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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MAGAZINE

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"We knew that we wanted it to be cedar posts because it's a very classic Hill Country material, but also, it's sort of naturally interactive—it's got this stripy, furry bark that comes off, revealing smooth wood. We did want to convey that the material in these sketches was this rough wood, and [with] the capiz-shell curtain that you can see beneath the tree house, we wanted to convey that it was this airy, playful way of moving beneath the space that would catch the light and move, so that was important to illustrate."

—SOPHIA DE PASCUALE



A TREE HOUSE WITH A TWIST

A relatively new design/build firm in Austin, Texas, Twistleaf was founded by Sarah Yant, who along with Shannon Rogers, ASLA, the firm's principal landscape architect, and Sophia De Pascuale, a junior landscape designer, focuses on conservation-oriented projects in Texas Hill Country. For this tree house for longtime clients, De Pascuale did the initial sketches in colored pencil to develop the aesthetic before preparing a series of watercolor concept sketches. She says the medium helped get a feeling across and communicate "the spirit of the tree house that we wanted it to have." ●