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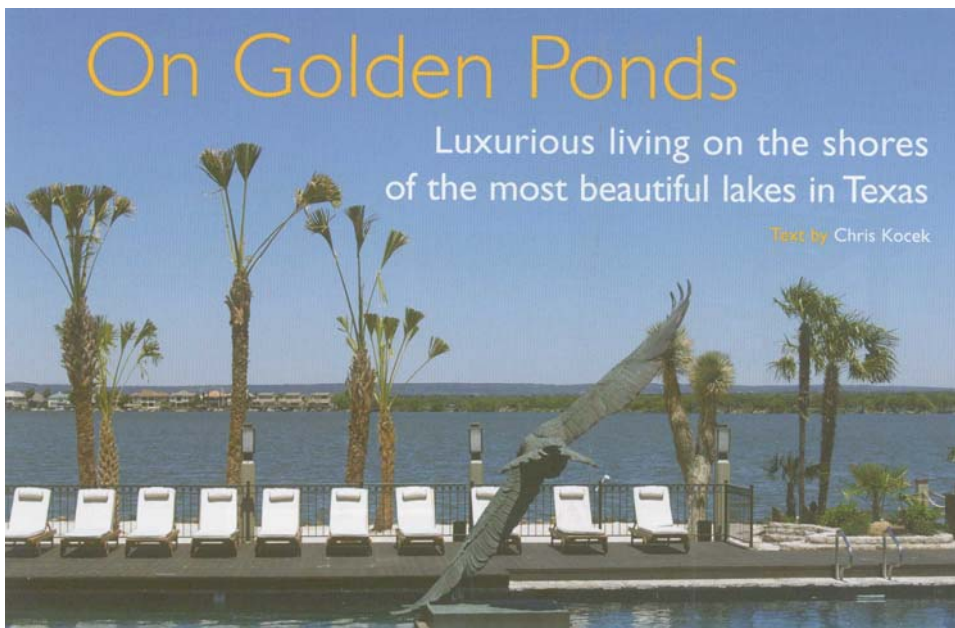
Austin Home & Living

"On Golden Ponds"

By Chris Kocek



Photo by Coles Hairston



It's no secret that Austin is one of the finest cities in the nation when it comes to offering its citizens a high quality of life and affordable living. Perhaps a little less well known, however, are the lakeside homes being developed on the outskirts of town, shaping the Hill Country's reputation as not only the music capital of the country, but as the elegant third coast of America.

Horseshoe Bay Resort

When people talk about Central Texas becoming America's third coast, they are undoubtedly referring to the opulent lifestyle at Horseshoe Bay Resort.

With a world-renowned yacht club, a white sand beach and a cool breeze drifting in from Lake LBJ, (Central Texas's largest constant-level lake) the properties and amenities of Horseshoe Bay make you wonder if six stars should be the new standard.

Stretching out on more than 2,000 acres of land, with numerous projects currently under development, it's hard to know where exactly to begin, but for those on a budget, there is the newly designed project known as The Waters, one- to three-bedroom luxury villas ranging from \$240,000 to \$700,000.



Horseshoe Bay Resort boasts acres of golf courses, fine dining on Lake LBJ and real estate for your dream vacation home. This page. Photography courtesy of Horseshoe Bay Resort.

Hugging the shores of Lake LBJ, these apartment-style villas range from 892 to 2,400 square feet, and for an attractive initiation fee owners can enjoy just about every amenity known to man, including complete concierge services, the spa and fitness center, the tennis center—which includes clay, grass, and hard court surfaces—three award-winning golf courses designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr., and, of course, the private jet center (for those times when you have to have an important business meeting over a round of golf and need to get back to the office before lunch).

If that sounds like too much, though, and if all you really want to do is spend some down-time out on the lake, that can most certainly be arranged. With a quick phone call, your personal boat will be treated to the valet service it deserves, delivered at your request to the closest available dock and set up with a cooler full of drinks to keep you properly hydrated for those grueling hours spent lounging in the sun.

And for those who might be looking for something a bit more “comfortable” than “cozy,” who want both the amenities and a little more space to spread out, there are the million-dollar homes of Applehead Island to choose from.

Starting at \$1.5 million and topping out at around \$10 million, these mansions are the second homes and relaxing getaways of successful CEOs from around the nation.

Typically situated on more than 2 acres of land, these homes have guest houses so large and luxurious (e.g. a full kitchen, laundry room, two guest suites, bunk/game room and four full bathrooms) that your guests may never want to leave.