

# TEXAS ARCHITECT

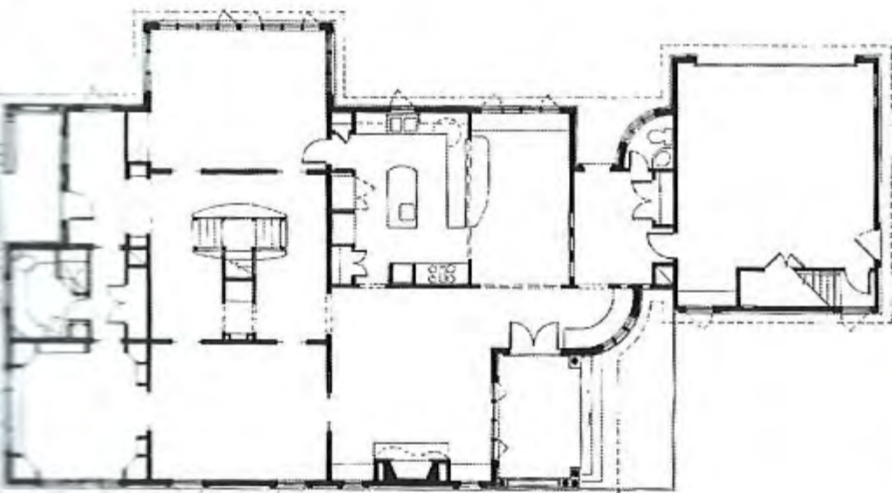


# Houston Bungalow

**ARCHITECTURE** Employing an updated 1920s bungalow vocabulary for the design of the exterior, and a carefully-detailed Shaker-influenced stair as the heart of the interior, Houston architect Leslie Barry Davidson has designed an expansive house for a young Houston family. The plan is organized around a three-story skylit stair hall that serves as the hub of the house. Bedrooms and play areas occupy the second floor, and a painting studio is fitted into the third-floor gables. **VPH**



1



3

**PROJECT** Root/Campbell Residence, Houston  
**CLIENT** Lawrence Root, M.D., and Jacqueline Campbell, D.D.S.  
**ARCHITECT** L. Barry Davidson Architects AIA, Inc. (Leslie Barry Davidson, principal-in-charge; Rita Daniel, Belinda Ho, project team)  
**CONTRACTOR** University Towne Properties  
**CONSULTANTS** L. Barry Davidson Architects AIA, Inc. (interior design); Landscapes by Rene (landscape design); Structural Consulting Company (structural engineering)  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Rob Muir

1 front elevation

3 The first floor plan of the Root/Campbell residence shows the library, dining areas, the living room, the family room, and the kitchen.

2 Lacquered, hard maple paneling details the fireplace in the family room.



2

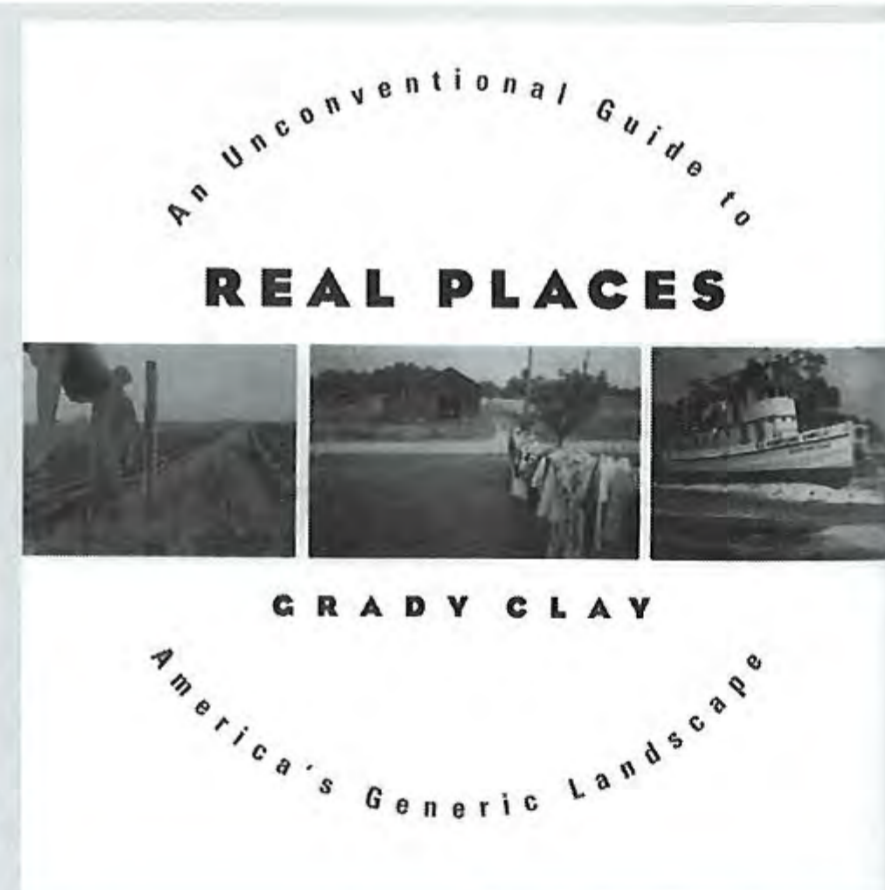
## American Generic

*Real Places*  
 by Grady Clay  
 University of Chicago Press  
 (Chicago and London, 1994)  
 297 pages, \$35.00 hardback

**BOOKS** North America is full of generic places: parts unspecific and unmapped, yet still in our common vocabulary. What are these places, and what do they say about our history and ourselves? Journalist Grady Clay's 1994 book, *Real Places*, attempts to define 128 of these, giving them names such as GROWTH AREA, PHOTO OPPORTUNITY, DRUG SCENE, and CONVENIENT LOCATION.

For more than twenty years, Clay travelled from one side of the country to the other, from BOONDOCKS to DOWNTOWN and back out again. As a result, he developed a tool for studying and observing urban areas that he calls the cross-section method.

This book deals with the end results: the generic places Clay finds everywhere, organized from THE CENTER TO THE FRONT TO OUT THERE. Instead of pursuing a cross-sectional analysis of an actual city and portraying how these types of



spaces combine, Clay orders places within each heading alphabetically because no two cities, nor cross-sections, are the same.

Clay passes up opportunities to explain his cross-section method and how it contributed to his conclusions, but *Real Places* does provide new insight into the whys, wherefores, and histories of the real places in the urban landscape.

*Jonathon Hagood*

*Jonathon Hagood is an third-year architecture student at the University of Texas at Austin.*