

FABULOUS BEDROOMS & BATHS

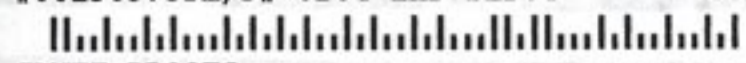
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EURO FLAIR

A melding of old-time charm and new technology
lends character and warmth to a north Scottsdale residence

Text by Roberta Landman
Photography by Jeffrey Green





Interior designer Janet Brooks chose individual upholstered chairs rather than sofas for seating near the living room's cantera fireplace. "It needed to be a collection of chairs with a central piece to bring the geometry of the room together," she explains. That central piece is a custom leather and chenille bullion-fringed ottoman designed by Brooks and the homeowner, whose husband calls it "the birthday cake." Walls are custom-finished with Tierra Fino plaster imported from Amsterdam. Flooring with a rustic cobblestone look is Saltillo laid with the rough side up. The painting over the fireplace is by a family friend.



In the shadow of craggy mountains and chiseled snugly into an incline, the stone-clad house looks as if it was built in some distant land.

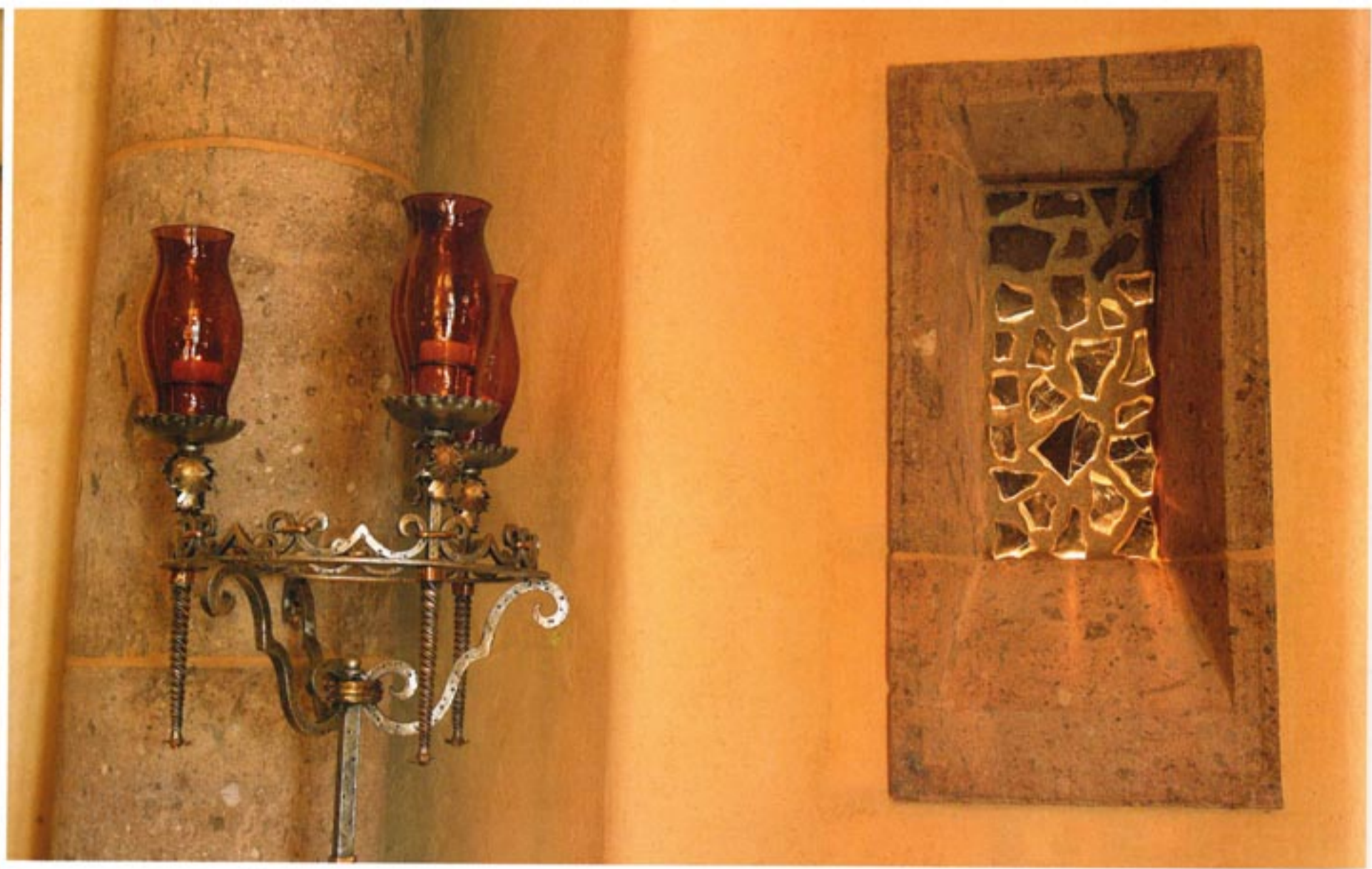
It is exactly the look a Dallas physician and his wife wanted when they planned a new residence in north Scottsdale for themselves and their young daughter. To turn their dream of a cozy and timeless-looking home into a reality, the couple placed their confidence in a design team composed of architect Bob Bacon, builder Phil Nichols, and interior designer Janet Brooks.

