

DESIGN

9 Standout Spaces With Small but Mighty Design Details

These design details from the 2023 Best in American Living Awards deliver big inspiration

BY MICHELE LERNER JUNE 12, 2024

A Custom Home ADU That Emphasizes Privacy

When architect Robert Hidey designed an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) for a cottage-style custom home in San Jose, Calif., he intentionally disconnected the ADU from the main house to provide separation and privacy for its occupants.

The 462-square-foot ADU, located above the garage at the back of the property, includes a kitchen, dining nook with built-in seating with storage, full bathroom, closets, and a living space that can accommodate sleeping and seating areas. A brick patio between the garage and house provides sharable outdoor space.



This charming ADU above the garage of a custom home checks every box: a detached unit with a private entry, an open layout, high-quality construction and finishes, natural light, and ample storage.

Photos: Agnieszka Jakubowicz Photography; R. Brad Knipstein Photography

ADUs, which are becoming common requests for new homes and renovations in California, can be designed to provide a variety of functions, such as a rental unit for extra income, to house a family member or guests, or as a home office or studio.

What makes this ADU award-worthy is the abundance of natural light, uncompromising construction quality and finishes, and its efficient use of space.

Project specs: Rosewood at Camden Park

Award: Platinum, Accessory Dwelling Unit, Single-Family Custom

Location: San Jose, Calif.

Architect (entrant): Robert Hidey Architects, Irvine, Calif.

Builder: Robson Homes, San Jose

Interior designer: Design Line Interiors, a Dahlin company, San Diego

Landscape architect: Design Focus Landscape, Ben Lomond, Calif.

Size: 462 sf

Photos: Agnieszka Jakubowicz Photography; R. Brad Knipstein Photography



