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PHOENIX H&G HOME AND GARDEN

Kitchens + Baths

*Fresh Ideas
to Inspire*

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**Happy 65th Birthday,
Hotel Valley Ho!**

**Inside a Collector's
Classic Car Museum**

“Now, the house really works
for us and our lifestyle.”

—THE HOMEOWNER



A backyard view reveals the home's soaring architecture, with elements such as deep overhangs, stepped-back elevations and wide expanses of glass that link the interior to the exterior.



out a lot inside. It became a running joke with all of us, but the owners were really good sports.”

“The couple wanted details and finishes that were specific to their tastes,” says Ownby, a *Phoenix Home & Garden* Masters of the Southwest award winner, who spearheaded the design of the interior renovations. “The previous interior had more of an industrial look, and they wanted something warmer and softer.”

Ownby helped the couple choose the large-scale porcelain tile flooring and created a slatted walnut feature wall for one end of the great room, which helps balance the space against the window walls and steel-clad fireplace. She also redid the freestanding wine cabinet, which separates the dining area from the great room, cladding it in walnut for a natural touch. In the master bedroom, the designer reconfigured the space, stealing square footage from the sleeping area to enlarge the walk-in closet and installing another slatted walnut wall that frames the bed and encloses the closet.

Ownby guided the couple toward new furnishings that matched the scale and volume of the home, choosing roomy sectionals and two coffee tables for the great room and anchoring the dining room with a robust stone table. She kept the color scheme monochromatic, allowing the couple’s collection of contemporary art to pop, as well as focusing views out to the landscape and mountain.

In front, Berghoff scraped off the existing, basic landscape and revamped the driveway to the garage and the home’s entry sequence. “The owners wanted more of a defined approach to the front door and a sense of privacy from the street,” Berghoff recalls. “The new landscape now includes more lawn and a fence, which steers visitors to the front, while the new driveway leads directly back to the garage.”

Rather than a straight, runway-to-the-front-door approach, Berghoff’s new design features a sidewalk that zigzags visitors past newly planted live oaks, ironwood trees and shrubs. A gate leads to a cactus-flanked walkway that meanders past a low-key water feature and winds up at the front door. To one side, a new fire pit-warmed patio is a private yet welcoming spot at the front of the house for cocktails and conversation.

“We took the front yard down to dirt,” says Berghoff, summarizing the exterior project. “It was new hard-landscape, new plants, new lighting and new irrigation.”

Throughout the renovations, the couple remained in the house. “We lived away for about a month, which



wasn’t enough,” the husband admits with a laugh. “We kept expanding the scope of the project, camping out in a back bedroom for several months and relying on food delivery. But we were both hands-on with the remodeling, and it helped that we were on site and working with such a fantastic team.”

Now that the dust has literally settled, the pair enjoy their home even more, whether it is just the two of them or entertaining a group. “Everyone involved in



the remodeling listened to us and understood how we like to live,” reflects the husband. “Now, the house really works for us and our lifestyle.”

The entry courtyard, surrounded by geometric arrangements of desert plants, is often used for evening cocktails and conversation. The black-and-white painting indoors is by Brian Drake.

ARCHITECT: C.P. Drewett, Drewett Works. **BUILDER:** Rich Brock, Bedbrock Developers. **INTERIOR DESIGNER:** Claire Ownby, Ownby Design. **LANDSCAPE DESIGNER:** Jeff Berghoff, Berghoff Design Group.

For more information, see Sources.



A Scottsdale dwelling dazzles with dramatic features and earthy accents.

BY NORA BURBA TRULSSON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK LIPCZYNSKI

NATURAL

A modern master bathroom featuring a floating vanity with two white rectangular sinks and a large window overlooking a private outdoor space. The vanity is set on a dark, reflective countertop. The walls are clad in large, dark, textured tiles. A walk-in shower is visible through the window, featuring a sculptural ocotillo plant in a bed of beach rocks. The overall design is minimalist and sophisticated.

The master bath includes design details, such as dimensional wall tiles, a floating vanity and a walk-in shower with a view of a Zen-like, private outdoor space, featuring a sculptural ocotillo, planted in a bed of beach rocks.

SELECTION



A monolithic stone wall frames the great room, which opens onto the pool patio. Furnishings, including the sectional, coffee table and floor lamp were chosen for their large scale, to anchor the room's volume.



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The ceiling level is lower in the kitchen, providing a sense of intimacy for the space, highlighted by an onyx backsplash and walnut cabinetry.

“Every window was placed so you see a view while navigating your way through the house.”