"We had a house with a Spanish feel in Dallas," the wife says. "Here, we wanted more of a rustic European feel. It's a whole new house, a whole new look, a whole new environment for us."

The home's rubble cantera facing, the varied angles of its roof lines, and an enclosed motor courtyard offer the first hints of the dwelling's Old World ambience. Considering the total effect of the home's exterior, Brooks offers, "This is a house that looks as if it was not built at one time, like it could have been added on to over many years."

This was precisely what was on Bacon's mind as he considered his clients' desires and conceived a home reminiscent of those found in rural hilltop European villages. Such domiciles have undergone changes by their owners, sometimes over centuries, he indicates. "Most of that rural architecture is multigenerational, and the addition of rooms by those multiple generations of families makes for an architectural style that is of a very human scale. That means the spaces are intimate and not grandiose. The scale of the masses—the different elements of the house—are small and unpredictable in their geometry. There's not a look of having been master-planned."

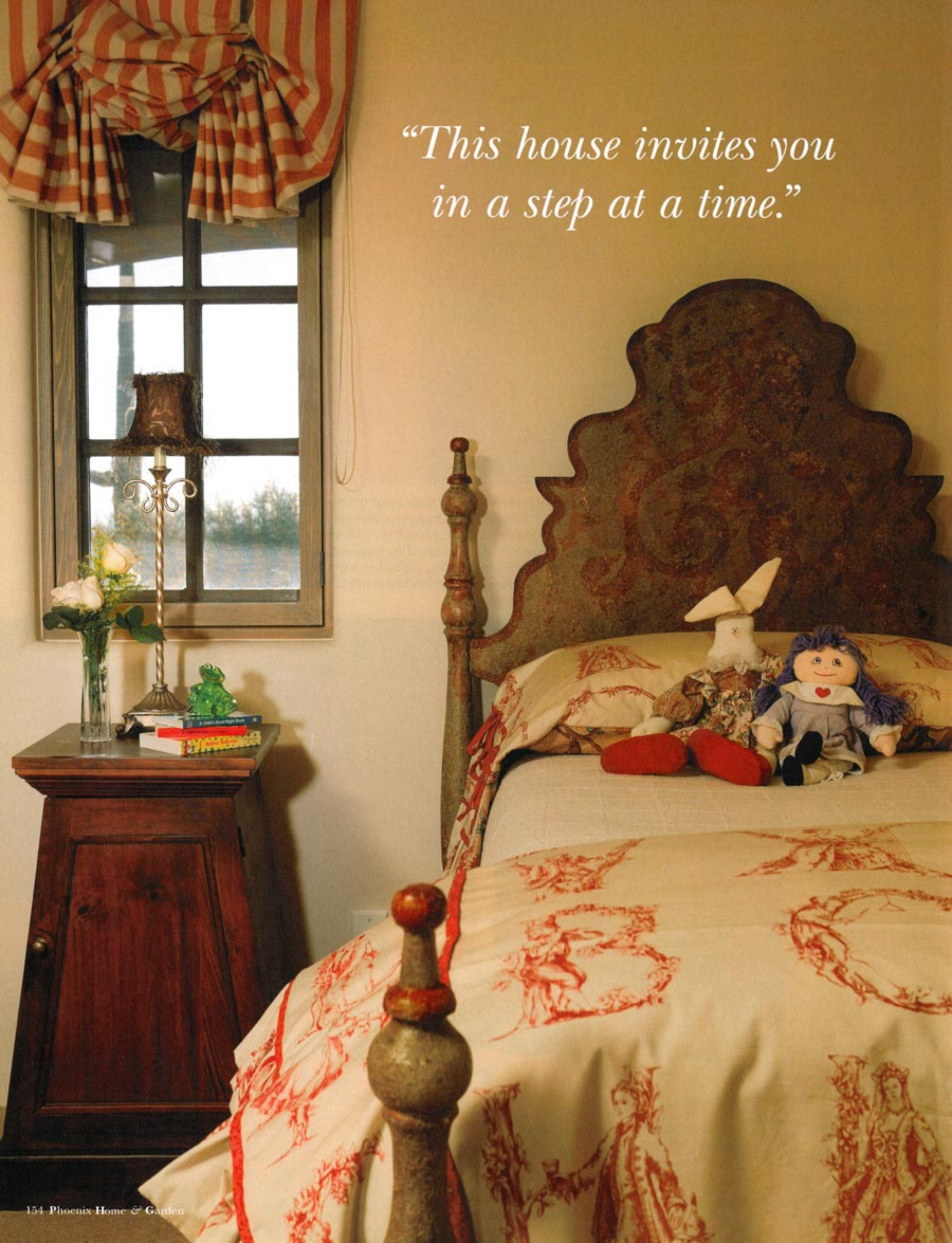
All of these qualities were compatible with what his clients were expressing to him, the architect says. "The homeowners wanted their home to have a sense of strength, of permanence. To me, that was enough of a cue. Old World architecture was generally built for permanence and durability." This style of residence, in combination with the couple's casual mode of living, was much in harmony with the Southwestern lifestyle.



