



MAKING WAVES:

YOUR GUIDE TO LAKESIDE LIVING IN AUSTIN



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Welcome to Making Waves: Your Guide to Lakeside Living in Austin. This eBook is your ultimate resource for embracing the unique lifestyle that comes with living by the water. Explore how to create inviting living spaces that reflect the charm of both lakeside and Hill Country aesthetics. Discover tips for outdoor entertaining, designing dreamy bedrooms, and crafting functional home offices with stunning views. We'll also delve into kid-friendly spaces that nurture future water enthusiasts and provide essential maintenance tips for keeping your home in top shape. Get ready to immerse yourself in the beauty and adventure of lakeside living in Austin!

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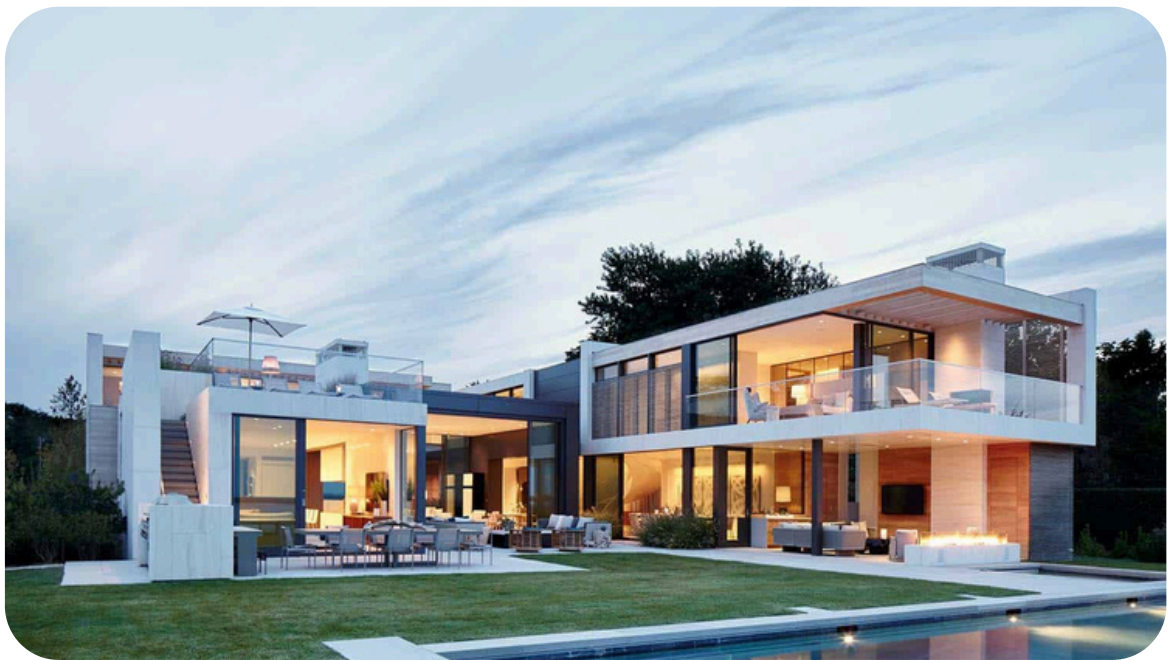
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION: EMBRACING THE AUSTIN LAKE LIFE

Welcome to your guide to creating the ultimate lakeside home in Austin! Whether you're a water sports enthusiast, a nature lover, or a family looking to make a splash in Lake Austin or Lake Travis living, this eBook is your compass to navigating the perfect blend of laid-back lake vibes and Austin's unique charm. We'll show you how to infuse your space with the relaxed energy of lakeside living while creating a functional, stylish haven for all your Texan adventures.

Get ready to transform your waterfront property into an awesome retreat that reflects your passions and brings your loved ones closer together. From water-inspired decor to boat-friendly outdoor spaces, we've got you covered. So grab your sunscreen and favorite lake float, and let's dive into creating a home that's as cool as a dip in the lake on a hot Austin day!



