

FAQs & FACTS ABOUT THE McNAY HOUSE

When was the McNay residence built?

Donald and Marion Koogler [McNay] Atkinson commissioned architects Atlee B. Ayres and his son, Robert M. Ayres, to draw up plans for a residence in 1927, and the house was completed in September 1929. Mrs. Atkinson participated actively in the design, construction, and embellishment of the Spanish-Colonial Revival residence.

What makes the McNay architecture significant?

The McNay house was designed in a U-shaped plan around a central courtyard, now known as the Blackburn Patio. Characteristic elements of the Spanish-Colonial Revival include loggias, arcades, decorative brick and tile vents, and cast stone columns. Decorative features included pressed concrete tiles on outdoor paved areas; Batchelder tiles on the floors in the main lobby, Mays Gallery, and 19th-century European art gallery; and Talavera tiles in the Blackburn Patio peacock mural, Don Quixote mural, and others.

What additions have been made to the original McNay house?

1970, Brown Sculpture Pavilion and Brown Gallery

1973, Mary & Sylvan Lang Galleries

1975, Jack & Adele Frost Galleries

1982, Lawson Print Gallery and Study Room

1984, Tobin Wing, with Tobin Gallery for Theatre Arts and McNay Art Museum Library

1987, Stieren Storage

1994, Blanch and John Palmer Leeper Auditorium

2001, Renovation and restoration of the original McNay house, adding new elevator and handicapped ramp, as well as expanding Zilker Gallery