—MARK TATE, architect

The feature-filled residence is the handiwork of a talented group that included *Phoenix Home & Garden* Masters of the Southwest: architect Mark Tate, interior designer Claire Ownby and landscape designer Chad Norris.

“This was a spec home,” explains Tate, whose team handled the 5,400-square-foot dwelling’s architecture and interior finishes, fixtures and cabinetry. “It wasn’t your typical spec home, though—we had free rein to create a modernist, high-design house for a discerning client.”

Working with builder Ned Woods, Tate sited the house on the half-acre lot to make the most of the desert setting and avoid views of neighboring houses. “This was a difficult lot,” he explains. “It was square and relatively small, had houses on two sides and backed up to another lot. We like to create homes with multiple view opportunities—and that was a challenge here.”

Tate created an H-shaped plan, placing the dining, living and kitchen areas in the center, opening them to the pool patio. The master wing is to one side, while the guest quarters make up another wing. A staircase leads to a second-story den above the guest wing. Tate edited the views, placing windows strategically to frame glimpses of open desert and Pinnacle Peak in the distance, while screening neighboring dwellings. “Every window was placed so you see a view while navigating your way through the house,” he notes.

Strong horizontal lines and desert-inspired materials link the house to the site. Local stone clads monolithic walls that continue from outside to in, while rust-hued metal defines the fascia and serves as accents at the front entry. Honed basalt frames the entry door and is used as the front walkway. Inside, porcelain tile flooring and walnut cabinetry continue the bold material choices.



The kitchen window opens up to create a serving area and bar for the pool patio.





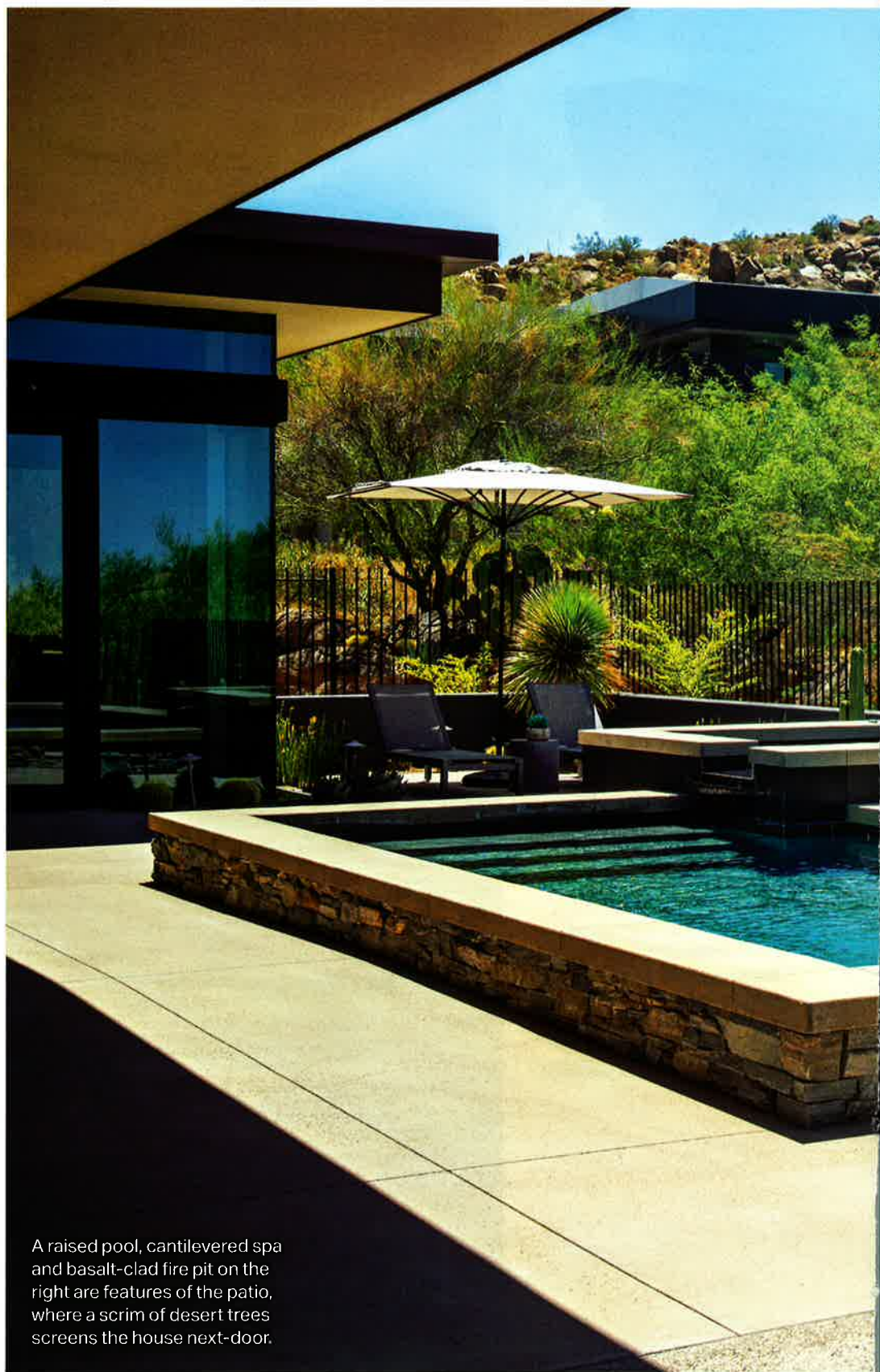
RIGHT A rust-hued metal panel provides a backdrop for a stone sculpture, ringed by specimen agaves. **ABOVE** Framed by a honed basalt portal, the pivoting front door is made of art glass. **LEFT** Viewed from the street, the home's strong horizontal lines and bold materials blend the residence into the site. Native trees, cactus and boulders flank the front walkway.