CHAPTER 2

LIVING ROOM
RETREAT:
WHERE LAKE
VIBES MEET HILL
COUNTRY CHARM

Your living room is the heart of your home – the place where you'll gather after a day of wakeboarding on Lake Travis or paddling through the serene waters of Lake Austin. Let's create a space that's as refreshing as a lakeside breeze and as welcoming as a Texas sunset.

Make Waves with These Design Tips:

- **Ride the Color Current:** Choose a palette inspired by your favorite lakeside scenes. Think deep blue waters, sandy shore neutrals, and pops of green inspired by the surrounding Hill Country. These colors will bring the outdoors in and create a serene atmosphere.
- **Lake Life Wall Art:** Display oversized photographs or paintings of Lake Austin or Lake Travis. Consider featuring iconic Austin landmarks like Pennybacker Bridge or scenes from your favorite lakeside spots.
- **Water Sport Accents:** Incorporate elements of your favorite lake activities into your decor. Mount a vintage water ski as a unique shelf, or use a stylish paddle as a wall hanging. It's a cool way to showcase your love for lake life while adding functional style to your space.

Lakeside Lounging: Choose a comfortable, durable sectional that can handle wet swimsuits and sunscreen. Opt for performance fabrics in lake-inspired hues that are easy to clean and resist fading from the intense Texas sun.

- Hill Country Textures: Mix and match textures to create a laid-back, lakeside vibe with a touch of Texas. Think soft cotton throws, woven jute rugs, and reclaimed wood coffee tables that look like they've been well-loved by generations of lake-goers.
- Mood Lighting: Install dimmer switches and use a mix of lighting sources to create the perfect ambiance for movie nights or post-wakeboarding hangouts. Consider driftwood table lamps or iron sconces with a rustic finish for that extra lake house touch.
- Family Adventures Gallery: Create a gallery wall showcasing your favorite family moments at the lake, on the boat, or exploring Austin's outdoor scenes. This personal touch will make your space feel like home and celebrate your shared adventures.

Bringing it All Together:

Imagine sinking into your cozy couch after a day of wakeboarding or kayaking, the smell of sunscreen and lake water still lingering in the air. Your living room is now the perfect spot for sharing stories of the day's biggest waves or planning tomorrow's stand-up paddleboard yoga session. The water skis on the wall aren't just decor – they're a reminder of the awesome memories you've made and the adventures yet to come on Lake Austin and Lake Travis.

Remember, the key to nailing this look is to keep it authentic to you and your family. Don't be afraid to mix high-end pieces with treasures found at local Austin vintage shops or handmade items from Hill Country artisans. The most important thing is that your living room feels like home – a place where flip-flops are welcome, and the good vibes are always flowing like the Colorado River.



3 CHAPTER

OUTDOOR
ENTERTAINING
SPACES:
FROM LAKESIDE
LOUNGING TO
SUNSET SOIREEES

Living on Lake Austin or Lake Travis isn't just about the indoor spaces – it's about embracing the outdoor lifestyle that makes Austin such a fantastic place to call home. Let's create outdoor areas that maximize your lake views, provide space for entertaining, and give you the perfect launchpad for all your water adventures.

Dive Into These Outdoor Design Ideas:

- **Deck Out Your Deck:** Create a multi-level deck that steps down towards the water. Use composite decking materials that can withstand the Texas heat and occasional splashes. Incorporate built-in benches with hidden storage for life jackets and water toys.
- **Lounge Like a Texan:** Set up a comfortable lounge area with weather-resistant furniture. Think oversized sectionals, Adirondack chairs, and hanging egg chairs. Use performance fabrics in shades of blue and neutral tones that complement the lake views.
- **Shade Solutions:** The Texas sun can be intense, so incorporate shade options like retractable awnings, pergolas with climbing vines, or sail shades. For a touch of Hill Country charm, consider a rustic cedar pergola.
- **Grill Master's Paradise:** Install an outdoor kitchen with a high-quality grill, prep space, and a mini-fridge for keeping those Lone Star beers cold. Add a smoker for authentic Texas BBQ nights.

