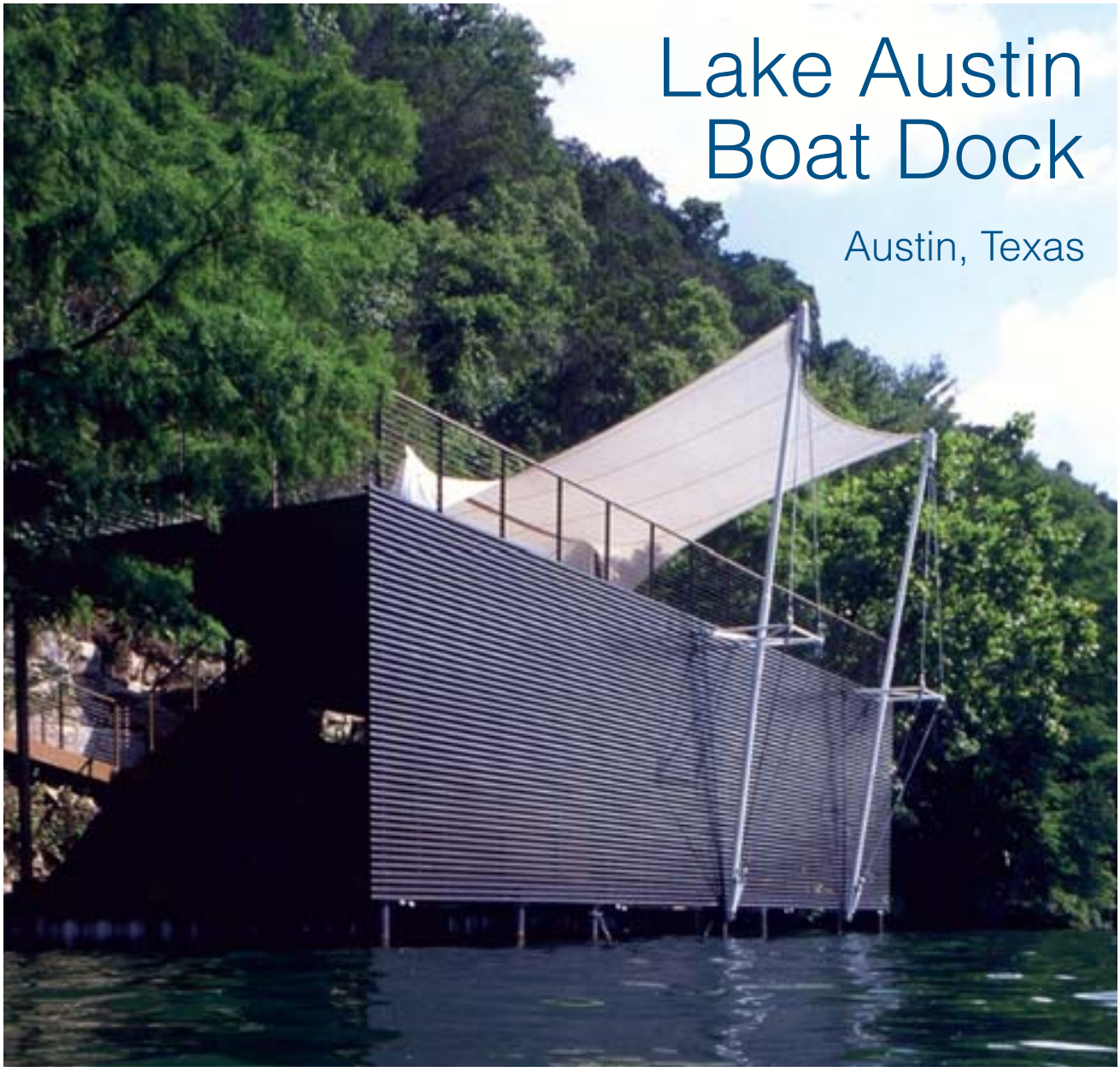
# Lake Austin Boat Dock

## Austin, Texas



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To create space for two boat slips, along with storage for skis and floaters, the architects of this boat house at Lake Austin, TX created a light and dynamic structure that appears to float on the water's surface. The structure also provides space for the owners to entertain friends in a lakeside location.

The boat dock is located at the bottom of a 300′ bluff on the lake, and is connected to the house above by a tram. In order to limit encroachment into the lake, the architects tucked the boat dock into a natural recess flanked by large trees, and laid out the two boat slips parallel to the shore rather than perpendicular to it. To address these site considerations and programmatic needs, the design features three distinct elements: a box, a screen and a canopy.

The box consists of a structural frame of steel wide-flange beams and HSS columns that contains the two slips and a closet. The top is occupied by a large wood deck, which has an extension towards the hill with built-in benches and table.

The screen consists of 3.5″-by-1.5″ steel HSS spaced 1.5″ apart. Measuring 52′ by 13″, this latticed wall screens the interior from the lake. It also establishes a plane that continues the one defined by the trees at the shoreline.

The canopy is a tensile structure with porous fabric providing shade to the upper deck. It is conceived independently of the box and creates a dynamic contrast to it. Its white fabric, mast, tensioning cables and stainless-steel gear are inspired by sailboats. ★

## juror comments

"Illustrates steel's ability to achieve attractive and lightweight solutions. Novel application and precise details."

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**ENGINEERING SOFTWARE**
MultiFrame, Enercalc

**CURTAIN STRUCTURE**
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**GENERAL CONTRACTOR**
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