## **ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST**

THE INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AUTHORITY MARCH 2023

ILY ALLEN & D HARBOUR in Brooklyn



PLUS KEHINDE WILEY in Lagos SARAH PAULSON in Malibu

## EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN | OKLAHOMA BELONGING TO THE HEARTLAND

A genuine connection to nature and passionate drive characterize design at Freese Architecture

**HA** rchitecture is the mother of all the arts," says Brian L. Freese, AIA, principal of Freese Architecture, a Tulsa-based residential and commercial architecture firm founded in 1994 with projects spanning across Oklahoma, Missouri, Texas, and the Carolinas. The firm's keen creative sense and astute technological knowledge deliver showstopping homes imbued with a visceral connection to nature's splendor, underpinned by four fundamental attributes: beauty, utility, sustainability, and honesty.

Freese Architecture's Victor residence exemplifies their trademark Midwest Modern philosophy, Freese's coined term that describes the firm's design approach of reflecting this era while responding to the unique geography, culture, and history of the Midwest.

"Midwest Modern is not an impersonal, aloof architecture," explains Freese. "It's a warm and comfortable modernism using elemental, natural materials crafted in a simple, honest fashion to reflect the way we live, work, and thrive in this era and place."

A modern Midtown oasis reminiscent of ancient Native American pueblos, the Victor residence's carefully placed windows capture various courtyard views of nature while glass connectors partition the expansive floor plan, creating many intimate gathering spaces. Yet, this home plays well with the surrounding 20th century estates, with its relaxed layout and personalized interior design touches that draw the eye but don't overwhelm.

A genuine desire to learn clients' personalities and aesthetic preferences run as undercurrents in every project, ensuring finished homes are lovingly embraced for generations.

"I approach design as sculpting, and my mediums are concrete, metal, stone, and glass," concludes Freese. "I've had clients say, 'I feel like I'm waking up in a resort every morning.' But more important is knowing I've designed a home that has helped achieve their dream."





TOP: Bronze elements juxtapose against light stucco walls for an elegant exterior. MIDDLE: Flat-roofed canopies provide protection from the elements, and subtle blue accents echo a centrally placed, vibrant pool. BOTTOM, FROM LEFT: This voluminous and light-filled public space is perfect for comfortable living and entertaining. A muscular concrete surround frames a floating walnut cabinet and vessel sinks.

