

setting the tone

CLEAN LINES AND CUSTOM FURNISHINGS COMBINE TO FASHION A CONTEMPORARY SCOTTSDALE ESCAPE THAT PROVIDES ITS OWNERS WITH BOTH COMFORT AND STYLE.

WRITTEN BY **KIMBERLY OLSON** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **MARK BOISCLAIR**

When a Scottsdale couple embarked on a search for a larger home in the same community of Desert Mountain in which they already resided, they unfortunately came up short. “Everything felt like such a compromise,” the wife says. “But we loved the community, so instead, we started looking at lots.” The duo—who split their time between Arizona and Colorado—found a sprawling 4-plus-acre plot with jaw-dropping views. It also came complete with plans for a house, originally designed for someone else. “We liked the spaces (in the home), and the way they had been laid out,” the husband says. “All of our ‘wish list’ items were in the design.” The plans, though, catered to more of a Tuscan influence, which really wasn’t their style. To remedy the situation, the owners met with architect Erik Peterson and interior designer Janet Brooks to tone down some of the home’s Mediterranean elements.

“We approached the project almost as if it were a remodel to give the homeowners a clean-lined contemporary look,” Peterson says. The team, which also included builder Joseph Storey, squared off the planned

ARCHITECTURE Erik Peterson, PHX Architecture

INTERIOR DESIGN Janet Brooks, Janet Brooks Design

HOME BUILDER Joseph Storey, Tierra Custom Homes

BEDROOMS 4 | **BATHROOMS** 6 | **SQUARE FEET** 8,400





The living room's Chista cocktail tables from John Brooks pair with custom sofas covered in Holly Hunt fabric and Boreal lounge chairs by The Charles Stewart Company in Kravet's plush gold velvet. Artwork by Joe Andoe accents the fireplace made of large-format blocks of limestone from Facings of America.



In lieu of traditional beams, the ceiling in the main hallway presents suspended backlit Lyptus wood grid panels. The grid was conceived by interior designer Janet Brooks and fabricated by Goodall Custom Cabinetry & Millwork; the honed limestone flooring is from Facings of America.

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arched doors and windows, for example, and nixed the moldings. Rather than having rustic wooden beams, the house would get square ones for a crisp feel. New exterior stonework—a custom blend of five stones—was also chosen, and rounded roof tiles were switched to flat ones. “The house now has a very contemporary feel to it,” the architect says. Happily, the more streamlined details work well with Peterson’s open layout—airy spaces that elegantly flow into one another. With nearly every room opening directly to the outdoors, Peterson was meticulous about the home’s orientation and window placement to maximize the views and choreograph the natural light. During the design process, he even used 3D modeling software to predict the flow of sunlight into each space throughout the day.



Dakota Jackson chairs from John Brooks, covered in a whimsical Kravet paisley, pull up to the dining room table, a custom piece by Kip Merritt Design. Amy Metier's abstract oil painting is from Denver's William Havu Gallery. A Hubbardton Forge light fixture from Sun Lighting casts a glow over an ornate piece from Costello-Childs Contemporary Fine Art.

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Constructing the multilevel home on such complex topography required multiple phases of site prep and retaining wall stages. As Storey says, "We had a garage level, another level for the lower basement, the main level, the master bedroom wing—elevated 18 inches or so—and another mid-level, down two different sets of steps, for a guest wing."

For the interiors, Brooks took it in the clients' direction—modern but not extremely so, with furnishings that were stylish yet comfortable. "We had items made locally, and two pieces that are the absolute coolest are the double coffee tables in the living room that are made of teak with chrome bases," Brooks says. "They're just huge slices of a tree."



The kitchen boasts a unique look with horizontal cabinetry on both the top and bottom. Instead of a traditional tile backsplash, a washable plaster with a subtle raised pattern by Hopper Finishes was used; the team tested its resistance to everything from tomato sauce to red wine. The barrel ceiling is outfitted with iridescent glass tile by Sonoma Tilemakers; the Cherner barstools are from Design Within Reach.

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Other standout pieces include the living room's limestone block fireplace, dining chairs in a playful fabric, and the master bedroom's custom white-oak-and-walnut bed with matching nightstands.

The couple loves to cook and entertain—in fact, the newly retired husband plans to take some culinary classes to up his game—therefore, the kitchen was outfitted with Miele appliances. The outside wall of the space was buried into the mountainside, so the team devised a way to bring light into the windowless room. “We created an uplit barrel ceiling with iridescent glass tiles,” Brooks says. “The lighting that comes from the sides really creates a glow, and it’s better than a skylight, because you have it at night as well.”

A homage to its natural desert surroundings, the home incorporates several water and fire elements that bring the spaces to life. “You have fireplaces in both the living room and library, and master bedroom, as well as by the pool, and each one is handled as a piece of art,” Peterson says. In the end, the homeowners couldn't be happier. “The house blends beautifully with the landscape,” the wife says, “and there are stunning views from every window.” **L**



Made of white oak with a walnut inlay, the master suite's bed, bench and tables were all fabricated by SR Drost Manufacturing Co. Boxer table lamps from Baker cast soft illumination, while subtle sophistication is seen in a carpet from Azadi Fine Rugs and draperies crafted from Fabricut's Bluff Creek stripe.