

Arizona Foothills

STYLE
SUBSTANCE
SOPHISTICATION

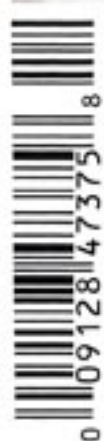
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GIFTS
TO GIVE
AND GET

FASHION:
MONIQUE
LHUIILLIER
AND
LINGERIE
TO LUST
AFTER

SEASON'S GREETINGS

**VALLEY
FAMILIES
SHARE THEIR
HOLIDAY
TRADITIONS**



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Rock Legend

The McGuires' mountain getaway speaks well of Prescott's Talking Rock.

Story by David M. Brown

BEFORE THEY BUILT AT TALKING ROCK, Jim and Pam McGuire sat on one. Their contemporary ranch includes a separate guest, or bunk, house at Talking Rock Ranch, the 3,600-acre golf course community in Prescott, about an hour and a half north of the Valley in the mountains of central Arizona.

Designed by John E. Sather, AIA, AICP, a partner in Scottsdale's Swaback and Associates, the couple's 4,320-sq.-ft. home is on just more than an acre, with three bedrooms, three and a half bathrooms, an office and an exercise room. "The feature we enjoy the most about our home is the rock outcropping behind

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the house," says Jim, a financial services executive in Phoenix. "It's truly 'Talking Rock' because, beyond being beautiful on its own, it has petroglyphs. That connects us to the current community we live in—and the community that came before us."

Through the design and build process, from 2007 to 2009, the rock became the gathering place for decision-making and dreaming. "Pam and I would go sit on the rock and watch the sunsets and dream about what our house would look like," Jim recalls. "We frequently met John Sather and sat on the rock while we discussed views we wanted to enjoy, orientation of the house and to review plans."

Sather recalls: "They asked for a house that would make them smile. They also wanted to push the envelope of what had been done to date within Talking Rock and set a new standard of design excellence." As a result, he called the home's style, punningly, "Rus-tech." Starting with the basic ranch concept, he united crisp contemporary lines and materials like steel with rugged resources including wood siding and collected rock. In the

great room, for example, trusses with steel connectors emulate traditional heavy timber bracing expressed with contemporary flair.

"What I love about the McGuire home is that it really brings the outside in, giving you amazing views of Talking Rock and the surrounding area," says Jim Jones, director of sales at the community. He adds: "Talking Rock prides itself on being a true reflection of our natural environment. People seem to like the McGuire home because it blends the community's earthy ranch style with really contemporary accents."

The McGuires chose Talking Rock for their getaway/retirement home because of its proximity to Phoenix, making it easily accessible for family and work, explains Jim, a Phoenix native. He met Pam, an Ohioan, when they were at Alhambra High School in the West Valley. The high school sweethearts have been married 37 years. "We also wanted a location that provided relief from the Phoenix heat and some snow, but not a lot of snow, and great outdoor views and activities to enjoy," Jim explains. "Finally, we applied the not-too-big, not-too-small test, meaning we wanted a small town feel that provided good shopping, dining and activities."

Jim's mother had lived in Prescott as a child in the 1930's, so the mile-high city was the choice. "Once we zeroed in on Prescott, our search brought us to Talking Rock, which had the perfect feel for us: casual family look and spirit, great amenities and wonderful views and outdoor life," he says.

Land planner Swaback Partners provided more than 1,000 acres of open space for Talking Rock, a former cattle ranch with pinion and juniper forests and views in all directions of the Bradshaws, Mingus and other mountains. Here, the McGuires and neighbors can play the Jay Morrish-designed golf course, which they can see from their office, as well as use the amenities of the 32,000-sq.-ft. Ranch Compound, including a fitness center, a lap pool and tennis courts.

