

# THROWING A CURVE

INSPIRED BY ARCS AND CIRCLES, A DESIGN DREAM TEAM CREATES AN AWARD-WINNING HOUSE.

*By Nora Burba Trulsson // Photography by Robert Reck*

A dramatic curved roof and stone walls enclose the back patio of a North Scottsdale home, where the pool was also designed to follow the home's geometry.

**T**he 7,500-square-foot house sits on a knoll in North Scottsdale, its elevation marked by two arcing stone-clad walls that seem to reach out to the desert. The home's sculptural form is capped by a curving roof that floats on glass walls, creating the effect of a welcoming pavilion. The residence, which crowns 5 acres, has won two major design awards, one from the Arizona Masonry Guild and a first place for its interior from the ASID Arizona North Chapter.

It took astute owners, a dedicated team of design professionals and many months of detailed planning to create this Zen-like winter getaway. The homeowners, a Seattle couple, wanted a house with a desert view that could accommodate the art and artifacts they collect during their frequent international travels, as well as lengthy visits from family and friends from around the globe. The couple put together a team that included architect Erik Peterson, builder Anthony Salcito, interior designer Janet Brooks and landscape designer Jeff Berghoff.



Clockwise from left: The guest wing has its own entry, sitting room, patio and carport; the living room has views of the pool patio and beyond; a raked wall and ceiling treatment adds interest to the master bedroom.



A Cambodian Buddha greets visitors in the entry. Large-scale porcelain tile flooring, a wood ceiling and trellislike beams add architectural interest to the curving hallway leading to the master suite.



“The owners liked the idea of blending inside with out,” recalls architect Peterson, founder of PHX Architecture. They also liked the idea of incorporating curves and circles into the design.” Peterson designed the home to feature curvilinear forms, including the two arcing walls, which extend from inside to out, as well as the roof, which curves upward like a wing. He added an oculus in the roof overhang above the back patio, and used several more circular forms in the walls of the master bathroom.

The two arcing walls also serve as organizing elements for the floor plan, neatly dividing the home into thirds. The center was designed for entertaining and includes the living room, dining and bar area, as well as the kitchen. The master suite was tucked behind one of the curving walls, and, on the opposite side of the house, a guest wing with its own carport and entry vestibule includes three en suite bedrooms.

Builder Salcito, who frequently collaborates with Peterson on residential projects, implemented the design, constructing the radius and straight walls, working with Sutter Masonry to craft the stone walls, as well as the stacked-bond CMU walls that provide a modernist accent in the guest wing and master bath. The ‘floating’ roof was a construction challenge that Salcito met with ease. “There are compound, curving beams that hold up the roof structure over the central part of the house,” he explains. “We built the roof on-site and it rests on steel posts embedded from the ground up in the two curving walls.”

Working with a backdrop of stone, block glass, wood and metal, interior designer Brooks chose to showcase the desert views—and the owners’ art collection. “This is such an inside-outside house,” she explains, “and I knew that we would be using a lot of art throughout the house, so I suggested neutral colors and finishes that complement the home’s architecture but don’t detract from views and art. The owners also entertain, so they wanted furnishings that were comfortable and functional.”

For the living room, Brooks designed a plaster-clad fireplace accented by a broad steel horizontal hearth and shelving, which echo the lines of the house. Two custom sectionals provide



A circular fire pit and spa, which is set into the pool, reiterate the home’s circular forms. The homeowner designed the metal spheres, set at the end of the pool. The oculus in the roof overhang focuses views on the ever-changing sky and creates interesting rain patterns on the patio below. Opposite page: The kitchen was designed for serious cooking and entertaining.

The center of the home includes the living and dining rooms, as well as the bar, all warmed by a fireplace detailed with horizontal metal shelving. Opposite page: An ipe wood bridge leads to the home's entrance.



## DESIGN DETAILS

**RESIDENCE**  
Single-family home

**LOCATION**  
North Scottsdale

**ARCHITECTURE**  
Erik Peterson, AIA, PHX Architecture  
phxarch.com

**BUILDER**  
Anthony Salcito, Salcito Custom Homes  
salcito.com

**INTERIOR DESIGN**  
Janet Brooks, ASID, Janet Brooks Design  
janetbrooksdesign.com

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN**  
Jeff Berghoff, Berghoff Design Group  
berghoffdesign.com

**LIGHTING DESIGN**  
Walter Spitz, Creative Designs in Lighting  
cdltg.com

**POOL DESIGN**  
Kirk Bianchi, Bianchi Design  
bianchidesign.com

## RESOURCES

**AXIS**  
Dining room chairs  
axisfurniture.com

**CARL HANSEN & SØN**  
Guest vestibule Hans Wegner chairs  
carlhansen.com

**HOLLY HUNT**  
Dining room table and rug  
hollyhunt.com

**HOPPER FINISHES**  
Master bedroom wall and ceiling finish  
hopperfinishes.com

**KAISER TILE**  
Porcelain tile flooring  
kaisertile.net

**KETTAL**  
Outdoor furniture  
kettal.com

**MAGNUM COMPANIES**  
Metal pool spheres  
magnumcompanies.net

**S.R. DROST CUSTOM FURNITURE**  
Fabrication of living room sectionals and coffee table, dining room credenza and master bedroom bed  
drostfurniture.com

**SUB-ZERO, WOLF AND COVE**  
Appliances  
subzero-wolf.com

**THAYER COGGIN**  
Master bedroom chairs and ottoman  
thayercoggin.com

inviting seating, while the custom cocktail table and the adjacent dining room's floating credenza also reiterate the horizontal lines of the fireplace. Brooks suggested a lengthy dining table that easily accommodates 10, while the sunken bar next to the dining space can seat another half-dozen for dinner or cocktails, as can the bar in the kitchen's island.

Brooks took a softer approach in the master suite, cladding a fireplace wall and the dropped ceiling in a raked plaster for texture, and soothing the space with sumptuous draperies. In the master bath, pebble flooring, a curved concrete bench and a deep soaking tub with a view of a private garden inspire relaxation.

The owners' art provided color and interest throughout. Brooks created a hallway display of masks acquired from around the world, leaving space for more pieces. In the entry, a specially designed niche frames a large Cambodian Buddha, who greets visitors. Corners are filled with sculpture, and paintings hang in spots that were predetermined.

The outdoor living spaces are equally detailed. Pool designer Kirk Bianchi designed the curving negative-edge lap pool and a raised circular spa, which echo the forms of the house. The broad overhanging roof in back shelters furniture groupings that provide poolside dining and lounging opportunities.

Landscape designer Berghoff chose native plant materials that added texture and color to the setting. "This was such an organic house," says Berghoff, "and we layered in plants in the beds that were carved into the hardscape. We used penstemons, agaves and succulents, and relocated some saguaros and ocotillos to the end of the pool. We avoided using a lot of trees in the back so we wouldn't block the views." Berghoff also tucked in raised vegetable beds, as well as citrus trees, behind one of the curved walls.

The owners are already enjoying their second season in the home, fully making use of all the rooms for hosting dinner parties and houseguests. When it's just the two of them, the house doesn't live big—the perfect design lets them enjoy the desert views and cozying up in front of the living room fireplace. ■