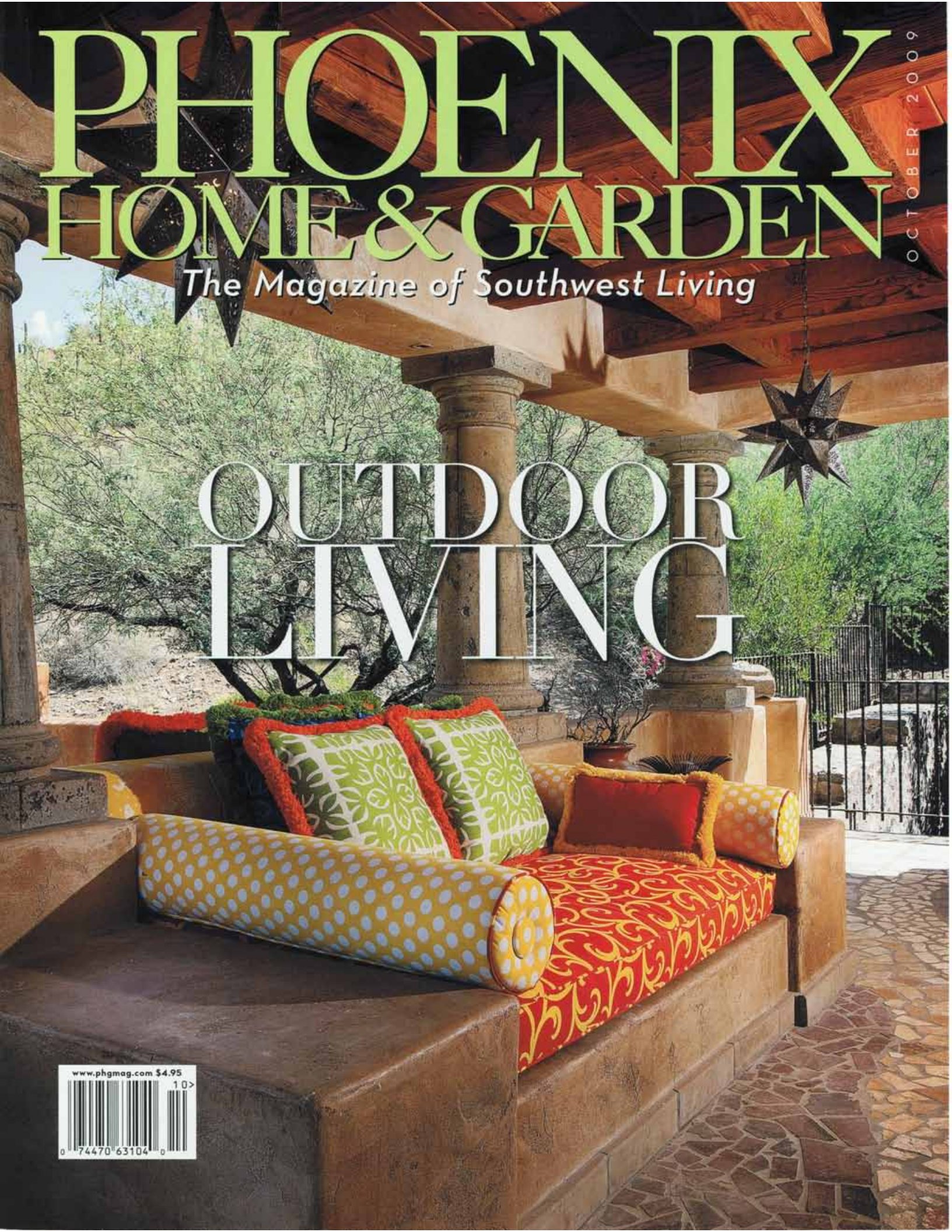


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Home Sweet Retreat

Rustic yet sophisticated, a Spanish Colonial residence offers resortlike amenities indoors and out

TEXT BY SUE BREDDING ■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTIAAN BLOK



When Scottsdale residents Camille and Gary Gietz want to vacation, they need look no farther than their own backyard—both literally and figuratively. “When we look back on our experiences of traveling, the most memorable moments were the times we were outside,” recalls Gary. “It was seeing little gardens or eating dinner either by a fountain or while capturing a beautiful view.”

