted Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF) portal and back-lit signage wall direct attention to the receptionist while subtly patterned marble flooring, simulated plaster walls, artwork, a cove lit ceiling and seating evoke an air of elegance.

Window walls, glass doors and multiple lighting sources were used to visually expand the corridor and interior spaces, while repetition of design details, materials and colors unify the space. A separate phone / computer booth, off the interior corridor, was provided for visitors use. Additional MDF architectural forms, which penetrate the interior corridor wall, define the transition from public to private space. The main conference room includes a custom-designed conference table and cabinetry with a built-in electronic marker board, and a retractable projection screen.

*The project received a design excellence award from the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID / Austin "Best Commercial Project - Under 5,000 sq. ft."). The project was featured in the AUSTIN / SAN ANTONIO DESIGN GUIDE.*

## FEATURED PROJECT # 4 - Santa Fe Optical



The existing brick and wood storefront (formerly a Starbucks) was re-designed and clad in stainless steel panels – a simple contemporary statement that compliments the cutting-edge eyewear inside.

Custom-colored light transmitting acrylic was used in back-lit display niches along one wall and to create a glowing structure behind the cash wrap, clearly visible from the parking lot. A custom-designed stainless steel lighting system utilizes tiny low-voltage lamps to highlight the merchandise on sandblasted glass shelving in the niches. The same glass shelving is suspended on taut air-craft cable in front of the windows to provide a merchandising opportunity while maximizing visibility into the store.

For security purposes, the store is wide open; but the use of floor materials (speckled black rubber/cork and skewed maple planks), as well as the placement of furnishings and mirrors help to organize the space and create a sense of intimacy. (Discretely placed security cameras also aid in monitoring customer activity from the Lab area.) Stylish furnishings, including café-style tables with high stools that are used for fitting, and a custom-designed cash wrap complete the picture.

*The project received a design excellence award from the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID / Austin) as well as a regional design excellence award from the Texas-Oklahoma Chapter of the International Interior Design Association (IIDA). It was also published in the AUSTIN DESIGN GUIDE and LUXE magazine.*



Laurie Smith Design Associates was asked to create a “sophisticated, fresh” atmosphere for a new 5,000 sf restaurant/bar located in a suburban strip center. Though the owner’s concept was upscale in terms of food and service, the finish-out budget was a modest \$104./sf. The multi-level design solution emphasizes color, texture, light and architectural form.

9’ frameless glass entry doors, capped by a hemispherical transom, reveal curved watermelon-colored forms beyond. Inside, bleached cherry, stainless steel, leather and concrete complement finely stuccoed beige walls. The exposed roof structure is painted deep purple. Storefront has been removed from the bar and plantation shutters installed in the lounge to screen parking lot views. Furring designed into the new bar wall incorporates high windows to admit natural light.

Generously proportioned marble steps, flanked by custom-designed railings, lead to the lower level where a curving apricot wall creates intimate dining areas. An expanse of 12-ft. ht. glass set into deep furring opens dining areas to the greenbelt beyond. The main dining areas are bisected by a thick purple plane housing custom pocket doors that penetrates the building envelope, further uniting interior and exterior. Custom pendant fixtures provide 90% up-light and elegant fused-glass sconces add a warm glow. A programmable dimming system automatically creates a variety of lighting moods throughout the day.

*The project won local design awards from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) / Austin Chapter and the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) / Austin, and received a regional design award from the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) Texas / Oklahoma. It was also featured in an exhibit entitled “Portrait of a City”, at the Dougherty Arts Center and another exhibit in conjunction with the Charles W. Moore Center For The Study of Place. TEXAS MONTHLY described the restaurant as “an architectural knockout”.*



### EXAMPLES OF CLIENT COMMENTS

*"Laurie's attention to detail and sensitivity to our budget issues was very much appreciated. . . She helped us turn our kitchen into a pleasant, functional place that opens to our deck and pool and created a great indoor-outdoor space."*

**Cindy Lo**, President  
**RED VELVET EVENTS, INC.**

*"(Laurie Smith Design Associates) design work for Seton has always responded in a thoughtful way to our goals and criteria. . . I would heartily recommend the firm to anyone who is planning to renovate or build any type of commercial or residential space. . . Everything that I have seen the firm do reflects a high standard of design excellence and sensitivity to functional issues, budget concerns, and scheduling."*

**Gene Attal, Sr.** Vice President, Fund Development  
**SETON HEALTHCARE NETWORK**

*I highly recommend your firm for design and follow-through on institutional projects. Your work on the Center for African and African American Studies was responsive to the goals of the department . . . Communication with the Project Manager was consistent. Coordination with the contractor was seamless.*

**Bethany Trombley** Sr. Project Manager  
**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**

*"Laurie is very detail oriented and you can always get in touch with her. . . I've done a lot of restaurant construction, and that's not always the case. . . Laurie is good about asking what the budget is and . . . throughout the process she keeps us in tune with how we're doing"*

**Alan Hixon**, VP & CEO  
**FREEBIRDS WORLD BURRITO**

### MEDIA

*"A firm with a reputation for bold and aggressive designs"*

**TEXAS ARCHITECT**

*"Completed, the project gives testimony, not only to her space planning talents, but also to her ability to develop architectural details, implement a contemporary scheme within an old building shell, and . . . 'get a lot of bang for the buck'."*

**INTERIOR DESIGN Magazine**

*"After viewing hundreds of offices, Smith's work was fresh, elegant and inviting without relying on clichés."*

**INTERIORS Magazine**

*(Lamberts Restaurant is) "a well designed space that's beautiful without being pretentious. In other words, authentically Austin."*

**AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN**

*"Smith also is known for the diversity of her work. Her firm . . . has applied its creative skills to retail stores, traditional and high tech offices, health care settings and residences. It's won awards in all those categories. In fact, in the past 12 years, the company has received 12 national or regional design awards, the most recent a Citation of Honor at the American Institute of Architects Austin Design Awards (link to the article "Depth in Designs" <http://bit.ly/Om9Xky>)"*

**AUSTIN BUSINESS JOURNAL**