Known for his dramatic architectural touches, Tate pulled out the stops here, with a black steel grid that clads the great room's fireplace and TV wall, a floating wood staircase that leads to the second level, and a show-stopping master bath, featuring a black, dimensional tile wall, shower with a floor-to-ceiling window and soaking tub set at eye level with the desert floor.

Builder Simpson likened constructing the house to doing a commercial project. "We used masonry walls and a lot of structural iron to support the cantilevered roof overhangs," he explains. "We also had to build site walls that run 8 feet deep, because the property backs up to an arroyo—a cool feature, but it can run hard when it rains."

The certificate of occupancy had barely been signed when the house was sold to a couple who love to golf. They hired Ownby to furnish the residence and to make a few changes to the setting, including transforming the den into an office with a bookcase and partners' desks, and adding a linen closet to the master bathroom's cabinetry.

"Mark Tate did a great job with the architecture and the materials," says Ownby, who worked with team member Kalysha Manzo on the project. "We wanted to reflect that earthy, native feeling, clean lines and neutral color palette with our furnishings." Scale was another element Ownby addressed, using a large sectional and a 6-foot-square coffee table to counterbalance the airy volume of the great room. She also added natural elements such as a petrified wood stool in the master bathroom and a walnut-topped dining table to contrast the home's steel and glass details. As a nod to the homeowners' desire for an abode that was conducive to casual living, Ownby specified performance fabrics and durable surfaces. "You can sit anywhere in a wet bathing suit," she explains, "and you don't have to worry about finding coasters for your drinks."



A raised pool, cantilevered spa and basalt-clad fire pit on the right are features of the patio, where a scrim of desert trees screens the house next-door.



Outdoors, landscape designer Norris created high-impact desert planting areas that both created focal points and discreetly screened out neighbors. “I love to place living art outside of windows,” says Norris. “The plantings also have to look good throughout the seasons and help with privacy. Everything was selected and placed intentionally.”

Norris used Texas ebony, palo verdes and mesquites to form a desert tree canopy at the front of the house, accenting the entry with golden barrel cactus, agaves and Mexican fenceposts. To filter out the fact that a neighboring house overlooked the pool patio, he added a scrim of palo verde trees and placed mesquites in the foreground for their sculptural shape. And for the master bathroom’s views? Norris did a spare, Zen-like vignette outside the shower window, using an ocotillo set in beach rocks. For the tub’s window, boulders, trees and yuccas obscure the fact that another house is close by.

Not long after the house was completed and furnished, the buyers sold to another couple—Midwesterners who, for now, use it as a weekend golf retreat with an eye toward making it a place to enjoy retirement in the years to come. “We had been looking at lots to build a home,” explains the husband, “but then we saw this. We loved the use of materials, the open plan and Claire’s furnishing selections, which we kept. I love the upstairs office, and my wife likes the fact that everyone can be together in the kitchen, the great room and the outdoors.”

No doubt, the *pièces de résistance* wowed both sets of owners.

ARCHITECT Mark Tate, Tate Studio Architects.

BUILDER Ned Simpson, Simpatico Builders Inc.

INTERIOR DESIGNER: Claire Ownby, Ownby Design. **LANDSCAPE DESIGNER:** Chad Norris, High Desert Designs (designed for Desert Foothills Landscape).

For more information, see Sources.



The backyard at this home in the Casa Blanca neighborhood of Paradise Valley was transformed from a water-loving tropical setting to a lush desert oasis.