As a result, their home’s architectural cues came from a stay in a centuries-old Spanish Colonial-style monastery that is now a resort hotel in Guatemala. The hotel has intricate ironwork, hand-hewn beams and an open-to-the-outdoors feeling that appealed to the Gietzes. “We loved the way the indoors and outdoors mixed together,” says Camille. “We wanted to duplicate that.”

Creating those special outdoor spaces was the job of landscape designer Jeff Berghoff, who planned the gardens so they “unfold” as one approaches the home’s entry. “Everything was artfully planned to maximize every inch of the property,” he explains. “The spa cabana is a jewel, the oval pool is special, there’s a terraced lawn and an outdoor foyer. There is a sophistication to the landscaping that complements their rustic-style home.”

“We put our heart and soul into building our house,” notes Gary, who is a custom home builder and owner of Gietz Master Builders. The design team also included interior designer Beth McGehee and architect Mark Fredstrom. “There is a high level of detail to it, including the authentic Old World-style applica-

tion of stone,” Fredstrom says of the residence. He adds that it offers “spectacular views that we ‘picture-framed’ for the inside with oversized French doors and arched windows.”

Further blending interior spaces with outside living areas, McGehee and Fredstrom matched indoor and outdoor materials, including flooring, and used a cohesive color palette. “Some people interpret the job of interior designer as stopping at exterior doors,” says McGehee. “But with the advent of pocket doors, patios are being treated as true rooms with sofas, club chairs and dining tables, as opposed to a space with a roof shelter for windows to minimize sun exposure.”

Camille appreciates how the furnished outdoor family room is complete with a stone fireplace, outdoor kitchen and pocket doors that open to the indoor family room. “To have the rooms combined really magnifies the greatness of both spaces,” she exclaims. “We live like we don’t know where the inside stops and the outside begins.” □

Opposite: This Scottsdale home has 11 patio areas, including this entry courtyard with a reflecting pond featuring corner insets for flowerpots. “For us, the space establishes a feeling of serenity and brings us into a peaceful world before we enter our house,” says homeowner Gary Gietz. The 8,000-square-foot residence also has custom ironwork, cut-stone accents framing arched openings, and tiled roof overhangs.





This page: The living room's two-way fireplace boasts a carved limestone surround. The cream-color room opens to three different courtyards. Flooring is hand-hewn hickory. **Opposite:** Located in the tree-shaded entry courtyard, this fireplace gently tapers high above the roofline.



Wanting the dining room to look like it belonged in a centuries-old castle, the homeowners chose stone for the walls and added an antique iron chandelier. Upholstered club chairs are pulled up to each end of the table. The living room lies on the other side of the two-way fireplace.





"When you study older gardens you see classic oval pools," says landscape architect Jeff Berghoff. This pool's look may be classic, but it features such modern technology as misters and jets with fiber optics. At the edge of the property, native plantings include palo verde and ironwood trees. Berghoff added Texas ebony trees, roses, lavender and bougainvillea closer to the home.



This page and opposite: Pocketing French doors separate the family room from a sheltered alfresco space. These areas have matching ceiling beams and Italian stone flooring. Outdoors, the setting reminds Camille and Gary Gietz of the cozy sitting areas they enjoyed while vacationing in Europe. The family sometimes eats meals or plays games here.





Interior designer Beth McGehee selected a pair of sturdy chairs and an ottoman for this interior courtyard. "In newer homes, the size of outdoor patios has increased, so they can accommodate sofas, club chairs, large dining tables, chaises or double chaises," she says.

Elegant and feminine, the opulent salmon-color master bathroom is lit at night with sparkling crystal chandeliers and wall sconces, and by day with natural light from high windows. A fireplace provides warmth and ambience. A box-beam ceiling is enhanced with hand-painted embellishments.

See Sources.