- **Fire and Water:** Create a cozy gathering spot with a lakeside fire pit. Opt for a gas-powered version for easy lighting on those perfect Austin evenings. Surround it with comfortable seating for s'mores and storytelling sessions.
- **Illuminate the Night:** Install strategic lighting to extend your outdoor entertaining into the evening. Use a mix of string lights, landscape lighting, and underwater dock lights to create a magical atmosphere.
- **Game On:** Designate an area for outdoor games. A horseshoe pit, cornhole set, or even a life-sized chess board can provide hours of lakeside entertainment.
- **Zen Zone:** Carve out a quiet corner for yoga or meditation with a view of the lake. A small platform with weather-resistant yoga mats storage can become your favorite spot for sun salutations.
- **Water Access:** Make sure your dock or boat slip is both functional and stylish. Add a sliding board for quick access to the water, and don't forget a secure storage area for paddleboards, kayaks, and other water gear.
- **Native Landscaping:** Frame your outdoor spaces with native Texas plants that thrive in the lakeside environment. Incorporate bluebonnets, black-eyed Susans, and yuccas for a low-maintenance, drought-resistant garden that attracts local wildlife.

Bringing Your Outdoor Oasis to Life:

Imagine hosting a sunset barbecue on your multi-level deck. The grill is sizzling and your friends are lounging on comfortable seating, cold drinks in hand. Kids are taking turns on the water slide, their laughter mixing with the sound of lapping waves. As the sun dips below the horizon, painting the lake in golden hues, you light the fire pit and settle in for an evening of stargazing and s'mores.

Your outdoor space isn't just an extension of your home – it's the heart of your lake life experience. It's where memories are made, from Fourth of July fireworks viewed from your private dock to lazy Sunday afternoons spent swaying in a hammock with a good book.

Remember, the key to creating the perfect outdoor entertaining area is to balance functionality with the laid-back vibe that makes Austin special. Don't be afraid to mix high-end outdoor furniture with quirky finds from local Austin flea markets. The goal is to create a space that feels uniquely yours while embracing the natural beauty of your lakeside setting.



CHAPTER

WATER-INSPIRED
BEDROOMS:
DREAMY RETREATS
FOR LAKE LOVERS

After a day of wakeboarding on Lake Travis or hosting a lakeside BBQ for family and friends, you need a serene space to recharge. Let's create bedrooms that not only capture the essence of Austin's lake life but also cater to your need for relaxation and rejuvenation. These sanctuaries will help you unwind, addressing the unique challenges of modern life while embracing the tranquility of the water.

Dive into These Bedroom Design Ideas:

- **Soothing Color Palette:** Start with calming neutral tones reminiscent of sandy shores, then add pops of color inspired by the lake. Think muted teals, sun-washed reds, and dusky blues that evoke the beauty of lakeside sunsets.
- **Primary Suite Escape:** Design a primary bedroom that doubles as a private retreat. Install a small wet bar or coffee station, perfect for those early mornings when you want to enjoy your coffee with a lake view without disturbing the rest of the household.
- **Smart Home Integration:** Incorporate smart home features that allow you to control lighting, temperature, and window shades with your smartphone or voice commands. Set up a "lakeside mode" that adjusts everything to your perfect relaxation settings with one tap.

Flexible Spaces: Create adaptable areas within the bedroom that can change with your needs. A cozy reading nook can double as a small home office, allowing you to work remotely with a view of Lake Austin. Use modular furniture that can be easily reconfigured.

- **Soundproofing for Serenity:** Install soundproofing materials to create a quiet haven, perfect for light sleepers or those who want to muffle the sounds of early morning boats or weekend lake activities.
- **Blend of Classic and Contemporary:** Mix timeless pieces with modern amenities. An elegant, classic dresser can sit alongside a state-of-the-art smart TV that disappears into a customized frame when not in use.
- **Wellness Corner:** Dedicate a corner of your bedroom to wellness. A small yoga space or an area for meditation can help you start your day right or unwind after a stressful week of balancing work and life commitments.
- **Natural Alarm Clock:** Position the bed to take advantage of natural light and lake views. Install light-filtering shades that allow you to wake up gradually with the sun, or block out light completely for those mornings when you need extra sleep.
- **Clever Storage Solutions:** Address the need for decluttering with smart storage solutions. Built-in wardrobes with specialized compartments for water sports gear keep your bedroom tidy while making it easy to grab what you need for a spontaneous lake day.

