

design **aspire** home

[CONTRASTING COLOR THEORY]

**NIGHT
AND DAY**

ALSO
CABINS
AND THEIR
SURROUNDING
ECO
SYSTEMS

Cactus Flower

Whimsy blooms in every corner of this high-spirited, low desert home

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estled into the foothills of the McDowell Mountains in Scottsdale, a couple from Chicago found the lot – and the creative team – that would bring their vision for a second home in Arizona to fruition in stunning form. Their goal was for a warm and vibrant home they could enjoy on their own that also offered ample gathering spaces and private guest quarters for when their children, friends and family visit. The result is a collected and personality-rich private oasis that’s meant to be shared, a respite from city life with unobstructed views of landscape and sky.

The client’s initial connection was to interior designer Stephanie Wohlner, who turned to architect Erik Peterson and builder Anthony Salcito to complete the creative team. The trio had collaborated on Wohlner’s own Arizona home and were eager to do so again. From the first conversation with the clients, Salcito knew the place – a plot of land he had kept on his radar due to its specialness. “It’s an amazing lot,” he shares. “It sits on the border of an established neighborhood and a mountain preserve where no one can ever build. It checked all the boxes.”

The plot in play and the views to capture decided, attention progressed to how the home overall should look, feel and function. “This was really meant to be a more casual home, not formal,” Peterson recalls. “They wanted a Spanish Colonial-style house, but with a more modern interior. The intent was for a feeling of something that was established and timeless in character, but that had been updated a bit.”

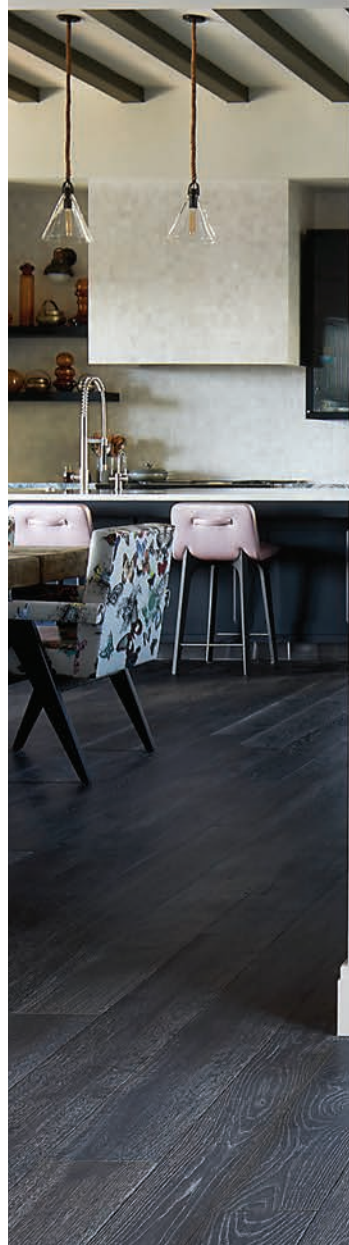


LIVING SPACE

A wet bar offers multiple modes for gathering. A pair of Aurora Chandeliers from Marian Jamieson shine down upon custom sofas covered in Osborne & Little’s Mansfield Park Donwell fabric in teal, a custom area rug from Lapchi, and a custom-designed fireplace by Stephanie Wohlner Design. A dining table from Restoration Hardware is surrounded by custom dining chairs covered in laminated Butterfly Parade fabric from Designers Guild, and the vibrant blue cabinetry – painted in Benjamin Moore’s Dream I Can Fly #769 – is from Arizona Custom Cabinets. The rich Phragmites from Fayce Textiles on the ceiling was employed to bring an embracing warmth to the vast space. Wood flooring from Duchateau in Fossil European Oak carries throughout the space.

ENTRY

A custom-size Spanish Console from Formations, Avion Orb Sconce from Jonathan Browning Studios and a walnut and hammered antique nickel mirror from Bright Group are met with a timeless black-and-white checkered floor crafted of Carrara Antiqued and Noir Sully Antiqued marble from Ann Sacks.



KITCHEN

Pristine Quartzite countertops meet with the more textural zellige tile - Idris Nacre White from Ann Sacks - on the backsplash and hood. Hanging pendants from Paul Ferrante shine down upon the island, where counter stools from Ligne Roset pull up to socialize. Cabinetry from Arizona Custom Cabinets is painted in Benjamin Moore's Cheating Heart #1617, lending an industrial vibe and making a visual connection to the rich charcoal hue of the custom fireplace.

The architect points to Wohlner as perfectly capturing the desired modern traditional vibe throughout the interiors, noting her acumen at using “color and patterns and texture that are a bit more modern, but in a way that’s still honest to the traditional style.”

Wohlner notes the house is “interesting, as it’s not a typical Arizona house in terms of design. It’s much more whimsical,” she explains, noting the client herself is “very whimsical. When I first met her, she had on pink shoes and turquoise sunglasses, and I knew exactly how I was going to do this house.” The client shared desires for an industrial, almost rustic feel, nothing overly formal. Throughout, the new home and its individual spaces bring in elements like antique and vintage finds, rich textures and a connecting palette of blues – inspired by those sunglasses – that bring history and warmth to the just over 6,000-square-foot home. And ceiling treatments in multiple areas, like decorative wood beams and wallcoverings, serve to bring a coziness to large-scale spaces. “I don’t love enormous homes,” the designer shares. “Wallpapering the ceilings brings them down and makes you feel like you’re kind of surrounded, almost womb-like. That connected feeling is so important in a bigger home.”

The end result is a large, yet cozy and visually engaging home where carefully planned spaces speak to both privacy and togetherness and reflect the intentions of those who will call it their second home. “My goal always is to have the house feel like the client – to really hear them and kind of morph into them while I’m working on it,” Wohlner shares. “I love it when I can walk away from a project and feel like it really belongs to them, not to me. She wanted this to be an easy house for everyone to hang out in – and it is.”

SITTING ROOM

Anguille Big Croco from Elitis drenches the walls and ceiling, its rich hue offset by the vibrant blue sofa from Roche Bobois. The Equi hanging light from A. Rudin and Roche Bobois floor lamp brighten the enveloping space, while an area rug from Stark Carpet and drapes from Calvin Fabrics serve to soften it.



OUTDOOR

A gas fire pit crafted of Casa de Cantera stone in Pearl White offers a perfect gathering space with a perfect view. Chairs from Restoration Hardware are covered in fabric from Christopher Farr Cloth. The woven lanterns are from Dedon. The patio stones – ARTILLO/Cotto Gold & QDI Surfaces Icelandic Blue Sky marble pavers – and hand-painted Antiqua tile on the stairs are from Craftsman Court Ceramics.



In Perfect Light

With Arizona a desired target for second homeownership, knowing when a client plans to live in the home is just as important as how they would like to live in it. This particular lot sloped gently from the northeast to the southwest, allowing for the pool and extensive outdoor living space to be positioned on the desired southwest side, and for the great room, the primary living spaces and the second-story guest suite to be situated so they all enjoy the pristine mountain and valley views. “One of the characteristics of my designs is natural light in the rooms,” Peterson shares. “We try to make sure every room has a really nice proportion of natural light, and when we know we have an amazing view to focus on, we make sure those rooms are able to capture it.” That careful consideration continues to the home’s extensive outdoor area. “They’re seasonal,” Salcito says of the homeowners, “so when they’re here, the sun is always in the southern sky and the pool is always in the sun. There’s always very good light in the area of the house while they’re living in it.”