Left: An old-fashioned mirrored vanity lends a look of times past in the master bathroom. The bathtub surround is of tumbled Noche travertine, with pieces of the same type of slate used for flooring serving as tub molding and decorative trim. • **Above:** The entry hall's cantera columns and decorative slot window with stone surround are other appealing elements. • **Below:** A custom-designed alder bed, the beamed ceiling, and custom wooden doors studded with *clavos* and metal strapping add Old World warmth to the master bedroom.



*“This house invites you
in a step at a time.”*





Opposite: Fit for a princess, this charming bedroom belongs to the homeowners' 7-year-old daughter. • **Above:** The traditionally styled powder room features a carved-wood vanity topped with marble and faucetry reminiscent of former times.

Designer Brooks says Bacon's intimate spaces and many "hands-on" touches provided a fine backdrop for her contribution to the house. Like Bacon, she paid attention to what the homeowners were telling her about how they live—even visiting them in Dallas to ascertain their lifestyle. She endowed the new residence with the warmth, coziness and comfortable elegance they sought. Says the pleased homeowner: "We are not the type to have an interior designer 'do' our house for us. We needed someone who didn't mind me being involved in the design work."

As with other spaces, she gave Brooks input on the type of feeling the kitchen and its adjacent beamed-ceilinged family

room should embody, for these areas are the center of everyday family life. Offering warmth and atmosphere, the room's unusually high raised fireplace can be seen in its entirety from the kitchen.

Although thoroughly up-to-date, "The kitchen has an old European farmhouse feel," the designer says. "Honed granite countertops are in keeping with the idea of things not looking too new," Brooks points out. Separated by a stack of shelves, the built-in refrigerator and freezer are disguised to echo the look of the room's custom furniture-style cabinetry, which she designed in collaboration with craftsman Gary Kiesler. A center island is



painted in a weathered parchment finish, as are beams of the coved ceiling.

Interestingly, various configurations of ceiling treatments are found throughout the house, including barrel-arched and groin-vaulted examples in a main hallway and between his-and-hers offices. Bacon says this is in line with the additive or multigenerational scheme of the architecture, in which "It wouldn't have been uncommon for one addition to be built slightly different than a previous one."

And accordingly, there also is variety in flooring treatments. The kitchen has wide pine plank underfoot. Saltillo pavers, looking like timeworn cobblestones, are laid rough side up in interesting patterns and define living room and dining room spaces. These more formal rooms are separated as well by cantera

columns; they originate at the front door and then continue inside the house and out to the back patio, where they frame a view of the negative-edge pool and golf course.

In combination with carpeting, slate flooring appears in the master bedroom and continues into the master bath. A hand-crafted alder bed by Kiesler is the bedroom's centerpiece. The artisan also created a built-in entertainment unit. A tall cabinet with see-through iron filigreed doors is rustically pretty and a handy place for storing pillows and other bed linens.

Like the homeowners' dual offices, the master bath is indicative of a trend in high-end homes toward his-and-hers accoutrements. At "his" vanity, televised images appear directly on the large mirror. With the magic of technology, he can shave and watch the news at the same time, the wife says. An inconspicuous



Left: Outdoor dining takes place in this cozy rotunda complete with fireplace and draperies. • Above: A cantera fountain is at the center of an enclosed entry courtyard lined with pavers interspersed with creeping thyme. • Below: Cantera columns frame a view of the negative-edge pool and desert vista.

LCD television hangs above “her” vanity. Also hers, an outside Victorian-looking dressing table was a bit of whimsy she could not resist ordering from a catalog.

The home has many delights, both in its furnishings and its architectural embellishments. Brooks describes the residence aptly: “This house invites you in a step at a time. It’s a home that is really lived in, full of love, and with its own eclectic style.”

More than content with her new Arizona residence, the homeowner adds: “It looks a hundred years old, which is just what we wanted.” 🌵

See Resource Guide.