Personal Art Gallery: Create a gallery wall featuring a mix of local Austin art, family photos from lake adventures, and pieces that reflect your personal journey. This personalized touch makes the space uniquely yours while showcasing your life experiences.

Bringing Your Lake-Inspired Bedroom to Life:

Imagine waking up in your serene bedroom, the soft light filtering through custom shades, gradually revealing the shimmer of Lake Travis outside your window. You start your programmable coffee maker with a voice command and step onto your private balcony to greet the day. The room behind you is a perfect blend of comfort and functionality – a cozy armchair invites you to relax with a good book, while a sleek tablet on the nightstand connects you to work and family with a touch.

As you sip your coffee, you appreciate how your bedroom has become more than just a place to sleep. It's a multifunctional retreat that allows you to navigate the demands of your busy life while never losing sight of the beautiful lake that drew you here. The adaptive workspace in the corner means you can take that early conference call without leaving your sanctuary, and the yoga mat rolled neatly in the wellness nook reminds you to take time for yourself.

The carefully chosen color palette and decor elements soothe your senses, reminding you of carefree days by the water, while the tech integrations keep you connected to the present and future. This is more than a bedroom; it's a personal oasis that understands and caters to your needs, all while embracing the laid-back luxury of Austin lake living.

5 CHAPTER

KITCHEN AND DINING: FUELING YOUR LAKE-SIDE ADVENTURES

The kitchen is often called the heart of the home, and for those living the lake life in Austin, it's where culinary creativity meets lakeside convenience. Let's create a space that not only caters to your love for good food and entertaining but also simplifies meal prep for busy days on the water. Your kitchen and dining area should be as ready for a gourmet dinner party as it is for a quick post-wakeboarding snack run.

Cook Up These Kitchen and Dining Ideas:

- **Open Concept with a View:** Design an open-plan kitchen that flows into the dining and living areas, maximizing lake views. Use a large island or peninsula to create a natural divide while maintaining the spacious feel.
- **Multifunctional Island:** Install a generously sized island with a built-in wine fridge, extra storage for lake gear, and comfortable seating. This becomes the perfect spot for casual breakfasts, kids' homework sessions, or chatting with friends while you prep for dinner parties.
- **High-Tech, Low Maintenance:** Incorporate smart appliances that can be controlled from your phone or voice-activated devices. Imagine preheating the oven for your famous lasagna while you're still out on the boat! Choose easy-to-clean surfaces like quartz countertops and smudge-resistant stainless steel.

- **Timeless Design, Modern Convenience:** Blend classic design elements with state-of-the-art cooking technology. A smart fridge with a built-in screen for recipes and grocery lists can complement traditional cabinetry and vintage-inspired hardware.
- **Indoor-Outdoor Flow:** Install large sliding glass doors or a pass-through window connecting the kitchen to an outdoor dining area. This makes it easy to serve food for lakeside gatherings and creates a seamless transition between indoor and outdoor living.
- **Dedicated Beverage Station:** Set up a coffee bar and smoothie station, perfect for quick morning fuel-ups before hitting the lake. Include a built-in tap for craft beer or kombucha – a nod to Austin's vibrant brewery scene.
- **Flexible Dining Spaces:** Opt for an expandable dining table that can accommodate intimate family dinners or larger gatherings. Consider a custom-built banquette with storage underneath for extra seating and lake toy storage.
- **Lakeside Herb Garden:** Install a small indoor herb garden or hydroponic system. Fresh herbs are always at your fingertips, whether you're mixing up a mojito for sunset sipping or garnishing your famous fish tacos.

Eco-Friendly Features: Incorporate energy-efficient appliances and a comprehensive recycling and composting station. Use sustainable materials like bamboo flooring or reclaimed wood accents to align with Austin's eco-conscious vibe.