To build their getaway and eventual retirement home in Talking Rock, they asked Rick Collins, a good friend and retired custom home builder, for help. "We couldn't have done it without him," Jim says. Assisting was Dane Prator, owner of Prescott's Autumn Blaze Construction. Prator and his team handled all of the exterior



INTERIOR DESIGN: Janet Brooks of Janet Brooks Design; Angelica Henry of Angelica Henry Design
ARCHITECT: Swaback and Associates
BUILDER: Rick Collins; Autumn Blaze Construction



landscape and hardscape including stacked rock walls, chimneys, paver driveway, patios and walkways.

Work began the first week of April 2008, and the McGuires became occupants Nov. 3, 2009—just in time for a family Thanksgiving in the cool pines.

For the interior design, Pam chose Janet Brooks, ASID, principal of Scottsdale's Janet Brooks Design, collaborating with Angelica Henry, ASID, now principal of Angelica Henry Design, also of Scottsdale. "In general, the lines of the house are very clean and contemporary," Henry says, "but the finishes in the house have a slight distress that won't show the wear and tear over time." She adds: "The McGuires were very open to input on colors and design in general. They always fondly referred to it as their 'McDream House.'"

"Like our work with John, Jim and I explained our goals about how we would use the space and our desire to embrace the Prescott and Talking Rock surroundings while also capturing a contemporary feel," Pam continues. "They listened but they also pushed our thinking to get us to a place we could never have reached on our own. There was lots of communication."

One of their first requests: durable finishes to withstand the joyful assault of their two grandchildren, Allie and Sienna, and the family pets, a Shih Tzu mix, Chloe, and a Shih Tzu, Lily. The couple has two children, Ryan and Heather, who live in Phoenix with their spouses, respectively, Lindsay and Matt.

"The key for us on both the home layout and interior design was to provide a comfortable and relaxing family-and-friend gathering spot—a place where we can all be together and also retreat to have privacy," Jim says. The home's great room is that central room, just off the entry, adjacent to the dining room and kitchen. "This is where family happens, and the views are amazing," Pam says. Here, in winter, they can see snow falling in the Williamson Valley and capping the mountains beyond.

The color palette in the great room and throughout much of the house is warm and earthy. "We started with a great room rug that had gorgeous red and rust tones throughout and that we could build on," Henry says. In keeping with Sather's contemporary/rustic concept, Brooks and

Henry called for reclaimed wood and textured wood finishes as well as quartzite countertops in the kitchen and steel features. Throughout the main house, for example, are oak floors from an old barn.

In the powder room, Henry also used this reclaimed barnwood for the floating cabinet, suspended between columns, with a textured steel counter top. Here, the walls are finished in straw plaster—the rustic element—and the brushed steel mirror with a leather strap reaffirms the balancing contemporary gesture.

Much of the furniture is custom. Henry designed the master bedroom bed and nightstands, the last fabricated by Scottsdale's SR Drost Furniture, and, in the dining room, the custom dining chairs, also by SR Drost. Brooks designed the steel-framed and wood-topped dining table, fabricated by Magnum Companies in Phoenix and F1 Cabinets & Furniture in Scottsdale. "The feel of the table is the perfect example of what I like to call 'Contemporary Desert Rustic,'" Brooks explains. "Although the lines are very clean and simple, the materials and textures speak to the look and feel of the Sonoran Desert, where nothing is smooth and shiny."

Similarly, Brooks and Henry integrated custom features throughout to make the home uniquely the McGuires': ironwork; cabinetry by Charlie Lawrence's Creative Wood Design in Prescott; custom lighting, like the dining room fixture designed by Henry and fabricated by Hinkley's Lighting in Phoenix; the custom wool and silk area master bedroom rug by Scottsdale's David Adler; and the end-grain mesquite wood tiles used in the fireplace surround, designed by Henry.

"The process of working on Jim and Pam McGuire's home in Talking Rock was inspirational and refreshing," Brooks says. "It's a particularly rewarding experience to do work on a project with such great architectural lines and details, in a place as magical as Talking Rock, and for the greatest clients a designer could ever ask for."

Pam and Jim cherish meeting in Phoenix years ago and raising their children in the area, but their thoughts are increasingly northward toward Prescott and their 'McDream House' in the pines and junipers. "There's a certain spirit here, and we love it," Jim says. ■