

A HOUSE ON THE HORIZON

*Designed by Tanner White Architects,
this contemporary ranch house quietly
frames the surrounding farmland.*

By Colleen Guilfoile Richmond

Set amid hundreds of acres of open farmland, this quietly striking home feels less like a statement imposed upon the landscape and more like a natural extension of it. The property unfolds toward a broad horse pasture that stretches beyond the house, creating a setting where architecture and horizon exist in quiet conversation.

Designed by architect Tanner White of Tanner White Architects, the home embraces its surroundings rather than competing with them. With such an expansive canvas to work with, the design was conceived as a long, linear composition—a series of structures that feel as though a historic ranch house had been thoughtfully expanded and renovated over generations. Its low horizontal profile mirrors the openness of the fields, allowing the architecture to settle gently into the land.





The entire home is oriented toward the pasture so the landscape becomes part of everyday life. Because the structure takes on a slender, elongated form, nearly every room captures sweeping views across the fields and toward the horses beyond.

The decision to design the house as a single story reinforces this quiet relationship with its surroundings. A one-story home naturally recedes into the landscape rather than dominating it. Natural materials further soften the transition between architecture and environment, creating a seamless dialogue between house and land.

As one moves through the home, it becomes clear that the placement of windows and sightlines was carefully considered. Rather than simply providing light, the openings act almost like curated frames for the scenery outside. Walking through the house feels somewhat like



moving through a gallery, where each room reveals a new composition of landscape and light.

“Every window becomes another piece of art—each view revealing a different mood and composition.”

Morning light washes softly across the pasture, midday views stretch endlessly across open fields, and by evening the horizon becomes a quiet backdrop as the sun settles across the land.

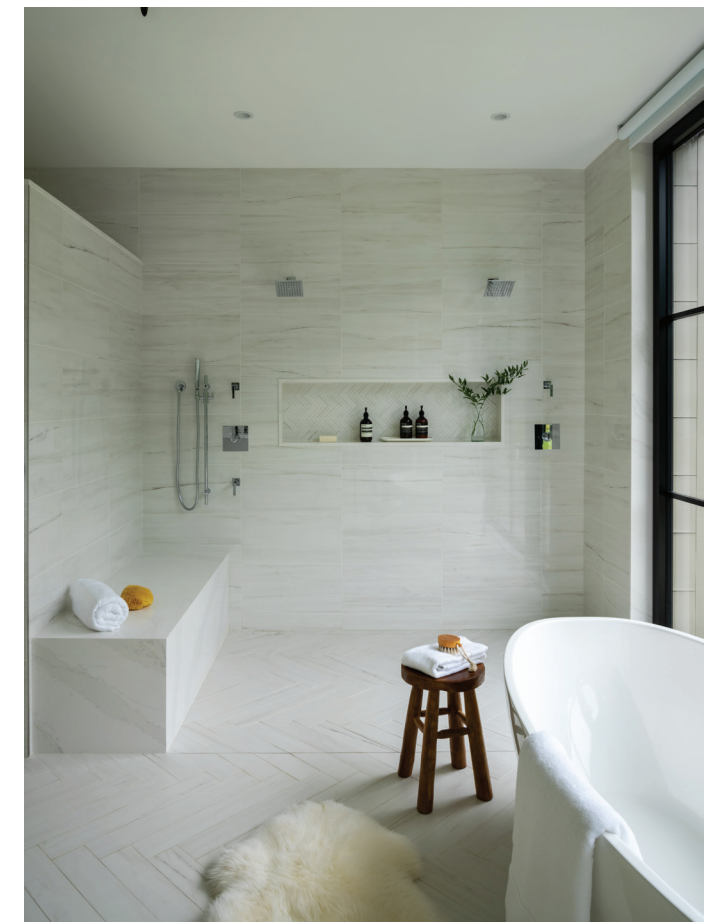
While these expansive views are immediately noticeable, some of the most important design decisions operate more quietly. Proportion played a central role in shaping the experience of the home. Upon entering—whether through the mudroom or the main entrance—visitors are greeted by the tallest space in the house, a dramatic double-height volume that creates a powerful sense of arrival.



Beyond this moment of vertical drama, the scale begins to shift. Bedrooms and bathrooms were intentionally designed with lower ceiling heights to encourage warmth and intimacy, while the family room and kitchen strike a balance between openness and comfort.

In many ways the house was conceived as a storyboard of volumes and views, each space carefully composed to create a distinct experience while maintaining a natural flow throughout the home.

That flow also reflects the rhythm of daily life. Like traditional farmhouses that evolved around routine and movement, circulation through the home responds naturally to changing light and activity. Morning begins in quieter spaces filled with soft light, while central gathering areas remain connected to the open landscape throughout the day. By evening, the house becomes a place of gathering as the surrounding fields settle into dusk.



At first glance, the home reads as rustic and grounded, yet beneath its warmth lies a carefully considered architectural precision. White describes his work as an exploration of the tension that can emerge when seemingly opposing ideas come together.

“My greatest interest in architecture lies in the tension that emerges when two seemingly opposing styles are brought together,” he says. “That friction—when handled thoughtfully—can create spaces that feel dynamic, layered, and alive.”

In this home, rustic materials and the familiarity of farmhouse traditions interact with clean modern lines and carefully balanced proportions. The result is a design that feels both timeless and contemporary.

This approach was also essential in ensuring the house would remain relevant for decades to come. Rather than designing around fleeting trends, the project was guided by a concept that has existed for centuries: homes that evolve naturally over time through additions and renovations.





“Originality doesn’t grow old—trends do,” White reflects.

For the homeowners, the ultimate measure of the project is not the architectural concept but the feeling the house creates at the end of the day. White imagined the moment when the front door closes and the outside world fades away.

“I hope when the door closes behind them, their busy life closes with it.”

Inside, the pace of life slows. The architecture gently directs attention outward—to the land, the shifting light, and the quiet presence of family gathered together.

Surrounded by fields and horizon, the home fulfills the vision behind its design: a place where architecture frames the landscape rather than competes with it, allowing daily life to unfold naturally within its setting.

PHOTOGRAPHY: *Sabrina Cole Quinn*

INTERIOR DESIGN: *Briar Design*

BUILDER: *Jensen Hus*

LANDSCAPE DESIGN: *Paul Maue Associates
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