- **Mood Lighting:** Install dimmable, layered lighting that can transition from bright and functional for meal prep to soft and ambient for dinner parties. Add under-cabinet LED strips for practicality and a touch of modern flair.
- **Lake-Inspired Decor:** Hang local Austin art featuring lake scenes or incorporate subtle nautical touches like cabinet pulls shaped like boat cleats. Use a color palette inspired by the lake – think soft blues, sandy neutrals, and pops of sunset orange.

Tech-Free Dining Zone: Designate the dining area as a tech-free zone to encourage family conversations and connection. Install a beautiful statement light fixture above the dining table to create a focal point that draws people together.



CHAPTER 6

HOME OFFICE: CATCHING IDEAS WITH A LAKE VIEW

In today's world of flexible work arrangements, a well-designed home office is essential. Let's create a workspace that keeps you productive while allowing you to enjoy the serenity of lakeside living.

Work-from-Lake Design Ideas:

- **View-centric Setup:** Position your desk to maximize lake views. This natural backdrop can boost creativity and reduce stress during work hours.
- **Flexible Workspace:** Use modular furniture that can adapt to different work needs, from focused computer work to creative brainstorming sessions.
- **Tech-Smart Solutions:** Invest in high-speed internet and smart home technology to ensure seamless video calls and file sharing.
- **Inspirational Decor:** Incorporate Austin-inspired art and lake-themed accessories to keep you motivated and connected to your surroundings.
- **Soundproofing:** Install sound-absorbing materials to create a quiet environment for calls and concentration, while still allowing you to open up to nature when desired.
- **Ergonomic Comfort:** Choose ergonomic furniture that supports long hours of work without sacrificing style.
- **Natural Lighting:** Utilize natural light as much as possible, supplemented by task lighting for cloudy days or evening work sessions.
- **Outdoor Work Option:** Create a covered outdoor workspace for those days when you want to feel even closer to nature.

7 CHAPTER

FAMILY-FRIENDLY SPACES: NURTURING THE NEXT GENERATION OF WATER ENTHUSIASTS

Create areas in your home that cater to family activities and foster a love for lake living across generations.

Family Fun Design Ideas:

- **Multipurpose Playroom:** Design a space that can evolve from a toddler's play area to a teenager's hangout spot, with plenty of storage for water toys and games.
- **Indoor-Outdoor Kids' Zone:** Create a safe, supervised area that allows easy transition between indoor activities and outdoor water fun.
- **Family Game Center:** Set up a dedicated space for board games, puzzles, or video games for family bonding on rainy days or quiet evenings.
- **Water Safety Station:** Designate an area near the entrance to the lake for life jackets, first aid supplies, and water safety rules.
- **Creative Corner:** Establish a space for arts and crafts, perhaps with an aquatic theme, to encourage creativity inspired by lake living.
- **Homework Nook:** Design a comfortable, distraction-free area for schoolwork that still captures a bit of the lake view for inspiration.

Family Memory Wall: Create a gallery wall where you can display photos and mementos from your lake adventures, updating it regularly with new experiences.

8 CHAPTER

KEEPING IT COOL
DESPITE SUN AND
SPLASHES

Maintaining a lakefront property comes with unique challenges. Here are some tips to keep your Austin lake house in top shape year-round.

