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SECTION HO

Artistic touches adorn their piece of 'paradise'

By Sue Doerfler
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Gene and Judy Thompson named their Paradise Valley home "Hacienda Halekulani" after their favorite resort hotel on Waikiki Beach in Hawaii.

The 8,500-square-foot property also could be named "House of Craftsmen."

From the custom-carved wooden front door to the painted beams that decorate most rooms, the home is filled with handcrafted details, materials and accents, many by local artists. They combine to give the home a rich look and a sense of history.

"This is just like heaven," Judy Thompson said. "That's what we said at the Haleku-

lani."

When she and her husband bought the home, it was a builder's spec house with white walls.

They loved the setting: views from nearly every room of Camelback Mountain and desert plants. But the home needed some personality.

When looking for a house, they had seen Montelucia, a gated community in Paradise Valley, and had liked its Mediterranean styling. So they hired the development's interior designer, Beth McGehee of Studio B, Scottsdale, to create a similar look in their new home.

McGehee warmed up the interior by having the walls replastered in a Tuscan yellow and the door openings painted in trompe l'oeil to



SHERRIE BUZBY/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

The Paradise Valley home of Gene and Judy Thompson has a guest casita and dramatic mountain views.

look like they were lined in stone.

The interior is predominantly blue and gold, favorite colors of the Thompsons.

Fabrics are patterned and textural. Wrought-iron accents, heavy mesquite tables and carved-wood details complete the formal yet casual look.

The new front door, carved by local artist Scottie Reid of Scottie Reid's Southwest De-

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Mediterranean styling, artistic details

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signs in Scottsdale, features a Thompson coat of arms at the crest, clavos and Moroccan tassels. Panels at the side add to the design; the doorbell is surprisingly hidden beneath one of them.

In the living room, two sofas in blue and gold upholstery surround a large mesquite coffee table that is topped with two ornately studded wooden chests. On the far wall, a carved cantera stone fireplace is flanked by two lighted cases displaying a collection of blue and white pottery. Some of Judy Thompson's own woodcarvings decorate the mantel.

The dining room, off the entryway, features an impressive cathedral ceiling with stenciled beams. The room has an elegant yet comfortable feel about it, with two square mesquite tables that, when separated, are ideal for intimate dining. When pulled together, they are perfect for larger dinner parties. French doors lead to the front patio, making the room an indoor-outdoor space.

The kitchen has a massive granite-topped island, with casual seating for three at one end. Ornate wrought-iron lamps provide lighting. A trompe l'oeil painting of an Italian serving platter adorns the vent hood above the six-burner Viking stove.

The nearby nook offers great views of Camelback Mountain. It also features an impressive ceiling, this one in colorful Italian tile design. The tiles aren't ceramic, however. They are painted on, using trompe l'oeil techniques. A fireplace in the corner lends an Old World look to the area.

The home is shaped like a modified L, with the master suite at one end and the guest rooms at the other. The guest rooms are charming: Each is named after a plant found in the Valley and has a coordinating color palette.

The Lantana room, for ex-



The Thompsons' Paradise Valley home features touches of trompe l'oeil, including this colorful ceiling. The Italian tile design was painted on.

ample, is done up in yellows and golds, with two queen beds covered in gold floral-patterned duvets. A carved chest in between serves as a nightstand. If guests want to sightsee, they can browse through the brochures from local attractions that line the benches at the ends of the beds.

The Bougainvillea room, with red as a predominant color, has an iron canopy bed with a red duvet. There's also a daybed built into the window seat; it is outfitted with a twin mattress, perfect for when the Thompsons' grandson comes to visit.

On the other side of the house, the master suite is elegant and inviting. The iron poster bed is covered in a light brown nubby duvet, and brown and navy pillows.

Again, the beamed ceiling is painted, but unlike in other rooms, the design is carried down the wall, making a striking decorative effect.

Two recliners, upholstered in a gold and taupe fabric, face the fireplace. On the mantel, there is a collection of old processional crosses. A door leads to a private patio.

The walls of the adjacent bathroom are lined in blue and gold glass mosaic tiles. Matching etched mirrors hang above the vanities. A corner jetted tub overlooks the backyard and pool.

The home also has a wine cellar, humidor and guest casita.

"It is a paradise," Judy Thompson said.

"Everyone who comes in says, 'Wow.'"



Painted beams, wrought-iron accents and carved-wood details are featured throughout the home.



The master bathroom's corner jetted tub overlooks the backyard.



PHOTOS BY SHERRIE BUZBY/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Interior designer Beth McGehee of Studio B created a Mediterranean look similar to that of the Montelucia community for the Thompson home.

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