In addition to providing shade to large expanses of glass on the southern face, both the Screened and Covered Porches serve as an extension of the Living Room, connecting the interior spaces with the pool deck.

Operable clerestory windows along the north face provide balanced daylighting throughout the living spaces while allowing thermal cyphoning to naturally ventilate the home.

The 60,000 gallon in-ground rainwater cistern provides complete water independence while doubling as an additional patio. It was positioned to take advantage of the site's sunset views and night time stargazing.

The Screened Porch was positioned to take advantage of the summer's cooling southeastern breezes while remaining protected from the winter's brisk Northwest winds. A fireplace makes this a comfortable year-round space.

As the summers get hotter and the storms get bigger, it is not that far a stretch to think that at some point many Texans will lose power for longer than a day or two. When that happens, will your “Green” home still work?

Instead of relying on energy efficient equipment, and “green” technologies, the Net Zero Retreat was designed using climate-responsive, site specific principles that help keep the home comfortable without relying on air conditioning or electricity for an extended period of time. The orientation, organization, and layout work as an ensemble to provide the home with soft, balanced daylighting, passive heating and cooling, and very good indoor air-quality while the low maintenance exterior and drought-tolerant native landscaping provide resiliency by design. all in while conforming to the Modern aesthetic.

Along with significant reductions in electricity consumption, the home also utilizes rainwater harvesting for all of its potable water needs. With the addition of a modest solar panel array, and a home battery, this retreat in the Texas Hill Country can truly be off the grid!