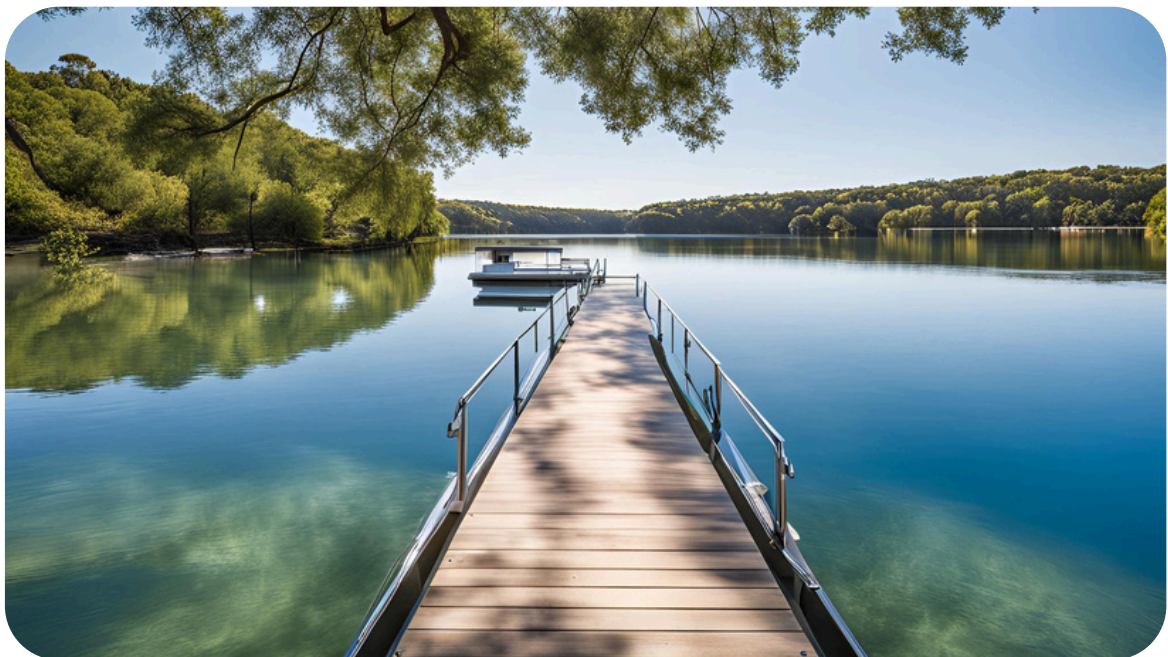
Lakeside Maintenance Strategies:

- **Weather-Resistant Materials:** Choose materials for outdoor spaces that can withstand sun, water, and temperature fluctuations common in Austin.
- **Regular Wood Care:** Treat and maintain wooden decks, docks, and outdoor furniture to protect against water damage and sun fading.
- **HVAC Efficiency:** Regularly service your HVAC system to manage the high humidity levels often found near the lake.
- **Window Maintenance:** Clean and maintain large windows frequently to keep your lake views crystal clear and prevent water spotting.
- **Pest Control:** Implement eco-friendly pest control measures to manage insects common to lakeside living without harming the local ecosystem.
- **Boat and Water Toy Care:** Create a maintenance schedule for your boats, jet skis, and other water equipment to ensure they're always ready for fun and safe to use.

Landscaping Upkeep: Use native, drought-resistant plants in your landscaping to reduce water usage and maintain a beautiful, easy-care outdoor space.

- Weatherproofing: Regularly check and maintain weatherproofing on doors and windows to protect against moisture intrusion during Austin's rainy seasons.
- Dock Maintenance: Inspect and maintain your dock regularly, checking for loose boards, rusty hardware, or signs of water damage.

Water Quality Awareness: Stay informed about lake water quality and any local advisories to ensure safe swimming and water activities.





CONCLUSION:
EMBRACING YOUR
AUSTIN LAKE LIFE

Creating your perfect lakeside home in Austin is an ongoing journey of creativity, practicality, and joy. From your serene bedroom retreat to your bustling outdoor entertainment area, each space plays a role in crafting the lakeside lifestyle you've dreamed of.

Remember, the goal is to create a home that not only looks beautiful but also enhances your daily life and connection to the stunning natural environment of Lake Austin or Lake Travis. Whether you're hosting a summer barbecue, enjoying a quiet morning coffee with a lake view, or launching off your dock for a day of water skiing, your thoughtfully designed lake house will be the backdrop for countless memories.

Embrace the unique blend of natural beauty, outdoor adventure, and laid-back Austin culture that lakeside living offers. With these design ideas and maintenance tips, you're well-equipped to create a lake house that's uniquely yours – a perfect reflection of your lifestyle and the breathtaking setting you call home.

Welcome to your Austin lake life – may every day feel like a vacation in your own personal paradise!



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